

A NEW NEW WESTMINSTER.

An Arabic proverb says: The owner of the house knows best what is in it. The truth of this statement leads us to accept the reports of a resident of New Westminster, B.C., as evidence that the disaster which almost destroyed the city in September last has only served to stimulate the people into a display of activity such as other communities cannot but admire. With the characteristic energy of the British Columbians, the citizens of New Westminster have profited by the heavy increase of business arising out of the extensive building operations. From the letter of one who when writing from his home illustrates the Arabic proverb and *knows* what is in that city, we gather that New Westminster is not only "holding her own, but is entering upon a period of real and permanent prosperity." Business is "vastly better than a year ago," and farm produce has "reached a price" which leaves the producer happy and comfortable.

Twenty dollars a ton for potatoes, \$21 for oats, 25c. per lb. for butter, and all other lines in proportion, are pronounced to be prices "which make a community prosperous."

This cheerful correspondent, loyal citizen and sanguine believer in New Westminster and the Pacific Coast generally says: "Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo do not consume more than one-half of the crop surplus. The remainder must find a market elsewhere—in the logging and mining camps of the coast and the interior and in the gold-fields of the north. The demand from these quarters has been steadily increasing of late, and, to give you an idea of the extent of the business done, I may say that fully 250 carloads of produce have been shipped to interior mining camps for New Westminster during the last few months."

The city's position as the market centre for the surrounding district is regarded as unassailable for the following reasons: (1) the railways facilities which are equal to those of Vancouver in so far as the C.P.R. is concerned, and superior in the possession of a competing line, the Great Northern Railway, the northern terminus of the latter being within the city limits; (2) the produce of the district on the south side of the Fraser river has to be moved by water, and practically the bulk of it is delivered at New Westminster; (3) the produce from the north side of the Fraser is also sent to New Westminster, the railway being unable to compete with the steamers which pick up freight at any landing on the river bank and deliver it at New Westminster at from \$1 to \$2 per ton.

To enumerate all the advantages, geographical and otherwise, claimed for the city would occupy more of THE CHRONICLE'S space than we can spare. The letter fairly bristles with proofs of the prosperity of the so recently burned city, which is said to be "the natural, best and most convenient market for the farmers of the whole surrounding country."

The lumbering industry is flourishing; the salmon

canners are busy and enlarging their establishments; new industries are being established, including condensed milk factories; and all over the country there seems to prevail a reasonable degree of prosperity such as fully warrants the hopeful strain of a very interesting letter. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is building a handsome new station, and spending money with a freedom fully justifying a belief that the freight to and from China and Australia will soon be handled at New Westminster.

Altogether, the reports from this enterprising city are of the most encouraging character and with the efforts of all most concerned to open the port, by dredging, to vessels of thirty foot draught, and the expected increase in the C. P. R. fleet of steamships, the prospects of the new New Westminster are indeed bright, its future promising, and its citizens by their energy, activity, helpfulness and united action are setting a good example to the people of the Canadian metropolis.

The Royal City enjoys an excellent reputation among financiers, owing to the able management of a good Council. A recent report of the Finance Committee calls attention to an offer from one of the largest monetary institutions to take \$30,000 of New Westminster's four per cent. debentures at par, and also an offer to take the entire contemplated issue of \$200,000, at a price slightly below par. But we cannot do better than quote the closing paragraphs of this excellent report:—

"Your committee begs to call the attention of the Council to the fact that the purchase of this block of the city's four per cent. debentures at par fully justifies the policy of attempting to arrange, by means of these debentures, for cash payment of interest, and, at the same time, shows that the course taken by your committee in arranging with the bondholders meets with the approval of financial men in the money centres of the Dominion, and has quite re-established the city's credit. The committee hopes that it will be supported in its management of the financial affairs of the city in that prudent and economical way which alone can secure a continuance of the confidence it is striving to maintain."

It is unnecessary to say this report was adopted. The Municipal Board deserve to be congratulated upon their prompt attention to the maintenance of the credit and reputation of the new New Westminster.

A POCKET BREWERY.—It is announced that a German firm will soon put on the market beer tabloids, and it is promised that one small tablet placed in a glass of water will turn into beer as fresh as though it had just been drawn from a keg. The announcement is evidently of considerable interest to the people of South Carolina, because the Charleston "News" and "Courier" says: This is almost too good to be true, but if it is true, what, we would like to know, do the dispensary authorities propose to do about it? It will be of no use to multiply statutes and constables when any man can go about at pleasure with a brewery in his vest pocket.