

Local industries such as iron works, flour and feed mills, chemical, soap and paint factories, lumber mills and several others, furnish employment for many hands. The proportion of factory hands and artisans is unusually large for a city of the size of Victoria.

An Industrial Centre.



The Gorge on Queen's Birthday.

It is impossible to state whether the fur traders of the early forties selected Victoria's situation for other than geographical reasons, but it is certain that a more ideal site for a large city could hardly be found. Its natural beauty and adaptability to the purposes of commerce and residence, are remarkable. The land undulating slightly gives easy grades to the streets and admits perfect drainage and sewerage. Within certain limits only stone or brick buildings can be erected, and the numerous recent additions of such structures furnish indications of confidence which the owners have in the future of the city.

A Beautiful Natural Site.

In one respect Victoria differs very materially from most cities inasmuch as the business blocks and dwelling houses are nearly all owned by residents. These are rented as freely as elsewhere, but the rents go into the pockets of the inhabitants, and it is certainly a great advantage to business men to pay to residents, instead of to some outside capitalists, as such rents return again either directly or indirectly in trade.

Owned by Its Citizens.

The city corporation has borrowed money for improvements such as waterworks, sewerage, electric lighting, etc., but here it will be found that the assets of the city are largely in excess of the liabilities. Taxation is very light compared with other cities in Canada or the United States.

Public Works.



Old Hudson's Bay Fort.