

The Making of South Vancouver

THE true lover of flowers derives the greatest pleasure from a plant germinating from a seed he has himself sown. To watch the various stages of growth is an occupation of intense interest, and then comes the acme of pride when the glory of flower or fruit crowns labor.

A woman may love an adopted child, but what a different love does she feel for the child of her own motherhood? The very pangs she suffered endear the young life to her, and its development is watched with pride and joy.

The people of South Vancouver do not feel only the pride of possession in their beautiful suburb. They know they have a region of great natural beauty, high, dry, salubrious. They have space, breadth, ample scope and verge enough for development; fruitful soil, glorious views of mountain and of stream. "Every prospect pleases." Forest, hill and valley are here, with river and rail for transportation. Here, too, is another source of satisfaction and of pride. South Vancouver is being "made" by the public spirit, the self-sacrifice, the labor and enterprise of her own people. South Vancouver, like Topsy, has "grewed"—but her healthy, natural, steady development is the outcome of watchful care and healthy sustenance. Other places have grown, too—but artificially stimulated, they show signs of "rickets." South Vancouver is sturdy on its legs—with lungs that can crow—and there is justification for the crowing. If one may be forgiven for a confusion of gender—for South Vancouver possesses feminine grace as well as masculine virility—we may say that the sturdy youth is in the full pride of approaching manhood.

In 1913 South Vancouver will attain its majority, having been incorporated on the 13th day of April, 1892. The progress and prosperity of the suburb are a refutation of the superstition which some people attach to the number 13.

South Vancouver at first comprised a larger territory, including Point Grey. The remodelling of boundary lines has had the effect of giving more compactness, greater control, and the division has been of benefit to both.

South Vancouver stretches from the Fraser river, and with communication to Burrard Inlet it has a salt water and a fresh water harbor—facilities absolutely unique.

Adjoining the City of Vancouver—of which it is destined to become part—it is in close touch with busy city life, palpitating with hustling commercialism, and then stretches away through semi-rural, peaceful districts—the right atmosphere for "Home" and dormitory—to the invigorating air of the heights overlooking the Fraser River.

It is not wonderful that a place of such glorious possibilities should grow, and South Vancouver *has* grown, as these striking figures will prove. In 1909, only two short years ago, the number of individual property owners was 19,222. A year later the number had grown to 29,163; and now, in 1911, the number is 35,666.

In 1909 the population was 5,000; a year later it had grown to 15,000; and it is now computed at 35,000. The coming census will no doubt prove that this latter figure is far too low.

In 1909 the school rooms numbered 18, the teachers but 8, and the scholars but 300. In one year the number of schoolrooms had increased to 31, the teachers to 25, and the scholars to 1,100. A brief year elapses, and school rooms increase in number to 61, the teachers to 56, and the scholars at 2,500.

Do you quite catch the significance of these figures showing the progress of educational institutes? Professor Owen said: "Give me the fossil foot of an extinct animal and from that I will build up the entire structure."

When you see a body of school trustees so active, so alert, so up-to-date that brick schools soon replace wooden structures, that new sites are obtained, new buildings planned, built and opened as wanted, then you may guess that other public bodies are equally alert, equally enterprising, equally alive to the requirements of a growing community.

And so they are! Of the local council, the local Board of Trade, the progressive and other societies, I shall speak presently.

There are some people—and for them I have every respect—who take the dollar the nimble, well understood and potent