

## The Early Historic Fire.

Looking at the Vancouver of to-day, it is difficult to realize that the city of handsome four- and six-story stone and brick buildings, of electric cars, paved streets and beautiful homes, in which 30,000 people dwell, dates from June 13th, 1886. That was the day of the great fire, when the whole of the rapidly growing town was destroyed. Scarcely a thousand dollars' worth of household goods was saved, and many people met an awful death. It was a day of disaster, but a new and vigorous city sprung into existence, and is still forging ahead with amazing rapidity. The building begun on the blackened site on the morning of June 14th, seventeen years ago, has not ceased, but is progressing at the valuable rate of a million a year.

In the middle eighties, when it was announced that the Canadian Pacific Railway, then in course of construction to the Pacific coast, would terminate at Coal harbor, the building of Vancouver began. The Hastings and Moodyville lumber mills were in operation previously, but only sufficient people resided in the vicinity to make the place a "settlement." had no existence. 1886, it was incorpor-

In 1885, Vancouver On the 6th of April, ated, and two months later had extended as far west as Cambie street.



The main and only streets at that time were Water, Cordova, Hastings, Carrall, Abbott and Alexander.

