

WESTWARD TO THE EAST

THE
CITY OF
PROMISE:



Terminal of the Transcontinental C. P. R., Vancouver.

A
CHARACTER
SKETCH.

There was a cynic who said that Vancouver will go ahead in spite of itself. He was an Englishman, several weeks out from London, and was making an invidious comparison with Montreal. His was a dangerous observation. But, coming from a novice, it was disregarded. It might be taken as an inverted text for a deliverance on the inevitability of optimism. He need not be an excessively modest man who should confess that the opportunities for Pacific expansion are greater than his capacity to grasp and exploit them.

It is as simple as daylight that we are only just developing that capacity to seize the obvious which goes by the name of Courage. We are almost ceasing to wonder that we have done so much, and beginning to understand that compared with what is yet to be accomplished, we have done only a little. Vancouver is a blend of Much and Little, with the index of Little pointing to Much.

Vancouver is a crucible, the product of which is scarcely ready for analysis. Is it Canadian? Is it Western? Is it English? Is it of Oriental potentiality? It is all of these, but you are not quite sure of its major quality. Confidence in the future? Certainly. The dauntless bustle of unconquerable youth? Not all the time. You watch Douglas pines, answering slowly to the wind as a leviathan freighter to her helm. You hear the lap of waves on the pebbles of English Bay, far in from the whistles of Eastern Pacific tempests. Herein is the undeniable evidence and conclusion of power, without a suggestion of anxiety about the future.

Men Are Size of the City.

The Pine and the Bay were there long before the epoch of fleeting steamships. They will be there to the end of the centuries. The Pine is the monument of a climate which begets a permanent opulence in Nature. The Bay is the persistent promise of commercial certainty to a littoral under temperate skies.

Vancouver is the human deduction from the premises of the Pine and Bay. It must grow, because they abide. Every day intensifies the need for the Pine and all it stands for. As for English Bay and Burrard Inlet, men will always go down to the sea in ships, and the development of the Pacific will tempt the merchant princes of the world as long as two and two make four.

So far, you may believe that Vancouver has greatness thrust upon her. But if you believe that and nothing more, you understand half the truth. After all, a city cannot be greater than the men who build it. They may build better than they know, but that is

because they are greater than they believe themselves to be. Talk to a long-sighted Vancouver man and you will discover in him the vital elements of construction. He may not be quite as snappy as you would like. His mind may not hurtle towards fateful decisions. That is because he is subject to the disadvantages of his advantages—as kings and millionaires are.

His advantage is his climate, which treats him with a leniency which it is hard for lifelong dwellers in rigorous winter latitudes fully to appreciate. So, if you are tempted to wish the telephone girls were a little more expeditious, and are prone to stumble into needless comparisons, you can impute the lack of celerity in the telephone service; and the proneness to stumble in yourself, to the weather—and you will be dead right. While you are mourning an unaccustomed lassitude, due to a descent to sea level, your Vancouver friend is putting through a first rate deal, and proving that wise men who come from the East stay in the West.

Elusive in Evolution.

I have suggested first of all the worst thing I can think of about Vancouver. It is much easier to pounce upon its agreeable handicap than to sort out, and present in their fitting sequence, its multitudinous titles to regard. Here, with a rich outlook westward to the East, is the sum of Canadian excellences, an epitome of our assets in commerce, a revealer of our possibilities in nationhood.

There is always a certain elusiveness about a city in the making. Vancouver would be a great centre in mid-Ontario, or half-way between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains. For a place twenty years old, sixty thousand is a fine population. But for Vancouver ambitions it is only the beginning. Like other port cities, its growth has not equalled the expectations of its infancy. It never had a Winnipeg boom experience; though its young men saw visions and its older men dreamed dreams. It was not the fault of conditions that people saw more than they achieved. The future always looks nearer than it is.

That may have been specially true of Vancouver because of its topography. You look across the harbor to North Vancouver; and suppose the distance is about a mile, and that the mountains are within a mile of the shore. North Vancouver is two and a half miles away; and the mountains are anything from six to ten. A white peak, overlooking the shoulder of a near-by range is forty miles off, by scientific proof. The trees that look just ordinary Ontario pines and spruces are big enough to make a native of Manitoba gape. Things are not what they seem. The prophets

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BIA

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several classes of stock
acter and ability of the
eir care will be properly

The
British Columbia
ermanent Loan &
avings Company,
VANCOUVER.

CLASS B.
Full Paid Stock

6%

Full Paid Stock is sold
at \$100 per share. A divi-
dend of six per cent. per
annum is payable as per
coupons attached to the
Certificate.

ANCOUVER.