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Victoria (pop. 20,000) is the capital of British Columbia and the chief city of Vancouver Island. It was formerly a stockaded post of the Hudson's Bay Company and was then called Fort Victoria. It is delightfully situated on a small arm of the sea, commanding a superb view of the Straits of Georgia, the mountains of the mainland, and snow-capped Mount Baker in the distance. The city's age may date from 1858, when the discovery of gold on the mainland brought a rush of miners from the south. It is now a wealthy, well-built, and very English city, with business and shipping interests of great importance. Victoria is pre-eminently a place to delight tourists, and has ample accommodation for a large floating population, having several comfortable hotels, one or two of which are noted for the excellence of their tables. Various public buildings are also worthy of more than passing notice. Most of the manufacturing interests of the province are centered at Victoria. It has the largest iron works on the Pacific Coast outside of San Francisco, and several smaller foundries and machine shops, also many factories. The city is amply provided with educational facilities, both public and private. The public schools are supported by the Government, and controlled by a school board elected by popular suffrage. Besides these there are the ladies' college, under the auspices of the Anglican Church and an academic institution, as well as a primary school, maintained by the Roman Catholic denomination. There are Protestant and Roman Catholic orphanages. The city has a public library of about 10,000 volumes, and several of the fraternal and benevolent societies also have libraries of considerable size.

Victoria has the advantage of being a port of call of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Royal Mail Steamship Line steamers to and from Japan and China. Steamers run daily between Victoria and Vancouver, and the trip from city to city through the clustered isles of the Gulf of Georgia is very pleasant. Daily boats ply to all important Puget Sound Ports, and to points northward on the island and mainland, and all regular San Francisco and Alaska steamers call at Victoria.

The city has for many seasons been a favourite resort for tourists, and appears to be growing steadily in popularity. The country for some miles about the city supports a scattered farming population and furnishes a portion of the supplies of the city, but it is not a particularly good farming country, being better adapted to fruit culture. Here every variety of fruit grown in a temperate climate attains peculiar excellence, and fruit culture promises to become a leading industry in the near future.

ESQUIMALT.

Esquimalt harbor is about three miles long, and something under two miles broad in the widest part; it has an average depth of six to eight fathoms, and affords excellent holding ground, the bottom being a tenacious blue clay. The Canadian Government has built a dry-dock at Esquimalt to accommodate vessels of large size. Its length is 450 feet, and 90 feet wide at the entrance. It is built of concrete, faced with sandstone, and was nearly three years in construction.

There is a small town at the northern corner of the harbour bearing the same name, Esquimalt. The nucleus of it are some British Government buildings, consisting of a naval hospital, an arsenal, and other dockyard buildings. In the immediate vicinity of these the town has arisen. There are two churches, a public school, two hotels or inns, and a number of residences and business buildings. In the territorial division of Esquimalt there are several farming settlements and one or two