

The trade of New Westminster extends to points all along the Fraser River, and it is the principal market town of the Fraser River farming districts. Salmon fishing and canning contributes considerably to the trade of the place, and lumbering is an important industry.

The city has a splendid water supply from Coquitlam Lake. The provincial penitentiary and lunatic asylum are located here, also the central prison, court house, &c. The city has a public library. As a place of residence New Westminster is beautifully situated and affords many attractions. Chilliwack is the principal up-river point.

#### VANCOUVER ISLAND.

**O**RIGINALLY British Columbia was divided into two colonies. One was composed of the Island of Vancouver, with Victoria as the capital, and the mainland, with the capital at New Westminster. The two divisions were subsequently united, with Victoria as the capital, and eventually became a province of the Dominion of Canada. The province of British Columbia therefore includes the great Island of Vancouver, as well as what is termed the mainland of British Columbia. There is sometimes a confusion of names between the island of Vancouver and the city of Vancouver. The latter is situated on the mainland. Vancouver island is about 300 miles long, and generally between 50 and 75 miles in width. It is separated from the mainland by the Straits of Georgia. The island, generally speaking, is mountainous. It is rich in timber and minerals. Coal-mining is the most important industry. Lumbering is also carried on extensively. Vancouver island has much other mineral wealth besides coal, especially iron. Agricultural settlements have been formed in several districts, and a good deal of the land when cleared will be adapted to farming, fruit-growing and grazing. The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway connects Victoria and Nanaimo, the two principal cities on the island. Eventually the railway will be extended to the northern end of the island, which is as yet scarcely inhabited, the settlements mostly lying between Victoria and Comox. Nanaimo is the centre of the coal-mining industry, but coal mines have also been opened near Comox, about 75 miles north of Nanaimo.

#### VICTORIA.

The city of Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, is located on Vancouver Island, near its southwestern extremity. It was predicted by some that the new mainland city at the terminus of the transcontinental railway, would speedily eclipse Victoria, but this has not yet been accomplished, for Victoria still remains the commercial metropolis as well as the political capital of the Province. Its situation on the island is a disadvantage in some respects, particularly in the matter of railroad connections, but Victoria has good shipping advantages. While Vancouver has developed wonderfully and built up a large trade, Victoria has also forged ahead so that the trade and importance of the city are much greater now than they were when Vancouver came into existence. Victoria was and is a comparatively wealthy city. A number of wealthy jobbing houses were established here before the mainland city had an existence, and these houses have continued to hold their own.

Victoria is the oldest place in the Province, and from the days when the Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post there to barter with the aborigines, it has remained the chief commercial point of the territory known as the British Pacific coast region. Later a crown colony was established, with Victoria as the capital. British Columbia attracted little attention in those days but the great gold excitement of 1858 made the country famous. It is estimated that nearly 40,000 persons came into the country that year, chiefly from California and States to the south. Victoria during that period had its first great "boom." The country was not prepared for this sudden influx of population. The mountainous nature of the country made it very difficult of access in the absence of roads or other established means of communication, with the result that many of the prospectors eventually left. Many however remained, and they form the basis of the present population of the Province. The year following this first great influx of population the yield of gold was over \$1,000,000, and a few years later it reached nearly \$4,000,000. Gold therefore led to the first rush of population to British Columbia, and to this year the yellow metal is one of the principal attractions of the country.

British Columbia became a part of the Dominion of Canada in 1872. Though the chief town in the country, Victoria, was at this time a place of a few thousand inhabitants only. From that time the progress of the city has been steady and more rapid, and the population now exceeds 20,000. Following the completion of the transcontinental railway, the city had its second "boom."

Victoria is easily approached by water. It is 72 miles from Vancouver and about the same distance from New Westminster. Regular lines of steamers run to Victoria, New Westminster, the Puget Sound ports of Seattle and Tacoma, Portland and San Francisco, etc., giving close connection with the Canadian Pacific, the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern, the Union Pacific and other lines of railway. By railway Victoria is connected with the coal districts at Nanaimo, 78 miles distant in a northerly direction.

The jobbing trade of Victoria extends all over the province. All lines of merchandise are represented by Victoria wholesale houses. The salmon canneries and many other industries in other parts of the province are owned or controlled by Victoria business men. Among the industries are lumber mills and sash and door factories, large iron works, rice mills, tanneries, shoe factories, etc.

As a place of residence Victoria is a delightful spot. The natural scenery of the surrounding country is very beautiful, and the climate is cool in summer and mild in winter. The coldest temperature never reaches to near zero. The hotel accommodation is good. These attractions make Victoria a desirable place of residence and attract a large number of tourists annually.

There is some good farming land in the vicinity of Victoria and a considerable agricultural settlement exists in the district. Esquimalt, the British naval station of the North Pacific, is an outpost of Victoria. There are always one or more naval vessels in the harbor. A fine dry dock has been established here.

#### NANAIMO.

Nanaimo, or the coal city, owes its growth almost entirely to the coal industry. The city has a population of about 5,000. Coal mining is the great industry.