

THE COMMERCIAL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

VICTORIA—THE CAPITAL.

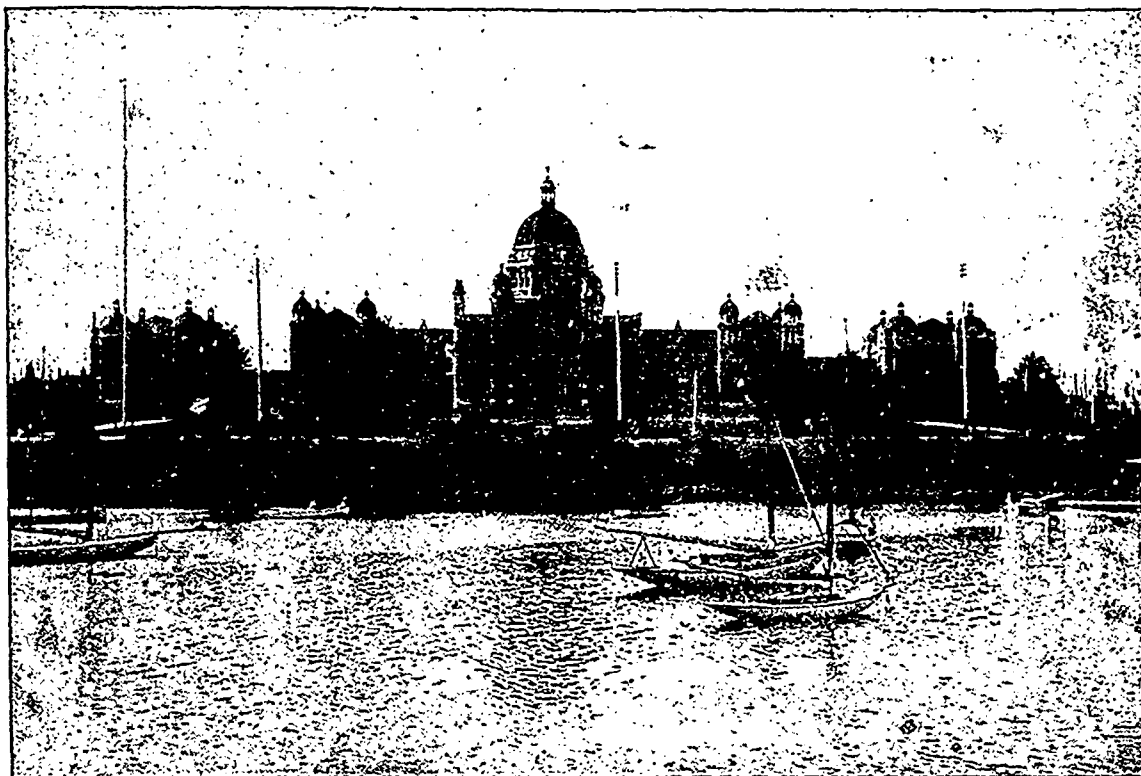
Victoria is situated on the south east end of Vancouver Island, 90 miles from Vancouver city, with which it is connected by a steamer making six trips a week. The first recorded settlement at this point was about 1840, when the Hudson's Bay Co. erected a fort, the place being then known as Fort Camusen, which name it bore until 1846, when it was changed to Fort Victoria. Like most of the towns of this province it owes its early growth to the mining interests, as previous to the discovery of gold in the Fraser river it can hardly be said to have had any growth. In 1852 it was surveyed and was incorporated ten years later with a population of 3,500. Its early history

regular calls, besides hundreds of ships handling freight or making special trips. It has an excellent land-locked harbor and during the past year six additional lights have been placed and other improvements made which were rendered necessary by the increased northern trade. A long line of wharves has been built which give ample accommodation for all the shipping. It is said that the first vessel arrived at this port from England in 1845.

Victoria is built on moderately undulating ground, the business houses occupying the lower levels along the water front. Wharf street, which extends along the shore of the harbor, has been appropriated by the wholesale houses, while Government street, running almost par-

separated from the business section by an arm of the harbor, and are reached by Government street bridge, from which point of view they show up to good advantage. They are built of grey stone from British Columbia quarries and the interior finishings are very fine.

The favorite pleasure resort is Beacon Hill park, which commences only a short distance from the government buildings and stretches down to the shores of Juan de Fuca straits, covering an area of about 300 acres. The first part of the park is covered with trees, and it is here that the most work has been done. Paths and road ways have been opened out among the trees and three artificial lakes made, in two of which waterfowl are kept. A small collection of wild animals and birds are also kept. Passing through this portion we come to a large grassy field, over which the visitor may roam at will without any fear of being stopped by the too well known sign, "keep off the grass." Here is a small hill from which a picture of rare beauty is seen. No one should come here unless he has



Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

was a series of booms and backsets. Upon the discovery of gold in the Fraser thousands of miners rushed in stopping here to outfit. Then came the re-action when these diggings played out, to be followed soon by the still greater rush to the Cariboo, and Victoria was once more a busy centre. Since then the growth has been more steady, keeping pace with the developments of the resources of the province.

It is the Canadian gateway to the Pacific. Being situated at the southeastern end of Vancouver Island, on the shores of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, it is the first port of call for incoming and the last for outgoing vessels. In addition to the three C. P. R. "Empress" steamships and the three on the Australian route, which sail from Vancouver, it has as well a number of other steamers making

all to Wharf street, is the principal retail business street. The business places are, with few exceptions, to be found in the central portion of the city, the principal retail business streets being, Government, Broad and Douglas lying north and south, intersected by Fort, Yates and Johnston. Many of the buildings on these streets are of a superior type, the stocks of merchandise also being large and attractively displayed. In this portion of the city the post office is the handsomest building. It is built of gray stone taken from the quarries close by. Several handsome churches and the city hall have also been built in this section. The provincial government buildings are of course, the finest in Victoria, and indeed they would be an ornament to any city. These are in the south end,

time to sit down and allow the beauties of the spot to "soak in." Such a combination of forest and meadow, sea and sky, rocky shores and snow-capped mountain peaks is rarely seen.

Another attraction is the Gorge up an arm of the harbor a mile from the city, where there is a very picturesque waterfall, caused by the tides. This is a favorite resort for boating parties. Good bicycle and carriage roads also lead out of the city in many directions, passing some very pretty spots; but even if all these sights were lacking, Victoria would still be a place of attraction for the tourist, as it has so many handsome buildings, and it would be hard to find any more beautiful or more artistically arranged grounds than are here found