

Cities of British Columbia.

Lying on the extreme western verge of Canada, and being the gateway of the Dominion for the commerce of the Orient, and, to a certain extent, to England, herself, under the new conditions introduced by the Canadian Pacific railway, the cities of British Columbia possess more than a local or transitory interest. Especially do they attract the attention of all those who are considering the question of seeking a home in that province, or who have relatives or friends already there. They are not many in number, but for enterprise, thrift and probable growth, they are not surpassed in the Dominion.

The oldest, the largest, and the most metropolitan, is Victoria, the capital of the province, lying on the extreme south-eastern coast of Vancouver island, facing the Straits of Fuca and the territory of the United States on the south and east. It was named in honor of the Queen, and from the time the Hudson's Bay Company first established a trading post there, nearly half a century ago, it has been the metropolis and general supply point of that entire region. It first became of commercial importance in 1858, when thousands of miners flocked into the country, after the discovery of gold on Fraser river. From that time, its history has been one of steady progress. Population has increased, business has expanded, and values of property have steadily ascended. The steamer lines of the province all center in Victoria, whence they reach all the coast ports where sufficient settlements have been made, and penetrate far into the

interior by ascending the Fraser river. The trade of all this extended region centers in the metropolis, and increases annually as the tributary settlements and industries expand. The business portion of the city is, in the main, well built of stone and brick, numerous substantial edifices testifying to the solid character of its commercial enterprises. The numerous public buildings are also of a superior character some of them displaying much taste and architectural skill. The Government buildings, on James Bay, are five in number, and are constructed of red brick, in the Swiss style of architecture. They are reached by a substantial bridge across the bay. The buildings belonging to the Dominion, comprising the custom house, postoffice and marine hospital, are solid, serviceable structures. The school buildings and churches are also attractive edifices. The public school, which is under the general supervision of a board of trustees, and has an efficient corps of instructors, occupies a two story brick building, commanding a fine view of the harbor. The school is maintained free of expense to the parents of children attending. A high school, where all the advanced grades are taught, occupies a large and handsome brick edifice. The sisterhood of St. Ann have an excellent institution for the education of girls, occupying a large and attractive structure in the southern purlieus of the city. Eleven religious congregations, representing various denominations, are regularly organized, nearly all of them having good houses of worship. They are divided as follows: Two Anglican, one Reformed Episcopalian, two Roman Catholic,

two Presbyterian, two Methodist, one Baptist, and one Jewish synagogue. The general air of neatness, cleanliness and quiet taste. The residences—notably that of the Lieutenant-Governor—are attractive and often elegant, both as regards the buildings and their surroundings. Lawns are well kept, flowers abound on every side, and shade and fruit trees exist in profusion. Great building activity is now being displayed, both in the matter of business structures and residences. Buildings are now in process of erection, or in the hands of architects, which will cost a total of \$573,800, including a new court house, to cost \$45,000. The various hotels occupy large, brick buildings, and afford superior accommodations. An imposing opera house, the largest and finest on the Pacific coast, north of San Francisco, was completed three years ago. The Union club occupies commodious quarters, and is noted for its hospitality.

Victoria is well served with newspapers, the various journals being large, well conducted and enterprising, furnishing complete local and telegraphic news. The *Colonist* daily and weekly, is the most complete establishment in the Northwest. The *Standard* is a well established daily and weekly journal. The *Times*, daily and weekly, exhibits enterprise, neatness and good business ability in its management.

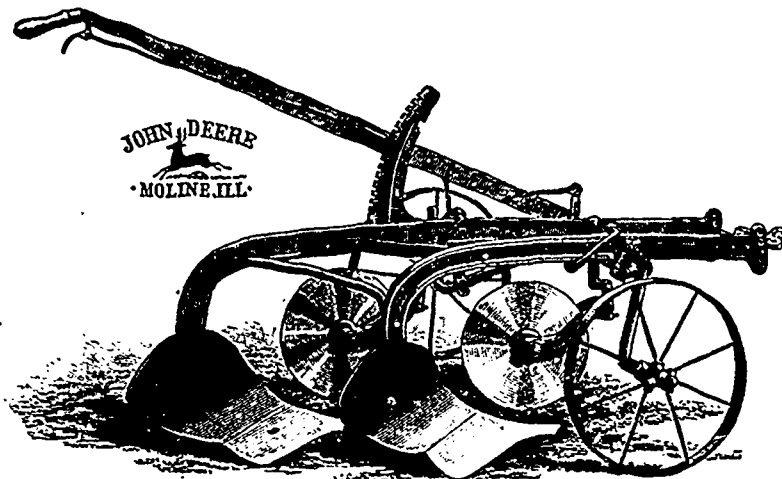
The city enjoys the fullest mail, telegraph and telephone facilities, is connected with San Francisco by a regular line of steamers, and with Portland by the way of Puget Sound and the Northern Pacific railroad, and has direct communication with the eastern provinces of

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