

the watering places are still distinctly visible, while huge rocks that stand isolated along the bank of the creek have been almost dislodged from their foundations by the huge bulls boring around the stones with the heads down in rage and excitement, and even yet the old trenches remain, forming a deep hollow round each large stone. No doubt the hundreds of buffalo heads and bones that were everywhere on the plains when the first settlers entered this district were portions of the remains of the great herds that occupied the shores of the lakes and river that summer. When the animals at length moved north, Rock and Swan lakes were seen to be full of swimming buffaloes and although these sheets of water are about a mile wide the buffaloes had no difficulty in crossing and even the calves kept their places midst the shaggy and partly submerged herds. — Pilot Mound *Sentinel*.

### British Columbia's Cities.

BY E. A. B.

THE cities of British Columbia are Victoria, New Westminster, Vancouver and Nanaimo. Victoria and Nanaimo are on the south-eastern end of Vancouver Island, and the other two are on the mainland. Victoria is the oldest, having been first settled in 1843 by the Hudson's Bay Company, who established a post there in that year. In 1849 Vancouver Island was made a Crown colony and in 1856 the mainland territory was also made a colony with the name of British Columbia. In 1866 the two colonies were united, and in 1871 became a province of the Canadian Confederation, retaining the name of British Columbia. Vancouver Island was discovered by Juan de Fuca in 1592, and that was probably the northern limit of Spanish exploration on the Pacific coast of America. A few Spanish names in the neighborhood still remain as evidence of Spanish discovery and occupation. Until the discovery of gold on the Columbia and Fraser rivers in 1856 by prospectors who wandered northward from California after the great gold fever in that state in '49,

the trade of the British Columbia territory was almost exclusively in furs and no progress had been made in the way of industrial development, but the discovery of gold soon brought in hundreds of people who established themselves in various occupations according to their means, inclinations and opportunities, and towns and settlements quickly sprang into existence. The gold boom, however, was short-lived; partial depression and apathy succeeded, and the prospects for advancement were discouraging—the colonies being separated from the Canadas by four ranges of mountains and 1,300 miles of unoccupied territory on the one hand, and their intercourse with California hampered by national distinctions on the other—when the confederation of the British American colonies, with an invitation to British Columbia to join on terms of unlooked for liberality, opened to the isolated colony a vista of possibilities which have subsequently been in a large measure realized, and which will doubtless fully materialize in due time.

With this brief retrospect of the country's history let us now learn something of her cities.

#### VICTORIA,

being the oldest, and the capital, and chief commercial centre of the province, is properly entitled to first place. This city has a pleasant situation on a small arm of the sea at the southeastern extremity of Vancouver Island (eighty miles from the mainland), and commands a superb view of the Straits of Georgia and the beautiful Olympian mountains in Washington state to the south. From the little mining supply town in 1858, the place has grown in spite of its isolation for several years to be a city of considerable size and importance. The population is now probably 17,000, including about 5,000 Chinese. The buildings are of a good class, and much wealth is represented in the community. Although there has been a great deal of inter-communication between Victoria and the neighboring states the city is decidedly English, the tastes, methods and habits of the early English settlers having firmly impressed themselves on the character of the buildings and business practices, and have stood