

## UP THE COAST.

## Description of the Grandest Holiday Trip on the American Continent.

IF a business man, worried by the ceaseless demands on your attention and mentally and physically exhausted by close application to office work; if a student whose cheek has paled under the light of the midnight oil; if a man of leisure whose routine of social responsibilities and pleasurable pursuits has produced *ennui*; if a lover of sport and travel keen for adventure and your spirit restless for fresh trophies and a new arena; if a pupil in nature's school, eager to witness the operation of her laws in other and wider forms; if an artist in whose soul burns the desire for subjects of sublime beauty and massive grandeur; if a collector of rare and interesting objects; if you belong to the *litterati* and are thirsting for fresh fields and unhackneyed topics; if plunged in statescraft and wearied for the nonce of the ceaseless jar of opposing parties; if a professional man with brain and nerves tired and overworked; if no matter who—and can afford two or three weeks holidays, let us invite you to a pleasure excursion the attractiveness of which among the many opportunities advertised for this season, is unequalled for novelty, healthfulness, interest and picturesque outlook—the trip *par excellence* of the American continent.

Come for a two weeks voyage along the west coast of British Columbia to Alaska, free from the cares and conventionalities of every day life and breathing the very air of heaven itself you burst like the Ancient Mariner, into an unknown sea filled with untold beauties and sail over a bosom of waters unruffled as glass; among myriads of islands; through deep, rugged rock-walled channels, past ancient Indian villages, mediæval glaciers, dark, solemn pine-clothed shores, snow-capped peaks, dashing cataracts, yawning mountain gorges, spouting monsters and sea whelps—away to the North a thousand miles a'most to mix with the ice-bergs that once floated under the sovereignty of the Czar of all the Russias, but now drop peacefully from ancient glaciers over which the American eagle holds watchful guard—a continuous panorama in which the most beautiful, the purest, the rarest, the wildest and the grandest forms of nature are revealed.

All this may be enjoyed under auspices of ease and comfort equal to that of your own home. After seeing the sights which Vancouver and Victoria afford, board the steamer and away.

It may be well to remark here, parenthetically, that for some years there have been excursions run to Alaska and well patronized, especially by wealthy Americans, but strange to say for 600 miles north of Victoria no stoppages have been made, the long stretch of coast deeply indented and skirted by innumerable islands, the whole constituting one continuous archipelago, has practically remained a blank to tourists, except in so far as the rapid and most direct course northward has admitted of passing glimpses. All the tourist and guide books jump over this wonderful section of the route with even greater care than the Alaska steamers do, leaving an unaccountable hiatus

in the description. Alaska has been the first, last and only feature of interest; whereas Alaska, with all the halo that surrounds it from an excursionists' point of view is barren compared with the attractions of 600 miles and more of adjacent coast. What does Alaska possess that British Columbia has not? Do tourists seek Haida totem poles, if so the Alaska Haida is not more remarkable for his art than his cousins of Queen Charlotte Island. For marine ideals, landscape and mountain views, startling and impressive natural effects, Indians and their relics, or interest attaching to the natural resources of the country Alaska may be described as in the *diminuendo* of what finds its greatest perfection along the British Columbia Coast.

## STARTING ON OUR JOURNEY.

The starting point is Victoria and one ship, *The Islander*, a fast, luxurious yacht-built steamer, the finest on the coast and admirably adapted for excursion trips. The passage from Victoria to Vancouver affords only an inkling of the scenic effects that will be obtained for the next 14 days. Leaving the inner harbor the boat swings out into the Straits of Fuca and you get the first smell of the ocean, westward for 50 miles. To the right is passed the historic island of San Juan. To the left Vancouver Island is in view. The Strait of Georgia is crossed at its greatest width and after San Juan is a succession of beautiful low lying and timbered islands. Midway is Plumpers Pass, always a point of great interest and beauty and where a fine summer hotel is being erected. Passed Point Roberts, the mouth of the Fraser River, Pt. Grey and through the Narrows into Burrard Inlet, Vancouver City is reached in about five hours easy sailing. Right under the bold, high bluff of Brockton Point promontory is the remains of the old Beaver, the first steamer on the Pacific Ocean, now gone to pieces on the rocks, the prey of teredo and relic hunters.

From Vancouver the steamer takes a straight cut of 30 miles across the Strait of Georgia, passing Nanaimo and Wellington, where the coal mines of British Columbia are located. From here for the whole length of Vancouver Island the steamer hugs its shore and here too, begins that maze of islands that continues in more or less bewildering profusion as far north as you go, gradually increasing in size and character from low lying, heavily timbered to high, bold and rocky. The Strait of Georgia continue about 75 miles. The mainland shore to the right is indented with numerous inlets or arms of the sea. Howe Sound, Jarvis Inlet, Toba Inlet, Bute Inlet and so on, up which if there was time to enter wonderful beauties would be disclosed. There are Indian reservations and logging camps and settlers found all along. Up Jarvis Inlet is an extensive quarry of excellent slate. Texada, 30 miles long, low and timbered with bold rocky shore and traversed by a ridge of rugged trap mountains, is on the mainland side. It contains important iron, marble, lime and mineral deposits. To the left are Hernly and Denby, picturesque islands, over these are seen the mountain ridges of Vancouver Island; the peaks of which here are the highest of the range. Point Holmes on the left, a bold promontory is passed. From here to Comox, the coast is low and heavily timbered inland, and here lies one of the most important coal measures of Vancouver included in the Dunsmuir railway belt. Opposite, in the direction of Desolation Sound, are numerous islands—Hernando