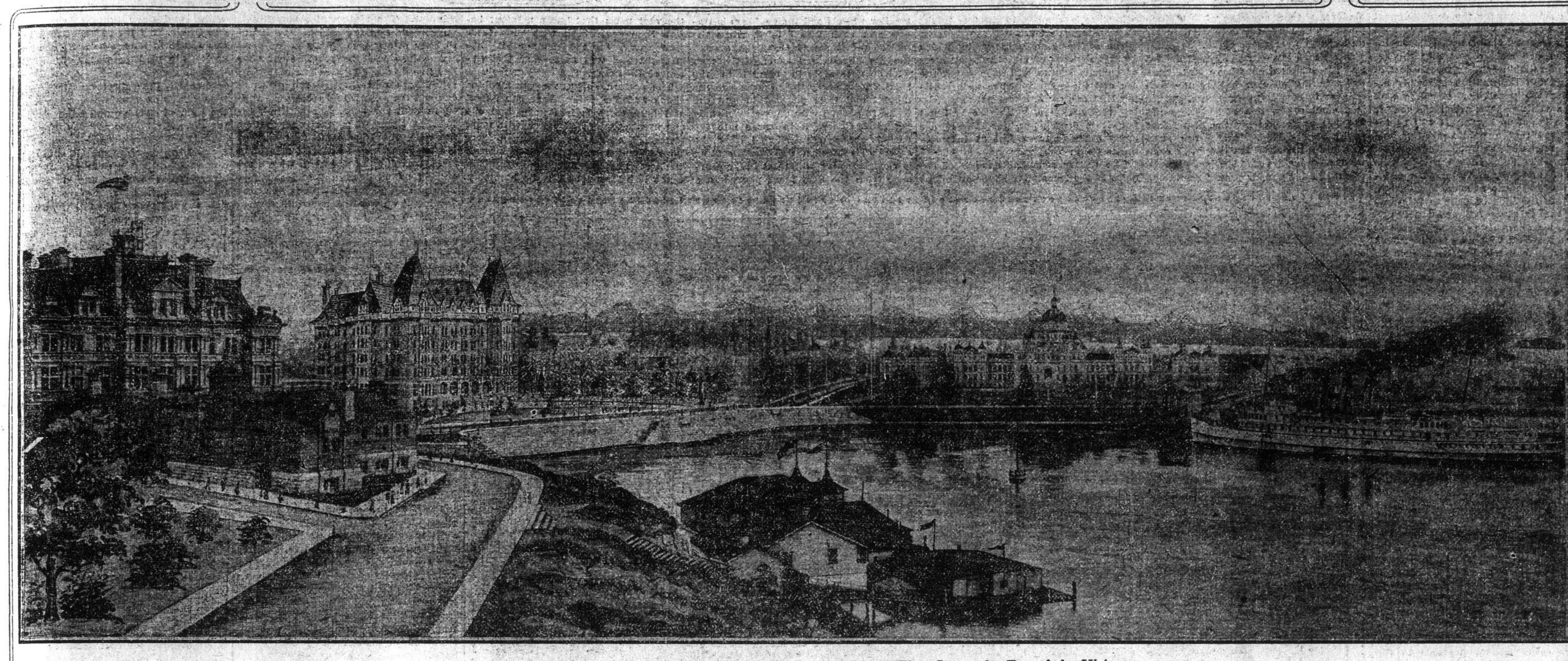


VICTORIA THE BEAUTIFUL



At the City's Gateway—Panorama of Surpassing Charm Which First Greet the Eye of the Visitor.

TRAVELER'S VIEWS

An Eastern Newspaper Man Thinks
Victoria Prettier City Yet Met

Following is one of a series of articles by Edward J. Connelley, a correspondent of the Evening Post, New York, prompted by the author's investigations in the course of a 14,000-mile journey through Canada, as a guest of the Western Canadian Immigration Association.

It is one of the copy book rules of achievement that to attain success one must begin at the bottom and work upward. This does not apply to Victoria, a well-known city of the Pacific.

In the south of England there are villages that have attained the same effect after centuries of permanence and quiet living. Victoria has achieved an English atmosphere. She is very proud of it. Victorians call their town "a bit of old England set on the shores of the Pacific."

The pleasant inhabitants of this picture-book town put the joys of clean, sweet living and neighborliness before business. That is why the consul, Mr. Smith, is liked so well. The aged consul was a printer's "devil" in the Tribune office when Horace Greely was the overshadowing figure in American journalism.

There is a curious story about the Millard Fillmore was president, and he represents the Republican party in Victoria. He made us a speech dwelling on the fact with unctuous, thanking President Roosevelt, the state department, and the Federal Government for conferring upon him his present most enviable position.

The citizens of Victoria have never heard of the Democracy had they depended upon Consul Smith for the news. The residence of the consul in Victoria is more like English lanes than the thoroughfares of a modern community. They are narrow and wander about aimlessly, lined with hawthorns and flowering hedges or with vine-covered walls.

There is a curious story about the tourist began to find out about the charms of Victoria and visit it in numbers, it awakened in the citizens the instincts of hospitality. They felt it incumbent upon them to do something for the visitors to make them enjoy their stay. The men formed an association and called upon the ladies to aid them in their plans.

It was proposed that when visitors with proper credentials came to town they should be received at the homes of the people and shown the pleasant, secluded gardens, the lawns, and the flowers. The men had arranged a programme of some six or eight propositions, all but one of which were accepted by the women of the town.

New York Correspondent's Impressions of City—Some Statistics About Climate—Prosperous Orchards Within Easy Distance A "City of Opportunities"

CLIMATE AN ASSET

Facts and Figures Which Cannot Too Often Be Stated

Three things go to make life pleasant—climate, surroundings and culture. As for the first, Victoria is noted the world over as a synonym for subtlety. While other places have short spells of lovely weather, this city counts them by the month. In June, 1906, for instance, the highest temperature recorded here was 78, the lowest 40. The average rainfall was 45.2 inches.

At the back door of Victoria is an unexplored wilderness. The city is situated at the southern extremity of Vancouver Island, overlooking the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and beyond the Gulf of Georgia, the main land. This island has not only never been completely surveyed, but a large part of it has never been explored or traversed by any white man.

The defect of Victoria is the defect of the civilized world—a scarcity of household labor. The large Chinese quarter in the city supplies a number of homes with cooks, butlers, and gardeners, and at the chief hotels there are bright-faced little Chinese boys to answer bells, bring shaving water, and all that sort of thing. The new head tax of \$500 on Chinamen has served to practically check their incoming. Householders are rather bitter about the situation caused by the new tax. They say that it prevents them from getting Chinamen and that no other labor is available.

The trip from Victoria up to Vancouver is conceded to be one of the notable inland water trips of the world. The steamers are fast and modern. The scenery of mountain and wood and water fills the eye with delight. Nearly all the way there are successions of snow-capped peaks and ranges. The distance is only eighty-four miles, and yet Vancouver is as different from Victoria as it is possible for one city to be from another.

An iron and steel plant entails the expenditure of an enormous amount of money that will not be forthcoming in any case, until there are reasonable assurances that the enterprise, as seen from the outside, is a profitable one. These conditions have been reached in the vicinity of Victoria or will be very shortly, is a matter for congratulation, and the fact is so self-evident as to require little more than passing mention.

SHOULD WAKE UP

Visitors Cannot Understand Why Victorians Are So Slow

My Dear Sir, I was chatting with another new resident of Victoria the other day when he remarked: "I don't know what the matter is with the people of Victoria. They do not seem to be possessed of a proper realization of the splendid opportunities which exist for advancing the city's interests."

I am not in the least surprised at your having formed such an impression—all newcomers express themselves just as you do. As a matter of fact, Victorians are the strangest people in the world, in the sense that they can always be depended upon to exhibit an exasperating indifference just when bounding enthusiasm would be in order. This spirit of apathy is constantly asserting itself in the most unlooked for places.

It is the custom nowadays to emphasize the attributes of a city, commercial or otherwise, by some local name setting out its advantages in a graphic manner. If such a title were chosen for Victoria probably no better one could be given than "The City of Opportunity."

That opportunity for commercial development, greater than in almost any other city on the Pacific coast, exist in Victoria is evident upon the most cursory observation. Many articles of daily use are being imported that should properly be made in the city and will be in the near future. Though "made in Victoria" is, in many lines of business, even at present a sign of good articles honestly made, the present dimensions of manufacture are not a tithe of what they should be.

There has been an awakening in the city's commercial development. Vancouver Island occupies precisely the same position in relation to the Far East as Great Britain does to the western shore of the Atlantic. It is therefore certain that when traffic across the Pacific ocean increases, as it will, until it equals if it does not surpass that of the Atlantic, Victoria will become one of the chief ports of the Orient in view of its position.

There has been an industry started in this city with capital commensurate with its needs that has not provided a financial means for the manufacturing concerns of the province are located here and all enjoy a high measure of prosperity.

FARMING IN FRUIT

Districts Adjacent to Victoria Which Are Very Prolific

When the old improperly cultivated orchards of Vancouver Island began to be replaced by newer and better steady and methodical fruit growing very few realized the importance the industry would reach in a short time. For many years there have been isolated orchards, largely more or less neglected, throughout the Spanish peninsula, about Duncan and on Salt Spring Island, but the newer state of things is at present confined to the immediate vicinity of Victoria.

The new orchards and fruit gardens have a high commercial value that is rapidly increasing. They are planted with the best varieties; cultivated and cared for by men who knew the business, and accordingly bring large profits to their fortunate owners. It may here be said there is ample opportunity for hundreds more to engage in this profitable industry. Within a radius of ten miles of Victoria there are splendid locations available. Though they are being rapidly taken up, not one-tenth of the land that should be utilized for fruit growing is at present employed for the purpose. Large areas of land at present in grain can be made to bring much greater return in this manner, and it is only a question of a few years before nearly all the suburbs of Victoria will be planted with orchards, making it the fruit growing centre of the coast.

But the question of how to plant each special location must be studied on the spot. In the vicinity of this city there is a great variety of soils and climates. Depths of cultivable land, facilities for drainage and freedom from exposure to direct sea air have to be carefully considered. Only this—outside strawberries which flourish everywhere—the actual suitable varieties of fruit must be carefully chosen. Even strawberries do better on some soils than others. The local stores give evidence of this; the best fruit to be found in Canada and in neither of these important respects has it fallen short of late years. The local stores give evidence of this; the best fruit to be found in Canada and in neither of these important respects has it fallen short of late years.

There is practically an unlimited market available. As far as can be judged the Western provinces of Canada will take all good fruit that can be raised. In British Columbia for many years to come. The population of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba is rapidly increasing. The population of the West is rapidly increasing. The population of the West is rapidly increasing.

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HEAT TO GO HIGHER

Expressed by Leading Flour Mill Director of Canada

Hosmer, who as a director of the R. and president north, says Mr. Mills Co., has unusual favor getting in touch with poor conditions, expressed the fact the rise in wheat was not local, but to a world-wide basis.

do you believe wheat will rise? said Mr. Hosmer, with a faint smile. It is one of the uses of humanity that we into prophecy.

ever, I perhaps can use the of an old and good friend of at "I am neither a prophet nor of a prophet," but I can anyone a guess."

LUCKY AT LADYSMITH

ing of Men Hard at Work Sacking Coal

Wednesday last there were nine coal sackers employed at al wharves sacking coal in a for shipment north, says ger. The workers on that day a chiefly of Chinamen, but on y many of these were replaced by Indians and white men, the being dismissed. On Monday more men will be added, and the despatch will be used in the coal in readiness for its One of the gentlemen in charge of operations informed representative that it is probable thirty-six thousand will be shipped to Nome instead of as was first intended. He that coal was becoming scarce ad in all probability there would larger quantity than was at on. The coal, he states, is \$20 per ton when landed at his being the short ton, thus each sack worth about \$1.80. easily understand these prices, hever, when it is known that this season coal is bringing dollars per ton in San Francisco.

The neighborhood of 6,000 tons ready been sacked this season and of which has been loaded steamer and forwarded. Two many due for cargoes, the Dueric, which will take about tons, and the ship American, carrying 200 tons. These will be loaded as soon as possible their arrival. It is stated that to San Francisco about \$1.80 per ton, which will be being in Nanaimo, which will be by a different agency, which will load from here, which will all nearly fifty thousand tons northern trade this season. The demand which now exists, the large Shella has been living at a very nearly a month waiting to load. Yesterday her captain instructed to proceed to San Francisco with the cargo on board, which will be sufficient to carry her there, and at port she will proceed with to some port in South America, could hardly be a paying proposition for her charterers to have her here for a month and then without a cargo. However, it is impossible to load her and at the local trade as well, and as she will receive no cargo.

SEA-AYGEE.

From Quatsino, on the north of the west coast, to Port Renfrew, almost at the southern extremity of the island, there are known to be iron deposits of great value. Adjacent to the east coast there are also iron areas. The latter are all that, up to the present, have received commercial exploitation. Several years ago at Ironside, Wash., pig iron of fine quality was produced from Texas Island magnetite mixed with ore from Hamilton, Skagit county, Wash., in the proportion of 85 and 7 per cent respectively. Of this product a large amount was used in the construction of a battleship for the United States navy, built by the Moran company of Seattle. This gives all the evidence required of the quality.

That, as the trade across the Northern Pacific develops, a large number of iron and steel ships will be constructed on this coast, there is no doubt. Of necessity they will be built on Vancouver Island as, with the exception of totally undeveloped prospects on the northern island of the Queen Charlotte group, there are indications in no other place of coal and iron in quantity and quality sufficient to warrant the large outlay necessary at the inception of such an industry. There is very little doubt that this matter will be taken up in the near future.

(Continued on Page Thirteen)