

school, maintained by the Roman Catholic denomination. There are Protestant and Roman Catholic orphanages. The city has a public library of about 10,000 volumes, and several of the fraternal and benevolent societies also have libraries of considerable size.

Victoria has the advantage of being a port of call of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Royal Mail Steamship Line steamers to and from Japan and China. Steamers run daily between Victoria and Vancouver, and the trip from city to city through the clustered isles of the Gulf of Georgia is very pleasant. Daily boats ply to all important Puget Sound Ports, and to points northward on the island and mainland, and all regular San Francisco and Alaska steamers call at Victoria.

The city has for many seasons been a favourite resort for tourists, and appears to be steadily growing in popularity. The country for some miles about the city supports a scattered farming population and furnishes a portion of the supplies of the city, but it is not a particularly good farming country, being better adapted to fruit culture. Here every variety of fruit grown in a temperate climate attains peculiar excellence, and fruit culture promises to become a leading industry in the near future.

ESQUIMALT.

Esquimalt harbor is about three miles long, and something under two miles broad in the widest part; it has an average depth of six to eight fathoms, and affords excellent holding ground, the bottom being a tenacious blue clay. The Canadian Government has built a dry-dock at Esquimalt to accommodate vessels of large size. Its length is 450 feet, and 90 feet wide at the entrance. It is built of concrete, faced with sandstone, and was nearly three years in construction.

There is a small town at the northern corner of the harbour bearing the same name, Esquimalt. The nucleus of it are some British Government buildings, consisting of a naval hospital, an arsenal, and other dockyard buildings. In the immediate vicinity of these the town has arisen. There are two churches, a public school, two hotels or inns, and a number of residences and business buildings. In the territorial division of Esquimalt there are several farming settlements and one or two manufactories, including a boot and shoe manufactory and a saw-mill. Esquimalt is only three and a half miles from Victoria by land, and is connected with it by an excellent macadamized road and an electric car service.

NANAIMO.

Situated on rising ground and overlooking a fine harbour on the east coast of Vancouver Island, is the thriving city of Nanaimo, with a population of about 4,000, and ranking next to Victoria in importance. It is seventy miles north of Victoria, and depends chiefly upon its coaling interest and shipping business for support. Nanaimo Harbour is connected by a deep channel with Departure Bay, where the largest craft find safe anchorage. Vancouver Island bituminous coals are now acknowledged to be superior for all practical purposes to any coals on the Pacific Coast. Four companies operate mines in the immediate vicinity of Nanaimo. Large quantities are sent to San Francisco; to the Sandwich Islands and China, being shipped from either Nanaimo or Departure Bay. Nanaimo is also the coaling station for the British squadron in the Pacific. A large number of men find employment in the