

were almost impossible of development, will cause Canadians to realize what an important and valuable addition has been made to the resources available for building up a great and powerful nation.

Indeed, it is not claiming too much for British Columbia to say that, without the possession of the advantages which this province has from its geographical position and the peculiar character of its resources, the Dominion would not have that completeness, and possess within its own borders many things essential to the foundation of a people who desire a really national existence, and to be able to compete on anything like equal conditions with the numerous wealthy and enterprising people on their southern boundary. Without an outlet on the Pacific Ocean, with no seaport through which commerce with the Orient and Australia could be carried on, the Dominion could never hope to contend with any prospect of success in that peaceful struggle for trade, the supremacy in which now far more than military conquests, decides the comparative importance of the nations, and makes prosperous the people who achieve it.

The record, which will be found in the following pages, of the material progress made in Vancouver in little more than two years, will show that its citizens have not been unmindful of the duties which their peculiar, though at the same time advantageous, position entailed upon them in regard to the people of the other provinces. As the creation of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which the people had made such sacrifices to complete, Vancouver would necessarily be looked upon as to a great extent typical of the new natural life which had been brought into existence by confederation, and aided and strengthened in its growth by the completion of the great national highway. The total destruction of the young city by fire in June, 1886, only caused the people of Vancouver to determine to rebuild it in such a manner, and on a scale more than even commensurate with the important position which it was bound to take in the commercial and industrial progress of the country. The account of the public improvements which they have carried out, which has placed Vancouver in a position second to no other city in Canada, and in advance of many of them in all matters relating to public health and convenience, shows that her people have never hesitated to assume the burdens necessary for the accomplishment of these objects. Nor have private individuals lagged behind the civic officials in their efforts to build up a city conspicuous alike for the beauty and solidity of its edifices, and the surprise of the visitor at the public works and buildings, the fine business blocks and handsome residences is an eloquent testimony to the success which has crowned their efforts.

Although the youngest of them, Vancouver has already outstripped the older cities of the province in the race for population and trade, and from its location at the terminus of the railroad and on the only harbor accessible at all seasons of the year for the largest of vessels, it must not only maintain the supremacy which it has gained, but greatly increase the lead which it already has over any of its rivals. From a population of 1,500 in July, 1886, Vancouver has now about 14,000 people, and these numbers are being steadily added to by immigration. When the regular new mail steamship line to China under the Imperial Govern-