

HERE is no more interesting chapter of history than that which relates the voyages to these North Pacific shores of the hardy sailors of Britain, Russia, Spain and France. Like the names of Columbus, Cabot, Cartier, and their comrades on the Atlantic, so are those of Cook, Vancouver, Behring, Perez, and their comrades on the Pacific, the men who first revealed to a wondering world the marvels of this western coast. What daring seaman first

passed the Narrows and saw the Inlet stretch before him, is a moot question. In all probability it was Vancouver himself, while on his survey expedition from 1792 to 1794; and we can well imagine with what awe the Indians, then as now dwelling on its shores, beheld the "winged canoes of thunder" as they

made their way to where our city now stands. But this is not a history of maritime discovery on the North Pacific. What concerns us just now is that for many long years the shores of our Inlet were virtually a *terra incognita*. The riches of the Province, however, gradually became known

and was known as Granville, or, more generally, "Gastown." With the selection of this spot, however, as the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, all was suddenly changed; as if by magic the Terminal City sprang into being. By the early summer of 1886 a well built town of about 5,000 inhabitants had arisen on the shores of Burrard Inlet. In June of that year, however, a terrible fire virtually swept Vancouver from the face of the earth. Nothing daunted, its citizens set to work to build another city on the blackened site. The result of their courage and energy is

seen in the Vancouver of to-day, with its population of over 30,000, and its well-grounded confidence in a still more rapid growth in the near future.

A still more rapid growth in the near future, we say, for let us consider very briefly some of the advantages the city enjoys. To begin with, then, there is position, both

geographical and topographical. Geographically, no city in the world is better situated to become a commercial metropolis. The western terminus of the greatest of all the transcontinental lines, the only transcontinental line, in fact, that is entirely on British soil, and the home port of the



Bird's-Eye View of Hastings Street—Looking East.
1. New Nelsons Bank Building. 2. Site of New Merchants Bank of Halifax.



View Showing Portion of C.P.R. Wharves—Empress of Japan in Port.

to the outside world: Victoria and New Westminster were founded, and minor settlements were established here and there. One of such settlements, consisting of but a few primitive cabins, or "shacks" (to use the current term), was planted on the site of what is now the city of Vancouver,

Australian and the China steamships, it must of necessity be the transshipping point for the Eastern trade. And it must not be forgotten in this connection that the Canadian route is the best route from Britain to the Orient, as England lies far north of the line of New York and San