

## PARKS AND RESORTS, VANCOUVER, B.C.

and a new era of prosperity began. Great were the hopes of the inhabitants of the settlement originally called Gastown, and then Granville, when railway communication was established. In February of that year it was incorporated as the coming terminal city of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and upon the suggestion of Sir William Van Horne, received its name of Vancouver. Considerable building had been done, and a population of 2,000 had come in, when on June 13th of that eventful year 1886 came a fire which almost swept the infant town out of existence. But this disaster only served to animate the inhabitants with fresh determination, and from that time to the present, despite occasional depression, the progress of Vancouver has been extraordinary.

Side by side with the evolution of the city of Vancouver, the gradual development of its park system has gone steadily on. Beginning with the magnificent area of Stanley Park, a series of breathing places has been established in such a way that no large urban district is without its recreative park privileges. Extension of the park system has been made in four ways: (1) By lease from the Dominion Government; (2) by the gift of a citizen of Vancouver (of which more hereafter); (3) by Provincial Government grant; (4) by purchase.

The Board of Park Commissioners was established in 1888. It consists of five members, two of whom retire one year and three the next. Election is by the entire body of citizen voters at the January civic elections. The Park Commissioners receive no remuneration for their services, but the Board has never lacked the candidature of public-spirited citizens who have been willing to devote much time and energy to the administration of this branch of the civic activities. Funds are supplied by annual appropriations by the City Council, and for special purposes by bylaws voted upon by the ratepayers.

The general policy laid down by the Board has been guided by the consciousness that the parks and playgrounds belong to the people. They have therefore sought to secure in this regard the maximum of facilities of a recreational and educational kind. They have sought to preserve as far as possible natural features of beauty. They have endeavored to exercise care in planning any new work so that it should conform to the existing order of things so far as that order was good. At the same time they have always had an eye to future developments, in their desire for gradual improvement.