

CASSIAR DISTRICT

factory, which manufactures millions of cans annually. Lumbering operations are also extensive and profitable, the mills in the city alone having a capacity of 350,000 feet per day of ten hours. There is a magnificent system of waterworks, and the city owns its own electric light plant, which cost \$116,000. New Westminster can boast of the finest public library west of Winnipeg, and a capital public market, conducted on the eastern system. At the New Westminster Royal Park an annual exhibition is held, which is amongst the best in Canada. There are fifteen churches, with a seating capacity of 4,400. The Provincial Penitentiary, Asylum for the Insane, and other public buildings are located here. In 1884 the population was 1,500; in 1897 it was estimated at 8,000.

STEVESTON.—A town at the mouth of the Fraser where a number of large fish canneries are located.

LADNER'S, a rising town on the delta of the Fraser, has several fish canneries, saw mill, creamery, etc., and is surrounded by a prairie region of great fertility, a considerable area having been reclaimed by dyking.

CHILLIWACK, an important town, with a population of 700, is in the centre of a large agricultural and fruit-growing district, known as the garden of British Columbia. The valley has about 3,700 inhabitants. It has a fruit cannery, cheese factories, creameries, several saw and shingle mills, grist mill, lime kiln, brick yard, etc., besides many fine public buildings, such as the court house, bank, etc. Steamers run daily between Chilliwack and New Westminster.

MISSION CITY is a C. P. R. junction point, with its Mission branch connecting with the American system. It is 43 miles from Vancouver, on the north side of the Fraser, and has a large area of farming lands tributary to it which are well adapted for fruit growing. The Pitt Meadows, which include 40,000 acres of bottom lands being reclaimed by dyking, are contiguous to the town.

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occupies the whole western portion of the province from the 26 deg. longitude. While its agricultural capabilities have not yet been fully determined, it possesses several tracts of fertile land, notably that occupied by the Bella Coola colony, which gives indications of great prosperity. The district contains some of the richest gold mines yet discovered in the province, being penetrated by the great gold belt which extends from the Kootenay to the Yukon, and indications are numerous of further mineral wealth to be developed so soon as better transportation facilities are provided. As the wealth of Cassiar is becoming more widely known, it is becoming the prospecting ground of miners, and as some of the trails leading to the Klondike pass through the district it is expected that during the present year it will attract many explorers who believe that its latent riches are not less than those of the Yukon. There are some prosperous fish canning establishments on the coast, and parts of the district are thickly timbered. Communication with the Cassiar district is principally by water. Steamers start at regular dates from Vancouver and Victoria for the Skeena River, Port Simpson, Glenora on the Stikine, and other points on the coast within the district. See page 44. northern zone, as to climate.