



BRITISH WARSHIPS IN ESQUIMAULT HARBOUR, B.C.

PHOTOGRAPH BY R. MAYNARD.

Pacific Coast, experienced for a season a wave of business depression that seriously interfered with commercial development.

Now, however, all is once more prosperity and progress in the west, and the large wholesale trade done in Victoria stands on a solid basis. There is an unusually large proportion of large wholesale houses in the city, as compared with the population (some 26,000). The capital which backs these firms is large and chiefly local.

Enterprises of all kinds have at various times been established within the city limits, amongst which may be mentioned fruit-preserving, pickling and spice factories, flour, feed and rice mills, boot, shoe and trunk-making, soap and powder works, iron foundries, machine shops, furniture and biscuit factories, and chemical and metallurgical works; whilst many of the retail shops in the town would astonish eastern eyes, so favourably do they compare with those of Ontario and Quebec centres.

Though the coal mines of Nanaimo and Wellington are situated about eighty miles from Victoria, a mention of them may fairly be included in this sketch, the industry being chiefly owned by the Dunsmuirs, whose name ranks high amongst those of the most prominent of Victoria's pioneers. The export from these coal mines last year was valued at \$2,445,379.

To the Queen City alone belongs, almost exclusively, the sealing industry of British Columbia, for, with one or two exceptions, all the sealing vessels make Victoria their home port. In 1897 the boats brought back a cargo valued at \$750,000, of which about \$500,000 was the product of Behring Sea.

Many fine buildings ornament the city. The new Post Office and Custom House built of grey stone, the Jubilee Hospital, the Drill Shed, and some of the business "blocks" are tangible proofs of the stability of the place, whilst capital telephone, electric light, and street car services, water-works, sewerage and other public systems testify to