

where it may accumulate, and men are not permitted to enter any part of the mine where the fireman has reported the presence of gas.

The stables are located in the south level in large quarters which have been excavated, and there are kept a number of mules, and although they are well housed and fed, they have few glimpses of daylight after they are taken into the mines. They are used in hauling cars.

All men employed in the mines work on eight-hour shifts, the first shift going down at 6 a.m. and being relieved at 2 p.m. Some of them may have a considerable distance to go after reaching the bottom of the shaft, and therefore they may not be able to get in more than seven hours' time. As the miners work on piecework, they lose no time after they reach their stalls.

#### PROTECTION ISLAND SHAFT

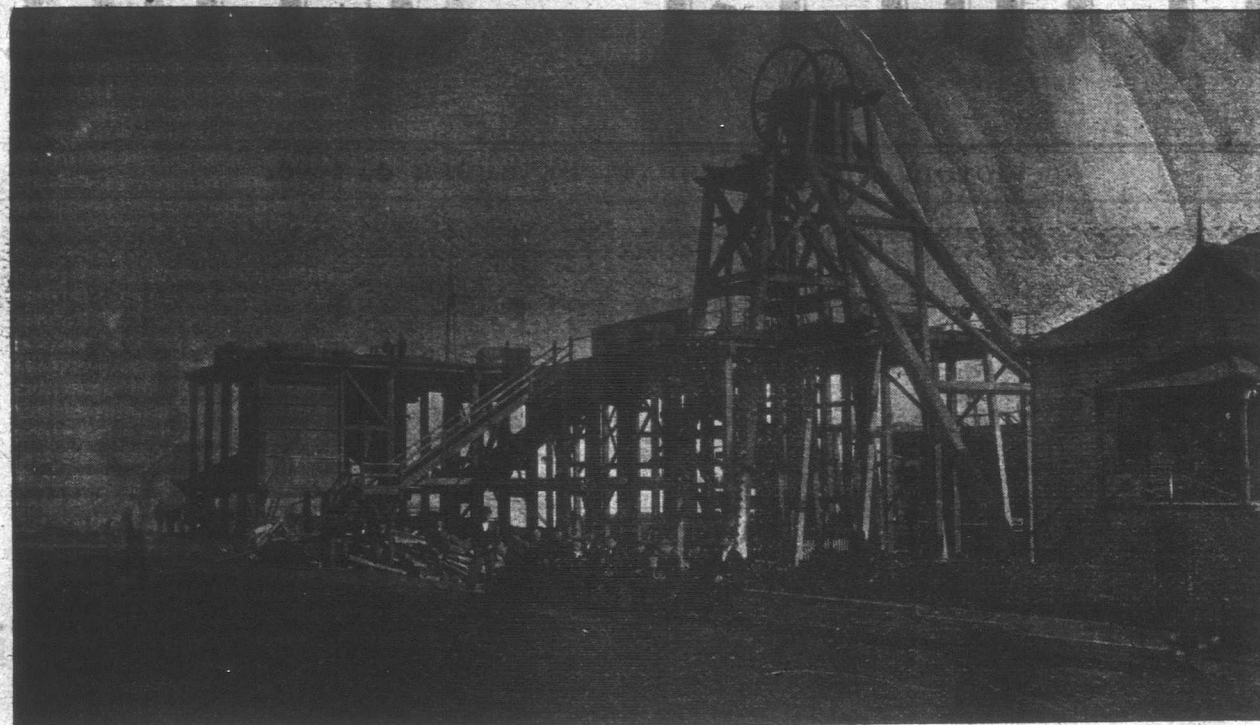
Is Another Outlet for Number One, and Is Over Six Hundred Feet Deep.

The Protection Island shaft is really another outlet or extension for No. 1 shaft, and is 670 feet in depth. The main slope is one mile long and worked by means of a main rope system of haulage. The diagonal slope is 1,500 yards long and is also operated by a endless system of haulage. No. 1 lead, from which the long wall system of working has been opened out, is about 600 yards long. The engine for operating the haulage system in the two slopes is on the surface, and the power is transmitted underground by means of a endless rope. At this shaft is a pair of horizontal hoisting engines with 26-inch cylinder and 42-inch stroke, with 10-foot drum, and one haulage engine with sin-

gle 30-inch cylinder and 3-foot stroke. There are also two air compressing engines, one pair cylinders being 12x14 and one single, 12x18.

On the northeast side of Newcastle Island, on the shores of the Straits of Georgia, a shaft was sunk last year which reached the upper seam at 324 feet, where good coal was found. The shaft was deepened to the lower seam, 384 feet, and ten feet further for a pump, making a total of 394 feet. The shaft is well timbered and safely constructed, and by means of this shaft an extensive area of coal can be worked, and it will also be used for the ventilation of the inside workings of No. 1 shaft. At this shaft one pair of hoisting engines and one pair compressing engines are in operation. A Guibal fan, fourteen feet in breadth and with a capacity of 35,000 feet per minute, removes the impure air from the mine. The steam is generated by two double flued Lancashire boilers, 4x25 feet in size. At Protection Island shaft eight boilers of the same pattern are in operation.

No. 3 shaft, one of the four now being worked, is 508 feet in depth. The No. 1 heading is worked by a self-acting incline, is about 400 yards long, and No. 1 lead is about 1,000 yards long. One haulage engine is used underground on the slope of No. 1 heading. The engine is a coupled horizontal hauling engine, 7-inch cylinder, 10-inch stroke and 3-foot drum. Two Cameron engines, with a capacity of eighty gallons per minute, keeps the mine clear of water. At this shaft a pair of horizontal hoisting engines, with a 16-inch cylinder, 36-inch stroke, and a 10-foot drum hoists the coal. The ventilation is looked after by a double Murphy fan, eight feet in



NEW VANCOUVER COAL CO.—NO. 1 SHAFT.

diameter, and an air compressing engine, 12x14.

The workings of these mines are similar to the description of No. 1. The men employed at Protection and Newcastle Islands are conveyed to their work on boats owned by the company.

Among the mines soon to be opened are the Harewood and No. 2 Southfield mines. At the former a platform and screen are now being erected, so that coal may be dumped in wagons and brought to the city. As soon as possible a railroad connection will be made with

this mine from the Southfield mine, and coal can then be hauled to the bunkers at small expense. The company owns valuable areas of coal lands, and prospecting with the diamond drill has been going on for over a year, with good results. All the mines

are turning out an excellent quality of coal, and it finds a ready market, the bulk of it going to California.

#### THE OUTPUT

Last Year Was 614,773 Tons—Number of Men Employed and Wages Paid.

The output of the mines last year was 614,773 tons, and of this amount 447,464 tons went to the United States. At the present time 1,400 men are employed about the mines, railways and wharves, and \$85,000 per month is disbursed for help.

In his report to the Minister of Mines last year, Mr. Robbins made the following interesting statement: There were employed in the mines 580 white miners, earning from \$3 to \$4.50 per day. Below ground 385 white laborers earned from \$2.50 to \$3 per day, and on the surface 36 men were employed at \$2.50 per day; 81 skilled laborers and mechanics were paid \$3 to \$4 per day; 68 boys earned from \$1 to \$2 per day, and 189 Chinamen worked for \$1.125 to \$1.25 per day. No Chinamen are employed underground.

#### COMPANY'S FARM.

Large Tracts of Land Cut Into Five Acre Lots for Miners—The Athletic Club.

Strangers in the city always find a visit to the company's farm an interesting event. Here many acres of land have been cleared and are in perfect condition for agricultural purposes. On this farm is raised all the fodder used by the company's horses and mules, as well as large quantities of the succulent

roots which thrive so well in this vicinity. Under the personal direction of Mr. S. M. Robbins large tracts of wild land have been made to bloom and blossom and these tracts have been cut up into five-acre lots and sold to employees of the mines. They are now beautiful spots, and at every exposition held in the vicinity of Nanaimo the floral, fruit and vegetable showings from the five-acre lots have commanded attention and carried off many prizes. At the expense of the company, too, splendid streets and roads have been constructed through these lots, making them most attractive places.

Nor does Mr. Robbins stop there. He is a contributor to the running expenses of the Nanaimo Athletic Club, a place now well fitted up with gymnasium, library and recreation rooms. This club is well patronized by the younger miners. He strongly favors outdoor sports, and tries in every way to encourage them. To this end handsome grounds are always kept in first-class shape for cricket, lacrosse, baseball and football, and no charge is made the clubs taking part in these games. Small wonder that Mr. Robbins is a favorite with his men, and that have expressed themselves in the mines operated by the New Vancouver Coal Co.

For information contained in this article the writer is indebted to Mr. J. P. Planta and Mr. Thomas Russell, the latter furnishing the statistical part, which may be relied upon as accurate. Mr. Bate and other officials of the company also cheerfully gave any information asked for. The principal photographs were taken by E. C. Brooks, of Nanaimo, some, however, being kindly loaned by Mr. F. H. Shepherd, a mining engineer of the Coal City.

# The March of Victoria's Progress.

Some of Improvements Which Have Been Made in the City During the Past Year. On Every Side There Are Unmistakable Evidences of the Tide of Prosperity.

## Large Number of Imposing Structures and Palatial Residences Have Been Erected.

It requires little consideration on the part of the observer to convince him that during the past ten months Victoria has entered an era of progress which, should it continue, will place her in the very front rank of the cities of the Pacific Northwest. If there is one unerring authority by which the extent of this progress may be ascertained it is that of statistics, and when these point to the growth of this city they demand credence.

In the first place, never before in the history of this solid municipality have so many remnants of the past in the way of antiquated structures been removed from the heart of the city. During the same period more than \$200,000 has been expended in buildings within the limits of Victoria, and many of these edifices supplant those which have outlived their utility.

This marked transformation brings out several significant facts. In the large operations carried on many men have found work. The pavement of Broad and Yates streets, the erection of the pumping station and of the fire hall, the macadamizing of the various thoroughfares and other works innumerable have given employment to the brawn and muscle of the laborer and the skill of the artificer. A considerable quantity of property has changed hands, and although placards have not been distributed broadcast through the country, and the interesting information disseminated that Victoria is the "greatest city on the continent," there has nevertheless been an activity sufficient to arouse the highest degree of optimism and which promises to be permanent.

The tramway company has double tracked a couple of streets in the central part of the city, and a large number of workmen were employed in the operations. The company contemplate additional works in the near future.

Adequate fire protection has been provided the citizens of Victoria West through the construction of a new fire hall. Many handsome residences have been erected, while a glance at the list in this article will give an idea of the nature of the building operations during the present year.

This period, too, has witnessed the commencement of construction of a new rifle range at Clover Point. At Esquimalt hundreds of men have been employed in various works instituted by the naval authorities. At Work Point a new barracks has been constructed and officers' quarters and other structures are in course of erection.

Another beneficial institution was the garrisoning of the Hospital barracks by Col. McKay and A company, 3rd R. C. B. Through the presence of this splendid body of men at that place the citizens reap a pecuniary harvest by the various expenditures it entails.

Victoria is rapidly donning her old garments and, figuratively, donning a new coat, and it only requires a continuation of the process to make her in every essential feature what she is in name, the Queen City of the West.

#### DECADENCE OF SHACKDOM.

Forcible Steps Taken to Eradicate Eye-Sores—Delapidated Landmarks Demolished.

Undoubtedly one of the most conspicuous improvements carried on in Victoria during the past ten months was the destruction of the delapidated shacks which for many years intruded themselves with almost painful irregularity upon the view in different portions of the city. The majority of these were in Chinatown and vicinity, although the ac-

tivity of the building and sanitary inspectors was not confined here by any means, for many eye-sores in other parts have been removed through their zealous efforts.

Until within the last year Chinatown was considered the most objectionable feature of the city. Perhaps it is yet, but the many rows of decaying shacks with their unwholesome appearance, in close proximity to the heart of the town, were enough to mar any claim that might be advanced respecting the immunity of Victoria from eye-sores.

The visitor, who, in walking along Government street, for instance, gave vent to expressions of admiration at the array of imposing buildings, was invariably brought to a sudden halt when he reached Cormorant street, by the spectacle of the series of tumble-down structures that confronted him. This was almost sufficient to counteract the favorable impression that was induced by the palatial buildings farther along the thoroughfare, and the expression was usually one of regret that steps were not taken to eradicate these unsightly structures.

But if the exteriors of the various premises were not prepossessing they were infinitely superior to the interiors. In fact it was imposing, picturesque, and even beautiful in comparison. Recondite alleys, pregnant with nauseating effluvia, and so narrow and cryptic that it was impossible for any one of ordinary size to make headway, winded themselves in diverse ways, constituting a perfect labyrinth. In all sincerity, the mystic mazes in some of the large parks were absolutely "not in it" for puzzling purposes with these intricate passages, and even provided the visitor found it possible to ascertain his whereabouts, there was extreme danger of some of the floorings caving in and a downward trip to the other floor with more abruptness than dignity. There were stairways so old and shabby that it would require a feather-weight to negotiate them with

## The Wiping Out of Old Shacks in Chinatown a Conspicuous Feature of Operations.

any degree of rapidity, and even he would be tempting Providence.

The danger to this city of the existence of these buildings was obvious. Bubonic plague and kindred evils could find no better breeding places, and this fact commended itself forcibly to the health authorities. Armed with the authority of the law as set forth in the Health and Building by-laws, the sanitary and building officials explored these quarters thoroughly and immediately inaugurated a crusade which has resulted in the demolition of almost, if not all, the shacks in the district.

When a building is condemned by the building inspector the adoption of his recommendation by the city council clothes him with the authority to order the destruction of the premises. On the other hand, when the sanitary inspector's report is submitted recommending the destruction of the shacks as nuisances, the owners are requested to confer with the council, in order to give reasons why their structures should not be destroyed. During the beginning of spring in one of his investigating tours, the sanitary inspector encountered a rendezvous of fifth which doubtless could not be eclipsed anywhere. This was in the brick cabins between Cormorant and Fisguard streets, belonging to the Porter estate. Although the apartments were only of ordinary dimensions, the Celestial occupants had seen fit to bisect it horizontally with a secondary ceiling. As one apartment served the purposes of cooking, sleeping, and general living room, the scene that met the eye of the inspector on his round can be more adequately imagined than described.

That was one of the starting points of the campaign of eradicating eye-sores, which is still going on. On April 2nd a report was submitted recommending the destruction of six one-story cabins on Fisguard street, between Government and Douglas, two more in the same vicinity and four more not far away. This recommendation was carried out to the letter and battalions of rats and Chinese were made temporarily homeless. On April 17th there were five more on Fisguard street, between Government and Douglas streets, and two more in the immediate vicinity, including the old hospital, destroyed. These were given to the flames as the most successful purifier. In one of these shacks the firemen who presided over the conflagration discovered a considerable quantity of dynamite, which, had it exploded, would have removed every house in the neighborhood and probably transformed the market building into another structure altogether, to say nothing of the morgue and the sanitary inspector's headquarters in the market yard.

Eleven more shacks on the corner of Government and Chatham streets met the fate of their predecessors, and another source of danger was removed. The next move was made on Pandora street, where the cottage of Mrs. Drosdewitz courted investigation. This resulted in its condemnation, but its owner fought the advancing tide of progress loudly and stubbornly, and her resistance was responsible for the postponement of the day of the eradication of the house for some time. Finally, the inspector decided upon drastic measures. Accompanied by several members of the fire department, he proceeded to the domain of the irate lady one morning at three o'clock, and immediately commenced the operations of removal. The owner of the cottage, who lived in the neighbor-

ing house, appeared on the scene in battle array and made a spirited attack on one of the workmen, truculently endeavoring to bereave him of his beard. Finally quiet was restored and the work was executed. This was one of the most exciting incidents in connection with the campaign.

On May 4th, four frame buildings on Cormorant street, between Government and Store streets, were condemned, and subsequently destroyed. Then followed ten more on the south side of the same street, between Government and Store. Ten is the number given, but with the addition of adjuncts in the way of chicken houses, sheds, and other structures, a score, perhaps, would be more accurate. The unsightly affairs on Government street, between Cormorant and Fisguard, next came under the civic ban and the fiat went forth for their destruction. The inevitable conference between the council and the owners was held, and the destruction took place not very long ago. The sanitary inspector was not satisfied that the procedure adopted in the operations was as speedy as it might be, so he hit upon the expedient of calling the street roller, Jumbo, into requisition.

The ponderous machine worked fearfully, and it did not require much time to convert the place of shacks into a decided vacuum. The debris was burned under the watchful eyes of the fire department. On Hing is now erecting a brick building on the corner.

Two more buildings on Fisguard street followed the usual course. The old stable on Broad street, just north of Port street, was condemned in July and ultimately destroyed. The old shack on Government street used as a store-house for hay by Messrs. Brackman & Ker, was dealt with in similar manner, as was a cottage and two sheds on Quadra street belonging to S. J. Pitts. There are more old tumble down establishments on Fisguard street which have gone the way of the others, and in some instances a Kansas cyclone could not have done the work in better style than the corps

of workmen. The Porter estate, through their agent, T. Worthington, voluntarily destroyed some of their Fisguard street structures, and in their place have erected a brick building.

At the meeting of the city council a few evenings ago reports were received from the building and sanitary inspectors recommending the destruction of shacks on the corners of Johnson and Broad streets, one on the north side of Cormorant street, and two on Fisguard. These will also be removed in what has now become the natural order of things.

In almost every case, the old relics and landmarks ordered destroyed have been replaced by substantial brick buildings. This certainly would not have happened had the authorities relaxed their vigilance. The effluxion of time would have compelled the owners to ultimately remove holdings that were in danger of falling to pieces from very antiquity, but this might have been years, were it not for the prompt action that has been taken by the city.

It would not be an extravagant assertion to state that nearly one hundred shacks of various descriptions have been ordered destroyed by the authorities within the past ten months. Some of the owners have shown themselves most public-spirited, by not only waiving all opposition, but by assisting the authorities to the utmost in their work. Then, there were a few thorns. Some of the agents and owners raised all sorts of opposition and delayed the operations, although the result was always the same. To the traveller who visited the purlieus of Chinatown and who noted the large number of old shacks a year or two ago, the improvement during the past ten months has commended itself perhaps more decidedly than to the citizens to whom the metamorphosis is not so perceptible.

Great credit is due both the inspectors as well as the city council for the great work, and while no disparagement to previous councils is intended, it is most certainly a fact that in the matter of

## Many Works Instituted by Naval and Military Authorities—Activity in Shipping Circles.

removing the objectionable building features in the way of buildings greatly advanced along the line of decadence this year has seen the most extensive improvement.

#### PLETHORA OF BUILDINGS.

Many Handsome Structures Have Been Erected During the Past Ten Months.

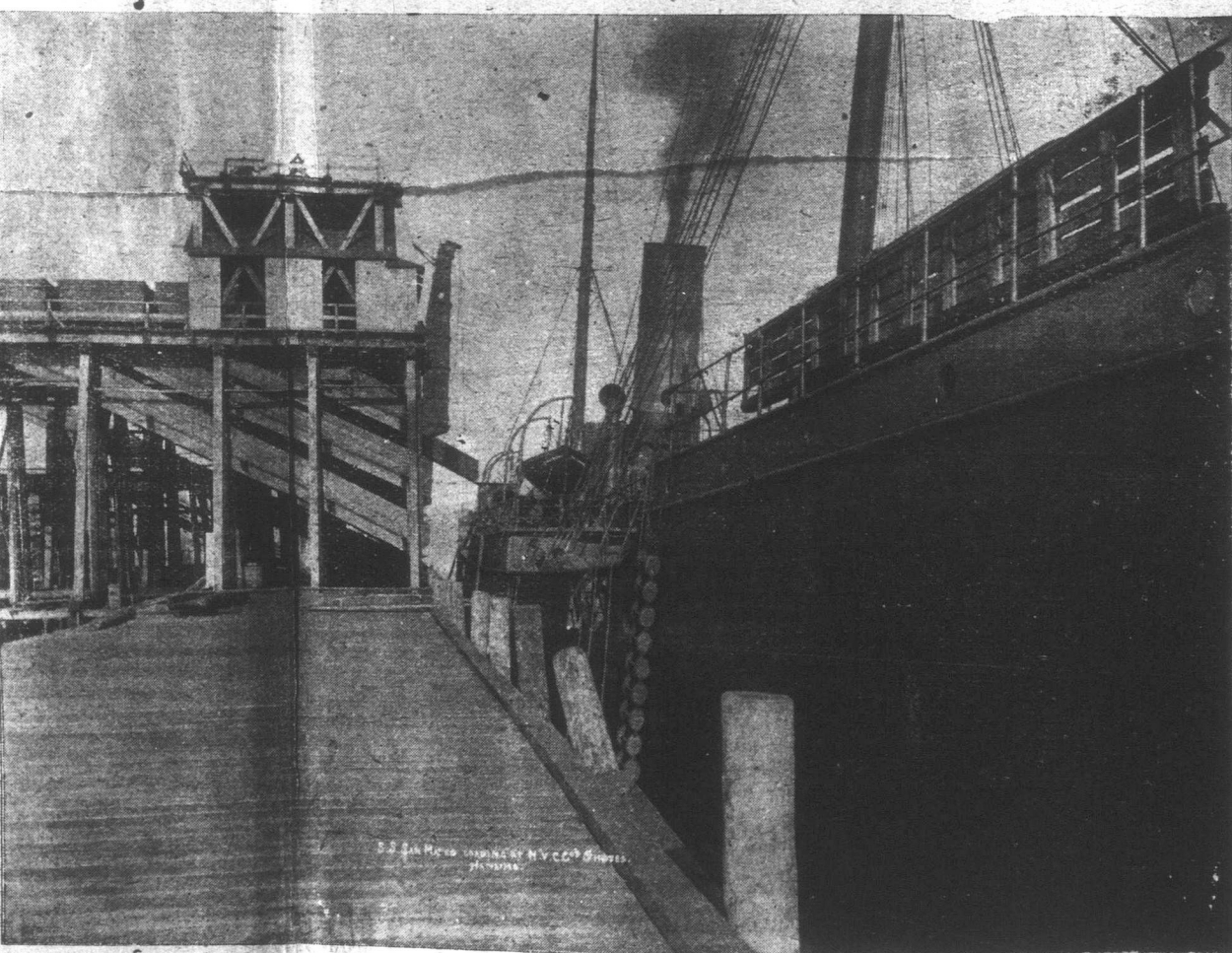
There is one sign by which the status of a municipality in the line of progress may be accurately gauged. That is the extent of building operations carried on, and such a criterion may be considered as more valuable than any other. The community in which no building takes place is of a certainty dead, and stagnation in this particular is nothing less than the precursor of retrogression. No far-seeing, enterprising man of business, follower of any of the professions or artificer, would wittingly invest in a city that, owing to adverse conditions, is incapable of giving him some return, and the fact that in Victoria during the past ten months building enterprise has been so marked, indicates that those vitally interested are convinced that an era of great prosperity has arrived.

In many cities, notably in those south of the forty-ninth line of latitude, the active construction of buildings of a more than ordinary pretentious character is the outward and visible sign of a "boom." The word "boom," according to its accepted usage, is somewhat of a stranger to Victorians, and sensationalism is wholly foreign to the nature of the citizens. Solidarity is the main characteristic, and consequently when

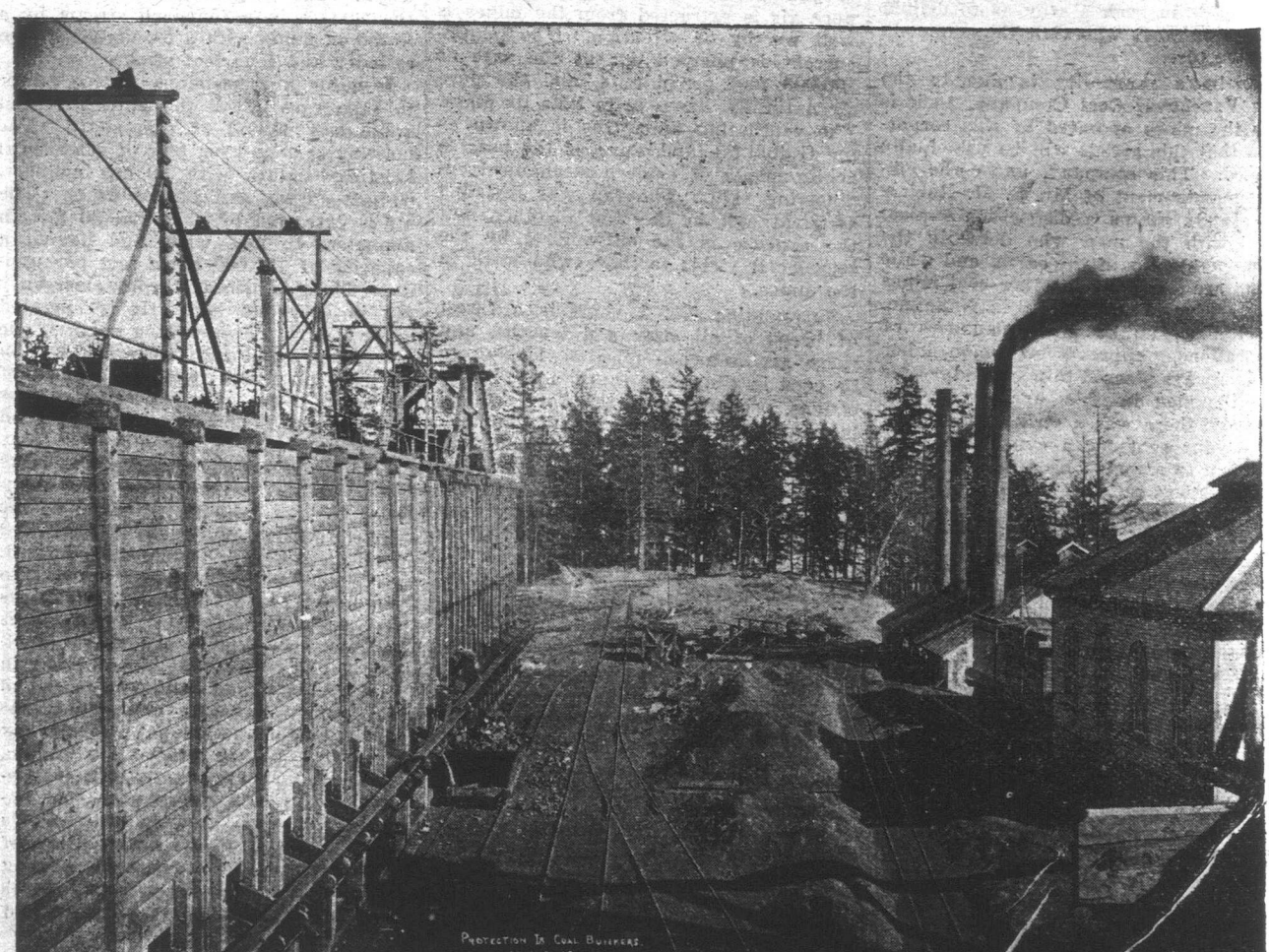
the old shacks of the by palatial brick structures beautiful sites for w suburbs is noted are some residences, none proclaim it to the sky, vined that despite it inflated "boom," this making rapid progress. There is an old slang world, which m to describe the manner ple of this city work vancement of its inte "that Victorians say wood."

Several of the arch viewed by a Times re out flat-footed with this year so far has than any of its prede period. Visitors who ago and who have have expressed themselves a large number of structures that have the past ten months. stance, the old Ameri street, which, although structure, was not on the appearance of it to town in which it stood erected on this site a brick edifice. Direct many years an old view by the evidence. This met the fate of a and a three-story building. Another of the frame building Broad and View street induced perhaps by degree of sentiment owners, kept it standing beyond its time, and able to come with the structure now contr proved appearance of splendid new est erected on the corner Douglas streets for the same building sup by over which many These are a few of which the metamorphosis portion of the city while a "constitution" of Chinatown will show improvement that has district, which is a identity as an eye imposing structures, prophesied the decad oughtfare as the mat toria should rub his and standing, say, a tage on the corner of Government street, feet along Broughton basement of the full building, and the in harmony with the a of the exterior. It and cut stone from been adopted quite cost of the structure Borough of \$16,000.

Another large an was that erected f Leiser on the old A Yates street. This Hopburn, who, by denced his faith in In no unmistakable cently constructed at blishments in the city. The cost 000, and the present their new premises Building is heavily ed brick, and cut st of 45 feet, and extends 110 feet to is on the ground fl remainder of the p warehouse purposes block, there are m tors and up-to-date



NEW VANCOUVER COAL CO.—S.S. SAN MATEO LOADING.



NEW VANCOUVER COAL CO.—PROTECTION ISLAND BUNKERS.