

continental railway system in America to-day, namely, the Canadian Pacific Railway, will without doubt command that position. The loading and unloading of the China steamers, even at the present time, afford occupation for a large surplus population, but when this service is increased it will employ a much larger number. There are numerous branch lines projected as feeders for the main line, and this, coupled with the Canadian and American traffic, will be of immense benefit to its future growth. Its prosperity in the near future is a matter of certainty, and it is sure to increase until it attains the proportions of a magnificent city.

VICTORIA.

Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, is situated on the southern extremity of Vancouver Island, and is, without doubt, the prettiest town in the whole of the province. It has a population of about 12,000, which is made up of Europeans, Indians, and Chinese. The chief wholesale business houses in the province are established here, as it was the centre of trade and the basis from which supplies were forwarded, not only for the coast, but also the entire trade of the interior, previous to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This has caused it to become one of the wealthiest towns for its size on the Pacific coast. Nearly all the old pioneers of British Columbia, when they retire, make it their home, having no further desire than to spend their few remaining days in this lovely spot. It resembles greatly a town in the South of England on account of the well laid-out gardens and the great similarity of climate. Here rose-trees attain great perfection, the soil being particularly adapted to their culture. It is the headquarters for the salmon and fur trade, and is also the terminus of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway. Another line is projected, called the Victoria and Saanich Railway, which is to be connected with the mainland by a steam ferry. Not far from this town is Esquimalt, which is the Pacific Naval Station, where the dry dock is situated. With all