

tain railway depot, the Corporation is building a series of general offices, assay rooms, storehouses and machine shops. It is understood that some residential edifices for the use of the members of the general staff will also be erected. The ground has been plotted out, a magnificent site presented to the Church of England, and the municipality invited to open up the streets, which have been laid out in continuation of the plan of the city. Spokane Street and Fourth and Fifth Avenues will presently be extended out into the Nickel Plate ground, by the city authorities.

Summing up it may certainly be said that the B.A.C. has justified its existence in Rossland. If all the other properties were only equally thoroughly taken in hand, there would be, in a very few months, a population doubling that of the present.

from Nanaimo, the steamer tying up at Union wharf at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when it is met by a coal train, attached to which is one passenger car for those bound for the town of Union some ten miles up the line. It is a busy scene at the wharf. There are a dozen or more ships in the bay being loaded with coal for the Yukon and San Francisco markets, more of them for the latter however, as speculators are now buying in large quantities, expecting a rise in consequence of the Americo-Spanish war. By dint of skilful manœuvring I manage to button-hole Mr. Little, the Union Coal Company's superintendent, and at once transform myself into a point of interrogation. But Mr. Little's time just now is very valuable and he suggests that perhaps Mr. Work, the manager at the coke works, will give me the information I am



THE WORKS SHOWING MACHINERY BUILDING IN THE REAR.

COAL INDUSTRY OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

VERY few residents of British Columbia have more than a faint idea of the growing importance of the coal industry of Vancouver Island. Coal digging has not the fascination, does not afford the same interest to the public, that is the case with precious metal mining operations—at least in this quarter of the world. Nevertheless a good coal mine is a gold mine, as Messrs. Dunsmuir and Sons may possibly testify, and so later on will the fortunate shareholders of the Crow's Nest Coal Company. But speaking of the Crow's Nest coal (writes our representative) leads up to the subject to which I propose chiefly to confine myself in the bulk of this article—the manufacture of coke at the Union wharf ovens. One arrives at the wharf after a delightful journey of some fifty miles by water

anxious to obtain. Mr. Work is courtesy itself, and consents, at once, to act as my guide.

The first place Mr. Work and I visited was the building in which the coal is washed, sorted and crushed. As will be seen in the first illustration here given this

is a large three story frame erection, immediately alongside the railway track. From the ground floor where the boiler and engine room are also to be found,

the main elevator hoists the coal to a separator or revolving screen at the top of the building. Here the coal is divided into four sizes; No. 1 being about the size of a hen's egg and No. 4 smaller than a walnut. All four sizes of coal are then conveyed to the jigs. There are seven jigs on the second and ten on the lower floor, and by gravitation the refuse rock or slate is removed, the nut coal being screened and