

BRITISH COLUMBIA AS SEEN BY AN OLD
VICTORIA STUDENT.

AT the present time there is, perhaps, no part of our globe so immediately before the eye of the world as this province. Since the reports of the fabulous wealth of the Yukon territory have been verified by the large quantities of the precious metal brought out of that country by the earlier prospectors, and especially since the wealth of the Klondyke has become known, the civilized world has no more interest for any other point than this western country. True, from an accurate geographical standpoint, this gold country belongs to the North-West Territories. But as the only practical means of approach to that northern land is from the coast, and as the most favorable points for outfitting and departure are the ports of British Columbia, this interest practically centres in this Province.

So that, at the present time, apart from its usual attractions, our Province has an extraordinary interest for all who are students of the movements of human society and the economic considerations which give rise to those movements. It is a noteworthy feature of the men who have already made up, and who will doubtless compose, the mass of this gold-seeking body of men, that they are unlike the majority of those who constituted the great rush for the Californian gold-fields in earlier times. The stream of humanity now moving towards the Yukon is made up of men, in many cases, of education and social position, who have, in not a few instances, relinquished lucrative positions as business and professional men to go on this quest. But by the time they are fitted out in the orthodox costume of the mining class their appearance entirely belies any such origin.

This fair western city of Victoria presents an interesting sight, as these would-be miners gradually lay aside the proper garb of citizens of the staid eastern city life, and don the rough and vari-coloured costumes, high and heavy boots, and especially the apparently indispensable buff-coloured felt hat, with brim so extensive as to suggest that rigid economy in personal effects, thus provides an abbreviated umbrella and parasol in addition to the usual head covering.

In addition to the personal effects, these men give a great deal of attention to supplies and provisions. And the ingenuity of every local tradesman is taxed to the full to provide the most convenient cooking stoves and utensils, axes and tools of various kinds; flour, and the indispensable beans and bacon. In addition, the miner is