

Unlike other modern cities, Nanaimo has carefully preserved this relic of the past and today it is the only one of its kind left standing in the province. It is an old block house built in the early days by the Hudson's Bay Company and is now of so much interest that it was reproduced at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition a few years ago, and was visited by a larger number of tourists than any other single exhibition on the Exposition grounds.

This "City of the Black Diamond" is chiefly famed for its coal. Here the Western Fuel Company operates the most extensive mines on the whole western continent. And the mines are under the sea. While "Empresses," "Princes" and "Princesses" move in and out upon the quiet waters of the beautiful harbor, and while the "merchantmen" and "colliers" come from the ends of the earth to "bunk for coal," a thousand men are under the sea a thousand feet below, digging the black diamond for the world's commerce.

During the year 1911 this company employed 1370 men, who produced 575,177 tons of coal. Of this amount about half was marketed for consumption in Canada and the bulk of the rest was marketed in the United States. While this is the largest industrial company in Nanaimo, there are other large companies doing business in and around the city, including coal, lumbering, fishing, quarrying, etc. As an index of large industrial proportions the fact that the monthly payroll runs at about a quarter of a million dollars, and the fact that the harbor tonnage is greater than that of any other city in Canada, with the single exception of Halifax, will probably be a great surprise to most people.

During the last two years Nanaimo has been bringing itself more up-to-date. A splendid sewerage system is being established and is now well advanced. Some of the main streets have been paved with asphalt, and cement sidewalks are being built at the rate of seven or eight miles a year. A delightful little park has this year been set in order. Many people from other parts are being attracted to the beautiful spots in and around Nanaimo, not only for summer camping but for summer homes. Being only two hours run from Vancouver, with double daily service by the "Princess Patricia"—the fastest passenger steamer on the whole Pacific Coast and once the "Queen Alexandra" on the Clyde—the beauty spots around Nanaimo will more and more be in demand for summer homes as trysting places.

The churches are well represented and are now of such mature years as to insure steady, faithful work. Wallace Street Methodist Church is one of the first Methodist Churches in the province and observed its golden jubilee two years ago. St. Andrew's Presbyterian church will observe its jubilee in three or four years. It was founded by the honored pioneer, Rev. Robt. Jamieson, and is the third oldest Presbyterian congregation in British Columbia. Its fine large brick church is the finest church home in the city.

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"It is better to fight for the good than to rail at the ill."

" . . . I hold

That it becomes no man to nurse despair,  
But in the teeth of clenched antagonisms  
To follow up the worthiest till he die."