

shore of the latter there has recently arisen and been incorporated the city of "North Vancouver," to connect with which a bridge is projected to cross the "Second Narrows," and serve as a highway for vehicular traffic and for railway connection with the North, and with the Grand Trunk Pacific and other transcontinental lines now in course of construction to Prince Rupert and other points not yet determined. Vancouver is bound by force of circumstances to become the industrial centre of the entire Province and the Canadian western coast, and looking at the great development of the interior during the past few years along all lines and the promised greater development by reason of the better railway connections now in process of construction, it would seem an unanswerable conclusion that Greater Vancouver will have by 1910 at least 100,000 inhabitants.

While numerous causes contributed to the past rapid growth and will make certain the inevitable future greatness of this city, there are three distinct resources upon which hinge a large proportion of its wealth and prosperity both in the past and for the future. These are recognized as the lumber industry, the fishing industry, and the geographical situation giving it world wide prominence as a marine centre.

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

At the present time in the industrial field it must be acknowledged that lumbering holds first place in importance, both as to the volume of business transacted and the number of people directly or indirectly employed.

It is a difficult matter to estimate the exact area of timber lands in British Columbia, and it is still more difficult to say how much of this area contains timber which is now, or will be in the future, of merchantable use. The average of timber under lease is about 1,500 square miles, and the total area of forest and woodland is put down by the Dominion statistician as 285,554 square miles.

The principal limits, and the great bulk of the timber on the coast, are located on Vancouver Island, but the coast line, from the boundary line north for three hundred miles, also contains extensive timber areas, the forest line following the inlets and river valleys and fringing the mountain sides. In the interior and Kootenay districts there are extensive forests of fir, cedar and spruce, but the timber is smaller and not of as good quality.

At present there are about two hundred mills in operation through-

out the Province, ranging from the one-saw portable affair to large plants equipped with every modern sawmill device. Roughly speaking, the capital invested in the industry, exclusive of timber limits, would be about \$10,000,000, with a monthly payroll well over the million dollar mark.

The greatest activities in the manufacture of lumber are naturally centered around those points where proper transportation can be had for marketing the products, and yet not too far distant from the bases of timber supply. For this reason nearly all the large concerns are located at the Coast, where they have the advantage of both rail and water connection, combined with their proximity to the larger timber areas.

Vancouver's ideal situation in regard to these indispensable advantages to the most profitable prosecution of lumber manufacturing has attracted a large proportion of these mills to this point, making the city the largest centre of the lumber industry on the Pacific Coast of Canada. Among the mills are found some of the largest and best-equipped lumber manufacturing plants in the world. They range in capacity from 10,000 to 250,000 feet per day of ten hours. The shingle industry, a branch of lumber manufacturing, boasts of the largest mill cutting shingles in the world, and the product of these mills is considered the highest grade of any manufactured.

The Douglas fir, often classed by the trade as Oregon pine, is the staple lumber of commerce. It has about the same specific gravity as oak, has great strength, and has a wide range of usefulness, from making mouldings to making spars 120 feet long and squaring 30 to 36 inches. It is classed by some naturalists as a valuable pulp-making tree as well, although it is not generally recognized as such. The cedars, often of immense size, specimens sometimes being 18 feet in diameter on the stump, are the next in importance. It is out of this wood that the famous shingles of British Columbia are made. It is especially valuable for interior finishing, being rich in coloring and taking on a beautiful finish. The white spruce might be termed a first cousin to the Douglas fir, and the many uses to which it may be put makes it even of more commercial value than the latter. It is par excellence, too, the wood for pulp manufacture, which some day is bound to be one of the important manufacturing industries of the province.

The available supply of raw pulp material is being rapidly depleted in the United States, and even now they are forced to secure the bulk of their wood supply from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. When these sources are exhausted the paper manufacturer must look elsewhere, and British Columbia will be his only resort.