



C. P. R. Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C.

ACROSS CANADA

Annotated Guide
via the Canadian Pacific Railway

DESCRIPTION OF TRANSCONTINENTAL ROUTE

Victoria and Vancouver to Montreal, 2,891 Miles

Victoria—*Alt. 20 ft. Pop. about 50,000.* Capital of British Columbia, charmingly situated at the southern extremity of Vancouver Island, overlooking the Straits of Fuca to the Pacific, and beyond the Gulf of Georgia, the mainland. Across the strait are the beautiful Olympic Mountains, and far away at the east the white cone of Mount Baker is conspicuous. The climate resembles that of the south of England. Besides the magnificent Government buildings, which rank amongst the finest in America, the city has many fine public and private structures, including the Canadian Pacific Railway's palatial Empress Hotel, one of the finest hostelries on the Pacific coast. Beacon Hill Park affords a fine view of the waters and mountains on every side. The city has an extensive trade, and many large commercial houses, which do a very large outfitting trade for the Yukon. The Chinese quarter is always interesting to visitors. The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway extends northeasterly through a heavily timbered country of great natural beauty and many prosperous settlements, to the fertile Courtenay district with a branch to Port Alberni. A splendid Canadian Pacific steamship service connects with Vancouver—a ferriage of four hours through a beautiful archipelago. The "Princess" steamships are the most popular boats on the Pacific coast. Steamboats also afford regular connections with Puget Sound ports, and depart about every five days for San Francisco, connecting there for Southern California, Mexico and South American west-coast ports. Steamers from and to Vancouver for Japan, China, Philippines, Hawaii, Fiji and Australia stop at Victoria for passengers, and there are regular sailings for Alaskan points both for tourists visiting the wonderful fjords of the north coast, and those intending to explore the great gold-belt of the Yukon. Esquimalt Harbor, two miles from Victoria, was formerly the British naval station on the North Pacific, with naval storehouses, workshops, graving docks, etc.

Vancouver—*Alt. 14 ft. Pop. 156,000.* The Pacific terminus of the railway and the nearest ocean port to the great wheat lands. Until May, 1886, its site was covered with a dense forest. From May to July its growth was most rapid, but in July a fire, spreading from the surrounding forest, swept away every house but one in the place, and, with this one exception, every building now seen has been erected since that time. The situation is most perfect as regards picturesqueness, natural drainage, harbor facilities and commercial advantages. It has extensive wharves and warehouses, churches, schools,