

Socially, Victoria offers attractions which can scarcely be excelled. Here are the Parliament Buildings, Courts, and Government Offices of the Province, as well as the headquarters of Her Majesty's fleet in the North Pacific. The naval officers are always available for festivities, and their presence adds to the social pleasures of the city. The citizens are highly cultured, due no doubt to the splendid advantages for education and refinement afforded by the town.

There are beautiful drives in the neighbourhood, and the natives are truly proud of Beacon Hill Park. It consists of several hundred acres, intersected with carriage drives lined with oak trees in some parts and closely wooded in others. In the park are a few small lakes, on which wild fowl may be seen, while the bear pit and deer pen present some fine native specimens. A part of the park is utilized as a recreation ground for the city, cricket, football, baseball, lacrosse, and such games being here freely indulged in. On Sunday afternoon the people turn-out to hear the band, when the park presents a gay and fashionable appearance.

Victoria transacts an enormous business with the mainland, and is the main centre for the salmon fishing, which utilizes a special fleet of sailing vessels alone. It is also a celebrated centre for the seal industry, and for all the mines on the island—gold, silver, coal, and quicksilver are all to be found. Farming and other branches of agriculture, such as hock raising, fruit growing, sheep and cattle rearing, are prosecuted with considerable success, but the soil and climate are more adapted for fruit than for agriculture. A railway line extends north-east to Nanaimo, celebrated for its coal mines, while the electric car goes to Esquimalt, where the finest harbour in the island is, and where the British warships usually lie. The naval yard and dry dock—the latter capable of accommodating the largest ships that ride the seas—should be inspected. The scenery about the harbour is very beautiful. The climate compares favourably with that of California or the south of England. The summer heat is softened by the breezes from the sea, while the hottest days are followed by cool and pleasant evenings. Victoria is a most picturesque and interesting city. Its