

THE CITY OF VANCOUVER.

The City of Vancouver is beautifully situated on the southern shore of Burrard Inlet, with False Creek, an arm of the Sea, running well up into the centre of the Corporation limits. Its western side stretches down to the waters of English Bay and Gulf of Georgia, away beyond which are to be seen the snow-tipped mountains of Vancouver Island. From any part of the City magnificent views may be had. Standing on almost any point on Mount Pleasant or Fairview facing the Inlet, one sees spread out before him a panoramic scene of great beauty and grandeur. Immediately beneath the spectator lies the City proper, with its 85 miles of streets, its massive and commodious blocks of stone and brick and its palatial and beautiful residences surrounded by trees and well-kept lawns. Beyond are the blue waters of the Inlet, on whose bosom may be seen gliding along, or riding at anchor, great steamships, towering merchantmen, and occasionally one or more warships. Still further beyond and on the opposite side of the Inlet are to be seen the Indian Mission of the Roman Catholic Church, North Vancouver and the great Moodyville Mills. Back of all, stretching in a great line from east to west, are the towering mountains, forming a fitting framework for the scene of beauty and grandeur which we have been vainly endeavoring to describe. Prominent in the mountain range are the "Lions," two majestic peaks, rising to the height of from 6,000 to 7,000 feet, keeping watch and ward over the entrance to the harbor. These peaks have been called the "Lions" from the fact that viewed from almost any part of the City they present a likeness to couchant lions. No description of the scenery of Vancouver would be complete that omitted a reference to Stanley Park, with its giant trees towering aloft from 200 to 300 feet, and of such girth as to hold a span of horses and carriage in their hollow trunks, its miles of shade embowered walks, and its unequalled drive of nine miles in length, over a smooth shell road. To watch a sunset from Prospect Point in Stanley Park is a sight never to be forgotten. This point rises to a height of 216 feet above high water mark. Away to the west stretch the waters of English Bay and the Gulf of Georgia and beyond, at a distance of 40 miles or so, gleaming sparkling in the rays of the setting sun, are the snow capped mountains of Vancouver Island, while away eastward stretch the waters of the Inlet, until lost to view between the converging mountains. As the sun nears the horizon you notice stealing slowly along the mountains to the north of the Inlet, a beautiful purple haze, which no pen can depict or pencil portray. Dancing on the bosom of the water are myriads of rays of reflected light. As the sun begins to sink behind the distant mountains the purple haze deepens and darkens, the gleam and shimmer over the waters mellow until the slowly heaving waters look like a sea of molten gold. For some time after the sun has vanished from sight the traces of his departing glory may be seen slowly retreating up the mountains to the heavens from whence it came, too beautiful and sacred a thing to tarry long upon earth. Darkness settles down, the evening star peeps

out and if there be any sense of the beautiful in your soul you will realize that you have beheld a scene whose beauty will linger in memory through life, and the like of which can be seen in few places in the world. As one surveys this magnificent City, with its well-paved and lighted streets, its electric car system, not only extending to every part of the City, but running to New Westminster, 12 miles distant, and its excellent water and fire systems, it is difficult to realize that less than 15 years ago the scene of all this business bustle and commercial activity was a dense forest, similar to that of Stanley Park. Vancouver is the gateway of trade between the East and West. It has direct railway communication with all points. It has direct steamship communication with China and Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii and Fiji, San Francisco, Seattle and other Sound ports, Victoria and Nanaimo, and other Island points, places along the West Coast of British Columbia. It is also the natural outfitting port for the Klondike and Atlin, consequently, its streets, wharves and railway stations are scenes of bustle and business activity, presaging a future second to no city on the Pacific Coast.

Vancouver is blest with a mild and salubrious climate. What is Winter in Eastern Canada is here the rainy season, interspersed with many bright and beautiful days. It may have been raining for two or three days, when suddenly it ceases, the clouds roll away and the mountains loom up in all their glory and grandeur. The Summers are simply perfect, beautiful bright days in which the thermometer rarely rises above 85 degrees, with nights pleasantly cool and refreshing. There is an almost entire absence of thunder and lightning. There can be no better or healthier water for drinking than that furnished by the Vancouver Water Works. English Bay furnishes an ideal bathing beach, composed of fine sand, sloping gently into deep water. In fact on almost every side of the City there are to be found good bathing places. There are few places better suited for residences than Vancouver, whether one be in search of health, wealth or pleasure.

Some idea of the commercial progress and prosperity of the City may be gathered from the fact that the bank clearances for eight months ending June 30th, 1899, amounted to \$23,049,790. It may also be remarked that these bank returns continue to show a rapid and steady increase. During the past year residences and blocks to the value of over \$1,500,000 were erected. The civic income for 1899 was \$474,971. Total expenditure \$482,000. Population 30,000, assessed value for 1899, land, \$12,829,610, buildings and improvements, \$6,743,700, total \$19,573,310. Fifty per cent. of the value of buildings and improvements, is exempted from taxation. As an evidence of the financial standing of the City it is only necessary to cite the fact that the last sale of three and one-half per cent. bonds of the City realized 96.50 the amount thus costing 3.59 per cent. interest.

For a City of its years it has exceptional educational facilities. It has a large and well-equipped High School with an efficient staff of teachers. This school is now in affiliation with McGill University, Montreal. There are five large and commodious public schools with 3,000