

Winnipeg is essentially a Western city, in the best sense of the term. There is nothing wild and woolly about her, but she is bright, breezy, buoyant. Her streets are wide, and as yet for the most part unshaded. Her buildings are new, and of an eminently practical style of architecture. Her people are new—by which we do not mean fresh—but vibrant with energy and enterprise, cock-sure of themselves and their city, illustrating in every movement the slogan "you cannot check Manitoba."

Nor are the amenities of life lacking. You can find as polished society in Winnipeg as in any of her sister capitals. Birth and breeding are duly appreciated, and combined with that largeness of heart and openness of mind which the West somehow seems particularly to develop, they result in an exceedingly attractive type not met with elsewhere in Canada.

Vancouver

Vancouver presents a curious instance of a city which is practically the creation of a great corporation. At first it seemed as though destiny had fixed upon New Westminster as the terminus of the trans-continental railroad, but the Canadian Pacific autocrats ruled otherwise, and at their bidding a brand-new city grew up on the shores of the superb harbor at the river's mouth.

Destroyed by fire a few years ago, Vancouver has been rebuilt in more substantial form, and presents a very creditable appearance for her age. She has not yet had time to cultivate the graces of life to any extent. She must be permitted to get her breath, to "loaf and invite her soul," as Emerson so strikingly puts it, before any definite social development should be expected of her. In the meantime she is growing bigger and richer, and must inevitably become an important factor in the future of the coast.

Victoria

Very different is Victoria, the capital of the Province. Here you have a cer-

tain measure of antiquity, a suggestion of mellowness, an assumption of dignity that are quite impressive in their way. Beginning as a Hudson Bay Company's fort, established by the renowned James Douglas, she has grown steadily, if not rapidly, to be a fair-sized city with a good volume of trade, and a sure although perhaps not brilliant future.

As in Halifax on the other edge of the continent, this English influence is paramount. This is due to the same cause. Victoria is another outpost of the Empire, and the neighboring harbor of Esquimaux is the rendezvous of the British fleet in the North Pacific.

There is accordingly a large leaven of what for our purpose may be termed aristocratic society in Victoria, rather inclined to dulness no doubt, yet having its own charm. The very weather of the place would seem to have been imported from England. Particularly in the winter time when rain falls instead of snow, and mackintoshes, rubbers, and umbrellas are indispensable.

The conspicuous lack of Victoria is enterprise. When the Yukon was opened up, for instance, she had a magnificent opportunity to enlarge her commerce, but she failed to seize upon it as she should, and the sound cities, Portland and Seattle, and even far distant San Francisco, profited vastly to her loss. What she needs is not only a waking up, but a shaking up, and until this happens she will never achieve her destiny.

Thus we have hurried, we might almost say scampered, from ocean to ocean. In our brief references to each city, we have assumed that their commission to us was:

"Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice."

and this commission we have striven to fulfil according to the measure of our ability.