

Port Alberni, B. C.

A SHORT HISTORY—CONTINUED.

IN or about 1871 the mill was burned, and, it then being a time of great financial depression, was never rebuilt. About 1886 settlers began to take up land in the extensive and fertile valley lying to the north of the town, and the old town of Alberni situated about a mile up the Somass river which empties into the head of the canal, was founded. Some years later when it became increasingly evident that the traffic of the Canadian Pacific coast would require an outlet more easily reached from the great trade routes than Vancouver, and closer to the open ocean, Port Alberni, situated on deep water and close to the site of the old sawmill, began to come into prominence.

The Canadian Pacific railway was the first to recognise the strategic value of the town as a port by building to it and making it the terminus of their great transcontinental system, and the Canadian Northern railway has followed the lead of its rival and named Port Alberni as the objective point for its Island line.

Port Alberni is thus now the Pacific Terminus of one great transcontinental railway and will shortly occupy that position with regard to the Canadian Northern railway, another of Canada's great railway systems.

Another important page in the history of Port Alberni was reached on March 12th, when the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia affixed his signature to the Charter which made Port Alberni an Incorporated City, thus taking the first step towards the establishment of water, light and sewerage systems, and all those things so necessary to the progress and welfare of a city.

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