

three hundred miles long and from thirty to fifty miles broad. It is heavily timbered, and is rich in coal and other minerals. A range of mountains extends the whole length of the island, the peaks of which rise to an elevation of nine thousand feet. Victoria, the chief city and seat of Government of the Province, occupies a commanding commercial position at the south-eastern extremity of the island. It has a comparatively large but mixed population of whites, Indians, and Chinese. Its streets and public buildings bespeak the enterprise of an old and thriving community. There are charming drives in the neighbourhood, and the genial climate of the island decks with a rare beauty its settled and cultivated parts. It has a fine land-locked harbour, though affording accommodation only for vessels of moderate water-draught. What Victoria lacks in this latter respect, is made good in the magnificent harbour and roadstead of Esquimalt. This fine seaport is within four miles of Victoria, and is the naval station for the British fleet in the North Pacific (see illustration of the Government dry-dock Esquimalt).

But here we must bring our itinerary of the trip across the continent to a close. To the traveller who has accompanied us in these wanderings from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the service we have endeavored to render in these pages may not have been much.

Whatever it has been, the writer has sought not to weave a romance, but to narrate the truth. In our limited space we could only, here and there, alight upon a few ledges of fact, and talk, uninterestingly we fear, of things upon the surface. Matters political did not seem to come within the scope of our little work, consequently, upon matters political we have not touched. The field for the discussion of such topics is a wide and interesting one, but it is not here. Canada, it may be said, is but slowly making her history; yet if she is true to herself—this at least may be affirmed—she has a field in which to make it. What she is most in need of is population, and with it freer access to the markets of her own continent. With these secured, no bounds may be set to the measure of her prosperity. In the intelligent and industrious communities of the seven fair provinces of the Dominion, Canada has the raw material for a future great nation. May Heaven send the fit potters wisely to shape and fashion it!

But we take leave of our task and say farewell to those in whose company we have so pleasantly journeyed. Again we express regret for the shortcomings of this little book. Whatever they are, and however we have failed to interest, may we not urge that it is something for the traveller to have seen with his own eyes Canada's wide domain—Britain's "Greater Britain?"