

Resources of British Columbia

"WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

VOLUME I. }
No. 3. }

VICTORIA, B. C., MAY 1, 1883.

{ PER ANNUM, \$2.00
{ PER COPY, 25 CTS

IMMIGRANTS.

General Character of those now Arriving in British Columbia and their Prospects, with a Glance at 1887.

The general character of the immigrants who have already arrived during this season in the country is much above the average. Altogether they are a very well clad, neat, orderly and intelligent lot of people, and just the kind wanted here. Their superiority is doubtless due to the fact that only a fine class of people go to a country difficult to reach. They have intelligence, as their wise selection of this country as a future residence shows; enterprise, or they would not have acquired the means to travel so far to better their condition; courage, or they would not have faced the trials of a long journey by land and sea; and certainly some experience of the world, for they could not get here without acquiring it. There can be no doubt but that the character of the immigrants now settling in the country is better than will be that of the great flood which will pour in upon us when the Canadian Pacific Railway is completed.

With four competing trans-continental lines the westward passenger traffic will be simply enormous. Striking the shores of the Pacific this great human tide will flow northward from the more southern lines, until it reaches Alaska, and spreading over the interior of the great Northwest, will conquer the wilderness, and enkindle upon a million hearth-stones the sacred fires of "home, sweet home." Cities, towns and villages will spring up on every side, and smiling plenty rest at every door. The petty bickerings of Island and Mainland will be forgotten, or only remembered as being among the follies of our earlier days. Great questions of state will be considered by great minds and discussed by able and eloquent men. At our breakfast tables will be read the debates and proceedings of the English House of Commons, together with the general news from home and continental Europe, gathered there on the preceding day. The money market produce exchange, mining stocks, railway and other shares will be duly quoted in the newspapers, some of which will regularly issue three or four editions daily. Written correspondence will be received at our postoffices thirteen days later from Europe. Every artery of trade will beat with quick and strong pulsations, responsive to the busy tide of commerce rushing to and fro. Four or five years, and what won-

drous changes! Now comes the "through passenger daily express" west-bound train thundering down the Pacific Slope; and its steam breathing courser having leaped over the break-neck hurdle of the Rockies, rushes madly on, swiftly passing cities, towns, villages and hamlets; skirting valleys, hillsides and mountains; veering by awful precipices, and threading long, narrow, ribbon-like bridges of giddy height, thrown across deep, yawning chasms whose pent up waters are lashed into fury as they leap and plunge in its rocky depths, hundreds of feet below; and finally the azure sheen of the broad Pacific bursts into view, when like a thing of life, conscious of victory, this iron monster gives vent to a terrific scream—a roar of triumph, as he dashes over the few remaining miles of his five days' race across the continent against swift-winged Time. And now the busy, bustling conductor, with his inexorable "punch" in hand, hurries from car to car, and from the hat bands of the many passengers deftly plucks from each, for a final "punch," a small strip of cardboard bearing the brief but significant legend, "Montreal to Victoria," or perhaps "Halifax to Port Moody," as the case may be.

We are not, in the foregoing, dealing with mere possibilities, but with a portion of the portentous certainties which the next five years will inevitably bring to British Columbia. Although all men know that they must die, yet few, if any, realize the import of this awful truth. So too, all men of intelligence here, readily admit that this province is about to enter upon an era of unparalleled prosperity, and yet many will doubtless fail to take timely advantage of the coming "boom." There are doubtless to-day, many sections of land now obtainable from the government for one dollar per acre, which will yet form the sites for future towns and villages of incalculable value. City lots, town lots, grazing lands and farming lands, now begging for a nominal purchase price, or even occupancy, will soon require a large figure and several ciphers to express the number of dollars necessary to purchase one of them. Truly, now is the time to come to this empire province and obtain, almost for the taking, a valuable home. Delay not. Trite but true is the aphorism, "The early bird catches the worm."

NOT YET READY.

We very much regret that a new map and several lithographic illustrations, now in course of preparation, could not be completed in time for this issue.