

Uc P
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H526 v



THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

VANCOUVER.

A TWELVE YEAR OLD CITY.

JUST where the sunny hills of the coast-range, which are a more or less broken continuation of the Cordilleras, slope down to meet the sweep of the Pacific waters, there lies on a promontory of British Columbian soil what Mr. Douglas Sladen has so appropriately termed "the Liverpool of the West."

Were the history of this remarkably progressive sea-port to be written down in detail, the volumes would form a small library, for during the twelve years of its existence, fire and flood, land booms and mining booms, railway schemes and marine enterprises, have followed so quickly upon one another's heels, that, within the short space of a decade, there has sprung up upon the shores of Burrard Inlet a city of some thirty thousand inhabitants, one of immense commercial and maritime importance, and last, but not least, as things go now-a-days, a city that is the chief outfitting, and the only necessary transshipping point between Eastern Canada and the Klondyke gold fields.

In the year 1885 there was no Vancouver—nought save an impenetra-

ble forest of pine trees reigned in all the calm majesty of undisturbed possession where now stone buildings and human beings are thicker than the brambles of olden days, and man's dogged determination, aided by steam and electricity, has evolved out of the primeval forest the greatest Canadian business centre west of the Rocky Mountains.

It frequently occurs that Nature, in her all-wisdom, having designed some particular spot as a suitable site for a prosperous city, and bestowed upon it unrivalled advantages as a sea-port, man, in his abysmal blindness, will pass by the desirable locality, and pitch upon a place of inferior qualifications whereon to expend his labours; but for once Nature proposed, and man accepted, the offer of as beautiful and convenient a site for the terminal city of the Canadian Pacific Railway as could be found in all British Columbia, and in consequence Vancouver has grown and prospered far beyond the most sanguine hopes of those who first called her into existence.

The passenger on board the west-bound express catches his first glimpse