

OUR PACIFIC PROVINCE.

A TALK ABOUT NEW WESTMINSTER.

New Westminster is one of the solid and prosperous cities of the Province. Its appearance denotes present prosperity, and a study of the surroundings gives good hope for future prospects. New Westminster is one of the best known points on the Pacific coast. Formerly it was the capital of British Columbia, but after the union of the mainland and Vancouver Island in one province, the capital was moved to Victoria. This for a time retarded the growth of the place, but since the completion of the C. P. R. to New Westminster, a new era of prosperity has dawned upon the city. It must be remembered that New Westminster is practically a terminus of the C. P. R. A branch leaves the main line of the C. P. R. a few miles east of Port Moody, connecting the city with the main line. The branch is about nine miles long. Steamers run from New Westminster to Victoria, and through passengers who prefer it, can go and come via New Westminster just the same as via Vancouver, connection being made with all through trains. Indeed a considerable portion of Victoria freight arriving by rail is taken via New Westminster, the route being shorter than via Vancouver. The C. P. R. Co., with its usual greed, extorted a large bonus from New Westminster for the construction of this road.

The city is beautifully located on the sloping banks of the Fraser River, about fifteen miles from its mouth. The river here is about half a mile wide. Navigation on the river is of much importance to the place as it renders the fine farming districts up the Fraser tributary to the city. The fishing industry is also of great importance to the place. It is also probable that New Westminster will have direct communication by rail with San Francisco and all Pacific coast points in the very near future. The past season has witnessed the completion of railway connection between San Francisco and Portland. The latter place is already connected with Puget Sound cities, and there only remains a short link between Seattle and the C. P. R. to connect all the Pacific coast roads. This road will be built to Westminster, and there connect with the C. P. R. Charters have already been granted and some progress made toward the construction of the railway from Seattle to the Canadian boundary, about thirteen miles south of New Westminster.

Though not now the capital of the Province, New Westminster enjoys the advantage of having several of the public institutions. These include the Insane Asylum and Provincial Gaol. The Penitentiary is also located here.

The progress of the city has been rapid. In 1886 about \$250,000 were expended in improvements, including gas works, a new hospital building, a woolen mill, etc. For 1887 it is estimated that the expenditure in buildings alone will aggregate \$200,000. Many of the buildings erected this season are fine, solid brick and stone structures. Some of the most important of these are:—A solid brick hotel, built by W. D. Duncan, size 40x60 feet, three storeys. This building was put up by Mr. Duncan for rent, and affords a good opportunity for an opening in the hotel line. The Masonic and Odd

Fellows Hall is another fine brick structure, size 132x66 feet, three storeys. In this block there are three stores on the ground floor, with basement, and the upper storeys will be used for offices and halls. E. S. Scoullar, stores, etc., has built a brick store, 33x66 feet, two storeys, and adjoining is W. J. Armstrong's new brick building, 66x66 feet, also two storeys, all with basements. Judge O'Reilly has erected a building, size 66x66 feet, which will be occupied by the Bank of British Columbia, and two stores. J. A. Webster's building is 66x60 feet, three storeys, designed for two stores on the ground floor. These are all brick structures, and will give an idea of the amount of building going on. Prospects for next season are considered even more favorable.

The farming country tributary to New Westminster is a valuable territory, capable of considerable extension. The city is well supplied with native produce. Two boats run up the river to accommodate the farmers' trade. The country is well adapted to the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and grain, and the soil is very rich. Vegetables grow to enormous size. The delta lands below the city form a very valuable agricultural country. Native fruits from New Westminster have been shipped eastward as far as Winnipeg. The city is also the chief centre for the fish and lumbering industries for eastern shipment.

THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

is the principal manufacturing branch carried on at New Westminster, and in connection with this is the Royal City Planing Mills Co., Limited, a widely known institution. This business was incorporated in 1878, though the business was established some time prior to that date. The business of this Company has been steadily expanding until it is now the most important institution in the city. An effort has been made to keep up with the times, and any improvements in machinery are at once secured. During 1886 the mills were refitted with machinery at great expense. The mills of the Company at Westminster consist of the Royal City saw mill, the Royal City sash and door factory, the Dominion saw mill, and the Dominion sash and door factory. The latter two institutions were formerly the property of another company, which was absorbed by the Royal City Company. The Company has also established a saw mill and sash and door factory on an extensive scale at Vancouver. The mills have the convenience of both railway and water facilities for shipping. Lath mills, shingle mills, and a box factory are also connected with the mills. In the box factory salmon and other packing cases are largely manufactured. About 200,000 salmon cases can be turned out at annually. There is also a machine and boiler repair shop, where marine and other repairs are attended to. The Company owns three steamers and about twenty scows and barges, used in towing logs, lumber, supplies, etc. The number of men employed by the Company, including men in the woods, sometimes foots up to nearly 500. The Company has stores where a large stock of supplies of provisions, lines of hardware, glass, etc., are kept on hand. The mills are capable of turning out timber 100 feet long and five feet in diameter. Douglas pine or fir is largely cut for

flooring, for which it is admirably adapted. Cedar is also largely manufactured for inside finish, panelling, ceiling, mouldings, doors, and many other uses. It is not readily affected by extremes of weather, and is not liable to shrink and swell. The clear and fine grain makes it a desirable wood for finishing. Cedar is also used for shingles and its preserving qualities are well known. The shipping trade of the Company is large, and embraces exports to foreign ports, as well as to Eastern Canada, Manitoba and the Territories, and the United States. Shingles are shipped to Eastern Canada and the United States. Flooring has been shipped to Chicago. The lumber cut this season will amount to 18,000,000 feet at the Westminster, and 8,000,000 at the Vancouver mill. John Hendry is manager of the Company and David McNair is the secretary.

The Brunette Saw Mill Co. was established ten years ago by DeBeck Bros. A joint stock company was formed in February, 1886. The officers are: James B. Kennedy, President; H. L. DeBeck, secretary and manager. The capacity of the saw mill is about 30,000 in a day of ten hours. Good facilities for shipping by rail and water are enjoyed, the mill being located on the Fraser river, and with the C. P. R. branch running through the yard. The machinery consists of a double circular, edgers, planer, moulding machine, shingle machine, capacity 25,000, trimmers, bench saws. Logs 72 inches in diameter and 65 feet long have been cut. The average sized logs run about 1,500 feet to the log. Fruit and salmon cases are manufactured. There are stores in connection with the mill. About 100 men are sometimes employed, including men in the woods. A branch lumber yard at Vancouver is kept supplied from the mills. The Company owns a tug boat, which is kept employed in hauling rafts and delivering lumber. Lumber from this establishment has been shipped eastward to the Territories, Manitoba, and even to old Canada.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

on the Fraser, is an important item. There were thirteen salmon canneries in operation on the river during the past season, turning out a total pack of nearly 130,000 cases. This industry is a very important item in the trade of Victoria, though supplies for the canneries are also procured in Victoria to a considerable extent. The Dominion Government fish hatchery is located a few miles from the city, under the management of Mr. Thos. Mowat, inspector of fisheries. Over 10,000,000 salmon ova have been taken at the hatchery. In addition to salmon canning, New Westminster is the centre of the fresh fish trade. D. W. Port & Co., of Toronto, wholesale fish dealers, have established a branch business at New Westminster, where E. H. Porte is in charge. Last season, the first of the firm's operations here, about 200 tons of fish were frozen, and shipped to Boston, New York, Chicago, Montreal and all points east, including Manitoba and the Territories. The fishing is done by Siwashas (Indians). The Indians are supplied with boats, nets, etc., and paid a per centage on the catch. The Indians look upon the fishing as peculiarly their work, and they decidedly object to Chinese or others engaging in it. The export of fresh fish is almost new business and one which owes its existence