

built steamers, a five-hours' sail through a most lovely archipelago, with scenery of the grandest description spreading in every direction brings us to

Victoria,

the capital of British Columbia. It has a population of over 20,000, and is beautifully situated at the southern extremity of Vancouver Island, which is 300 miles long, with an average of 50 miles broad. Originally a stockaded post of the Hudson's Bay Company, it received a special impetus in 1858, when the discovery of gold on the mainland brought a rush of miners from the south by vessels to Victoria, from which they crossed the channel in canoes. The declivity on which the city is built rises gradually from an arm of the sea, which forms a splendid harbour. The harbour is well protected by the formation of the land, and is capable of accommodating and sheltering in the roughest weather the largest vessels and steamers that sail the Pacific Ocean. There are no dangerous rocks at the entrance, while the wharves are excellent, with sufficient water depth to enable ships of any size to come alongside. The wharves as well as the town are lighted by electricity. On landing the tourist is struck with the purely English character of the city and its inhabitants.

The business streets of Victoria are wide and handsome, regard being always had not, if possible, to concentrate the business life of the town into one street, as is common in many cities. It is worthy of notice that nine-tenths of the city residents own their own houses, and, if engaged in business, their business property as well. The wealthiest citizens have erected magnificent homes on the heights around in the near vicinity. In the town are fine blocks and beautiful private residences. The churches show great architectural taste and beauty, as do also the colleges, schools, hospitals, hotels, and other public establishments. There are two excellent clubs where accredited strangers are hospitably entertained by the Victorians. Manufacturing industries are yearly growing in extent and importance. There are mills of every description, iron works surpassed only by those of San Francisco, and half-a-dozen breweries.