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BEACON HILL PARK—VICTORIA, B.C.

## THE QUEEN CITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IT is not my intention in this brief sketch to treat of Victoria only from the standpoint of her beautiful location, her sporting and tourist attractions, and the exceedingly picturesque elements that encircle life in general within her borders; nor yet to deal solely with historical data or commercial aspects; but rather steering along that delightful middle course, (so much more attractive to the general reader, and so infinitely more satisfactory to the writer) wherein a few statistics and solid facts peep out from between the folds of description, I shall try to present a faithful silhouette of the Queen City as she appears in the eyes of the world to-day.

Away back in the year 1842 Mr. (afterwards Sir) James Douglas, Senior Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, a man of ability and great force of character, and a born leader of men, fixed upon the old settlement of Camosun, on the southern end of Vancouver Island, as the site for a new fort and trading post; and in the following spring the place was named

Victoria. From that date until 1886 the history of the Queen City became practically that of the whole province. In 1851 Mr. James Douglas was appointed governor of Vancouver Island, being given equal jurisdiction over the new colony of British Columbia in 1858. He was knighted in 1864, and when on August 20th, 1866, the mainland and the Island of Vancouver were united as a Crown Colony he became governor of the whole province.

The parliamentary history of British Columbia is both interesting and complicated, covering, as it does, the days of the Island's supremacy, the brief existence of a rival capital at New Westminster, and the records of the Legislative Assembly of the Crown Colony; also, more recently, the doings of Parliament since the province entered Confederation on July 20th, 1871.

But it is chiefly to the aspects and prospects of modern Victoria that I would now draw your attention, and a more pleasant subject for comment could scarcely be found throughout all the length and breadth of Canada, the