

# THE WESTERN HOME MONTHLY

Vol. VIII. No. 3. WINNIPEG, CANADA, MARCH, 1907.

PRICE { 5c. per copy.  
50c. per year

## A Visit to Our Coast Cities in B.C.

By JOSEPH TROY.

Observing the attention given our coast cities in British Columbia by our people living in the Canadian West, the writer decided to visit those cities and see for himself. The trip to the Coast was made over the C. P. R. from Winnipeg, that enterprising railroad providing an excellent daily train service between Winnipeg and Vancouver. Arriving at Vancouver a few more days were spent looking around that hustling commercial city, the population of which is now about 60,000 and growing rapidly. Vancouver is the Canadian port for the C. P. R. steamers plying between Canada and the Orient and provides a spacious and safe harbor.

The principal industry there at present is lumber, a number of large saw mills being constantly in operation the whole year around. It is from this point that much of the best lumber, used on the Western prairies, comes from. The city itself is well laid out, containing many excellent buildings, structures that would do credit to a much older city. The wholesale section around the harbor is rapidly assuming large proportions; many of the older wholesale houses in the East being represented. The hotel accommodation is good, the "Vancouver," owned and operated by the C. P. R. being the chief hostelry under efficient management. Stanley Park, a magnificent natural park, is a great attraction for visitors. From Vancouver we took the electric car to New Westminster, some nine miles distant. New Westminster is situated on the bank of the Fraser



New Westminster, B. C., from the Fraser.

River and is a much older city than Vancouver.

Its chief industries are the fishing and canning of salmon and the lumber industry, where some large lumber mills are in operation. The location of the city is ideal, situated on the side of a hill extending back from the waters of the Fraser to a distance of about half a mile, until it reaches an altitude of some five hundred feet.

A commanding view of the Fraser may be obtained from almost any part of the city. Its winding course may be traced up through the mountains into the interior mainland. Looking in a south-westerly direction on a clear day, the course of the Fraser may be traced until its waters mingle with that of the Pacific Ocean. New Westminster has indeed many

charms, and in time will attract many people who delight in beauty of scenery, a good climate and a quiet inexpensive place to live in. It is situated high enough above the coast to escape the fogs which prevail during some periods of the fall and winter months.

After looking about Vancouver and New Westminster, and having seen the various points of interest, we decided to visit Victoria, on Vancouver Island, some eighty miles distant from the mainland, and the capital city of the Province of British Columbia. We therefore took passage from Vancouver on the "Charmer," a steamboat now doing service for the C.P.R. Company whilst the regular C.P.R. boat is undergoing repairs.

The boat trip from Vancouver to Victoria takes about four hours, the

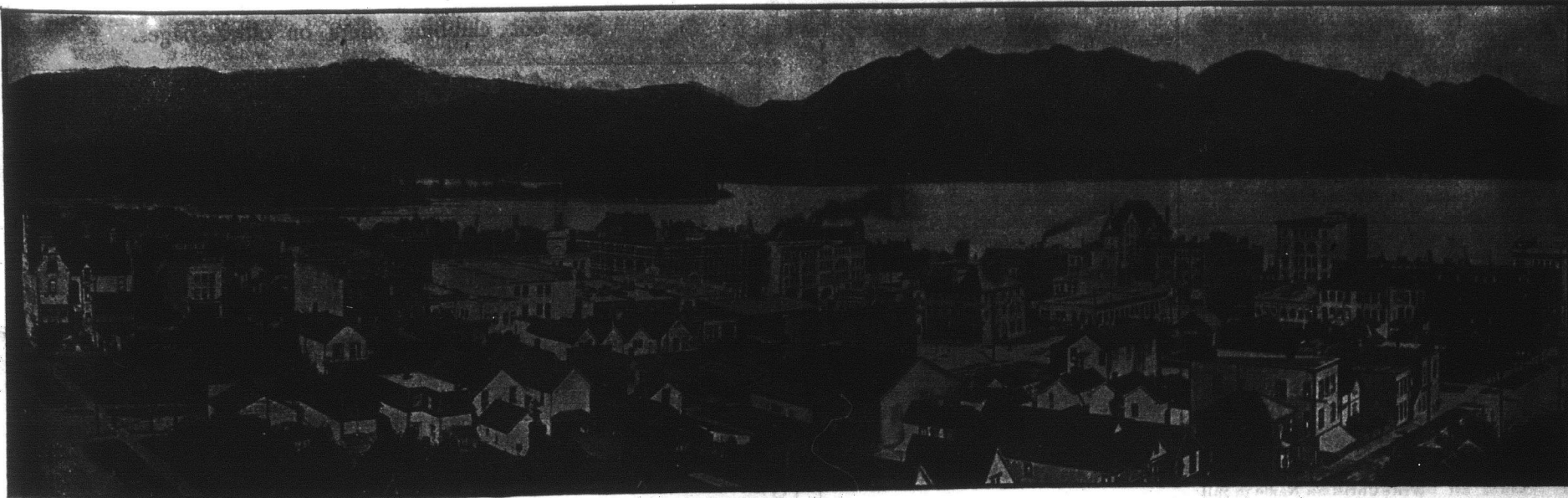
course winding in and around mountainous islands clad in rich green foliage of great beauty and grandeur.

Arriving at Victoria, the visitor is at once impressed with the natural beauty and superb location of the city. The city of Victoria is located on the most southerly end of Vancouver Island, having some fifteen miles of coast line within the city limits. If one thing more than another impresses the visitor, it is the innumerable bays with sandy and shingle beaches, the delight of the children, rocky promontories and high bluffs commanding magnificent and uninterrupted vistas of the Fuca with the sublime range of the Olympian mountains in the distance; its situation is without equal in any country.

When the writer visited Victoria it was during the extreme cold spell when the northerly portion of the American continent was being storm-swept, when king frost was playing havoc with the water pipes everywhere, when it was necessary for those living east of the Rockies to work overtime shovelling coal into their furnaces in order to keep human habitations warm enough to live in. At Victoria the reading of the thermometer during the coldest day of the winter showed sixteen degrees of frost.

According to data in possession of the meteorological office this was the lowest reading of the thermometer in a period of fourteen years. In justice to Victoria it would be unfair to single out that particular day and say that the climate was too cold even for a winter resort.

It will in this connection be interesting to the reader to glance at the absolute maximum and minimum surface temperatures of the following cities of North America for 1905 (the records of 1905 not being at hand) as reported in the United States weath-



Vancouver, Stanley Park and part of Harbor.