

THE CLIMATE.

The climate of British Columbia, as a general rule, possesses all the features which are to be met with in European countries within the temperate zone, any differences which do exist being in favor of the western parts of the said Dominion of Canada. A milder or more equable climate it would be difficult to find, and yet the variations are such as to offer peculiar advantages to all-comers. The spring, summer and autumn are charming, while the winter season is short and mild.

THE MARITIME IMPORTANCE OF B.C.

It is but a few years ago since the ports of British Columbia were derided as the "back door" of Canada, but to-day they exceed in tonnage of vessels entered and cleared, any other port in the Dominion. The whole Pacific Coast is rapidly building up, and this Province is bound to keep pace in the march of progress. Every year sees the development of new commercial enterprises, the last addition to the long list being the establishment of regular steamship connection (subsidized by the Governments of both countries) with Australia. Trade with the Orient is also steadily increasing, a magnificent line of steamships having been put on this route in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway—a system which extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The confederation of the various provinces of British North America into the Dominion of Canada secures absolute autonomy in every respect, except in such affairs as clearly pertain to the Empire or the Dominion as a whole, as the customs, the postal service, the wardship of the Indians, etc. Ottawa is the seat of government, and there the Dominion Parliament meet annually, British Columbia being represented by six members in the lower house, elected by popular suffrage, and three senators in the upper house, nominated by the Crown. The provincial assembly meets at Victoria, the capital

of the Province, every year, and is composed of thirty-three members, five of whom, under the lieutenant-governor, form the executive or ministry. Manhood suffrage practically prevails, as the franchise is exercised by all males over the age of twenty-one years, who are British subjects and have resided in the province for twelve months. The laws of the country are based upon those of the Motherland, and nowhere is there greater freedom or protection than is to be found in this Province. Land can be acquired from the Crown under conditions most favorable to intending settlers, who receive every facility. As to the solvency of the Province, it is beyond dispute, the whole public debt not being much in excess of one year's income.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The duty of amply providing for the education of the youth of British Columbia has been undertaken by the government, and with commendable liberality is this duty performed. Wherever a minimum attendance of ten scholars can be secured there a school is established and a duly certified teacher located. Such liberality in the matter of educational facilities is nowhere surpassed, if at all equalled, and that it is fully appreciated is evidenced from the fact that there is hardly a settlement, however remote, throughout the country that does not boast of its school house, while in the cities "high schools" are established, also under government supervision, for the instruction of the more promising pupils.

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Of British Columbia as a farming, grazing and fruit growing country, the Marquis of Lorne says: "Wherever there is open land the wheat crops rival the best grown elsewhere, while there is nowhere any dearth of ample provision of fuel and lumber for the winter. As you get your colonization roads pushed, you will have a larger available acreage, for there are quiet straths and valleys hidden away among the rich forests which would provide comfortable farms. As in the Northwest last year, so this year,

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