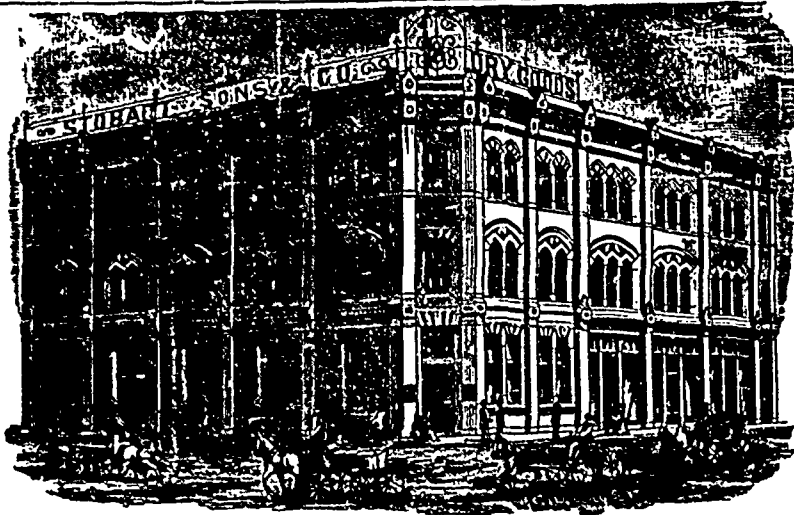


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Victoria's Future.

Last week in writing on this subject, we stated that it is the people who make the city, not the city the people, and we now ask what hopes may be drawn with regard to our future from the character of our population. The new cities around us have sprung into existence with the rapidity of Jonah's gourd, and for this reason their population is much more homogeneous than ours. The citizens of Vancouver, for instance, are all newcomers, and every man, woman and child in the place has a personal interest in the city's progress. They have invested all their money in it, if they had any to invest, and are bound to make money out of it if they had none to begin with. On the other hand we have two classes of people among us, those who consider Victoria belongs to them because of their long residence here, and those who belong to Victoria because the place has attracted them from its business prospects, its climate, or its beauty. Now, the first class referred to are for the most part comfortably situated as far as money is concerned, and are quite content that Victoria should continue "as it was in the beginning," who have no need to worry themselves about its growth or prosperity and who look only at the cost of modern improvements which may be proposed. A few years ago they even resented somewhat any increase of the population, especially from the East, but they seem now to have wakened up to the discovery that wisdom comes from the east, though it seldom remains there. This portion of our people, however, form a splendid foundation for our future progress, because they are well-to-do, conservative and cautious. No new-fashioned boom, such as has brought ruin to thousands in the new centres can effect this city much as long as we have this solid and substantial phalanx to resist its approach. But this class are already in the minority and their value to us is greatly enhanced on that account. The new element is pouring in upon us in an ever-increasing stream and the old inhabitants are being thinned out by increasing years. The good, however, they have accomplished will live after them and prove of great importance in the onward march of our city. With regard to the

second-class, those who have come among us since Confederation, and who have cast in their lot with us for better or for worse, we need only say that they will compare to advantage with those who within the last few years have settled in other places on this coast. Many of our most enterprising merchants, professional men, ministers, doctors, teachers, mechanics, etc., are comparatively new comers, and we have every reason to congratulate ourselves in having attracted to our city such a band of fellow citizens. This class, as a matter of course, increases every year and their growth is a sure augury of the future prosperity of Victoria. What we need now is simply the complete welding of these two elements and that welding process is going on every day. Why should we not stand shoulder to shoulder in seeking the growth of Victoria, and why should we not only warmly welcome new comers but take every means in our power to induce those who have money or, what is of more value, brains to cast in their lot among us? We heard the other day of a gentleman who was looking for a sphere of usefulness in this city and who was seized upon by a Vancouver man who promised to find him employment at once if he would go over to that city with his family. We, as a rule have allowed new comers to shift for themselves, or have actually discouraged their remaining among us, whereas in Vancouver every citizen they can add to the population is considered of importance and is treated with the utmost respect and consideration. On the whole, we believe no more intelligent, cultured, sensible people are to be found in the Dominion than in Victoria, and if they will but work together for its growth and advancement no city on the Pacific coast will outstrip it in the race. We are always glad to notice any display of public spirit on the part of our Board of Trade or Board of Alderman. We believe the Board of Trade to be a most important body. Much of the recent prosperity of eastern cities in Canada has been owing to the vigor of these boards of business men, who have the city's interest at heart, and we venture to hope that our Board here will grow into a more powerful lever in helping forward our city. Let them speak out and public opinion will soon ripen into public action.—*Colonist*.

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