



*Aerial view of Vancouver looking north.*

ocean waters, and the mountains shut out the cold air from the east, creating a lush rain forest.

From 1000 BC to around 1900, this was the home of the most advanced northern Indian civilization. The Salish, Nootka, Kwakiutl, Bella Coola, Tsimshian and Haida celebrated their golden age with three-to-four-day feasts and give-aways called potlatches. The sea provided whale, porpoise, seal, sea lion, sea otter, herring, smelt, huge halibut, sturgeon and geoduck clams.

The fish are still in the sea, though no longer in staggering abundance. The continental shelf off British Columbia is narrower than the shelf in the east, and many of the fish that are found in the shallows are unfamiliar to the fishermen of the Maritimes. Half the value of the western catch is in salmon, the crabs are much larger and the albacore is of major importance.

The rain forest is equally important, providing not only beautiful scenery but also Douglas fir, red cedar, western hemlock and Sitka spruce for British Columbia's lumber industry. (The province produces about three fourths of Canada's timber cut.)

British Columbia's most spectacular port, Vancouver, occupies the south shore between Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River. It handles some 35 million tons of cargo — grain, coal, lumber, logs, potash and sulphur — a year. It has new, tall

towers, and its nineteenth century core has been transformed into clusters of restaurants, boutiques and antique shops. Stanley Park has a thousand acres of beaches, forest trails and exotic animals.

Victoria, a ferry ride across the broad Strait of Georgia, has some 193,000 people, but it suggests a large village in Sussex. Flowers surround the domed provincial parliament building, line the sidewalks in neat rows and hang in baskets from old-fashioned lamp posts.

At the bottom of British Columbia is the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the scene of occasional international debates. In 1859 Great Britain and the US were in sharp dispute over San Juan Island when an official of the Hudson's Bay Company apparently killed an American settler's pig. General Winfield Scott arrived in time to prevent violence. The strait today falls within the overlapping 200-mile fishing jurisdictions of the United States and Canada, and the two nations are working out a new boundary line.

Juan de Fuca Strait is linked to Montreal, and each point between is linked to each other point by more than the great meandering line of the coast. They are held together by railways, airlines and highways, by common heroes and common enemies of the past, common problems of the present, common economics and common interests.