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THE COMPLIMENTS
OF

MR. H. D. HELMCKEN,!

Victoria

British Columbia



Why the Provincial University
Should Be at the Capital City of
British Columbia.

The Provincial University

A University being Intended for the Centuries,
the Advantages Urged for Its Location
at Any Certain Place Should Be
Fixed and Permanent.

WHEN the question of the location of the University became a live issue throughout this province, the chief centres of population other than Victoria began an active campaign with a view to influencing the Government of the Province in favour of selecting their own locality. The citizens of Victoria, realizing the undesirability of making a selection through pressure from any particular locality, approached the Cabinet with the suggestion that the question of location be raised above politics, and the natural rivalries of the cities, by the appointment of Commissioners selected from outside the Province. This suggestion was at once adopted by the Government, Victoria thanked for its manly stand, and the Commissioners appointed.

Whilst Victoria is the Capital of the Province we are well aware that in mere numbers we are outstripped, but we at the very outset of our statement beg to submit to your honourable body that any claim for the location of a University at a point which for the time being is the more populous is misleading.

Population in British Columbia has constantly shifted in the past: it will probably shift even more so in the future.

The question of population is a fluctuating one, whilst a University is for all time. As against mere population there has to be set (a) The influence of the immediate or adjacent peoples on the student body; (b) The proportion of English speaking and English living members of the community in or near where a University is established; (c) The intellectual and moral status of the surrounding community; (d) The climatic conditions and environment of the locality in which the University is situated.

Victoria invites your closest scrutiny on all these points.

Capital Cities as Sites.

Victoria, in submitting its natural advantages as a University location, does not seek to support its contention by the endorsement of any other community in the province. To do so, it was felt, would defeat the very purpose contemplated by the appointment of the Commission, i. e., the selection of a University site most advantageous for study, health, and the general good of the students. Moreover, were it desirable to obtain an expression of opinion by the people at large a plebiscite would have more accurately reflected the views of the whole province.

The action of the Government in generously endowing the new seat of learning out of the public land of the province has also rendered it unnecessary to indicate those private benefactions in land or money offered to such an institution

if placed in Victoria, which it might otherwise have been advisable to outline. The purpose of the Commission being to pass impàrtially upon the different locations seeking recognition, without reference to private endowment, Victoria has confined the statement of its claims to those factors only which it conceives the Commissioners will wish to consider.

The trend of the location of Universities within the British Colonies, we have pleasure in noticing, has been consistently to locate them in the respective capitals.

In Australia:—Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, seats of modern universities, are the capitals of their respective provinces. In Canada we find the University of Toronto in the capital of Ontario, Laval in Quebec, Dalhousie in Halifax, Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, and the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

Clearly the city which is looked upon as the heart and centre of a province's higher political life is considered by all the above as the natural heart and centre of a province's higher educational life, from which the civilizing and refining influences of a seat of higher learning will radiate more freely and more fully into all parts of a province than from any other.

Since the University is to be a Provincial one, its administration will be directed from the Department of Education; it will, therefore, facilitate the administration of the University if it is placed near the Capital.

University Life.

The aim of University life being the highest development of the individual, and recognizing that this is attained under four (4) main forms:

- (1) Scholastically,
- (2) Morally,
- (3) Socially,
- (4) Athletically.

We propose to deal briefly with each of these before drawing your attention to other though less important points.

Scholastically.

The main branches of University teaching are: Law, Medicine, Arts and Science.

Faculty of Law.

The Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, the County Court, Small Debts Court, Admiralty Court, as well as the Police Magistrate's, hold regular sittings in the City of Victoria.

The Law Society has a well equipped library. After the Faculty of Law has been established no doubt arrangements could be made whereby the use of the library could be had for the benefit of the students.

All the members of the Court of Appeal have their residence in the City of Victoria, while two of the five Supreme Court Judges also reside in the City of Victoria.

The Benchers of the Law Society of British Columbia hold their regular sittings in Victoria—in addition to which all the Law Society's examinations are held here.

Faculty of Medicine.

As a location for a Medical School in connection with the Provincial University, Victoria has many advantages. We have a population of 50,000 to draw clinical material from. There are at present about 400 beds available for teaching purposes in the two principal hospitals, the Royal Jubilee Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital, the latter having just completed an extensive addition to their buildings.

Being a very cosmopolitan city and visited constantly by people from all parts of the world the diseases to be studied in the hospitals here are very varied. No place could be more safe and healthful for students. There are no diseases indigenous to our climate. Typhoid fever is practically unknown here unless it is imported from outside places. The death rate is as low as in any place in the world.

The Quarantine Station at William Head, which is a Dominion Government matter, gives special facilities for the study of diseases not usually met with. Cases of Beri-beri and of leprosy are found on the steamers calling here for inspection.

In the Dominion Immigration Building in Victoria can also be seen various eye troubles and skin affections amongst the Asiatic immigrants, who are not allowed to proceed further into Canada whilst suffering from the same.

Faculty of Arts and Science.

The courses usually offered by such a faculty may be grouped under three heads: (1) Language and Literature, (2) History, Philosophy, and Law (Constitutional, and Roman), and (3) Science.

With regard to the first two groups, (which, being independent of physical demonstration, may be taken together), it may be submitted that climate and beautiful surroundings are of the utmost importance as factors in determining the locality in which the subjects comprised under those heads may be studied with the greatest advantage. Every educationalist will admit that a mild, bracing climate, free from extremes of heat and cold, with a minimum of precipitation and a maximum of sunshine, with comparative absence of fog, and with healthy sea breezes, is most conducive to physical and mental well-being, and, consequently, most advantageous for clear thinking and study. If a locality possessing such a climate is also blessed with beautiful surroundings and picturesque scenery, there can be no doubt that it is the appropriate spot for the assimilation of the lofty thoughts contained in the subjects referred to, and that, there, the mind will attain to its highest culture.

Victoria, an Educational Centre.

That Victoria is such a place is abundantly proved in other sections of this report which need only be referred to here. But the concentration in Victoria of practically all the best proprietary schools of the Province may be alluded to as affording the most convincing testimony to the advantages of that city and its surrounding district as an Educational Centre. The fact that those schools draw a large proportion of their scholars from the Mainland of British Columbia speaks for itself.

Coming to the third group of subjects embraced by the Arts Faculty—the Scientific group—we

affirm that, in addition to the advantages enumerated above, which apply equally to every Faculty, Victoria offers distinct advantages which make it a suitable place for the studies of Botany, Zoology, Geology, etc.

Within an easy walk of Victoria can be gathered plants unsurpassed in variety by those of any part of British Columbia; for lowland, marsh, and mountain flora are at our very doors; in addition to which algae of all descriptions abound in our coast waters.

The student of Practical Botany, therefore, has an excellent field for research in the neighbourhood of Victoria, and he has the added advantage of being able to identify his specimens or verify his identifications by reference to the excellent herbarium kept by the Department of Agriculture in the Parliament Buildings.

In an addenda submitted with this report the Zoology of the district is fully set forth. We may here draw attention to the high privilege the student possesses in having access to the fine collection of objects of Natural History and Ethnology contained in the Provincial Museum. That the Museum is restricted to objects natural to British Columbia is one of its chief charms.

The existence in Victoria of a Natural History Society whose members are enthusiastic students of their several specialties may also be noted.

It would be tedious and unnecessary to further dwell upon the advantages of Victoria for the study of Science, but it may be well to state that in the Parliament Buildings there is a Museum of Mineralogy, while in the Provincial Museum the students of Palaeontology of British

Columbia will find an interesting collection of fossils from all parts of the Province.

The existence also, in the Parliament Buildings of a good Provincial Library, containing original documents and other historical material that cannot be found elsewhere, may be cited as another of the many advantages which the Arts Faculty would have if a University were located in its vicinity.

Faculty of Applied Science.

The majority of the subjects embraced by this Faculty are taught by lectures and demonstrations in the university class-rooms. But there are certain other subjects such as Electrical, Mining, and Mechanical Engineering, which are dependent in a great measure on the facilities afforded by the locality in which the University is situated. The advantages offered by Victoria for each of those subjects may be stated under their separate heads:

(1) **Electrical Engineering**—The students of this subject may visit the car-shops and power-plant of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, and also the heating and lighting plants operated by the company and by the City of Victoria.

(2) **Geology and Mineralogy**—Besides having a most interesting country from a geological point of view to explore in the neighbourhood of this city, and being within three hours' journey from the cretaceous coal fields of Ladysmith and Nanaimo with their wealth of fossils, the student has the advantage of the fine collection of fossils and minerals in the Provincial Museum.

(3) **Mechanical Engineering**—There are several machine shops in Victoria that would be of assist-

ance to students of this subject. Besides, Victoria possesses the only large ship-building yards in the Province, and is within easy distance of the large factories and ship-building yards of Seattle, in the neighbourhood of which city, at Bremerton, war ships are built for the United States Navy. The Dominion dry-dock at Esquimalt, where ships of both the Mercantile Marine, and of the Royal Navy are repaired may also be classed as an advantage offered by Victoria.

(4) **Mining Engineering**—The vicinity of Victoria District is rich in attractions for the student of this subject. Iron mines are to be found in the neighbourhood of Barkley Sound and Port Renfrew. Copper mines and smelters may be reached in two or three hours from Victoria. One smelter is running at Ladysmith. There is also a smelter at Tacoma, which can be easily reached from here. At a distance which can be covered in about three hours are the coal mines of Ladysmith and Nanaimo. In fact the whole of Vancouver Island is rich in metalliferous and coal bearing rocks, some in the process of being worked, and others still awaiting discovery by the prospector. Such a field of research is an ideal location for a School of Mines. Gold is also found at the Sombrio River on the west coast and is being mined there not far from Victoria.

(5) **Railways**—These may be studied here, for, though the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway is a short line, not to be compared with the large transcontinental lines of the Mainland, it is a fact that a large, well equipped line, the Canadian Northern, will bring its passengers and freight directly into Victoria, within the next few years, proceeding thence to Barkley Sound on the West

Coast of the Island. That company is bound by its contract with the Government of B. C. to establish car shops in the immediate neighbourhood of the city.

(6) **Surveying and Geodesy**—While the country round about Victoria affords every feature of interest to the surveyor, the student will also have the advantage of proximity to Nanaimo's coal pits which afford facilities for his acquiring a knowledge of that branch of the subject. The Lands Department of the Government of British Columbia being in Victoria would be another advantage to the school were it situated in its neighbourhood.

It is unavoidable in a paper aiming at giving the mere outlines of the advantages offered by Victoria for a Faculty of Applied Science, that its necessary brevity may occasion the omission of many points which might strengthen the case for that city. But enough, it seems, has been stated to show that its surrounding country is well fitted for the purposes of an Applied Science School. It may be well, however, before closing the case, to mention that there are manufactures in Victoria of interest to such a school: Such are: Paint Works, Chemical Works (Sulphuric Acid and Fertilizers), Soap Works, a Powder Factory, Electrotyping Plants, etc., etc.

Faculty of Agriculture.

It is said, on good authority, that probably next after the Faculty of Arts there will be established in the new University a Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry.

Certainly, no locality in the Province that can suggest itself as a competitor for the University

of British Columbia has more to offer for a Faculty of Agriculture than Victoria. Situated on a fertile peninsula, surrounded by grain, fruit, and dairy farms, with splendid forests of largely diversified timber close by, and with soil and climate suited in an eminent degree for the purposes of such farms, the district of Victoria seems particularly well adapted for such a Faculty. A drive through the district is all that is needed in support of that statement.

The certainty that the Dominion Government will establish an Experimental Farm within a very short distance of the City of Victoria is another reason for asserting that a Faculty of Agriculture would find a congenial home here.

Morally.

Victoria bears a high repute as a law abiding community. Situated as it is on an island the undesirable element is easily kept out and disorderly conduct is unknown on the public streets. It is essentially a clean city. Its tone is of the very best. Many efforts have been made to bring into Victoria "fast" plays and undesirable shows, but these attempts have always been frowned upon and a second effort is impossible.

Socially.

Government House being situated here makes Victoria of necessity the centre of the social life of the Province.

The number of eminent people connected with the Empire passing through the city, many of whom stay in our midst for short periods at the Lieutenant-Governor's residence, steadily increases and opportunities for hearing their public

utterances are more frequent here than elsewhere in the Province.

Traditions of the very best social kind were formed during the years in which the Imperial forces of the British Navy and Army were quartered in Victoria and Esquimalt and commercialism has never gained a predominant hold upon society.

Musical, Art and Literary Clubs are established, and there is a large proportion of university graduates, together with a numerous leisure class who could and would welcome to their homes both professors and students. The city numbers among its residents and near-by residents a number of well-known writers, artists, scientists and musicians, and these add to the literary and artistic surroundings and advantages. The fact that it is the Capital and the further fact that it is essentially a city of residents—and not transients seeking to make rapid wealth and then depart, ensures the ideal home life and the best element of society.

Athletically.

A healthy body being of as grave a matter of consideration as a well trained mind, the outdoor life of the student becomes of supreme importance. This life requires for its full enjoyment an equable climate, one in which extremes neither of heat nor cold are experienced. From tables which will be laid before you it will be seen how greatly Victoria has been favoured by nature in this respect. The menace to health which sudden changes of weather bring with them is practically eliminated with us, and games can be carried on the whole year round. Every kind of sport

has its followers in Victoria. Rowing, football, lacrosse, golfing, cycling, cricket, tennis, hockey, cross-country running, sailing and track athletics all find a place amongst our young people.

Victoria's record as a clean sport centre is recognized throughout the province. It has always stood stoutly for pure amateur sport and though efforts have been made from time to time to introduce professionalism they have always ended in failure.

The Opinion of Independent Educationalists.

In close keeping with the educational side of this question comes the opinions expressed by past and present private school educationalists, who, from the very beginnings of the Province, have made Victoria their Mecca. These gentlemen were free and independent; they could (as some did) select other places than this city for their efforts but the claims of Victoria as the real and rightful place for education of a special character have proved paramount, and today the three leading and largest private schools in British Columbia are situated in our city.

The school which may be said to be the parent of the present University School was brought over from New Westminster many years ago—the late Mr. Fiennes-Clinton assuring the present Warden, at the time, that his opinion was fixed as to the superiority of the island by reason of its climate, its quiet restfulness and absence of many temptations to scholars. Queen's School was conducted by Mr. Harvey in Vancouver for a period of ten (10) years and was then brought

over and joined with University School, its Principal feeling that the city of Victoria offered advantages which could not be found elsewhere.

The Collegiate School whose headmaster, Mr. Laing, died last year, and which is still actively pursuing its work, has always had a large number of boarding pupils sent thither from all parts of the province.

Corrig College has had a noteworthy existence since being founded by Mr. Church, of twenty years and more; and drawn freely from the Mainland; its Principal never hesitating in his conviction that Victoria filled most perfectly of all other parts of British Columbia the requirements for solid education.

Mr. Bolton, Warden of University School, who antedated all these private educationalists by a few years, has never felt called upon to alter his first estimate of conditions.

All the above named gentlemen are University graduates and approached their work in the Province with an open mind: and no inducements offered from outside the Island have caused them to at all consider the question of removal thither. They have and are today still receiving a very large percentage of their scholars from the Mainland, despite the fact that the Mainland is not without some private ventures.

The fact that University School, at the present time the largest private school in the Province, has permanent buildings and stands in a campus of fifteen acres is a strong witness to the firm conviction of all these independent educationalists that Victoria cannot be excelled as an educational centre.

Victoria's Climatic Conditions.

"Climate is the most potent of any factor in the environment of races. It is climate and soil, plus heredity, that produce vigorous or weak peoples."

If that is true of races, it is equally true of individuals. It is a truism that the weather has a very marked effect on the spirits and intellectual activity of men and women, old and young. This is particularly noticeable in the school-room. A dull day has a depressing effect on both teacher and pupils, while a bright day is reflected in their increased mental activity and cheerfulness.

A locality, therefore, with a climate affording a large amount of sunshine, with a small average precipitation and comparative freedom from fogs, and possessing an equable temperature, neither hot in summer nor cold in winter, is an ideal situation for a University. In fact, climate and appropriate surrounding country are the most important of all factors in the determination of its site, because those advantages are **permanent**. Population, especially in a new country like British Columbia is apt to shift. Incidents, such as the building of a bridge, or the establishment of a large industry, or the construction of a new line of railway may change the centre of population in a few years. But climate and environment is fixed,—at least, when compared with other places in the same country. As a University, therefore, is founded with the expectation that it will exist for all time, **permanent** and not **transitory** advantages ought to be taken into account in the decision as to the best site for its location.

As the climates of the Kootenay, Okanagan, and Yale Districts are quite different from the Coast climates—the former showing great extremes of heat and cold—it has been thought advisable, in presenting Victoria's case, to make a comparison between the climate of that city, as representing Vancouver Island, and that of Vancouver, as being typical of the Lower Mainland. Tables, therefore, have been obtained from the Dominion Meteorological Office, showing precipitation, days of rainfall, days of snowfall, sunshine, temperature, etc. From these tables, diagrams have been prepared which indicate at a glance the immense superiority of Victoria in every one of those conditions.

Attention is particularly directed to the matter of precipitation. The average rainfall in Victoria for the last twenty years was 26.64 inches, while the average for the last eight years in Vancouver was 58.05 inches, or more than double. The average snowfall in Vancouver for the same period was 17.17 inches, nearly double the average for twenty years—9.33 inches in Victoria. The average for the last four years gives Victoria a still greater advantage. The number of days of rain and snow are, as might be expected, proportionately greater in Vancouver than in Victoria.

The fogs in Vancouver numbered on an average 41 for the last four years, more than double Victoria's 18 for the same period.

Unfortunately the record of sunshine in Vancouver has been kept by the Meteorological Office only since the beginning of 1909, an unusually cold and dull year. But a reference to the table will show that the sunshine in Victoria, during the winter months especially, is considerably in

excess of that in Vancouver. A strong proof of the preponderance of sunshine in Victoria is the large export of cut flowers from that city to Vancouver. Three large exporters of flowers are ready to give evidence to the effect that at least 75 per cent. of the flowers bought in Vancouver during the winter months are exported from Victoria; and they attribute the inability of the Vancouver nurserymen to meet the demands of their own city in that respect, to the absence of sufficient sunshine. Roses, for example, will not, they say, put forth buds, under glass, in Vancouver, for that reason.

While there is not much difference between Victoria and Vancouver in the matter of temperature, any advantage is in favour of Victoria, the climate of that city being warmer in winter and cooler in summer than that of Vancouver.

The ideal Summer temperature is one where the mean temperature for the months of July and August during a long period of years is 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

The ideal Winter temperature is one where the mean temperature for the months of January and February over a long period of years is 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

The ideal all-the-year climate is the one where both of these conditions obtain.

There is only one such spot in the world, and that is at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

The United States weather bureau compiles the averages, and has issued official reports, showing them for the last thirty years. These figures are geographically presented in what are known as Isothermal Charts.

The Summer isotherm of 60 degrees after leaving Victoria enters the mainland north of Vancouver and runs inside the coast line as far north as the Yukon; then, bending southeast, it passes south of Hudson Bay, north of Quebec, and enters the Atlantic at Sydney, Nova Scotia. South of this line it is hotter than in Victoria in July and August, and north of it it is colder.

The Winter isotherm of 40 degrees, after leaving Victoria, enters the mainland at Seattle and runs inside the coast line as far south as Phoenix, Arizona; then, crossing the southern states, enters the Atlantic at Norfolk, Virginia. South of this line it is warmer than in Victoria in January and February, and north of it it is colder; so that, on the Pacific coast, in Victoria, we find the temperature of Nova Scotia in Summer and that of Norfolk, Virginia, in Winter. This is the more remarkable when we consider that Victoria is 150 miles farther north than Sydney and 700 miles farther north than Norfolk.

An Isothermal Chart, verified by Professor Willis L. Moore, Chief of the Weather Bureau of the United States and Associate Editor of The National Geographic Magazine when the Chart was published, is herewith shown:

Further comment is unnecessary as the Tables and Diagrams, hereto annexed, abundantly prove the immense superiority of Victoria's climate over the climate of Vancouver,—or, as was stated above, the superiority of the Island climate over that of the Lower Mainland. Vancouver Island, therefore has, in this a **permanent** advantage over the Lower Mainland sufficient, it is submitted, to offset any **transitory** advantages that the latter may at present seem to have.

Meteorological Tables for 1907, 1908, 1909.

RAIN

Victoria . . .	22	inches rainfall for the year	1907
Vancouver . .	55.28	" " " "	1907
Victoria . . .	26.7	" " " "	1908
Vancouver . .	62.37	" " " "	1908
Victoria . . .	27.31	" " " "	1909
Vancouver . .	56.61	" " " "	1909

SNOW

Victoria . . .	4.7	inches snowfall for the year	1907
Vancouver . .	23.1	" " " "	1907
Victoria . . .	0.8	" " " "	1908
Vancouver . .	3.25	" " " "	1908
Victoria . . .	0.68	" " " "	1909
Vancouver . .	1.93	" " " "	1909

Transportation Facilities.

Whilst Victoria is on an Island, yet the means of access from the Mainland and the Pacific States are so numerous and frequent that no discomfort is felt. And these means will steadily increase by the advent here of other great trans-continental systems of travel. Victoria is only a four hours' run from the Mainland. Should students come from the Orient, Victoria would be nearer to them than any other portion of the Province. The Canadian Pacific steamships to and from the Mainland, from Victoria, the Canadian Northern Railway's approaching terminal connection with Victoria by railway ferry, and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's announcement of its intention of connecting with the Island during the present year all demonstrate the ample facilities which the students on the Mainland would have at their disposal.

Victoria's Health Statistics.

Victoria's climate and situation make it a remarkably healthy city. The equability of the weather and the easy disposal of sewerage are two important factors in determining this condition.

Victoria's death-rate for the past ten years has averaged 10.9 (ten and nine-tenths) per thousand. Highest rate for one year, 13.56. Lowest rate for one year, 8.07. Rate for year ending December 31st, 1909, 11.47. Out of 305 deaths in 1909 only four were from typhoid fever. But three deaths occurred from scarlet fever and diphtheria. The excellent quality of the city's water supply is guaranteed by the tables of mortality.

Climate, water and sewerage conditions are equally favourable throughout the entire southern portion of the Island. The large proportion of hours of bright sunshine, absence of fogs, the light rainfall, and the general superiority of climatic surroundings, are shared with Victoria by her neighbouring communities.

Victoria's Historical Research Conditions.

The Parliament Buildings afford special opportunity to study Political Economy and Statecraft at first hand.

The Government Library with all its statistics and historical data as to the Province is of special moment to the matter in hand.

One of the disadvantages of a new University is that of a Reference Library which of necessity

takes time in the upbuilding. Files of parliamentary papers, books of exploration, discovery, and maps, are hard to secure now, but the Provincial Library, situated here, possesses a very rich store of the above. It is estimated that to duplicate those now in this city would cost not less than \$75,000, and many volumes could never be duplicated.

Natural History Research.

In the Provincial Museum, situated here, we have a very valuable store available to students of Natural History. The list is a voluminous one and we supply you with the same through the pamphlets issued by the Department which form part of the appendix to our Statement of Information, together with special statements as to the ornithology and botany of Victoria in particular. In the Government Laboratory, also situated in this city, there is an excellent collection of the minerals of the Province, giving a very fair idea of the ores found in British Columbia.

Most of the ores of economic value from all parts of the world are also represented and additions are constantly being made to the collection of rock samples.

We would also state that so abundant is the opportunity for Natural History Research on this Island that the University of Minnesota has established a station not far from this city; and the University of Washington holds a Summer Class for Marine study.

Victoria's Botany.

For the out-door study of Botany the south-east corner of Vancouver Island offers exceptional advantages, for the following reasons: Owing to its position, being sheltered by the Olympic Mountains and Island Ranges to the west, these draw from the clouds much of the moisture which would otherwise be precipitated here in the form of rain. Lightened of their burden the clouds pass over the low-lying land of the Saanich Peninsula to be again attracted by the high Coast Range of the Mainland, where they again discharge most of their contents.

The very moderate rainfall thus accounted for here, permits of the growth of a large number of plants belonging to the California and Oregonian flora, many of which are confined in this Province to the dry south-east strip of Vancouver Island from Comox southwards, while some also re-appear in the dry belt of the Cascade Range, such as the oak, cactus, and the true Lady-Slipper (*Cypripedium*).

But within 12 miles of Victoria there is a much more humid area where the hilly country near Goldstream begins, and here can be found the plants of the west coast strip of the Mainland.

As a collecting field for Marine Plants the Vancouver Island inlets and bays are unexcelled. Owing to the richness of the flora of the sea, the University of Minnesota established a Biological Station at Port San Juan on the south Coast of Vancouver Island some years ago and still maintains it. This has been attended by Professors and students from all parts of the United States. Later, the Dominion Government opened

another Biological Station at Nanaimo, which has operated most successfully in the collection of Marine animals,

Zoological Studies.

Practical zoological studies can also be carried on near Victoria under very favourable conditions as the raw material is so plentiful and accessible. Large fisheries are within easy reach, both salmon and herring; and halibut and cod fisheries will shortly be also within easy access. The whaling industry is on such an extensive scale that the American Museum of Natural History at New York sent an expert here two years ago to make a special study of the whales of the North Pacific Coast.

Sea lions, seals, salmon, herring, cod and halibut as well as other ocean fish and fauna are present sources of study and interest capable of being worked out by an active Zoological class. Vancouver Island's waters also teem with the animals which have so far not been put to the uses of man and which are well known to science.

The lower areas of Marine life, to which so much attention is given nowadays as throwing light on the various theories of the chain of life are easily collected in vast numbers, as our shores are sufficiently shallow for easy dredging in contra-distinction to the deep inlets and dangerous shore-line of the Mainland.

The State University of Washington has had a summer class on the West Coast of Vancouver Island for the pursuing of Marine studies, and in various localities the fame of the Island as a specially favoured place to pursue such studies has been steadily increasing.

Victoria's Ornithology.

Few places in North America offer such advantages to the student of Ornithology as the south end of Vancouver Island. Compared particularly with the lower mainland of the province. Vancouver Island has a decided advantage. Owing to its peculiar position, right in the path of the migratory birds many varieties are seen here which are not met with in any other part of the province.

Even in the city of Victoria the birds may be seen and many nest in the gardens among the roses and other shrubs. Take for instance the humming birds, the warblers, and the native sparrows. These are very common and so are the robins, swallows, thrushes, and many others. In all no less than 243 distinct varieties have been reported to the curator of the museum and catalogued by him.

Besides the native birds a number of varieties have been introduced and with a large measure of success. Among the song birds the skylark is the most notable example. Several years ago the Natural History Society of British Columbia imported a number of birds and the result is that today skylarks are numerous in the fields surrounding Victoria.

In game birds the Mongolian pheasants have been thoroughly acclimatized as have also the Valley and mountain quail. Two varieties of native grouse are numerous.

Seabirds are very numerous along the shores at different seasons. During the winter hundreds of gulls live in the harbors along the coast and

ducks may commonly be seen taking shelter among the shipping in Victoria Harbor. Cormorants live for months in the inner harbor and grebes and loons are very common. The following is a list of the families with the number of varieties of each:

Grebes 4, loons 3, auks, murres and puffins 7, jaegers 2, gulls and terns 11, albatrosses 2, fulmers and shearwaters 6, cormorants 3, pelicans 2, ducks and geese 23, cranes 2, rails and coots 3, phalaropes 1, snipes and sandpipers 16, plovers 4, surf-birds and turnstones 3, oyster catcher 1, grouse, etc., 6, quail 2, pheasants 1, pigeons 2, vultures 1, hawks, eagles, etc. 19, owls 11, cuckoos 1, kingfishers 1, woodpeckers 8, goatsuckers 1, swifts 2, hummingbirds 1, flycatchers 8, larks 3, jays and crows 6, blackbirds 4, finches and sparrows 27, tanagers 1, swallows 5, waxwings 3, shrikes 2, vireos 4, warblers 11, pipits 1, dippers 1, catbirds 1, wrens 3, creepers 1, nuthatches 1, chickadees 2, kinglets 2, thrushes and bluebirds 8. Total, 50 families, with 243 varieties.

Views of Lord Strathcona.

We would call your attention to the words uttered in this city on September 1st, 1909, by Lord Strathcona, whose deep interest in education is well known by us all. Speaking on the subject of a University for the Province, he said:

"Victoria should be a great centre of education. The surroundings are ideal for youth. Indeed I know of no place which is better situated as a vantage ground for the establishment of educational facilities."

Views of Ambassador James Bryce.

The views of Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador to Washington, than whom no greater authority could be cited, are contained in a letter to Professor J. L. Todd of McGill University, and is included in Prof. Todd's communication to the Victoria Times as follows:

"To the Editor:

"From time to time during the past few months letters have appeared in British Columbia newspapers which have discussed the relative merits of an urban and a rural site for the university which British Columbia is to build for itself in the near future. The pros and cons of the question have been carefully discussed in these articles, and it seems as though the advantages of a rural site greatly outweigh those of an urban site.

"The following letter, which has been written by His Excellency the Hon. James Bryce, the British Ambassador at Washington, is doubly interesting since it entirely concurs with that opinion:

"Any reply to the question which you put to me regarding the most desirable site, whether in a large city or in a rural area, in which to place a university, must be made subject to the remark that the professional schools of a university, such as those of clinical medicine, law and engineering, are generally better placed in or close to a great city. With a school of agriculture it is otherwise; it ought to have its experimental farm, and be placed in the country.

"Apart from the question of such schools, the balance of advantage seems to me to lie with

a site in the country, but within easy reach—say about an hour's railway ride, or perhaps less—of a considerable city. The conditions for health are generally better in the country, where there is more fresh air and more space for recreation grounds as well as for the erection of buildings with plenty of room round them. **It is well for the students to have the opportunity of getting to enjoy nature, and well also for them not to have their minds too much distracted from their studies by the amusements which a great city offers.** The professors can, as a rule, live in a more simple and inexpensive way when they are not expected, or tempted, to emulate the costly habits of a large city. It is, of course, a benefit to the youth of a city to have a university in it; but the benefit is almost equally well secured when it is within easy reach of the city. **If possible, that city ought to be the Capital of the Province, for there are advantages in having the seat of learning not far from the seat of Government.** “I am, faithfully yours,
 ‘April 19th, 1909.’ JAMES BRYCE.’

“British Columbians should realize their responsibility in deciding upon the site of their university; much of the usefulness of that institution to the population of their province will depend upon the suitability of its site. It seems certain that the weight of the opinion of one so competent as the Honourable James Bryce will do much to influence public sentiment so that British Columbia's university will be founded where it may commence its career under the most favourable circumstances for achieving the greatest possible usefulness.
 “J. L. TODD.”

University Sites.

Whilst we are fully aware that you are not called upon by our Government to make actual selection of a site for the Provincial University, yet we recognize that the location must in some degree depend upon the possibility of securing a suitable site. That site depends upon its filling certain requirements, viz.: Ample space for expansion; good water; perfect system of sewerage; approachability; adaptability for outdoor sports and recreation.

We therefore invite your inspection of the following sites, which we feel fulfill all these requirements:—

Gorge Park
Langford Lake
Esquimalt
Cadboro Bay
Goldstream
Saanich Arm

In conclusion we beg to submit that it is the quieter atmosphere of the smaller town that conduces to real study, and thus contributes to the growth and well-being of a University. Here, in the Capital, we believe will be found as nowhere else in the Province both the men and the conditions that foster the growth of the University spirit and serve to establish on a solid basis the best traditions of university life.