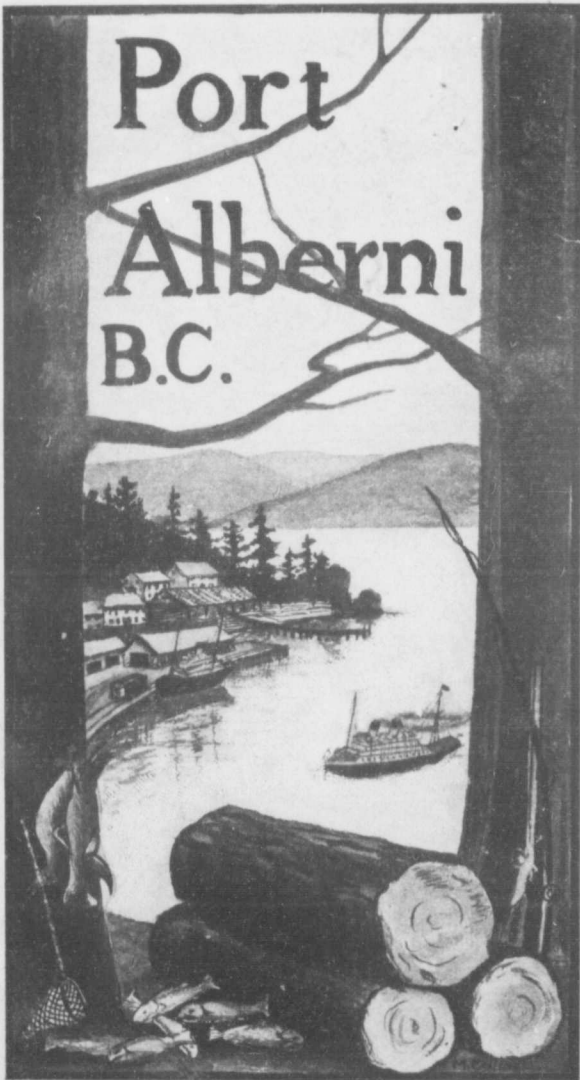


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Port Alberni B.C.



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Port Alberni

A FEW FACTS
About The
Magnetic City
Of
British Columbia

Compiled by Donald McN. Lowe.

: : ENDORSED BY THE : :
Port Alberni Board of Trade.

Port Alberni, B. C.

A SHORT HISTORY.

PORT ALBERNI stands at the head of the Alberni canal, a natural waterway twenty-four miles in length, almost cutting Vancouver Island in two, and averaging a mile and a half in width and 300 feet in depth. The Canal is a continuation of Barclay sound, on the West coast of the Island—named after Capt. Barclay a contemporary of the famous Capt. Vancouver.

The Canal was known to the Spaniards probably as early as 1790, and is named after a Spanish officer, Don Pedro Alberni, who was in command of a company of volunteers in the expedition to Nootka. On the old Spanish maps of this coast Barclay sound is known as the Archipelago de Nitinat. It was not until 1860 however, that the Canal was thoroughly explored.

In 1855, Messrs. Anderson, Anderson & Co., shipbrokers, of London, England, who were interested in a shipbuilding yard at Rotherhithe on the Thames, heard that there were large areas of timber suitable for spars and masts on the West coast of Vancouver Island, and in 1860 they sent out Capt. Stamp, after whom the harbor is named, to investigate the truth of the report. Capt. Stamp chose the head of the Alberni Canal where Port Alberni now stands, as the most suitable place to erect a sawmill, not only on account of the timber but also because of its suitability as a shipping port to foreign markets, and the Andersons received a grant of some 1600 acres of land and timber at the head of the Canal from the Government.

In 1860, the Government of the day sent Mr. Gilbert M. Sproat with two vessels, the "Meg Merrilies" and the "Woodpecker" to take over this land from the Indians, and a few years later the first sawmill on Vancouver Island was erected at Port Alberni.

Port Alberni, B. C.

A SHORT HISTORY—CONTINUED.

IN or about 1871 the mill was burned, and, it then being a time of great financial depression, was never rebuilt. About 1886 settlers began to take up land in the extensive and fertile valley lying to the north of the town, and the old town of Alberni situated about a mile up the Somass river which empties into the head of the canal, was founded. Some years later when it became increasingly evident that the traffic of the Canadian Pacific coast would require an outlet more easily reached from the great trade routes than Vancouver, and closer to the open ocean, Port Alberni, situated on deep water and close to the site of the old sawmill, began to come into prominence.

The Canadian Pacific railway was the first to recognise the strategic value of the town as a port by building to it and making it the terminus of their great transcontinental system, and the Canadian Northern railway has followed the lead of its rival and named Port Alberni as the objective point for its Island line.

Port Alberni is thus now the Pacific Terminus of one great transcontinental railway and will shortly occupy that position with regard to the Canadian Northern railway, another of Canada's great railway systems.

Another important page in the history of Port Alberni was reached on March 12th, when the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia affixed his signature to the Charter which made Port Alberni an Incorporated City, thus taking the first step towards the establishment of water, light and sewerage systems, and all those things so necessary to the progress and welfare of a city.

300214

What Port Alberni Has To-day

- BANKS**—The Bank of Montreal and the Royal Bank of Canada have opened branches in the town and the bank of Toronto and Dominion Bank have acquired sites here.
- CHURCHES**—The Episcopal church has built, and the Methodist church will shortly build in Port Alberni. The Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches have also been granted sites by the Alberni Land company.
- SCHOOLS**—Port Alberni has a good Elementary school and will probably be the site of a High school for the West coast of Vancouver Island. A second school is situated in the Old Town of Alberni and two more schools are conveniently placed for farmers and settlers in the valley.
- SAWMILLS**—The Canadian Pacific Lumber company has spent \$100,000.00 in the erection of a large modern sawmill in Port Alberni. There is a second small mill, and several other companies have secured sites.
- NEWSPAPERS**—The Port Alberni News is published semi-weekly in Port Alberni, and Victoria and Vancouver daily papers can be had on the day of their publication.
- RAINFALL AND WINTER CLIMATE**—The rainfall is slightly less than that of Vancouver, and frosts are very light. Skating is rarely possible.
- STORES AND HOTELS**—There are two good hotels in Port Alberni and a number of stores, including two general stores, two hardware stores, butcher, druggist, boot store, men's outfitters, tailors, etc.
- PRICE OF LAND**—Acreage varies in price from \$25.00 per acre (£5) for uncleared land, and from \$50.00 (£10) to \$75.00 (£15) per acre for partly cleared farms from 5 to 7 miles out, to \$300.00 (£60) per acre for land close to town, and can be had in blocks of one acre and upwards.
- TOWN LOTS**—Range from \$250.00 (£50) and upwards for residential lots, and from \$600.00 (£120) and up for business properties.
- NOTE**—The above information refers to March 1912, and will probably be very quickly out of date. Readers wishing further information are requested to write to the secretary of the Board of Trade.

A FEW
PORT ALBERNI FACTS.

PORT ALBERNI is the center of an immense timber district possessing sufficient timber for a cut of a million feet a day for forty years.

PORT ALBERNI is underlaid with **coal**, and is the **nearest** port on the North Pacific seaboard to the Panama Canal possessing good steam coal.

PORT ALBERNI is only thirty-six miles from the open sea and is situated on a beautiful and safe waterway close to the natural trade routes from the Panama Canal, Australia, New Zealand and the Orient.

PORT ALBERNI has a harbor one and a half miles wide ranging from 60 to 300 feet deep, and possessing natural dockage and wharfage facilities unsurpassed on the Pacific Coast.

PORT ALBERNI has practically a freshwater harbor in which the Toredos are unknown. Ships coming into Port Alberni will naturally clear themselves of barnacles without having to navigate a difficult and dangerous channel such as is necessary in the majority of freshwater ports.

PORT ALBERNI is the only natural trade center of Vancouver Island and the center of the large mineral areas on our West coast as well as the great fisheries of the coast.

PORT ALBERNI has behind it a beautiful agricultural valley with a magnificent fruit soil.

PORT ALBERNI is the center of a district replete with scenic beauties of every description and a paradise for the hunter and fisherman, and will be a great tourist resort.

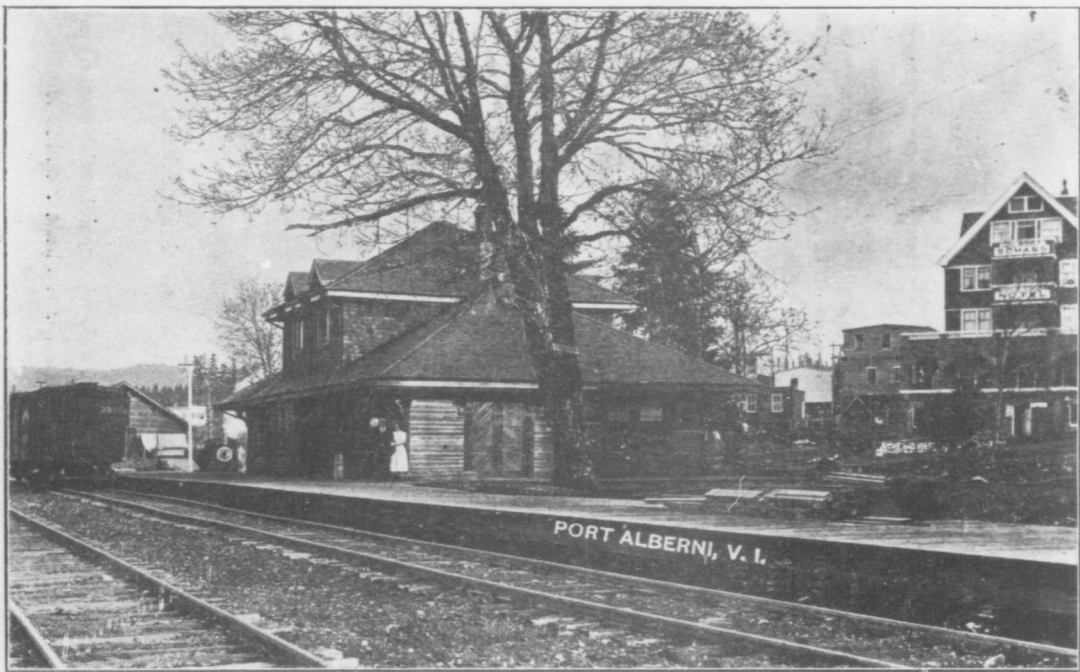


Photo by Leonard Frank

C.P.R. TERMINUS, PORT ALBERNI



Photo by Leonard Frank

STAMPS FALLS. ALBERNI DISTRICT

Why The Railway Was Built *TO PORT ALBERNI.*

BECAUSE of the Timber wealth of the district which has already led to the erection of one large sawmill and the selection of sites by others.

BECAUSE of the large valley of which Port Alberni is the outlet. One of the largest and most fertile on Vancouver Island.

BECAUSE of the large undeveloped deep sea fisheries of the West Coast of which Port Alberni is the center.

BECAUSE of the mineral resources of the Alberni district, comprising Copper, Gold, Coal, Marble, Iron and other minerals.

BECAUSE of the magnificent harbor on which the town stands—one of the finest on the Pacific seaboard.

BECAUSE Port Alberni is the nearest railway port in Canada to Australia, New Zealand, and the Panama Canal, and the nearest coal port in the North Pacific to the latter.

BECAUSE from eight to twenty hours can be saved on the present mail time to the Orient by the Port Alberni route.

BECAUSE Port Alberni is the centre of a district rich in game, whether deer, bear, panther or bird; and fishing, including trout, both casting and trolling, and salmon trolling. Salmon up to 75lbs. in weight rewarding the fisherman during the season.

BECAUSE all these advantages make Port Alberni the natural gateway through which all the trade of the Pacific coast will flow to Vancouver and the mainland.

PORT ALBERNI
Offers Good Opportunities.

- TO THE FARMER. The soil in the Alberni Valley is especially suited for fruit and mixed farming. Peaches and Grapes can be grown and ripened in the open, and splendid crops of roots can be raised.
- TO THE FISHERMAN. The deep sea fisheries of the West coast, comprising Cod, Halibut, Herring and Salmon, will provide a living for thousands of fishermen, while the salmon and trout in our streams and lakes will ensure good sport to the disciples of Isaac Walton.
- TO THE HOMESEEKER. The situation and natural beauties are such as to make Port Alberni a desirable place for the residence of lovers of beauty.
- TO INDUSTRIES. Cheap sites can be had from the Railway company, and the development of the water resources of the district (estimated at over 100,000 h.p.) will provide ample cheap power.
- TO THE STOREKEEPER and business man. The growth of the town will carry with it the opening for stores of all descriptions by creating a large local market.
- TO THE LOGGER. The development of the immense timber resources of the district will give employment to large numbers of loggers and timbermen.
- TO THE TOURIST. The scenic beauties of Vancouver Island can be most easily reached from Port Alberni which will also be the gateway to the new Provincial Park at Buttle's Lake—The Yellowstone of Canada.
- TO THE MOTORIST. The road into Port Alberni from Victoria is one of the finest in the Province and the beautiful roads of the district are a continual source of delight to motorists.

Places Worth Visiting

AROUND PORT ALBERNI.

STAMPS FALLS. * Beautiful falls on the Stamps river, eight miles from town. The river here runs through a deep gorge in the Basaltic rock, below which is a large pool where Salmon can continually be seen playing.

SPROAT LAKE AND FALLS. Sproat Lake (5 miles from Port Alberni) has been well called "The Lucerne of Vancouver Island." It is a magnificent stretch of water bounded by snow-capped hills and filled with trout and salmon who take a spoon readily.

Leaving the lake the river falls over a series of rapids known as Sproat Falls, in the various pools of which trout lie harbored; they need little persuasion to rise to a fly and fight in a way to satisfy the most ardent fisherman.

GREAT CENTRAL LAKE. Twelve miles from Port Alberni lies Great Central Lake, a sheet of clear, glacial fed water, 22 miles long, bordered by fir-clad hills dropping sheer to the water edge. In both the Lake and the rapids formed by the river just below the outlet, trout can be caught almost as fast as one can cast a fly.

DELLA LAKE lies about eight miles from the head of Great Central Lake. A beautiful lake at an elevation of 3,700 feet, surrounded and fed by glaciers.

BUTTLES LAKE around which the new provincial park in the center of the island is located, can be most easily reached from Port Alberni.

More Famous Spots

AROUND PORT ALBERNI.

CAMERON LAKE. Yet another mountain lined lake, 16 miles from Port Alberni, along the side of which the railroad runs. Cameron Lake nestles at the foot of Mount Arrowsmith, and it too is filled with gamey trout. The C. P. R. have built a Chalet at Cameron Lake and will cut a trail from there to the summit of the mountain.

MOUNT ARROWSMITH (6200 feet), the highest peak on Vancouver Island, stands solitary and snowcrowned behind the town, offering a climb difficult enough to tempt the experienced mountaineer, yet not too difficult for a novice.

LONG BEACH. A magnificent stretch of hard sand, 20 miles long, facing the open waters of the Pacific whose long rollers break upon the shore night and day, offering unexampled opportunities to those who are fond of surf bathing.

In its hard packed sand beach, stretching for 20 miles, Long Beach possesses an unparalleled motor speedway. The C.P.R. intend building an hotel at Long Beach and making it a Summer Resort.

THE ALBERNI CANAL at the head of which stands the city, is in itself well worth a visit. Lined on either side by green-clad mountains rising sheer from the waters edge to a height of from three to four thousand feet, it equals in beauty the finest of the far-famed Ffiords of Norway.

OTHER PLACES too numerous to find mention here reward the tourist and traveller in search of scenic beauty, while the woods of the district reward the hunter as do the well-stocked streams and lakes the fisherman.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

ALBERNI HARDWARE CO., First AvenueBuilders' Supplies
 BANNELL & WELHAM, Third Avenue Bakers and Confectioners
 BANK OF MONTREAL, Second Avenue E.S.V.McClintock, Mgr.
 A. I. BIND, Pioneer Furniture Stores, Port Alberni and Alberni
 G. H. BIRD..... Manufacturer of Rough and Dressed Lumber
 CAMPBELL & MACFIE, First Avenue, Tailors and Gents' Furnishers
 CANADIAN PACIFIC LUMBER CO., LTD. All kinds of Lumber.
 CARMICHAEL & MOORHEAD, LTD., ...Local Agents Alberni Land Co.
 L. W. CARTER, Argyle Street General Merchants
 J. CLARKE, Watson Block, Pool and Billiard Hall
 A. D. COOPER, Third Avenue Real Estate and Insurance
 THOMAS COSTEN, Marpole Hill..... Painter and Decorator
 CHAS. CREE, First Avenue Tailor
 J. H. DAVEY, First Avenue
 R. DeBEAUX, Argyle Street, Boots and Shoes, Sporting Goods, etc.
 DRAKES & BENNETT, Auctioneers, Real Estate and Land Agents
 R. M. ELLIS, First Avenue and Athol Street ...Carpenter and Builder
 GREY & BELLAMY, Fifth Avenue Builders and Contractors
 HAYNE AND WILKINSON, Real Estate & Insurance, Engineers, Etc
 KING EDWARD HOTEL, First Avenue, Rates \$1.50 a day.
 CURTIS LOVETT, First Avenue and Argyle, O. K. Barber Shop
 J. D. MILLIKEN, Somass Block,..... Real Estate and Insurance
 THOS. MARSHALL, Sand and Gravel Yards, Towboats and Launches
 H. L. MERTZ, Third Avenue Harness and Saddlery
 J. R. MOTION, First Avenue, Real Estate and Insurance
 A. D. MACINTYRE, Third Avenue Hardware
 J. A. MACINTYRE, First Avenue..... Builder and Contractor
 C. M. PINEO, Druggist and Stationer Port Alberni and Alberni
 S. G. ROSEBOROUGH, Second Avenue ... Livery and Feed Stables
 THOS. ROWLEY, First Avenue
 THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, Kingsway,S. J. MacLeod, Mgr.
 SHAMROCK LIVERY STABLES, First Avenue E. Grandy, Prop.
 SOMASS HOTEL, American Plan,..... Rates \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day.
 A. SPROAT, First Avenue Butchers
 WM. STEVENS, Port Alberni Boat and Launch House.
 A. E. WATERHOUSE & CO., Somass Block, Argyle, Gen. Merchants.
 A. WATSON, Argyle and First Avenue Auctioneer
 FRED. WINTERS, Watson Block, Argyle StreetDancing Master
 E. M. WHYTE, General Blacksmith and Horse-shoer.
 WOOD & STORY, Builders and General Contractors
 N. WOOD, First Avenue
 R. H. WOOD & SONS General Contractors



SOMASS HOTEL EXTENSION

