

the conveyance of the royal mails to Australia, China and Japan by this route, which saves ten, four and twelve days respectively, over the contract time now in force over the Suez route. Steamers to Japan and China, to the Sandwich islands, New Zealand and Australia, and to Puget sound ports and San Francisco, will run regularly, in connection with the road. Vancouver will become the great port of entry and shipping for the province, and the bonded port for all goods destined to the eastern portion of Canada and the United States and England.

Not within the recorded history of mankind, has a new city sprung from the wilderness with the rapidity and vigor of growth displayed by this terminal city; and nowhere, to-day, does there exist a young city with such brilliant prospects before it, with a location unsurpassed, a harbor almost unequalled, a business community of great enterprise and energy, the terminus of the greatest railway in the world, and capital flowing into it from home and abroad.

The chief city of Fraser river is New Westminster, situated on the north bank of the stream, fifteen miles above its mouth. In the early days, this was the capital of the province, and it now contains two of its most important public institutions. The site of New Westminster is happily chosen on ground rising gradually from the river, affording splendid drainage and pleasant building sites for residences. The business portion of the city occupies its natural position, near the river, the great highway of traffic to the interior. There are a number of quite imposing structures, belonging to the dominion and provincial governments, which add much to the general appearance of the city. The large building occupied by the postoffice and other federal offices is constructed of brick, with stone facings, and is three

stories high, surmounted by a mansard roof. The penitentiary stands on an eminence in the northeastern portion of the city, and is a substantial stone structure of pleasing architecture. The insane asylum is a brick and stone building, commanding a fine view of the river. About these two, are quite extensive grounds, well laid out and neatly kept. The district court house is a substantial structure. There are many handsome residences, surrounded by tasteful flower gardens and neatly-kept lawns, and many shade and fruit trees.

The church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal) is a handsome and costly stone edifice, possessing a large chime of bells, presented to the parish by Baroness Burdett-Coutts. Good wooden edifices are occupied by the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist denominations. The Roman Catholic Indians have a church built exclusively by their own contributions. The Episcopal and Catholic bishops of the diocese reside here. An excellent public school is maintained, occupying a large, two story building, centrally located, and having ample playgrounds. There is also a high school for instruction in the more advanced studies. The St. Louis college, an institution for boys, sustained by the Roman Catholics, and the St. Ann convent, in which a girls' school is kept, are both handsome brick edifices, with cement facing. A school for girls is conducted under the auspices of the Episcopal church, and the Methodist and Presbyterian denominations jointly support a collegiate institution. These most excellent schools draw to the city pupils from throughout the entire province.

Several systems of water works supply the city with an abundance of pure water. The reservoirs being on elevated ground, the lower, or business, portions of the city enjoy ample protection from fire, by possessing a liberal supply of