

THE WEST SHORE.

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VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.



VANCOUVER city, British Columbia, is situated, not on Vancouver island, but on the main land of the province, and in the southwestern corner. The principal part of the city occupies a peninsula, bounded north by the waters of Burrard inlet, south by a small indentation called False creek, and west by English bay, of which the other two are arms. Far beyond the limits of the peninsula thus defined, however, the city is fast extending to the east, and to the south across False creek. The city was incorporated under the name "Vancouver" April 6, 1886, at which time it had a population numbering scarcely six hundred. Now there are within the limits of the corporation between twelve and thirteen thousand inhabitants, and in many respects it is one of the most remarkable towns on the Pacific slope of North America. The rapidly increasing importance of this young and enterprising city entitles it to more than passing notice, and THE WEST SHORE is pleased to present this month an account of its progress, present condition and prospects, with illustrations, which will give an excellent idea of the appearance of the city.

The site of Vancouver could scarcely have been better chosen for a large city. The peninsula on which it is located rises to an altitude of about two hundred feet at the highest point, and from the central ridge there is a distinct descent to the water's edge on either side. This affords the most perfect drainage at all times. Both Burrard inlet on the north, and English bay and False creek on the opposite side, are always safely navigable for the deepest draft vessels, and the first named, at least, is one of the finest harbors in the world. The extremity of the peninsula curves around to the northward (it is really another peninsula formed by an indentation from the inlet known as Coal harbor), leaving a passage at the narrows, or mouth of Burrard inlet, not more than half a mile wide. Opposite the city front, however, the inlet is more than two miles wide, with a depth varying from six to twenty fathoms. This arm of salt water extends inland more than twenty miles from Vancouver, and its two forks afford access by water to a considerable area of rich country, the products of which Vancouver governs. In this respect it serves the commercial purpose of a large river. Then, on the west and south, English bay and False creek afford accommodations for shipping. The capacity of the city for marine commerce can never be outgrown, no matter what magnitude it may attain. Its adaptability to the demands of commerce, the means it has for focusing a large volume of business at that point, and its capacity for expansion, must make Vancouver one of the most important cities of the Pacific coast. The healthful climate and location and altogether pleasant surroundings render it a very desirable residence place, and the control which it exercises over the products of the interior is already making it a prominent manufacturing city. As the terminus of the longest single railway line in the world it has an advantage that places it entirely beyond competition, and to this, as well as to its natural features of excellence, is due its phenomenal growth.

For twenty or thirty years the saw mills of Burrard inlet have been known in the lumber markets of the Pacific coast. Within the past decade, Southern California obtained a considerable portion of her lumber from the saw mills of British Columbia, and lumbering was the only industry of that section that was known