

improvements to the amount of \$30,000.00 are now under contract. There are two bridges across False creek and one across Coal harbor. The city has expended \$25,000.00 on sewers and will expend \$40,000.00 this year on its sewerage system. It has a telephone exchange of nearly two hundred subscribers. The fire department consists of two brigades, employing a total of sixty men, with modern apparatus for extinguishing fires. The water works plant, just completed, brings to the city an abundant supply of pure water from the headwaters of the Capilano creek, a mountain stream flowing from the northward into Burrard inlet near the first narrows. Seven miles from the city limits a reservoir with a capacity of fourteen million gallons was made by damming the creek, and from that reservoir the water is led in pipes down the mountain side and under the narrows, which is half a mile wide, to supply the system of mains in the city, and, through them, the consumers. The reservoir is two hundred feet above the highest point in the city, and over three hundred feet above the business and residence portion of the town. This gives an immense pressure without the necessity for steam pumps. The water is free from all impurities and the source of supply is in the mountains beyond possibility of contamination. The laying of the submerged main across the narrows was an engineering feat that required great skill to perform, and it was not until eminent engineers had tried and given it up as impossible of consummation that the pipe was finally laid amid public rejoicing. Though water is now being furnished consumers the system is just being perfected in the city. This water works system cost \$250,000.00, and it is one of the most important improvements, both from a sanitary and a commercial point of view, that has been made there. Seventy-five hydrants, judiciously placed about the city, furnish an efficient means for quenching fires. The system includes thirty miles of iron mains.

Vancouver is lighted by both gas and electricity. The Electric Illuminating Company lights the streets with nearly two thousand sixteen-candle power incandescent lamps, also furnishing lights to private consumers, and it is now arranging to add one hundred and twenty are lights to the street illumination, each to be of two thousand candle power. The Vancouver Gas Company is incorporated, with a capital stock of \$150,000.00, and has a capacity for supplying sixty thousand cubic feet of coal gas per day. The residuum of coke and coal tar is now utilized, and it is expected soon to manufacture asphaltum and aniline dyes, which will be an important addition to the city's already considerable list of manufactures.

The public schools of Vancouver, like those elsewhere in the province, belong to the provincial gov-

ernment. The buildings belong to the government and all current expenses are borne by the province, and the school tax paid by the citizens of Vancouver is not levied on property, but is a per capita tax. The local administration of school matters is vested in a school board, consisting of six members, chosen by popular suffrage, to whom is entrusted the direct supervision of the schools and all matters pertaining to the enforcement of regulations and their general control. It is now a graded common school system, but by the beginning of the next school year a high school will be organized with a suitable curriculum and an efficient corps of instructors. At the beginning of the present school year, nine teachers, including the head master, were employed in the city. Now the corps includes twelve teachers, and fifteen must be provided for the first term next fall. One school building has been constructed this year, and a large central high school will be built next year, for which an appropriation of \$17,000.00 has already been made. The Roman Catholic church maintains a parochial school, which is well patronized.

In the matter of public parks, the city is well provided for. All that part of the peninsula west of Coal harbor, comprising some nine hundred and sixty acres, belongs to the crown, and is leased by the city for a public park. A driveway entirely around this park has been constructed of gravel and shells, and it is much patronized. From some of the elevations on this road the view is one of the grandest imaginable. The precipitous mountains on the north side of the inlet, only six or eight miles away, raise their craggy crest line to a height of over six thousand feet, and carry a covering of snow a large portion of the year. The spurs of the Cascades approach very near the coast; in fact, salt water washes the very base of the mountains in some cases. Seaward, the numerous islands that dot the waters of the Gulf of Georgia are plainly in view, and all the shore lines are very picturesque. Southward, Point Gray juts out from the main land beyond English bay, and to the eastward the main ridge of the Cascades extends across the horizon, rugged and snow-capped. The park itself—Stanley park, it is called—is covered with a wild forest, filled with game of many kinds, which no one is permitted to kill. Besides the road around the park, drives traversing it in various directions are being constructed, making it one of the most charming driving resorts in the country. The city has erected a park lodge, where the keeper resides, devoting his whole time to the care of the park and to protecting its primeval beauty. A small portion of this park is set aside for the athletic clubs of the city and suitably fitted for them. In the eastern part of the city is a tract of one hundred and sixty