

acres donated to Vancouver by the government for a park, on certain conditions of improvement, which are being complied with. There is another park of forty acres on the south side of False creek. Three smaller parks in the city occupy a total area of about twenty acres, and are very attractive ornaments. The municipal government recently paid \$15,000.00 for a centrally located market square. The one cemetery is situated on the south side and is owned and cared for by the city.

Vancouver has a well organized police department, which is self sustaining. Saloon licenses are \$500.00 each, and drinking places are kept under strict police surveillance. The city owns and maintains a hospital, which it built last year at a cost of \$10,000.00. It is under the direction of a hospital board of five medical men. The city hall is a commodious building, in which are the headquarters of all the departments of the city government. The municipal government consists of a mayor and board of ten aldermen, elected by ballot, and the usual other officers acting under their direction. An enterprising policy regarding public affairs of all kinds is pursued. The board of trade is an active and strong organization, which is an important aid to the business development of the town. Its members are the prominent business men of the city, and they labor for the best interests of the municipality in everything that comes within the scope of their operation.

The government has appropriated \$23,000.00 for the erection of a court house and registrar's office in Vancouver this year. Heretofore Vancouver has been included in the New Westminster district, and all transfers of real estate had to pass through the land registrar's hands there; but the growing importance of the new city has made necessary the formation of a new district, of which it will be the headquarters. The method of recording real estate transfers in vogue in British Columbia is known as the Torrens system, and it is a great deal simpler than the older and more general mode observed in most places. The registrar is a salaried government official, and the government is made responsible for any flaw in title through any transfer. This does away with all necessity for abstracts, and the purchaser is secured against loss by reason of careless or fraudulent transfers. Besides the land registrar's office, it is expected that the government will soon establish a signal station at Vancouver. The city is of such recent growth that the government is but just beginning to appreciate its importance and to provide accommodations for it. As yet, it has not had representation in the provincial legislature, but it is expected that it will have two or three members in the next sitting of that body.

Fraternal and benevolent organizations are well

represented in Vancouver. There are lodges of Free Masons, Odd Fellows, Good Templars, Knights of Labor, Knights of Pythias, Locomotive engineers, United Workmen, Foresters, Sons of England, and a St. Andrew's society. They embrace a large membership and wield a considerable influence for the good of society. The city has a public reading room, a Young Men's Christian Association, which is contemplating the erection of a fine building on a site that has already been donated, and a Woman's Christian Temperance Union, all of them in a very flourishing condition. There are at present nine church edifices in the city—two Methodist, two Presbyterian, two Episcopal, a Congregational, a Baptist and a Roman Catholic—and preparations are being made to erect several others. Besides these, the Methodists have a Chinese congregation, presided over by a native Chinese missionary, and a Chinese mission school.

The news field is unusually well covered in Vancouver. The *News-Advertiser* is a morning daily of eight pages, which is ably conducted and presents a full quota of the news of the world each morning. The *Evening World* is a publication but a few months old, but it is a vigorous, enterprising and newsy journal, and merits the large patronage it receives. Both papers issue weekly editions. They are clean and efficient exponents of the public interests.

The business institutions of the city are of an unusually stable character. Many of them are branches of old eastern establishments that have long been noted for their security and sagacity. The city has four banking houses, three of which are branches of eastern concerns, and the total capital represented by them is about \$20,000,000.00. Many other business houses are of similar stability. Throughout the entire province last year there were only thirteen business failures, and of these the total assets exceeded the liabilities by some \$26,000.00. Perhaps it would be well to consider a few figures in connection with the volume of business transacted in Vancouver for 1888. During the twelve months, the Canadian Pacific railway brought to the city nearly thirty-nine thousand tons, and forwarded from Vancouver about twenty-two thousand tons of freight. Over five hundred and sixteen thousand packages of merchandise were exported to China and Japan via the Canadian Pacific steamers, and the imports from the same source aggregated over five hundred and seventy-four thousand packages, a gain of more than a hundred per cent. over the previous year. The Canadian Pacific company disbursed in Vancouver, for various purposes during the year, \$648,234.65. The local custom house records show that for the last fiscal year there arrived in Vancouver two hundred and seventy-one marine craft, of a total of one hundred and thirty-