

# THE WEST SHORE.

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## BRITISH COLUMBIA'S CAPITAL CITY.



PROMINENT among the beautiful cities of the Pacific coast is Victoria, the capital of the province of British Columbia. It is situated in the southeastern part of Vancouver island, about an irregular indentation from the Strait of Juan de Fuca on the south. One arm of the harbor, extending a short distance to the eastward, is known as James bay, and another, the North

arm or Portage inlet, reaches inland a distance of several miles in a northwesterly direction, forming the outlet for the Deadman river, and for the Colquitz, which drains a small lake to the north. About these arms of Victoria harbor the city is built on moderately undulating ground, overlooking the broad strait, with the snow-covered Olympic mountains plainly in view on the main land of Washington to the south, and the majestic peaks of the Cascades relieving the landscape to the southeast and east. From Victoria the nearest mainland is about twenty miles distant, south to Port Angeles. The nearest Canadian mainland is northeastward about sixty miles by the main routes of travel. Vancouver island extends south some forty miles farther than any other portion of the international boundary west of the great lakes, so Victoria faces American territory on the south and also on the east, but between it and the eastern mainland are innumerable islands, for which that arm of the ocean is noted.

Approaching Victoria from the south, as all travel except from points on the island must, the view presented by the city captivates every visitor. It does not in any sense wear that stereotyped expression which makes so many cities commonplace from the

very frequent duplication of styles. It has a beauty that is all its own. It is unique. In the first place, the site is different from those occupied by most of the prominent Pacific coast cities. The town does not boast of rugged precipices or towering hills within its limits. Neither is it by any means a flat. There are moderate eminences in various portions of the city, which have been improved for sites for architectural piles of imposing dimensions. These are prominent features of the city seen from a distance. The streets are not laid off in the stiff regularity of a checker board. The main thoroughfares are clearly defined for long distances, but in all parts of the town are streets of varying widths, joining each other at every conceivable angle. They are roads, walks, lanes, places, streets, etc. All but the main business streets are lined with shade trees, and all are kept in excellent condition. The long lines of wharves and manufacturing establishments along the water front show that the city is not wanting in business activity, additional evidence of which is furnished by the busy thoroughfares of the town. A number of bridges spanning the arms of water extending into or through the city add to its general appearance. The scene in the harbor is enlivened by the shipping, large and small craft of all kinds that ply on the waters of the sound or ocean being found there.

Victoria is preëminently a city to delight the heart of the tourist. Almost the first thing to attract his attention after landing is the large number of good hotels, there being more than a dozen good establishments of this kind, one or two of which have almost a world-wide reputation for the excellence of their accommodations. The various public buildings also come prominently into notice. The provincial capitol is located on the south side of James bay, which is crossed by a bridge on Government street leading directly to the capitol square. The buildings are six in number, accommodating the different departments of the provincial government — treasury, land and