

THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER.

DURING the time of the Fraser river gold excitement, in 1858, the city of New Westminster, British Columbia, was founded, by Colonel Moody, of the royal engineers, who considered it the most advantageous site for the capital of the province. The city is located on the north bank of the river, fifteen miles from its mouth, is accessible for deep water shipping, and lies in the heart of a section of varied and valuable resources. Steamers also ply up the river a hundred miles to Yale which is the center of a district of considerable importance.

The city of New Westminster is chiefly known abroad for its salmon trade and its lumber business, but the agricultural interests of the district are now coming into prominence and giving the city additional stability. The good farming territory of British Columbia is not a very large proportion of its whole area. There are considerable tracts that are fine grazing lands, and others that irrigation would render fertile, but much of this territory that will ultimately, of course, become valuable, is now practically inaccessible for the ordinary tiller of the soil. The largest and most valuable tract of farming land in the province is in the southwest corner, in the valley and delta of Fraser river, and New Westminster is situated in the midst of that great garden. Lulu, Sea and Westham islands, comprising the delta of the river, have an area of over fifty thousand acres of the choicest land. It is not heavily timbered, and the rich, alluvial soil yields crops of first quality and in surprising quantity. Three tons of hay are taken from an acre, ninety bushels of oats, seventy-five of wheat, and of root crops four hundred to eight hundred bushels. At the last local fair turnips weighing forty pounds each were on exhibition, and oats weighing fifty-five pounds to the measured bushel. What is known as the municipality of Delta is a similar area lying between the Fraser and Boundary bay, on the south. The municipalities of Surrey, Langley, Maple Ridge and Chilliwack occupy the valley on both sides of the river above New Westminster, and embrace an area of nearly five hundred square miles of the very best agricultural lands. These extend northward from the American boundary a distance of about twenty-five miles, but only include what is in the political district of New Westminster. Farming lands reach much farther up the Fraser and also up the valleys of its tributaries, the Pitt, the Stave and the Siwash. A choice tract, comprising some fifty thousand acres, has recently come into notice on the Stave, and is, as yet, almost entirely unoccupied. These are all excellent farming lands. They are easily cleared for the plow, and the soil is an alluvium

mixed with a clay loam. The agricultural productions include the common grains, roots, vegetables and a variety of fruits. A failure of crops was never known in that region. Dairying is a profitable industry and it is growing in importance. While in the valley there is no government land to speak of, a considerable portion of the area is yet unimproved and may be purchased at moderate prices. On the northern branches of the Fraser there are still eligible locations which may be obtained from the government or from the railroad company on reasonable terms. In the interior there are large amounts of land of all degrees of fertility and in all sorts of locations, that are waiting for settlers.

There are twelve large salmon canneries within easy reach of New Westminster. These establishments represent an invested capital of \$500,000.00, they employ over five thousand men during the fishing season and pay out over \$400,000.00 a year for supplies. The Fraser river canneries turned out last year forty-one thousand six hundred cases of salmon. This is one of the most important industries of that region. Three saw mills are now in operation in the city, their daily capacity being one hundred and twenty-five thousand feet of lumber. By far the largest saw mill in the province is now in course of construction at New Westminster. It will have a capacity for sawing two hundred thousand feet per day. Vessels bound to the several foreign markets to which this lumber is shipped have no difficulty in ascending the river and taking their cargoes from the wharves at the mills. The timber is obtained in abundance up the Fraser river and its tributaries, and floated down to the mills where it is held in booms until manufactured. Lumber sawing constitutes the most important single manufacturing industry of the city. It has, however, the only woolen mill in the province, two foundries and machine shops, a furniture manufactory, planing mills, sash and door factories and cigar factories. The volume of products turned out by these establishments has an important influence on the prosperity of the city. The New Westminster, Bellingham Bay & Seattle railway, now in process of construction between Seattle and New Westminster, will have its shops in the latter city and will build a railway and traffic bridge across the Fraser river, this having been agreed upon as a consideration for a bonus and certain terminal facilities which were granted it.

New Westminster is well supplied with educational facilities, it having good public schools, a high school, and two or three private educational institutions. It has the only free public library in the province. There is a public hospital, and also one which cost \$20,000.00 under the auspices of the Ro-