

large volume of products. Two lumber yards are maintained in the city, and two or three ship yards. On Esquimalt harbor, about three miles from Victoria, there is one of the largest saw mills on the island. Two or three other mills of large sawing capacity are projected, one of which will be erected immediately. The timber for these mills is obtained near the shore to the west, and also to the north, and is rafted and towed by tug boats to the mill. The principal variety utilized is the fir, though considerable quantities of cedar and hemlock are used, and some oak, maple and white pine. There is a good field for the operation of pulp and paper mills, woolen mills and flouring mills.

Nothing is more apparent to any one who takes pains to observe the condition of business affairs in Victoria, than the fact that unusual preparations are being made to increase the city's interests in all directions. One of the most prominent enterprises now on foot is an electric street railway, the rate payers having a few weeks ago decided to guarantee the payment of five per cent. interest on bonds to be issued by the street railway company in sufficient amount to put the road in operation. The work of construction will be begun at once, and a considerable portion of the line is expected to be in running order this season, the total length projected being about fifteen miles, on the main thoroughfares leading to points of interest in the suburbs of the city. A short railway to extend northward up the Saamish peninsula is also under serious consideration, with prospects of soon being consummated. Large smelting works for the reduction of iron and copper ores are also in contemplation by capitalists having an interest in the development of the mines of the island and province. Many such institutions as saw mills, sash and door factories, glass factories, rope factories, wood and willow ware, drain and tile works, etc., etc., are in process of construction or in contemplation by men of means. The facilities Victoria has for obtaining raw products and marketing manufactured goods, as well as its capacity for handling and distributing them, must make the city an important manufacturing center. The most promising prospect now lying before the town is in the line of manufacturing, and it is in every way fitted to improve its opportunity; and it is improving it as operations on every hand show.

In addition to the advantages which the city offers as a business center, it commends itself particularly as a desirable place of residence. All the surroundings are such as suit it to be a city of homes. In no respect does it resemble a frontier town. Experienced travelers are surprised and charmed by the delightful influences with which they find themselves surrounded in Victoria. Its distinguishing features

are not entirely English, nor are they American. To an Englishman it seems quite like an American city, and to an American quite British. It has the appearance of a prosperous and progressive eastern city in many respects. It has all the conveniences, such as newspapers, banking, telegraph and telephone facilities, churches, schools, fraternal and benevolent organizations of all kinds, libraries, theaters, clubs and innumerable other things that make life pleasant. The town is more than usually well supplied with newspapers, there being three daily journals, each having a weekly edition, and a monthly periodical devoted to the mines and ranges. These are all creditable to the community in which they are published. The society of the city reminds one of that of many eastern towns in its freedom from crude and unpleasant features. The fact that it is becoming a favorite residence place is abundantly shown by the great number of palatial dwellings lining the eligible streets, and the activity manifested in constructing new ones. The climate, too, is an important consideration in this connection. It is always delightfully mild there, no snow to speak of falling in the winter time and the summers being free from drouths and hot periods. The proximity of the ocean and the large arm that separates the island from the main land, together with the prevailing winds, insures an equable temperature; and the moisture is not excessive—a fact worthy of consideration.

The municipal affairs of Victoria are in a healthy condition. The annual income is about \$170,000.00, which is sufficient for all current expenditures of the city government. The various departments are efficiently and economically managed, and a liberal policy is pursued with regard to all enterprises that contribute to the welfare of the town. The city water works system furnishes water for public and private uses, and gas and electric companies supply power and illumination. The water supply is obtained from a lake in the hills some distance from the city, and the natural pressure from the elevation of the reservoir is sufficient to carry the water to all but the higher levels, for which steam pressure is applied a portion of the time. The present system cost about \$250,000.00, and the annual receipts are nearly \$45,000.00. Preparations are now being made to improve the plant to correspond with the rapid growth of the city. The water furnished is of excellent quality. There are sixty-two hydrants for fire protection and ten cisterns from which to draw water for the same purpose. Twenty-five additional hydrants will be erected this year. The fire department consists of twenty-six paid men in four companies, with complete equipment for extinguishing fires, the estimated total value of all property belonging to the department