

where it may accumulate, and men are not permitted to enter any part of the mine where the foreman has reported the presence of gas.

The stables are located in the south level in large quarters which have been excavated, and there are kept a number of mules, and although they are well-housed and fed, they have few glimpses of daylight after they are taken into the mines. They are used in hauling carts.

All men employed in the mines work on eight-hour shifts, the first shift going down at 6 a.m. and being relieved at 2 p.m. Some of them may have a considerable distance to go after reaching the bottom of the shaft, and therefore they may not be able to get in more than seven hours' time. As the miners work on piece-work, they lose no time when they reach their stalls.

PROTECTION ISLAND SHAFT

Is Another Outfit for Number One, and is Over Six Hundred Feet Deep.

The Protection Island shaft is really another outlet or extension for No. 1 shaft, and is 670 feet in depth. The main slope is one mile long and worked by means of a main rope system of haulage. The diagonal slope is 1,000 yards long and is also operated by main rope system of haulage. No. 1 lead, from which the long wall system is working, has been opened out, is about 1,000 yards long. The engine for operating the long wall system in the two slopes is on the surface, and the power is transmitted underground by means of an endless rope. At this shaft is a pair of horizontal hoisting engines, with 26-inch cylinder and 42-inch stroke, with 10-ton drum, and one hauling engine with 12-inch cylinder and 3-foot stroke.

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NEW VANCOUVER COAL CO.—NO. 1 SHAFT.

diameter, and an air compressing engine, 12x14.

The workings of these mines are similar to the description of No. 1. The men employed at Protection and Newcastle Islands are conveyed to their work on boats owned by the company.

Among the mines soon to be opened are the Harwood and No. 2-Southfield mines. At the former a platform and screen are now being erected, so that coal may be dumped in wagons and brought to the city. As soon as possible railhead connection will be made with

this mine from the Southfield mine, and coal can then be hauled to the bunkers at small expense.

The company owns trinable acres of

coal lands, and prospecting with the dia-

mond drill has been going on for over a

year, with good results. All the mines

are turning out an excellent quality of coal, and it finds a ready market, the bulk of it going to California.

THE OUTPUT

Last Year Was \$14,773 Tone—Number of Men Employed and Wages Paid.

The output of the mines last year was \$14,773 tons, and of this amount 447,464 tons went to the United States. At the present time 1,400 men are employed about the mines, railway and wharves, and \$85,000 per month is disbursed for help.

In his report to the Minister of Mines last year, Mr. Robins made the following interesting statement: "There were employed in the mines 530 white miners, earning from \$3 to \$4.50 per day. Below ground, 385 white laborers earned from \$2.50 to \$3 per day, and on the surface 36 men were employed at \$2.50 per day; 81 skilled laborers and mechanics were paid \$3 to \$4 per day; 68 boys earned from \$1 to \$2 per day, and 189 Chinamen worked for \$1.25 to \$1.25 per day. No Chinaman is employed under-

COMPANY'S FARM

Large Tracts of Land Cut Into Five Acres Lots for Miners—The Athletic Club.

Strangers in the city always find a visit to the company's farm an interesting event. Here many acres of land have been cleared and are in perfect condition for agricultural purposes. On this farm is raised all the fodder used by the company's horses and mules, as well as large quantities of the succulent

roots which thrive so well in this vicinity. Under the personal direction of Mr. S. M. Robins large tracts of wild land have been made to bloom and blossom and these tracts have been cut up into five-acre lots and sold to employees of the mines. They are now beautiful spots, and at every exposition held in the vicinity of Nanaimo the floral, fruit and vegetable showings from the five-acre lots have commanded attention and earned many prizes. At the expense of the company, too, splendid streets and roads have been constructed through these lots, making them most attractive places.

Nor does Mr. Robins do elegantly and his employees stop there. He is a contributor to the running expenses of the Nanaimo Athletic Club, a place now well fitted up with gymnasiums, library and recreation rooms. This club is well patronized by the younger miners. He strongly favors outdoor sports, and tries in every way to encourage them. To this end handsome grounds are always kept in first-class shape for cricket, lacrosse, baseball and football, and no charge is made the clubs taking part in the games. Small wonder that Mr. Robins is a favorite with his men, and that strikes do not occur in the mines operated by the New Vancouver Coal Co.

For information contained in this article the writer is indebted to Mr. J. P. Planta and Mr. Thomas Russell, the latter furnishing the statistical part, which may be relied upon as accurate. Mr. Bates and other officials of the company also cheerfully gave any information asked for. The principal photographs were taken by E. C. Brooks of Nanaimo, some, however, being kindly loaned by Mr. F. H. Shepherd, a mining engineer of the Coal City.

The March of Victoria's Progress.

Some of Improvements Which Have Been Made in the City During the Past Year.

On Every Side There Are Unmistakable Evidences of the Tide of Prosperity.

Large Number of Imposing Structures and Palatial Residences Have Been Erected.

It requires little consideration on the part of the observer to convince him that during the past ten months Victoria has entered an era of progress, which should continue to place her in the very front rank of the cities of the Pacific Northwest. If there is one unerring authority by which the extent of this progress may be ascertained it is that of statistics, and when these point to the growth of this city they point to the growth of the building operations during the recent year.

This period, too, has witnessed the commencement of construction of a new rifle range at Clover Point. At least half a thousand houses have been erected in various works initiated by the naval authorities. At Wark Point a new battery has been constructed and occupies a position hitherto held by the various gun batteries.

Another important innovation was the garrisoning of the Hospital barracks by Col. McKay and a company, 3d. R. C. H. Through the presence of this splendid body of men at that place the citizens reap a pecuniary harvest by the various contributions it entails.

Victoria is rapidly doffing her old garments and, gradually, donning a new coat, and it only requires a continuation of the process to make her in every essential feature what she is in name, the Queen City of the West.

DECADENCE OF SHACKISM.

Frontside Shows Taken to Residential, Especial Delightful Landmarks Described.

Undoubtedly one of the most commendable improvements carried on in Victoria during the past ten months was the destruction of the dilapidated shacks which for many years infested them selves with almost painful regularity upon the view in different portions of the city. The majority of these were in Chinatown and vicinity, although the

The Wiping Out of Old Shacks in Chinatown a Conspicuous Feature of Operations.

degree of rapidity, and even he would be tempted Providence.

The danger to this city of the existence of these buildings was obvious. Bubonic plague and kindred evils could find no better breeding place, and this fact commanded itself forcibly to the health authorities. Armed with the authority of the law as set forth in the Health and Building by-laws, the sanitary and building officials explored these quarters thoroughly and immediately instigated a crusade which has resulted in the demolition of almost, if not all, the shacks in the district.

When a building is condemned by the building inspector the adoption of his recommendation by the city council clothes him with the authority to order the destruction of the premises. On the other hand, when the sanitary inspector's report is submitted recommending the destruction of the shack, as nuisances, the owners are requested to confer with the council, in order to give reasons why their structures should not be destroyed.

During the beginning of spring in one of his investigating tours the sanitary inspector encountered a rendezvous of which doubtless could not be eclipsed anywhere. This was in the brick walls between Cormorant and Fisgard streets, belonging to the Porter estate. Although the apartments were only of ordinary dimensions, the Celestial occupants had seen fit to bisect it horizontally with a secondary ceiling. As one apartment served the purposes of cooking, sleeping, and general living room, the scene that met the eye of the inspector on his round can be more adequately imagined than described.

That was one of the starting points of the campaign of eradicating eye-sores, which is still going on. On April 2nd a report was submitted, recommending the destruction of six one-story cabins on Fisgard street, between Government and Douglas, two more in the same vicinity, and four more not far away. This recommendation was carried out to the letter and battalions of rats and Chinese were made temporary homeowners. On April 17th there were five more on Fisgard street, between Government and Douglas streets, and two more in the immediate vicinity, including the old hospital destroyed. These were given to the flames as the most successful purifier. In one of these shacks the firemen who presided over the conflagration discovered a considerable quantity of dynamite, which, had it exploded, would have removed every house in the neighborhood and probably transformed the market building into another structure altogether to say nothing of the morgue and the sanitary inspector's headquarters in the market yard.

Eleven more shacks on the corner of Government and Chatham streets met the fate of their predecessors, and another source of danger was removed. The next move was made on Pandora street, where the cottage of Mrs. Doreen Dewitt courted investigation. This resulted in its condemnation, but its owner fought the advancing tide of progress tenaciously and stubbornly, and her resistance was responsible for the postponement of the day of the eradication of the house for some time. Finally, the inspector decided upon drastic measures. Accompanied by several members of the fire department, he proceeded to the domain of the late lady one morning at three o'clock, and immediately commenced the operations of removal. The owner of the cottage, who lived in the neighbor-

hood, appeared on the scene in batches array and made a spirited attack on one of the workmen, truculently endeavoring to baffle him of his beard. Finally quiet was restored and the work was executed. This was one of the most exciting incidents in connection with the campaign.

On May 4th, four frame buildings on Cormorant street, between Government and Store streets, were condemned, and subsequently destroyed. Then followed ten more on the south side of the same street, between Government and Store. Ten is the number given, but with the addition of adjuncts in the way of chicken houses, sheds, and other structures, a score, perhaps, would be more accurate. The unsightly abomination on Government street, between Cormorant and Fisgard, next came under the civic ban and the bat went forth for their destruction. The inevitable conference between the council and the owners was held, and the destruction took place not very long ago. The sanitary inspector was not satisfied that the procedure adopted in the operations was as speedy as it might be, so he hit upon the expedient of calling the street roller, Jumbo, into requisition.

The ponderous machine worked famously, and it did not require much time to convert the plash of shacks into a decided vacuum. The debris was burned under the watchful eyes of the fire department. On Hing is now erecting a brick building on the corner.

Two more buildings on Fisgard street followed the usual course. The old stable on Broad street, just north of Fort street, was condemned in July and ultimately demolished. The old shack on Government street used as a storehouse for hay by Messrs. Brackman & Korn was dealt with in similar manner, as was a cottage and two sheds on Quadra street belonging to S. J. Pitts. There are more old tumble-down establishments on Fisgard street which have gone the way of the others, and in some instances a Kansas cyclone could not have done the work in better style than the corps

of workmen. The Porter estate, through their agent, T. Worthington, voluntarily destroyed some of their Fisgard street properties, and in their place have erected a brick building.

At the meeting of the city council a few evenings ago reports were received from the building and sanitary inspectors recommending the destruction of shacks on the corners of Johnson and Broad streets, one on the north side of Cormorant street, and two on Fisgard.

These will also be removed in what has now become the natural order of things.

In almost every case, the old relics and landmarks ordered destroyed have been replaced by substantial-brick buildings. This certainly would not have happened had the authorities relaxed their vigilance. The effluxion of time would have compelled the owners to ultimately remove holdings that were in danger of falling to pieces from very antiquity, but this might have been done before the action was taken.

It would not be an extravagant assertion to state that nearly one hundred shacks of various descriptions have been destroyed by the authorities within the past ten months. Some of the owners have shown themselves more public-spirited, by not only waiving all opposition, but by assisting the authorities to the utmost in their work. Then again, there were a few thorns. Some of the agents and owners raised all sorts of opposition and delayed the operations, although the result was always the same.

To the traveller who visited the parlors of Chinatown and who noted the large number of old shacks a year or two ago, the improvement during the past ten months has commanded itself, perhaps more decidedly than to the citizens to whom the metamorphosis is not perceptible.

Great credit is due both the inspectors, as well as the city council for the great work, and while no disparagement to previous councils is intended, it is most certainly a fact that in the matter of

Many Works Instituted by Naval and Military Authorities—Activity in Shipping Circles.

removing the objectionable building features in the way of buildings greatly advanced, along the line of decadence this year has seen the most extensive improvement.

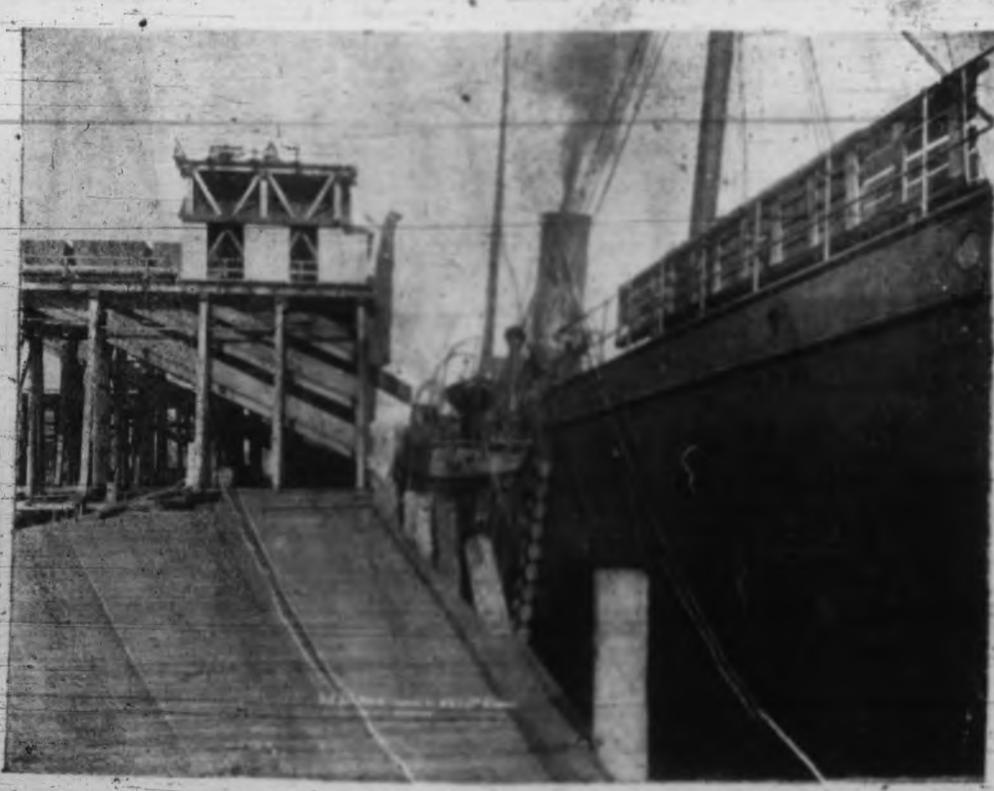
PLEthora of BUILDINGS.

Many Handsome Structures Have Been Erected During the Past Ten Months.

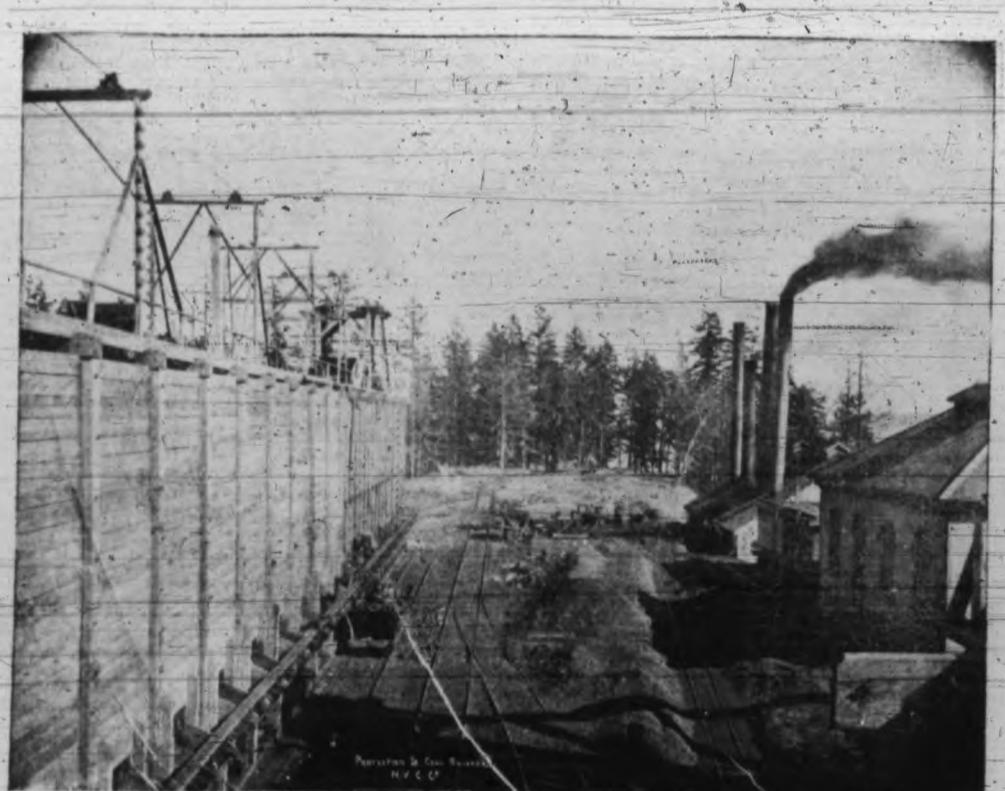
There is one sign by which the status of a municipality in the line of progress may be accurately gauged. That is the extent of building operations carried on, and such a criterion may be considered as more valuable than any other.

The community in which no building has taken place is of a certainty dead, and stagnation in this particular is nothing less than the precursor of retrogression. No far-seeing, enterprising man of business, follower of any of the professions, or artificer, would willingly invest in a city that, owing to adverse conditions, is incapable of giving him some return, and the fact that in Victoria during the past ten months building enterprise has been so marked, indicates that those vitally interested are convinced that an era of great prosperity has arrived.

In many cities, notably in those south of the forty-ninth line of latitude, the active construction of buildings of a more than ordinary pretentious character is the outward and visible sign of a "boom." The word "boom," according to its accepted usage, is somewhat of a stranger to Victorians, and sensationalism is wholly foreign to the nature of the citizens. Solidarity is the main characteristic, and consequently when



NEW VANCOUVER CO.—SAN MATEO LOADING.



NEW VANCOUVER CO.—PROTECTION ISLAND BUNKERS.

