

# The United Service: Esquimalt and Victoria.

**O**NE of the features of life in Victoria which makes it distinctive from that of all other cities on the coast is its interest as a garrison town. Esquimalt, two or three miles distant, and connected with the city by tramcar, is the seat of the North Pacific squadron; and at Work Point Barracks, about a mile nearer the city, a garrison of almost five hundred regular troops lie in quarters. It is generally understood that all that has prevented this garrison from being increased to double its size has been the lack of accommodation in the way of quarters for the men. This is being rapidly overcome, the sum of \$125,000 having been appropriated two or three years ago for the provision of accommodation for the authorized garrison. The latter are now in course of erection, a considerable number of blocks being already completed and occupied.

Here the soldiers and sailors of the King keep watch at the western outpost of the Empire, over the Straits which form the pathway of commerce to the Pacific coast cities. Disappearing and quick-firing guns are mounted at the different points overlooking the entrance to the harbor, while from Rodd Hill powerful searchlights sweep the waters for miles. The handy men, and their colleagues of the Absent Mind, are familiar figures on the streets of the city.

For a year a company of the Third Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, raised for service in Halifax, was posted in the city. These were, however, withdrawn in the spring of the year to rejoin headquarters on the Atlantic coast. The military occupancy of the province commenced in 1858, when Colonel

Almost immediately afterwards the excitement over the Trent affair became intense, and two companies of volunteer rifles were organized, one at Victoria and the other at New Westminster. The one in Victoria was under the command of Capt. Lang, and that in New Westminster under Capt. Brew, and later Capt. Pritchard. About the same time the Seymour battery of artillery volunteers was organized in New Westminster under Captain (now Sir) Henry Crease. These military organizations remained in existence until Confederation in 1871, when they were disbanded.

On the 13th of February, 1874, the militia of the province was organized, two rifle companies being raised in Victoria, one in New Westminster, and one in Nanaimo. In 1873 or 1874 an artillery company was formed in Victoria by Major Dupont. Prior to this, however, the Canadian government had decided to fortify Victoria and also garrison it. In 1876 Lieut.-Colonel D. T. Irwin, commanding the Royal Canadian Artillery, arrived in Victoria and selected suitable positions to place batteries in order to protect the city and the dry dock at Esquimalt. One battery was placed on Brothers Island, and one on Macaulay Point. This consisted of three eight-inch rifled muzzle loaders on the island, and three seven-inch rifled muzzle loaders of 6½ tons on the point. The latter have since been replaced by more modern ordnance. On Fislayson Point, Beacon Hill, three batteries of 64 pounders, R. M. L., were placed.

The company organized by Major Dupont became the nucleus of the present Fifth Regiment Canadian Artillery, which was organized provisionally on the 12th of October, 1878. It was successively commanded by Major Dupont,



R. E. AND R. G. A. ON PARADE AT WORK POINT.

with Regimental Sergt.-Major A. Mulcahy. The battery arrived in Victoria on November 17th, 1887, and were met at the wharf by Mayor Fell and a vast crowd of people, who gave the men a royal welcome. There being no barracks built at the time, the old Agricultural hall at Beacon Hill was fitted up for their accommodation, and here they were posted for three years.

In 1889 the battery was dispatched to the Skeena river, where trouble was anticipated owing to some white men having been killed by Indians. No further trouble was experienced, however, the show of force having the desired effect. C battery was considered one of the finest bodies of men ever seen in British Columbia, being of exceptionally good physique. Many people will remember the tug-of-war team which defeated the firemen of Victoria, who were then champions of British Columbia, the competition taking place in the market building, the pull being on cleats and lasting two hours and fourteen minutes.

C battery was transferred to Quebec in 1893, Col. Holmes, the D.O.C., being put in command of the Manitoba military district. Major Peters was promoted Lieut.-Colonel and placed in command of British Columbia, and Sergt.-Major Mulcahy transferred to the permanent staff with the Fifth Regiment, C. A. C battery has maintained its proud record, being present at the relief of Mafeking, where it won high encomiums from Major-General Baden-Powell.

The colonial defence committee having recommended that the important coaling station of Esquimalt should be placed in a proper state of defence, steps were taken in 1889 to carry out their suggestions. In that year Lieut. J. I. Lang, R.E., a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, was dispatched with Company Sergt.-Major Hopkins, Corporal Peckham, and Sapper Longman for the purpose of making a preliminary survey of the land in the vicinity of Victoria and Esquimalt. This occupied about two years and a half, and on its completion the party returned to Halifax. It is interesting to note that the officer in charge is now a major (Lang-Hyde), and for distinguished work on a delimitation boundary commission on the West Coast of Africa was created a C.M.G. Sergt.-Major Hopkins has recently been gazetted as quartermaster, with the honorary rank of lieutenant.

It was not until 1893 that the Imperial and Dominion governments finally agreed that defence works, estimated to cost about \$300,000, should be constructed, the expense to be borne as a joint charge against the two governments. The Dominion government agreed to pay the entire cost of the Imperial garrison, consisting of three officers and seventy-two non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Marine Artillery (of which two officers and fifteen non-coms, and men were for duty as submarine miners), and to hand over the Work Point Barracks, then occupied by C Battery, R.C.A., complete with equipment, at a valuation to be deducted from the Dominion share of the cost of the fortifications. They were also to provide the land required for the defence works. The Imperial government undertook the superintendence of the works and to provide the armament and necessary vessels and stores for submarine mining, and half the cost of the defence works.

On the 4th of August, 1893, Lieuts. Templer and Barnes, R.M.A., with fifteen non-coms, and men arrived from England to take over Work Point Barracks. The next night C Battery, R. C. A., left Victoria to rejoin headquarters at Quebec. Shortly afterwards Major H. H. Muirhead, R.E., the officer specially selected by the war office to superintend the construction of the defence works, arrived from England.

Having looked over the ground Major Muirhead recommended that the works should be constructed by day labor, under sapper superintendence. A detachment of the 18th Co., R.E., consisting of

Lieut. (now captain) Gordon, a nephew of Chinese Gordon, with 20 non-coms and men arrived from Halifax on the 1st of May. Work on the battery at Macaulay Point was almost immediately commenced, a large corps of civilian laborers being engaged. The remaining works were taken in hand in succession until completed, and early in 1896 the armament for the fortifications arrived and was mounted in the various works by the detachment of Royal Marine Artillery.

In 1897 the stores for submarine mining purposes were received from England and housed in the establishment at Signal Hill by the submarine mining detachment R.M.A. In May, 1897, Lieut.-Col. Rawstone, R.M.A., on promotion to the rank of regimental lieutenant-colonel, had to return to headquarters at Portsmouth. He was succeeded in the command of the troops by Lieut.-Col. H. H. Muirhead, R.E., and in the command of the detachment of R.M.A. by Major W. F. Trotter.

On the 1st of September, 1898, Lieut.-Col. Muirhead left the station on the completion of his term of foreign service, and was succeeded in the command of the troops by Major A. Grant, R.E., who was given local rank as lieutenant-colonel.

During 1895 Col. E. P. Leach, V.C. C.B., commanding the R. E. in Canada, came from Halifax and inspected the defence works in course of construction. The troops have also been inspected by Majors-General Herbert and Hutton, commanding the Canadian militia, Generals Montgomery-Moore and Lord William Seymour, commanding the Imperial troops, and within the last few months by Col. Bliscoe, commanding troops in Canada, and Lieut.-Col. Conner, C.R.E., Canada.

On March 31st, 1899, the five years for which the detachment of Royal Marine Artillery was loaned for garrison duty expired, but they were retained for a further period of six months pending the settlement of a fresh agreement between the Imperial and Dominion governments consequent on the necessity for an increase of the garrison.

This agreement, which was finally consummated, was in the main as follows:

One company Royal Garrison Artillery.

One and a half companies of Royal Engineers.

The Dominion government to pay half the cost of the garrison, and to defray half the cost of providing additional barrack accommodation.

During the period, 1893 to 1899, during which the R.M.A. was stationed here,



LIEUT.-COL. A. GRANT, R. E., COMMANDING TROOPS AT WORK POINT.

Richard Clement Moody, of the Royal Engineers, was sent out by Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton with the comprehensive functions of chief in command of the R. E., chief commissioner of lands and works, and a commission to act as Governor in the absence of that dignitary. His second in command reached Victoria with a detachment of twelve men on the 8th of November, 1858, while the main body, under Colonel Moody, came round the Horn some time later. Captain Grant's detachment was stationed at Langley, then an important point in the province. Colonel Moody himself arrived on Christmas day of the same year, and was sworn in on January 4th, 1859. He finally took up his residence in New Westminster, the site of the Royal Engineers' camp being now occupied by the suburb of Sapperton. Another body of Engineers, about 150 strong, under Col. Hawkins, R.E., devoted their time to survey work, in delimitating the 49th parallel.

The Royal Engineers were mustered out in October, 1863, the officers returning to England, with about 25 or 30 men, the majority taking their discharge.

Lieut.-Colonels Wolfenden, Prior and Gregory, the present C.O. When Vancouver reached the dignity of a city four companies were organized there, and the regiment was divided into the First and Second battalions, the latter being the Mainland one. Lieut.-Col. Worsnop now commands the Mainland soldiery, who a year or two ago were converted into the Sixth Battalion of Rifles (Duke of Connaught's Own).

The stationing of regular soldiers in Victoria dates from 1887, when C Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, was formed for garrison duty in British Columbia. It consisted of 108 non-commissioned officers and gunners, half of the battery being taken from A Battery, R.C.A., Kingston, Ont., and the balance from B Battery, stationed at Quebec. Lieut.-Col. Holmes (now D.O.C. of the district) was in command, the other officers being Major Peters (now Lieut.-Colonel and D.O.C. of District No. 1), Capt. Benson (now Lieut.-Colonel and until recently D.O.C. of this district), Capt. Ogilvie, Lieut. Burstall, Lieut. Gandet, Capt. and Quartermaster Palmer, and Surgeon-Major John Duncan.



LIEUT.-COL. HOLMES, D.O.C., M.D. No. 11.



OFFICERS' QUARTERS, WORK POINT.



THE DRILL HALL, VICTORIA.

they formed three schools of instruction at Victoria and Vancouver in connection with the local militia artillery. The detachment of R. M. A. under Major Trotter, with Capt. Barnes and Poole, and Surg. G. S. G. Bell, R.N., left Victoria on the 27th of September, 1889 the band of the Fifth Regiment, C.A., and a big crowd of citizens escorting them to the wharf and giving them a hearty send-off.

During the last week in September, 1890, Lieut. V. L. Beer, R.G.A., a graduate of the R.M.O. of Canada, with an advance party, arrived to take over the barracks and works of defence from the Royal Marine Artillery.

On the 25th of September, 1890, No. 19 company, Western Division, R.G.A., under the command of Capt. (now major) W. A. Macbean, with Major J. Moir, Royal Army Medical Corps, arrived from Halifax. Owing to insufficiency of accommodation a portion of the gunners were left behind at Halifax, and the

sappers were not brought out from England.

In the spring of last year the additional land near Work Point Barracks required for the increased garrison was handed over by the Dominion government. The land is thickly wooded and had to be cleared before building operations could be commenced. A block of offices, additions to the station hospital and canteen have been completed. Two company blocks, two blocks of married soldiers' quarters, cook and bath houses, etc., are in course of completion, while it is understood that various other buildings, such as quarters for warrant officers, infant school, sergeants' mess, stores, offices, etc., have yet to be commenced.

On the 5th of May last year a strong draft for the Royal Garrison Artillery and half of the 41st Fortress Co., and 48th Submarine Co., R.E., arrived from England. On landing they were received by the band of the Fifth Regiment, C.A. and, escorted by enthusiastic citizens,

proceeded along Government, Johnson and Store streets to the electric cars, by which they proceeded to the barracks, and went under canvas, there being at that time insufficient accommodation for them.

The garrison now consists of about 350 officers and men, consisting of:

One company Royal Garrison Artillery.  
A half company (Fortress Royal Engineers).

One company (Submarine Miners) Royal Engineers.

Detachments of the Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, and Army Ordnance Corps.

The officer commanding corps and heads of departments are:

Lieut.-Col. A. Grant, commanding the troops and O. C. R. E., Esquimalt.

Major J. G. E. Wynne, O. C. R. G. A.

Capt. R. J. Macdonald, R.G.A., Acting Army Service Corps officer

Lieut. Carl Wiggins, ordnance officer

Surg.-Major E. C. Hart, M.D., Fifth Regiment, C.A., medical officer in charge of troops.

Since the arrival of the Royal Garrison Artillery two schools of instruction have been formed for the instruction of the local artillery militia.

The presence of a considerable garrison at Work Point is a source of great wealth to the city. About \$150,000 is laid out locally, while an immense sum is spent in materials for building and other purposes.

Lieut.-Col. Alexander Grant, R.E., who commands the troops at Work Point, was born on the 20th of August, 1860. He received a commission on the

30th of July, 1879, and from that date until 1881 attended the school of military engineering at Chatham. He was then sent to Curragh camp, Ireland, for a year, after which he spent three years at Chatham and at Portsmouth. From 1885 to 1889 he was at Malta, being adjutant to the R. E. companies for two years. In 1889 he was promoted to the rank of captain and from that year until 1902 he was in command of a submarine mining company, R.E., at Landguard Fort, Folkestone. For six years, from 1892 to 1898, he was employed on the instructional staff of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, being promoted in the last mentioned year to the rank of major. Since 1898 he has been specially employed on the defence works at Esquimalt, where he also commands the troops, with the local rank of lieutenant-colonel. Col. Grant has never been fortunate enough to see active service.

Victorians in the Navy and Army:

Capt. R. J. Macdonald, a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, and Second Lieut. A. D. Macdonald, R.G.A., sons of Senator W. J. Macdonald.

Second Lieut. T. R. Pooley, R.F.A., late captain and adjutant Fifth Regiment, C.A., who went to South Africa as a subaltern in Lord Strathcona's Horse, son of C. E. Pooley, K.C.

Lieut. R. D. Harvey, 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars, a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, and nephew of Hon. James Dunsuir deceased.

Major H. C. Carey, R.E., a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, and son of ex-Mayor Carey.

Second Lieut. J. Peters, Indian Staff



REAR-ADMIRAL BICKFORD AND OFFICERS OF H. M. S. WARSPITE.

Corps, a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, and son of Lieut.-Col. J. Peters, R.C.A., formerly D.O.C. of this district.

Senator Macdonald also has a son a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, as well as a daughter married to Capt. Fleet, R.N., of this station.

Lieut. W. A. Ward, R.N., is also a son of W. A. Ward of this city.

The present Lieut.-Governor, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, who must now be regarded as a Victorian, has several sons in the army, while two of his daughters have become the wives of gentlemen in the service. Of his sons, Capt. Alain Chartier Joly de Lotbiniere, R.E., is deputy chief engineer of Mysore, India, where he is at present engaged in an extensive work designed to bring a ter a distance of ninety miles to the Kolar gold fields.

Capt. Henri G. Joly de Lotbiniere, R.E., another son, served in the operations on the Samana and in the Kurram valley with the Tirah expeditionary force and was present at the memorable action at Dargal, for which he received the Northwest Frontier medal, 1897-98, with three clasps. Since the 7th of October, 1899, he has been employed as an assistant director of railways, S. A. field force. Both sons are graduates of the Royal Military College of Canada.

Sir Henri's two sons-in-law are also in the Royal Engineers, Major Dudley Acland Mills being chief staff officer to the district engineer at Devonport, and Capt. (local major) Herbert Colborne Nanton being assistant director of railways on the line of communication, S. A. field force. Major Nanton is a graduate of the R.M.C., served with the Midland battalion in the Northwest rebellion of 1885, in the Lushai expedition, 1888-89, and in the Chitral operations with the relief force in 1895.

The station for British ships in these waters is almost as old as the history of Victoria. The first warship which seems to have visited these parts was H.M.S. America, which in 1845 paid a visit to Fort Victoria. The ship was under command of Capt. the Hon. Gordon, brother of the then Earl of Aberdeen, and the object of the visit was to obtain information concerning the coast, the boundary question at that time being a live one between the two governments. While the vessel was in the harbor two of the officers, Capt. Parke, of the Royal Marines, and Lieut. Peel, son of Sir Robert Peel, went to the Columbia to ascertain the value of that region to the subjects of Great Britain.

The next year or two witnessed the advent of quite a fleet of British warships to the port, H.M.S. Cormorant, Fisgard, Constance, Inconstant, Herald and Pandora. These ships were followed by the frigate Thetis, and from that date the harbor of Esquimalt became a regular rendezvous for the ships of H. M. navy.

Although historians make merry over the bad name which some of these naval officers, owing to the failure of the salmon to rise to the fly, and the difficulty of shooting deer in the thick woods, gave the country, it is evident that some very valuable work was done for the home government by some of them. In 1841 the Cormorant made a superficial survey of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, while Capt. Duntze, of the Fisgard, in 1847 was directed to "ascertain whether coal could be supplied in sufficient quantity for the use of steamers, on Quadra or Vancouver Island." It was suggested to the Admiralty about this time that in granting lands on Vancouver Island the crown should reserve to itself the coal areas already giving promise of the great wealth they have since developed.

Moreover, in the opinion of Mr. Finlayson, one of the valued officers of the H. B. Co., it was only after British men-of-war had visited Esquimalt harbor during the Oregon disputes of 1846 that the government became alive to the importance of the island, and in order to enable them to establish courts of justice offered the island of Vancouver to the H. B. Co. in fee simple on condition of colonizing it for ten years, from 1849 reserving to themselves the right of appointing the governor.

Since becoming a regular station, Esquimalt has witnessed the arrival and departure of successive admirals, many of whom have achieved distinction in other seas. During the earlier portion of the last half century the ships were frequently requisitioned to overawe lawless tribes of Indians, to enforce British law in the turbulent camps of the miners, as well as for the performance of the more regular duties of vessels of war.

In later years gunboats have gone regularly to Behring Sea to act as a patrol during the sealing season, while regular visits are made to the South American coast, where the petty republics are in an almost continuous state of revolution, necessitating the protection of the lives and property of British subjects. Regular cruises are also made to the southern seas, the domain of waters patrolled by the ships of the North Pacific squadron being a very comprehensive one.

The squadron at present on this station is the flagship, H.M.S. Warspite, a first class cruiser; the survey ship Egeria, the sloop-of-war Condor, the sloop Icarus, the second class cruisers Amphion, Arethusa and Phaeton, the torpedo destroyers Sparrowhawk and Virago, and the two torpedo boats, Nos. 39 and 40. The Arethusa is at present in Chinese waters, having been loaned to that station on the outbreak of Boxer hostilities.

In 1887 a magnificent dry dock was established at the naval base at Esquimalt, at a cost in round numbers of \$1,000,000, by the Dominion government. The Imperial government subsidized the building of the dock to the extent of \$50,000, in return for which the ships of His Majesty's government have priority in the dock for a term of fifteen years, without charge beyond the running expenses of the dock during the time in which the ships are in it. The term of this agreement is up next year, when it may be renewed or when the dock



BLUEJACKETS AT PHYSICAL EXERCISE, CANTON GROUNDS, ESQUIMALT.

healthy one, the percentage of sick being two and four-fifths per cent. less than one-third that of other stations.

The pay of the fleet on this station yearly amounts to over \$500,000, while the navy yard is maintained at an expense of \$250,000. The naval hospital is maintained at an expense of nearly \$10,000.

A new barracks is being built in the

EXPORT TABLE.

The exports from Victoria consular district, which embraces Vancouver Island as far north as Nanaimo, and includes the valuable shipments of Chemainus, are given by the U. S. consul, Hon. Abram Smith, for the year ending the 30th of June, 1901 in the following instructive statement:

Article	Value
Room chairs	\$ 1,344 00
Brick	1,790 00
Cedar logs	31,672 73
Chinese groceries	2,123 57
Coal	3,001,062 29
Coal tar	737 50
Coffee	211 16
Copper sheathing	302 50
Furs	2,097 31
Fuse	488 75
Gold dust and bullion	267,137 17
Hides and skins	70,157 65
Household goods	0,714 00
Indian curios	457 50
Junk	10,297 48
Liquors	39,990 87
Lumber	1,122 42
Manuscripts	602 50
Miscellaneous	6,057 86
Muriatic acid	2,928 75
Nitrate of soda	146 21
Onions, desiccated	5,054 35
Ore, copper	303,532 50
Ret. Am. goods	14,692 00
Rice	2,981 77
Salmon, canned	5,837 50
Silver coin	1,330 00
Specimens	518 50
Tin, pig	16,119 19
Tin plate	6,263 75
Total	\$3,884,493 29

THE FISHERY TRADE.

The number of men employed and capital invested in fishery business in British Columbia for the year 1899 was as follows:

	No.	Value
No. Fishermen on Vessels	23,906	
No. of Vessels	153	\$ 313,550
No. of Boats	4,823	250,350
Salmon Canneries	60	1,380,000
Oil Factories	2	25,000
Coal Storage and Freezers	6	75,000
Saltworks	2	5,000
Gill Nets and Seines	682,734	518,823
Other Materials		27,000
Total		\$2,604,771

FISHERY PRODUCTS.

The value of the fishery products of the province for the last five years was as follows:

1896	\$4,314,857 00
1897	6,128,805 00
1898	3,713,101 00
1899	5,214,674 00
1900	6,785,756 50

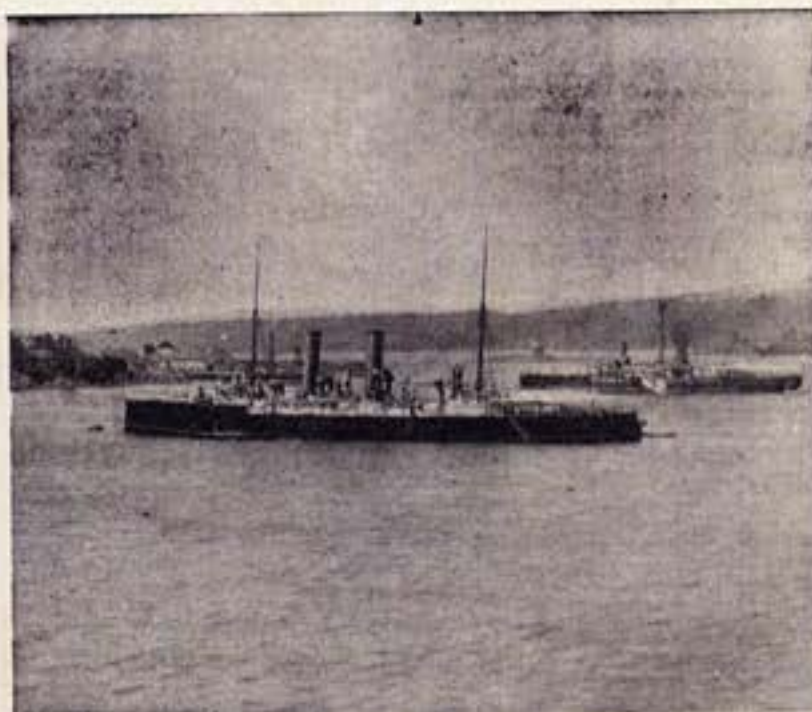
The British Columbia salmon pack for the last year was 606,530 cases.



THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Summary of amounts expended by the Dominion government in British Columbia from 1897 to 1900, through the Public Works Department, exclusive of that of the engineer:

Chief Architect Branch.	
Victoria	\$218,630 00
Williams Head Quarantine Sta.	23,163 00
Nanaimo	5,236 00
Vancouver	30,320 00
New Westminster	24,100 00
Rosland	25,000 00
Nelson	11,000 00
Telegraph Service	
Nanaimo and Comox Tel. line	\$ 18,585 00
Alberni and Cape Beale, 1899-1900	10,000 00
Kamloops and Nicola telephone line	6,000 00



FIRST-CLASS CRUISERS, ESQUIMALT HARBOR.

may be taken over by the Imperial government, and enlarged.

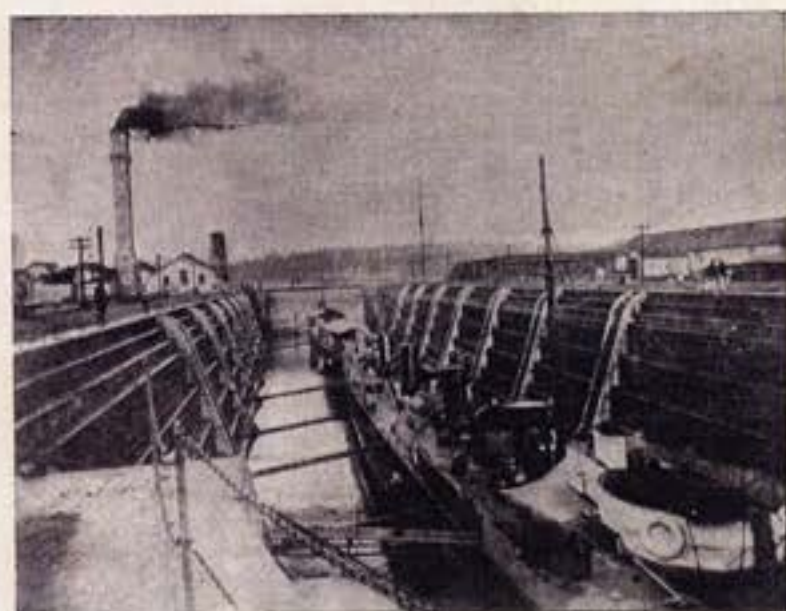
The dock is of solid masonry, is 450 feet in length, and is 90 feet in width, the entrance being 65 feet wide. It is 33 feet 6 inches in depth from the sill. The yard is equipped with powerful pumps, the main one lifting 1,000 gallons every stroke, or about 20,000 gallons per minute.

The station has been a peculiarity

navy yard at a cost of \$150,000. Three teams hauled bricks steadily from the city for the works in the navy yard all of last year. The total cost of maintenance of the naval portion of the garrison is close to \$800,000.

Capt Keppel, C.B., D.S.O., is the flag-captain. He has a splendid record of war service, and is a son of Admiral of the Fleet, the venerable Sir Harry Keppel, who is ninety years of age.

The present Commander-in-Chief, Rear-Admiral Kenny Bickford, C.M.G., A.D.C. to the late Queen, was created rear-admiral only last year, and had been captain-superintendent of Sheerme's dock-yard since 1896. He was born in India—the second son of W. Bickford, of Newport House, South Devon. His education was received at the South Devon Collegiate school and Foster's school, Stabington. He entered the navy in 1858; served in China as sub-lieutenant during the operations in Japan, and at the taking of the fort of Simon Oanke and was senior and gunnery lieutenant of the Amethyst during the action with the Peruvian rebel ironclad Hauser. He was commander in charge of the naval transport arrangements during the war, and negotiated the release of the captured crew of the Nisero at Arbeen, for which service he was made C.M.G. As captain, senior officer of combined French and British and German and British squadrons in various operations in the South Pacific, he also rendered distinguished service. At Samoa he received the surrender of Mautafa, putting a stop to the civil war in the island on that occasion, for which he received the thanks of the government. He commanded the Resolution in the Channel squadron; and was captain of the first reserve, Portsmouth. Besides the C. M. G., Rear-Admiral Bickford also wears the Egyptian medal, the Khedive's star, the Medjidie third class, and the Jubilee medal.



T. B. DESTROYERS IN DRY DOCK, ESQUIMALT.