

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Compiled by E. GRAHAM ALSTON, Esq. Author of Hand-book for "British Columbia and Vancouver Island."

1. The Area of British Columbia (including Vancouver Island) is roughly estimated at 220,000 square miles. No exact census of the population has ever been taken; but it may be put down as amounting to about 50,000, of which 40,000 are Indians.

2. The climate cannot be surpassed by any Colony; the winter as a rule, is not so cold, but more wet than that of England, while the summer is drier, with heat equal to that in the English midland counties in the day, but cooler from evening to early morning.

The rain fall at Esquimaunt, Vancouver Island, for 1868, was only 22·88 inches; the average being about 25 to 30 inches. On the mainland the rain fall is much greater. The following is an accurately prepared Table of mean results for 4 years, taken at New Westminster:—

Years.	Rain.		Mean Temperature.		Min. on Grass.	Humidity.		Mean Height of Barometer.	
	Inches.	Days.	9·30 A.M.	3·30 P.M.		9·30 A.M.	3·30 P.M.	9·30 A.M.	3·30 P.M.
1860....	54·420	151	49·9	54·0	15·5	·847	·766	29·942	29·919
1861....	60·485	164	48·8	52·2	10·0	·764	·854	29·943	29·889
1862....	47·466	135	46·8	51·2	15·0 below z.	·842	·772	29·963	29·963
Means.	54·124	150	48·5	52·5	....	·818	·797	29·956	29·924
Mean for 1865.	40·84	182	47·6	51·9	1·8	·822	·740	29·975	29·963

Snow rarely falls to a greater depth than a few inches round Victoria. Higher north, as in Cariboo, at an altitude of nearly 5,000 feet above the level of the sea, the cold in winter is very severe, sometimes reaching to 30° below zero.

## BANKS.

3. The only chartered Banks in the Colony are the Bank of British North America and the Bank of British Columbia. The following is made up from the official returns for the quarter ending 30th June, 1869:—

	Paid-up Capital.	Notes in Circulation.	Deposits.
Bank of British North America .....	\$5,000,000	.... \$118,894	.... \$422,170
Bank of British Columbia .....	1,490,000	.... 97,164	.... 127,829

A Government Savings Bank was established in June of last year, 1869, with a Head Office at Victoria, and branches in other parts of the Colony. The following return shows a very satisfactory progress:—

At Head Office, Date.	Number of Depositors.	Amount Deposited.	Due to Depositors.
31st December, 1869 .....	182	.... \$40,693·61	.... \$35,055·46
29th September, 1870 .....	326	.... 92,568·06	.... 57,683·40

Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. is allowed, and the repayment of deposits secured on the general revenue of the Colony.

4. The following is a list of the principal officials:—

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Anthony Musgrave, Governor.	George Phillips, Attorney General.
Philip J. Hankin, Colonial Secretary.	Joseph W. Trutch, Surveyor General.
Wymond Hawley, Collector of Customs.	

The above, together with the following, form the

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Registrar General—E. Graham Alston.

Acting Postmaster General and Stipendiary Magistrate, New Westminster—Arthur T. Bushby.

## Stipendiary Magistrates.

H. M. Ball,		Peter O'Reilly,		A. F. Pemberton,		E. H. Sanders.
-------------	--	-----------------	--	------------------	--	----------------

## Unofficial Members.

H. Holbrook,		F. J. Barnard,		S. J. Helmcken,		E. Dewdney,		T. B. Humphreys
G. A. Walkem,		R. W. Carvall,		A. de Cosmos,		M. W. T. Drake,		John Robson.

The Supreme Court Judges are Hon. M. B. Begbie, Chief Justice, and Hon. H. P. P. Crease, Puisne Judge.