

fectly safe and sheltered. It is well lighted, and 50 vessels might anchor in it with ease. Only a tongue of land 750 feet wide prevents free communication between the harbors of Esquimault and Victoria.

Nanaimo is situated on the east coast of the Island, 65 miles from Victoria. It is well situated, large and safe. The coal mines are near this port; there are also fine quarries near, and it is very important, as the most convenient port for the fisheries, especially whale fisheries.

Barclay Sound is on the W. coast of the island. It opens into the Pacific Ocean itself, and is about 35 miles long. At its head it is only 14 miles from the east coast, and easy communication may be had with it. The water is very deep, and once in harbor, the shelter is perfect. But a lighthouse at the entrance is necessary for its safety.

The harbours on the mainland are Burrard Inlet, Howe Sound, Bute Inlet, Milbank Sound, River Skeena and River Nass.

Burrard Inlet is situated on the Gulf of Georgia, a few miles from New Westminster. It is 9 miles long, deep and safe. It is the port from which the lumber trade is chiefly carried on. It is very easy of access to vessels of any size or class, and convenient depth of water for anchorage may be found in almost every part of it.

Howe Sound is north of Burrard Inlet, separated from it by Bowen Island, and comparatively difficult of access.

Bute Inlet is much farther north, is surrounded with lofty mountains, and receives the waters of the River Hamatheo. Valdez Island lies between its mouth and Vancouver.

Milbank Sound, still farther north, will become valuable, as a harbour, as the gold mines on Peace River attract population.

The River Skeena is now ascended by steam vessels from Nanaimo, and is one of the routes to the Ominica gold mines.

The River Nass, a little further north, is near the frontier of Alaska. It has been ascended by a steamer more than 25 miles. It is believed that the region it waters is rich in gold, and both it and the Skeena are valuable for the fisheries.

Tides in the Strait of Fuca are rather irregular. On the western side of Vancouver they are regular flood and ebb of 6 hours duration, but there are great and perplexing tidal irregularities between the Strait of Fuca, from the Race Island to Cape Mudge, 150 miles distant.

The total number of vessels that entered the ports of British Columbia in 1870 was 804, of which 597 were British and 207 foreign, 545 with cargoes and 259 in ballast. The total tonnage was 170,624 tons. The number of vessels that cleared from the ports for the same year was 835, and the tonnage 173,209.

There are steamers between Victoria and New Westminster on the Fraser River as far as Yale. A steamer has also been put on this river on the Cariboo route between Soda Creek and Quesnel, and as far up as Fort George, and another on Lake Fatla for the convenience of reaching the Ominica Mines.

The fisheries are probably the richest in the world. Whales and seals abound in the northern seas. Sturgeon are plentiful in the rivers and estuaries of British Columbia. They are found weighing over 500lbs., and are caught with little difficulty.

Salmon are excellent and most abundant.

Those of Fraser River are justly famous. There are 5 species, and they make their way up the river for 1,000 miles. The silver salmon begins to arrive in March or early in April and lasts till the end of June. The average weight is from 4 to 25 lbs., but they have been caught weighing over 70. The 2nd kind are caught from June to August, and are considered the finest. Their average size is only 5 or 6 lbs. The third coming in August, average 7 lbs., and are an excellent fish. The noan or humpback salmon comes every second year, lasting from August till winter, weighing from 6 to 14 lbs. The hockbill arrives in September and remains till winter, weighing from 12 to 15, and even 45 lbs. Salmon is sold at Victoria at 5 cents a lb., and there appears to be no limit to the catch.

The oulachans, a small fish like a sprat, appearing at the end of April, are delicious fish, fresh, salted or smoked, and yield an oil of a fine and excellent quality. They enter the river in millions, and those caught at the north are said to be so full of oil that they will burn like a candle.

Several species of cod are found, and it is believed there are extensive cod banks in the Gulf of Georgia.

Herring also abounds during the winter months, and are largely used both fresh and smoked, and are of good quality.

Halibut banks are of frequent occurrence, and the fish attain an enormous size.

Anchovies are only second to the oulachans in abundance, and may be taken with great ease during the autumn.

Haddock is caught in the winter months.

Dogfish can be taken with great facility in any of the bays and inlets, and the oil extracted from these is of great value.

Excellent trout are found in most of the lakes and streams, weighing from 3 to 8 lbs.

Oysters are found in all parts of the Province. They are small but of fine quality.

As an agricultural country, British Columbia has been much under estimated. The tracts of arable land are of very great extent. A portion of these, however, require artificial irrigation. This is easy to be obtained and not expensive, and lands so irrigated are of very great fertility. Land 1700 feet above the level of the sea thus irrigated yielded last year 40 bushels of wheat per acre.

The tracts of land suitable for grazing purposes are of almost endless extent, and the climate very favorable, shelter is only required for sheep, and even this not in ordinary seasons. On the Cariboo road there is a plain 150 miles long and 60 or 80 wide, and between the Thompson and Fraser rivers there is an immense tract of arable and grazing land. The hills and plains are covered with bunch grass on which the cattle and horses live all winter, and its nutritive qualities are said to exceed the celebrated blue grass and clover of Virginia.

The forest lands are of great extent, and the timber most valuable. They are found throughout nearly the whole extent of the Province. The principal trees are the Douglas pine, menzies fir, yellow fir, balsam, hemlock, white pine, yellow pine, cedar, yellow cypress, arbor vitae, yew, oak, white maple, arbutus, alder, dog wood, aspen, cherry, crab apple, willow and cotton wood. The Douglas pine is almost universal on the sea coast, and up to the Cascade range. It preponderates at the southern end of Vancouver, and along its east and west coast, the finest being found in the valley and low grounds