

along the west coast, and on the coast of British Columbia. It yields spars from 90 to 100 feet in length, can often be obtained 150 feet free from knots, and has squared 45 inches for 90 feet. It is thought to be the strongest pine or fir in existence. Broken in the gale, the stem is splintered to a height of at least 20 feet, and it is astonishing to see how small a portion of the trunk will withstand the leverage of the whole tree. The timber contains a great deal of resin and is exceedingly durable. The bark resembles cork, is often 8 or 9 inches thick, and makes splendid fuel.

On the banks of the Nitinat Inlet and elsewhere, forests of the Menzies pine occur suitable in size for first class spars, and the wood works beautifully. The white pine is common everywhere. The Scotch fir is found on the bottom lands with the willow and cottonwood. The cedar abounds in all parts of the country and attains an enormous growth. Hemlock spruce is very common. The maple is universal everywhere. The arbutus grows very large, and the wood in color and texture resembles box. There are two kinds of oak, much of it of good size and quality. There are few lumbering establishments, the trade being hardly developed. The value of timber exported in 1870 was \$128,257. It was expected to be considerably more in 1871.

The Frazer River and its tributaries, with the numerous lakes communicating with them, furnish great facilities for the conveyance of timber. The Lower Frazer country especially is densely wooded. Smaller streams and the numerous inlets and arms of the sea furnish facilities for the region further north.

The mineral wealth is very great. Gold does not seem to be confined to any one section. It is found all along the Fraser and Thompson rivers, again in the north along the Peace and Ominica rivers, and on Germanan Creek, and on Vancouver Island. From the U. S. frontier to the 53d degree N. lat., and for a width of from 1 to 200 miles, gold is found nearly everywhere. A thorough geological survey, roads to reach the mines, and capital to carry them on, seem to be the only obstacles to gold mining to an almost exhaustless extent. The yield of gold, under all these obstacles, for 1870, was over \$1,300,000. The yield from the new mines opened in the Ominica District, in 1871, is estimated at about \$400,000, and that from the older mines of the Cariboo district as over a million.

Silver mines are found in the Fraser Valley, and one mine has been put in operation with every prospect of success.

Copper is also abundant.

The coal mines are even more valuable than the gold. Bituminous coal is found on Vancouver's Island in several places, especially along the east coast. The mines at Nanaimo are the only ones that have yet been much worked. The coal is of fair quality, superior to the Scotch but not equal to the Welsh. The Dunsmuir coal at Departure Bay is pronounced, however, to be superior for steaming purposes to the Newcastle. This mine was only opened in 1869. The harbors both of Nanaimo and Departure Bay are excellent. Veins of coal have been found in other parts of the Province. That of the Nicola River, 160 miles from the sea, is said to be superior to that of the coast.

Anthraxite coal, very excellent in quality, is found on Queen Charlotte's Island.

There are also indications of coal along the whole west coast of Vancouver's Island. At Departure Bay there are quarries of very fine sandstone. Blocks 50 feet long by 8 in diameter are obtained from it.

The manufactories are very few in number, but water power is everywhere abundant.

The exports in 1870 amounted to \$203,364, exclusive of gold.

Furs are one of the most valuable articles of export. The value of fur exported in 1869 was \$233,000. The most valuable are Black and Silver Fox, Sea Otter, Red Fox, Fur Seal, Mink, Martin, Beaver and common Otter. Buffalo are found on the plains, bears and mountain goats and sheep on the mountains, elk are met with on the coast, deer on the groups of small islands, wild ducks and geese are abundant, grouse and snipe are found everywhere, and in the plains a kind of tall buff cranes, 4 or 5 ft. high.

The climate varies according to the locality, owing principally to four causes, greater or less distance from the sea and from the vicinity of the mountain regions, difference in the nature and quantity of the vegetable growth, and difference of level. The low portions near the sea and on Vancouver's Island have a moderate climate with a general range of from 20° in winter to 80° in summer. The spring is short, lasting from the beginning of March to the early part of May. The prevailing weather is fine and mild, alternated with occasional rain and squalls. Farming operations may usually be commenced at the beginning or middle of March, the "March wilds" being seldom severely felt. The summers begin in May and end with September. They are dry, with occasional showers; fogs and mists are rare, and the heat tempered by sea and land breezes. The temperature on the island is lower than on the mainland, owing to the prevailing southern winds, blowing from the direction of the mountains across the sound. The crops are usually sown, reared, cut and housed with fine weather. October and November are the autumn months; cold and moist winds prevail, fogs and frequent rains. There are, however, periods of fine weather, sometimes lasting for ten or twelve days, and even at the latter end of November the wild strawberries are sometimes seen in bloom. The winter lasts from the beginning of December till March; cold, moist northerly and southerly winds prevail, with frequent rains and occasional fogs. Snow neither falls heavily nor lies long, and the frosts are not severe, ice being seldom more than an inch thick. The general character of the climate is, a dry, warm summer, and an open wet winter. The absence of thunderstorms is a remarkable fact. Very rarely does any take place over Vancouver. Along the coast of British Columbia, for 150 miles inland, the climate is humid, the thermometer rarely falling below 10°, or rising above 90°. Rain is abundant during the spring, and during summer and autumn, sometimes continues for several days together. Snow falls from 1 to 2 feet; in the northern part often more; near the sea, seldom so much. It seldom lies more than a week or two at a time; winter breaking up in the early part of March. When the atmosphere is clear there are heavy dews, and fogs are common at all seasons. The harbour at New Westminster is dangerous from floating ice from January to March.

Beyond this district, lies a district of about