

equal breadth, which is warmer and dryer, the summer heat being more intense, and the mercury freezing in the winter. Beyond this again is another belt, with a more humid climate. The larger lakes never freeze over, the snow in the open country seldom exceeds two feet in depth, and throughout the Province cattle, as a rule, can obtain feed at any time. The farmer who provides a month's forage is considered a very careful, prudent man. Both in summer and winter the climate is remarkably healthy. Nothing like malaria or ague prevailing either in the hottest summer or the dampest places.

In the Cariboo district the weather is most variable, and subject to violent thunder storms, both in winter and summer.

The population, according to the census of 1871, was 10,586, exclusive of Indians. The Chinese population increased during 1871 to 2,000. They are an industrious, clean and laborious community, and though not regarded with great affection by the people, are never ill-treated. Among the colonists there is the same disproportion between men and women as in other gold regions, the men being more than two-thirds of the population. The people are intelligent and industrious, and remarkable for the spirit of order and submission to law.

The Indian population is estimated from thirty to fifty thousand souls. They are found all over the Province. On Vancouver's Island they are mostly coast Indians. Their houses are a sort of one story card castle, of axe-hewn lumber, divided into several compartments, one of which is occupied by each family. They have great skill in the manufacture and management of canoes. On the mainland they frequent more the upper country, it being superior for hunting and the salmon abundant in the rivers. Wild berries grow in great profusion and are a staple article of Indian food. The houses here are made of skins, more or less

dressed, old tent cloths, mats, &c. In severe weather they build underground houses, circular pits, from 20 to 40 feet in diameter and 8 or 10 feet deep, covered with a substantial earth roof, with a circular aperture in the centre for the ingress of men and provisions and the egress of the men and the smoke. Polygamy prevails among all of them. They are very intelligent, with great natural power of observation, but, unlike other intelligent savages, they seem to have no religion whatever. Slavery is universally practiced but is dying out among tribes under European influence. 4,000 are said to be under instruction by Anglican Missionaries, and as many more by Roman Catholic. Their number seems to be always decreasing, from small-pox, tribal wars and measles. Wars have much diminished among them. There has never been any trouble with them but once since 1853, and this was caused by some white men taking possession of one of their camping places, with a much valued spring of water. If they could be taught settled habits and agriculture they would become a very valuable population. They are admirably adapted for opening up a new country, they are large consumers of customizable articles, and they are the best fur-hunters. They are faithful and trustworthy but not especially industrious. At the south they are dark, wear their hair long, and are not particularly cleanly. The Northern Indians have a clear complexion, and are larger, stronger and cleaner, a fine race. Their languages are difficult and numerous, but the "Chinook jargon" is used by all the tribes in their dealings with the whites.

The two great wants of British Columbia are population and means of transport. With the building of the Pacific Railway these wants will be supplied and the Province become one of the most valuable in the Dominion.

## Prince Edward Island.

Prince Edward Island, which is situated in the southern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is separated from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by the Strait of Northumberland, the width of the Strait varying from nine to thirty miles. The Island is about 130 miles long and from 10 to 31 miles broad, its area being 2,134 miles or 1,365,760 acres.

During the season of navigation, there is tri-weekly communication with Pictou, in Nova Scotia and Shediac in New Brunswick, in addition to which there are steamers connecting with Quebec and the Gulf Ports to the north and Halifax and Boston to the south. What is known as the Bale Verte Canal, now projected, will greatly facilitate communication with the Bay of Fundy and the New England ports. Navigation generally closes about the middle of December, and is resumed about the end of April or beginning of May. During this time mails and passengers are conveyed across the Strait in ice boats, which ply between Cape Traverse in Prince Edward Island and Cape Tormentine in New Brunswick. The passage is not at all times

safe, and it is believed that powerful steamers might keep the navigation open nearly all, if not all, the year round.

Charlottetown is the capital, situated at the confluence of the York and Hillsborough rivers and contains nearly 10,000 inhabitants; Georgetown and Summerside being the other chief towns, the latter, however, from its situation monopolizing the business of the district, owing to its better harbour.

The soil is remarkable for its fertility being nearly all cultivable land. It is formed for the most part of a rich layer of vegetable matter, above a bright loam resting upon stiff clay and sandstone. All kinds of grains and vegetables grown in Britain ripen in great perfection, and during the ten years ending in 1871, when the last Census was taken, a great improvement was shown in the agricultural condition of the colony. The land not cultivable consists of soft spongy turf, or a deep layer of wet black mould, which may prove valuable for fuel. Calculations recently made by Dr. Harrington of the Canadian Geological Survey show the prospec-