

the country is prairie, intermixed with small brush and a light growth of timber. The soil is well suited for agriculture and fruit raising, but especially adapted for a grazing country. The Indians have cultivated patches, and the large crops grown by them prove the richness of the land. The hills in many places are covered with a short grass, which would make it a capital sheep grazing country. In some of the mountain valleys spruce and fir are found in large quantities, which will eventually be turned to good account for lumbering purposes. There is situated on the north-west extremity of this island a Hudson's Bay fort, near which there is a large band of cattle; and on account of the mildness of the climate and the rich pasture surrounding them, they do not require any attention during the winter. Coal, both bituminous and anthracite, has been discovered on this island in large quantities, the quality of which has been pronounced by experts to be greatly superior to any found on the Pacific Coast, even more so than that worked in Nanaimo, on Vancouver's Island. This fact has drawn the attention of the shrewdest business men in the province, who have invested largely in these lands, and have shown their belief in their wealth by opening out four different mines. It is the general opinion of scientists that this island will prove an immense coal field. If the operations which have been commenced turn out profitable, they will be increased to a much larger scale, and be able to support a large mining population. Should this take place, the land in the vicinity will be taken up by farmers, as they will have a market close at hand to dispose of their produce. The islands to the south are more mountainous and rugged in appearance, though covered with a short grass, which would be adapted to sheep grazing. However, there are several valleys of good land, among which may be named those of Shingle Bay and Gold Harbour. The latter place took its name from the gold discovered by the Hudson's Bay Company many years ago, which was shipped in the shape of quartz to England, where it was reduced. The climate of these islands is the most equable in British Columbia; although they are so far north, the soft, humid atmosphere of the ocean,