

## BRITISH COLUMBIA MAINLAND

of gold or other precious metals, the lumberman, the fisherman, or the business man, with large or small capital for investment. It is a country of great possibilities and certainties to the persevering, industrious and frugal, and one which offers many opportunities for all classes.

### COAST AND HARBOURS

British Columbia has a magnificent ocean frontage of 1,000 miles; its coast line on both island and mainland being sinuous and indented to a remarkable degree. It has many fine harbours, the principal of which is located at the entrance of Burrard Inlet, a few miles north of the mouth of the Fraser River, on which is Vancouver, the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which traverses the Dominion from Atlantic tidewater.

Victoria, on Vancouver Island, possesses an outer harbour at which all the ocean liners dock, and an inner harbour for vessels drawing up to eighteen feet.

Three miles from Victoria is Esquimalt harbour, which is about three miles long and something under two miles broad in the widest part; it has an average depth of six to eight fathoms, and affords excellent holding ground, the bottom being a tenacious blue clay. The Canadian Government has built a dry-dock at Esquimalt with a length of 450 feet, and width of 90 feet at the entrance, to accommodate vessels of larger size.

Nanaimo, at the coal mines, has also a commodious and well sheltered harbour, from which large shipments of coal are made to Canadian and United States points.

### THE RIVERS

Of the rivers of British Columbia the principal are the Fraser, the Columbia, the Thompson, the Kootenay, the Skeena, the Stikine, the Liard, and the Peace. The Fraser is the great watercourse of the province. It rises in the northern part of the Rocky Mountains, runs for about 200 miles in two branches in a westerly direction, and then in one stream runs due south for nearly 400 miles before turning to rush through the gorges of the Coast range to the Straits of Georgia. Its total length is about 740 miles. On its way it receives the waters of the Thompson, the Chilicoten, the Lillooet, the Nicola, the Harrison, the Pitt, and numerous other streams. For the last 80 miles of its course it flows through a wide alluvial plain, which has mainly been deposited from its own silt. It is navigable for vessels drawing twenty feet to New Westminster, about fifteen miles from its mouth, and for light draught river boats to Yale, a small town 110 miles from the mouth, and again for smaller craft for about 60 miles of its course through the interior, from Quesnelle Mouth to Soda Creek in Cariboo.

The Columbia is a large river rising in the south-eastern part of the province, in the neighbourhood of the Rocky Mountains, near Kootenay Lake. This lake is now traversable by regular steamboat service. The Columbia runs north beyond the 52nd degree of latitude, when it takes a sudden turn and runs due south into the State of Washington. It is this loop made by the abrupt turn of the river that is known as the "Big Bend of the Columbia." The Kootenay waters fall into the returning branch of this loop some distance south