

las fir, with a dense growth of salmonberry, gooseberry, elderberry, hardback, willow and crabapple. The climate is less humid than on the immediate coast, but not dry enough to require irrigation. Waters teem with salmon. Bear, black, brown and grizzly; marten, beaver, mountain goat, ducks, geese and grouse are plentiful. Several settlers have taken up land here.

THE ISLANDS.

A group of islands, including Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Saturne, Pender, etc., is known as "The Islands," and forms a parliamentary constituency. They include, irrespective of Salt Spring, about 75 ranchers, and are, generally speaking, of similar character. Fruit, butter-making, cattle and sheep raising, are the principal industries. A good deal of the islands is devoted to sheep runs, but when the soil is suitable anything pertaining to the temperate zones may be raised successfully.

SALT SPRING ISLAND.

This is one of the most important of the islands adjoining the province proper. There are over one hundred settlers, though not much of the land, comparatively speaking, is under cultivation—about six per cent., the island being hilly and wooded. A large portion of it is devoted to sheep runs. The climate is particularly well adapted to fruit and grain growing, the rainfall being limited and the climate very mild. It is adapted to peach, apricot, nectarine, melon and grape growing. The settlers are principally engaged in fruit growing, sheep and cattle raising and dairying.

NORTH END OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

A large area of good land has been discovered on the north end of Vancouver Island, and recently surveyed. About 150,000 acres are described as pastoral and 13,000 agricultural, which, by improvement, would be made of considerable value. The climate is spoken of as more equable and humid than the southern portion of the island, and agriculturally is suited for grazing, vegetables and small fruits. Though the timber is sufficient for local purposes, it is no place of great commercial importance. The value of the fisheries surrounding this portion have already been dealt with. The game consists of blue and willow grouse, small deer, elk, black bear, wild geese, and all kinds of water fowl. From Cape Commerell around the north end of the island to the mouth of Quatsino Sound is an exposed beach, the black sands of which contain flour gold, and though not prospected extensively, has yielded in places good pay. The great adaptability of the country, however, is for pastoral purposes, the value of which could be greatly enhanced by the expenditure of about \$5 per acre in clearing and drainage.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS.

THIS group of islands lies northwest of Vancouver Island, nearly between 52° and 54° north latitude, and geologically is closely related to the latter and greater island. Who first discovered these islands, whether the Japanese, the Russians, the Spanish or English navigators, is a historical speculation of little moment here. They were rounded and named in 1786 by Commanders Portland and Dixon, and they have remained as such until this day. Graham and Moresby Islands constitute the principal portions of the group, and of the two Graham is the chief. For pur-

poses of settlement its land, coal and fisheries are important elements. A low range of mountains run along the west coast, which is abrupt and rugged, but its greater area is comparatively level. On Massett Inlet, Wago Sound and all along Skidegate channel are large quantities of spruce (*A. Menziesii*) timber, the best of its kind on the continent, and grows much larger in size. For box lumber it is preferred to any other timber on the coast.

Red cedar here attains a size without parallel on the Pacific slope, and on that account the Indians of Queen Charlotte Islands enjoy a monopoly of the canoe building of the coast, and supply nearly all the canoes used by the Indians of the mainland and Alaska. Some of these are of enormous size and graceful in contour. The model of the first clipper built ships was taken from these canoes. The cedar differs from that of the southern part of the Province, inasmuch as it is sound to the heart, whereas the other is usually hollow. It is very plentiful.

The hemlock (*A. Canadensis*) is also abundant, and is much superior to the Douglas fir in some respects.

Another timber found in large quantities is the cypress or yellow cedar. It is a beautiful wood and should enter largely into the manufacture of furniture. For bridge timbers or for any purpose where strength and durability are required it is very useful. It is almost indestructible and foundations made of this after fifty years were found upon examination to be perfectly sound. Its durability, exposed to any weather or climate, is not less than four times that of any other timber.

There is a large extent of grazing land on the island, and there is probably 300,000 or 400,000 acres that could be drained, extending all along the east coast to the mountains. The facilities for drainage, too, are excellent and some day this work will be undertaken on a large scale with good results.

There is every reason to believe that the whole of Graham Island is a bed of coal. It is part of the same formation that extends up the Sound, and along the east coast of Vancouver, and evidently belongs to the same geographical period. Some extensive prospecting has been done during the past season, and the seams in which work was done prove the quantity to be immense and the quality equal to, if not superior, to any in British Columbia. Seams of from 16 to 18 feet of high bituminous coal were very thoroughly prospected, and in the Yakoun Valley, about midway between Skidegate and Massett Inlet, a discovery was recently made and the character of the coal is shown by the following analysis made by the geological department at Ottawa:—

Hygroscopic water.....	2.65
Volatile combustible matter.....	30.59
Fixed carbon.....	61.33
Ash.....	5.43
	100.00

These coal seams could be reached by a railway of eight miles to an excellent harbor on Rennell's Sound and shipment therefrom could be made about the same rates of freight to San Francisco as from Nanaimo or Comox.

Anthracite coal of excellent quality was discovered in the Southern part of the Island years ago, but the measures are somewhat broken and the possibilities of its working have not yet been demonstrated.

Moresby Island is more mineralized in its composition than Graham. It is supposed to contain copper and iron. Springs of naphtha were found on an adjoining island. Over \$60,000 in gold was taken out of