

Vancouver's Island, being not much less than 300 miles long from north-west to south-east, and over 50 miles broad at the widest part, contains a great deal of land, of which, though explorations in the interior have been made, much yet remains unknown. Most of the country is mountainous, the highest summits having, it is said, an elevation of over 6,000 feet, or half as much again as the highest mountains in Scotland. The shores abound in beautiful bays, and among the mountains lie numerous lakes, while upon their sides are dense forests, giving shelter to many wild animals which no cultivation has as yet disturbed. There are bears and wolves, such as existed once upon a time in merry England, and also panthers or pumas, such as England never possessed even in her merriest days, and deer of several kinds, including that most stately animal the wapiti, to which even the English stag cannot be compared for beauty. And here, too, live several tribes of Indians, once the lords of the soil, which "the high chief of the King George men," "seeing that they did not work it," ordered them to sell. The Ahts were a very backward race of men, who, though bold sailors and skilful hunters, did not know how to work metals, or to grow corn, or to improve their country, much less to defend it. Their strange customs and beliefs have been described and discussed at length; these they will now probably lose, but there seems little hope they will acquire any of a higher character in their place. No such acts of brutality as are recorded of the white settlers in Tasmania have apparently been committed by the settlers of Vancouver's Island upon the Ahts; yet such of these as have mixed with the white man seem

to have learnt from him nothing but some of his worst vices; nor have they, any more than the native Australians, any cause to bless the day when their lonely home was betrayed to the eyes of covetous Europe.

The country which has so long sheltered these fortunate animals and less fortunate men will, it is believed, afford the best of homes to English settlers. The Pacific shores of North America have a climate very unlike the scorching summer and Arctic winter of Eastern Canada, a climate far more nearly resembling that in which the English race has grown up to its present development at home. The weather of Vancouver's Island is described as resembling that of the South of England, but with a larger percentage of bright sunshine than English meteorologists are accustomed to record, save in exceptional seasons like last year's summer. On the other hand, fogs are common enough to remind the patriotic Briton frequently of his original home, while snow puts in an appearance seasonably every winter, though in the lower and warmer parts of the island it seldom lies.

The agricultural resources of Vancouver's Island are as yet but little developed; some parts of the country are indeed already cultivated to great advantage, as others doubtless will be before long; but much of it, in the opinion of those who should know, will never repay the labour of clearing. Meanwhile, the forests supply timber in plenty, and will do so for many years to come. The mineral resources are supposed to be very great, and in one important direction they have been developed already. A little railway runs from Victoria for about 70 miles to



COAL-MINE AT NANAIMO.