

the Hudson Bay Co. in 1821. It was also in 1792 that Capt. Vancouver of the Royal Navy sailed up the Pacific, and gave his name to Vancouver Island which he discovered, and which proved to be the largest on the west coast of America. Although discovered so long ago, it was not till 1843 that a permanent settlement was made on Vancouver Island by the Hudson Bay Co., who in that year built a fort and trading post on the spot where the beautiful city of Victoria now stands. Six years later this settlement developed into the colony of Vancouver. The mainland of British Columbia remained a wilderness with two or three fur trading posts till in 1858, some gold prospectors advanced up the coast and discovered the rich diggings of the Fraser River. The influx of people was so great that the region was erected into a crown colony in the same year, under the name of British Columbia. In 1866 the two colonies were united, and in 1871 the province joined the Confederation of Canada. In that year the population of the Province was only 36,247 including the Indians. Now it is about 100,000, and is rapidly increasing as the varied and exhaustless resources of the country are becoming known to the world. The increase by immigration alone in 1888 was estimated at 11,000.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

British Columbia is nearly a parallelogram in shape, being about 760 miles long north and south, and about 500 broad. For about 300 miles down the coast from the north, a very narrow strip of the United States Territory of Alaska intervenes between it and the sea; but even with this strip cut off it has a coast line, reckoning its wonderful labyrinth of bays and inlets, of perhaps 2,000 miles. It is noteworthy that while from San Francisco to Cape Flattery on the American coast there is not a single harbor for ocean ships, good harbors can be found by the dozen in British Columbia, both on the mainland and Vancouver Island. The scenery of the coast is unlike that of any shore yet discovered, and was thus graphically pictured by Lord Dufferin when he visited it in 1876:

“Such a spectacle as its coast line presents is not to be paralleled by any country in the world. Day after day for a whole week, in a vessel of nearly 2,000 tons, we threaded an interminable labyrinth of watery lanes and reaches that wound endlessly in and out of a network of islands, promontories, and peninsulas, for thousands of miles, unruffled by the slightest swell from the adjoining ocean, and presenting at every turn an ever-shifting combination of rock, verdure, forest, glacier and snow-capped mountain of unrivalled grandeur and beauty. When it is re-

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