

Waddington Harbour, at the head of Bute Inlet, is said to be the natural outlet for a large tract of valuable country in the interior. But, numerous as are the harbours along the coast, their respective merits have all been duly weighed, and all have been discarded in favour of the harbours in Burrard Inlet, which have been adopted by the railway. Vancouver is the eastern terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s Royal Mail S.S. line (including the Empress of India, the Empress of China, and the Empress of Japan), running monthly to Japan and China. For the coast trade the other harbours are all valuable.

THE RIVERS.

Of the rivers of British Columbia the principal are the Fraser, the Columbia, and the Peace. The Fraser is the great water course 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 over 300 miles before turning to rush through the gorges of the coast range to the Straits of Georgia. On its way it receives the waters of a number of other streams, many of which would be rivers of some magnitude in other countries. Amongst these are the north and south branches of the Thompson, the Chilicotén, the Lillooet, the Nicola, the Harrison, the Pitt, and numerous others.

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

The Peace River rises some distance north of the north bend of the Fraser, and flows eastwardly through the Rocky Mountains, draining the plains on the other side. It more properly belongs to the district east of the mountains that bears its name. In the far north are the Skeena River and Stikine flowing into the Pacific, the latter being in the country of the latest gold mining operations.

The Fraser River is navigable for river boats to Yale, a small town 110 miles from the mouth; and larger vessels, drawing 20 feet, can ascend to New Westminster, situated about 15 miles from the mouth.

THE FRASER RIVER DISTRICT.

On either side of the river below New Westminster is good arable land. It is subject to occasional overflow, but this quickly subsides, and floods the land only for a short distance from the banks. The whole of the lower Fraser country is much esteemed for farming. The soil is rich and strong, and heavy yields are obtained without much labour. Very large returns of wheat have been got from land in this district—as much as 62 bushels from a measured acre, 75 bushels of oats per acre, and hay that yielded $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons to the acre. Good prices are realized for all farm produce. This part of British Columbia is fairly well settled but there is still ample room for new comers. Those having a little money to use, and desirous of obtaining a ready made farm, may find many to choose from. These settlements are not all on the Fraser; some are at a distance from it on other streams.

The climate, described elsewhere, proves to be a great temptation to many. The proximity of the great river and the Canadian Pacific Rail-