

I got a very convincing assurance of this by a visit to the Nanaimo district and the Wellington coal mine, on an excursion participated in on September 7th by all the members of the various parties which had now re-united in Victoria. There at Nanaimo I saw conglomerates, which were evidently the product of the rolling action of the stream, old river pebbles, and I collected at the rubbish heaps by the coal-pits impressions of the leaves of trees. Nothing here indicates the nearness of the cretaceous sea, but south of Nanaimo in the same complex formation a rich marine fauna has been found.

The trip from Victoria to the above-mentioned coal district marks the end of my journey in Canada. Once more it led through a highly interesting landscape. The Island of Vancouver, which forms the fifth zone of the great Canadian Cordilleras, only partially rising above the waves, is covered in its deeper parts with a forest, the equal of which it would be hard to find. The Douglas firs, sometimes 100 meters high, form dense groves; with the prevailing dampness, forest fires, of which the Rocky Mountains afford many sad traces, can hardly arise. The train steams along under giants centuries old; only in a very few places have clearings been successful. They still rise in close proximity to Victoria, where the friendly and comfortable frame houses of the European settlers have a dwarflike appearance beneath them.

Here in Victoria where the excursionists enjoyed the friendly guidance of the inhabitants, there are still very striking traces of the glaciation of the ice-age, which, proceeding from the continent, covered the lower parts of Vancouver Island with ice. It crossed the fjord-like bay which forms the geographical reason for Victoria, at a right angle and therefore the bay cannot be considered the work of the ice. It is a submerged valley which shows that a sinking of the land has taken place. This sinking has now changed into a rising. The coast between Victoria and Nanaimo is accompanied by extended terraces. Thus we have on the Pacific coast the same phenomena as on the Atlantic shore of the great British Dominion in North America. As far as the traces of the ice-age extend the coasts are embayed, the outlets of the land valleys are under water and we find at the same time shore lines which betray the fact that a rise has taken place since the ice period. It has not been strong enough to obliterate the effect of the preceding sinking. The land that is in process of rising has the outlines of one that has been submerged.