

Nanaimo, has been leased to an American Company, who are engaged in shipping it to San Francisco, to be used there in the construction of the new Government Mint. It is easily worked, and hardens by exposure, and a large demand for it is anticipated, there being nothing of the same kind on the coast.

But that which forms the chief mineral wealth of the colony is its *coal*, both anthracite and bituminous; the only good coal in fact on the whole Pacific coast. The mines at Nanaimo formerly worked by the Hudson's Bay Company, and now by the Vancouver Coal Company, are most successfully managed. The shares are at a premium of over 20 per cent. Although the price per ton is 25s. at the pit's mouth, and a duty of 5s. per ton imposed at San Francisco, the coal commands there a ready sale at a good profit.

The Harewood Company possess a fine seam adjoining the Nanaimo mine, but no attempt has yet been made to work it. There is also a very extensive coal bed at Comox, 70 miles above Nanaimo. Already several companies have taken up claims, and it is expected that one of them, owned principally by San Francisco capitalists, will commence operations in the spring of this year.

Excellent anthracite coal was discovered some years ago on Queen Charlotte's Island, and great expectations have been formed of the results of the labours of the company, who have for some time been engaged in opening up the mine. They expect to commence shipping coal to San Francisco in the spring of this year, where it commands the enormous price of \$16 = £3. 5s. per ton. This coal is stated to be superior to the Pennsylvanian anthracite.

"The position of the various stores of coal in the Pacific," says Mr. Dilke, in his 'Greater Britain,' "is of extreme importance as an index to the future distribution of power in that portion of the world; but it is not enough to know where coal is to be found, without looking also to the quantity, quality, cheapness of labour, and facility of transport. In China and in Borneo there are extensive coal fields, but they lie 'the wrong way' for trade; on the other hand, the California coal, at Monte Diabolo, San Diego, and Monterey, lies well, but is bad in quality. Tasmania has good coal but in no great quantity, and the beds nearest to the coast are formed of inferior anthracite. The three countries of the Pacific, which must for a time at least rise to manufacturing greatness, are Japan, Vancouver Island, and New South Wales; but which of these will become wealthiest and most powerful depends mainly on the amount of coal which they respectively possess, so situated as to be cheaply raised. The dearth of labour under which Vancouver suffers will be removed by the opening of the Pacific railroad; but for the present New South Wales has the cheapest labour, and upon her shores at Newcastle are abundant stores of coal of good quality for manufacturing purposes, although for sea use it burns 'dirtily,' and too fast. . . . . The future of the Pacific shores is inevitably brilliant, but it is not New Zealand, the centre of the water hemisphere, which will occupy the position that England has taken on the Atlantic, but some country such as Japan or Vancouver, jutting out into the ocean from Asia or from America, as England juts out from Europe. If New South Wales usurps