

*Copper-Bearing Veins* are very numerous and very widely distributed. They are very promising in appearance, but with one or two exceptions no attempt has been made to prospect or work those veins within the country described. Ultimately they may become a source of crown revenue, but it is scarcely possible to name the time when such may occur.

Iron is found in different places : but the cost of working it, at the present rate of labour, and rendering it a merchantable commodity, makes it undeserving of further consideration with respect to revenue.

Coal of a good quality is very widely distributed over the section of the Island under consideration. It is found cropping out in the neighborhood of Fort Rupert, at Quateno, Clayoquot Sound, Barclay Sound, and between Cape Beal and Sooke. If due regard be paid to the development of the coal fields, no royalties on coal can be imposed judiciously at the present time ; but by selling the coal lands so that companies may be formed to work them, a small revenue may be obtained ; and ultimately, when the mines are in successful operation, revenue may be raised from them by a direct tax on the returns of the business, or a tax on the value of the mines as real estate.

Timber Lands are found everywhere ; but not always in situations to render them immediately available as a commercial commodity or for revenue. The numerous harbours and inlets that indent the coast from Sooke around the Island to the southern entrance of Johnson Straits, places the timber lands within the reach of capital and labor. At such points the timber may be manufactured into lumber or the spars exported ; and a small revenue may be received by selling the timbered lands or by granting licenses to cut off the timber. Within a few years in all probability the timber situated contiguous to navigable water will prove valuable and become a source of revenue. The greatest portion of the timber lands lie, however, in the interior, away from navigable water, and as the rivers are generally very small, it is very doubtful whether the timber can be turned to any practical account by being floated down to where it can be manufactured into lumber and shipped ; so there is very little hope of revenue from the latter source.

The probable future crown revenue that is likely to be derived from the crown lands, minerals, and forests, treated of in this section, is not likely to be of any considerable amount within any very short period. But in the natural course of events, when a large capital shall be accumulated in the colony, and when our population shall be far in excess of what it is at present, and labor shall seek some other employment than digging for gold, there is no shadow of doubt but that those fertile agricultural lands which now lie waste will be changed into prosperous settlements, the forests will be cleared by the lumbermen, and the wealth contained in our copper, iron and coal mines will be fully developed. When this state of things shall exist, doubtless considerable revenue will be derived from the crown lands, mines and forests ; but it is very questionable whether the territorial revenue will ever, in any future year, be much in excess of the expenditure necessary for surveys, and the construction of roads to new settlements.

The general character of the crown lands, rivers and forests in the surveyed and settled districts, is as follows :

1. Out of 212,151 acres, the total area of all the surveyed districts, there are only 92,264 acres open for pre-emption or for sale.

2. According to the testimony of Mr. B. W. Pearse, formerly acting Surveyor General, fully eight-tenths of the crown land that remains unsold and unreserved in the surveyed districts, is unavailable for agriculture, leaving only about 18,500 acres of comparatively good land.

3. The following extracts from Mr. Pearse's testimony will show the character of the crown lands in the surveyed districts :