

largest and most important. These are a group of which there are three principal islands, Graham, Moresby and Provost islands. They are the home of the remnant of the Hydah Indians. About 800 people, who live in villages scattered about the three islands. They are expert canoe men and fishermen, and find occupation in extracting oil from the livers of the dog fish, which abound on that coast. A company was started a few years ago called the Skidegate Oil Company, which, by introducing proper machinery for extracting the oil, obtains an excellent article, especially for lubricating. It manufactures about 40,000 gallons annually, and gives employment to the Indians during the summer months.

These islands are heavily wooded, but not with the larger kinds of fir. It is believed that there is gold on the islands, and in years past several attempts were made to find it; but, probably owing to imperfect methods, with only moderate success.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It would be difficult to indicate any defined section of British Columbia in which gold has not been, or will not be, found. The first mines discovered were in the southern part of the province, the next in the Cariboo district, in the centre of British Columbia, and at the present the richest diggings in work are the Cassiar mines in the far north. Recently several new mines have been opened elsewhere.

Gold has been found on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, on Queen Charlotte islands at the extreme west, and on every range of mountains that intervene between these two extreme points. Hitherto the work has been practically placer mining, a mere scratching of the surface, yet nearly fifty millions of dollars have been scraped out of the rivers and creeks. Bars have been washed out and abandoned, without sufficient effort being made to discover the quartz vein from which the streams received their gold. Abandoned diggings have been visited after a lapse of years, and new discoveries made in the neighbourhood.

The railway now pierces the auriferous ranges: men and material can be carried into the heart of the mountains, and with each succeeding season fresh gold deposits will be found, or the old ones traced to the quartz rock, and capital and adequate machinery be brought to bear upon them. There are hundreds of miles open to the poor prospector, and there are, or shortly will be, numerous openings for the capitalist. To the agricultural settler the existence of gold is of double significance. He is certain of a market for his produce, he is not debarred from mining a little on his own account, and he is never deprived of the hope that he will one day become the fortunate discoverer of a bonanza.

In giving evidence before a committee of the House of Commons a member of the Government Geological Survey said: "After having travelled over 1,000 miles through British Columbia, I can say with safety that there will yet be taken out of her mines wealth enough to build the Pacific Railway." This means many millions. Another gentleman in the same service said that, "it may soon take its place as second to no other country in North America."

In 1860, Antler Creek (on the Fraser) yielded at one time not less than \$10,000 per day. On one claim \$1,000 was obtained by a single day's work.

The total output of gold since its first discovery in British Columbia, even before new mineral districts were opened up by the Canadian