

# SURVEY AT NANAIMO.

## REPORT OF ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF SURVEY.

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To Joseph D. Pemberton, Esq., Colonial Surveyor, &c. &c.

Sir,—I have the honour to report, for your information, some observations made whilst engaged in the survey around Nanaimo, comprising the Mountain, Cedar, and Cranberry districts.

These districts are situated immediately around and abutting upon the Nanaimo district, which is bounded on the east by Nanaimo Harbour, and has a large mining town, containing about 200 inhabitants, chiefly labourers at work in the coal mines, who afford a ready market for all kinds of farm produce; the harbour is of large size, and well sheltered at every point from wind, with good anchorage and every natural advantage. The distance from Victoria is about 70 miles, and the average passage (for 18 months) of a schooner of 20 tons, trading between the two places, was two days, which included her discharge and loading at either place.

General observations. Nanaimo Harbour. Colville-town. As a market. Distance from Victoria.

Fish, chiefly salmon, are very abundant in the harbour and up the Nanaimo or Quaquamqua River. In the fall of the year the salmon ascend the river in large shoals, when they may be readily speared, or shot, or caught in nets in any quantity; they are very rich and fat, and equal in all respects to the finest salmon of England. Halibut and cod are caught on the sand banks not far from Nanaimo.

Fish.

The general character of this district is broken and undulating, but often perfectly flat, especially up the River Millstone and about Diver Lake, where the timber is for the most part open, and the fern, which is of three distinct kinds, grows to an unusual height.

Mountain district.—Natural features.

The timber is chiefly pine, of the species known as Douglas and white, with some spruce, and is generally of large size; occasional patches of saalal (which bears an exceedingly nice berry), and poor ground occur, but they are the exception. The mean height would, probably, be 60 or 70 feet above the sea. The richest land, however, lies

Timber.