

acre, whenever the survey is completed. Any quantity of contiguous land may also be purchased at the like price. The system is a liberal one, and free from any complicated conditions.

The title to land is rendered safe by an excellent system of registration, and by means of the Homestead Law, every man can, with exertion, secure to himself and family independence and comfort against the time of old age or adversity. Under this law (a modified form of which is in use in the United States) the working man can, on affidavit of solvency, register his cottage and land up to the value of £500, and secure them against seizure or sale for debt. It is in fact the poor man's marriage settlement.

MINES AND MINERALS.

Gold is found throughout the Colony, on the banks of the Fraser 100 miles from its mouth upwards, in the hills of the Cariboo district, on the Thompson and Bridge Rivers, on the Columbia and Kootenay Rivers down to the extreme southern boundary of the Colony, and last year, reliable information was received of its discovery, in conjunction with silver, on the Findlay branch of the Peace River, at the extreme northern boundary. Fabulous amounts of money were taken out from Cariboo in 1862-3, but from that time the number of miners has steadily decreased. Although the gold mines are undoubtedly rich and extensive, and the yield per man greater than even in Australia or California, the author would not recommend gold mining as a profitable occupation for an intending settler—it being but a lottery at the best. He recommends rather the cultivation of the soil, which affords a surer, though slower means of wealth. Most of the claims in Cariboo and Kootenay, are worked by companies of men, who in addition to their own labour employ others, at the rate of from 5 to 8 dollars per day. Out of this the working man might easily save one third, as meals can be had for 12 dollars per week.

The value of gold shipped during 1868 by the three Banks at Victoria, amounted to \$1,980,587, or about £312,000; a decrease, as compared with previous years. This return does not, however, include the amounts taken away by private hands, which of course are very considerable.

Silver is known to exist, but no lead has yet been worked sufficiently to give any decided information.

Copper has been discovered in various parts of the colony, principally on the coast, and of good quality, but no vein has yet been worked. Ruby and peacock copper of superior quality is known to exist on Queen Charlotte's Island, and at the head of Knight's Canal, on the mainland coast. Specimens recently brought to Victoria have assayed over 60 per cent., and if they exist in sufficient quantity, the mine will be very valuable. A Company has been formed to work it.

Salt springs are found near Nanaimo, and on Salt Spring Island, and may hereafter become of great value.

There is excellent *Limestone* on Vancouver Island; and on Orcas Island, one of the San Juan group, extensive works have been erected.

On many of the Islands in the Gulf of Georgia is to be found a very superior quality of *Freestone*; a quarry on Newcastle Island, near