

winter, with rain; the annual rainfall is estimated at 45 inches; and occasionally snow; early spring; a dry, warm summer, and a clear, bright and enjoyable autumn. Sometimes the frost is sufficiently hard to permit of skating, but this is exceptional. As a rule flowers bloom in the gardens of Victoria throughout the year. It is spoken of as England without its east winds; in reality, it is Torquay in the Pacific. Fruits of all kinds indigenous to the temperate climates ripen in the open air, and amongst them, some that are in England brought to perfection only under glass. Thunder storms seldom break over Vancouver. It is this climate, combined with the situation of Victoria, that makes that city such a pleasant abiding place.

### WAGES.

The wages earned in Victoria and other parts of the island are, of course, governed by the demand for labour, and the amounts paid on the mainland, but it is unlikely that they will be reduced for many years to the level of those paid in Eastern Canada.

Artizans are highly paid, and there is work at good wages for steady men even if without any mechanical knowledge. Women servants are well paid, but as in all backwood settlements the earlier work is done by men exclusively, and a pioneer soon finds that his new home is not complete without a wife. The consequence is that young women coming to the colony, and prepared to take their share of the duties of life as the wives of settlers in the back districts, do not long remain as servants or factory girls. They may at first miss some of the attractions of a city life, but by industry and orderly living, acquire a position in their neighbourhood, and gather about them much to occupy their time and give an interest to their home, and as the years roll on positions of credit and responsibility come to them, that in the early days did not even occur to them as possible.

### THE ISLANDS OF THE STRAITS.

On the east side of Vancouver, in the Straits of Georgia, that is between the island and the mainland, are innumerable islands of smaller size. Generally they are wooded, and some of them have spots well fitted for agriculture. They are not much sought for by white men at present, as there is plenty of land in places nearer the settlements.

### TAXADA.

Near Vancouver, is the island of Taxada, opposite the settlement at Comox, which from its wealth of iron ore, is destined to be of considerable value.

It is largely owned by speculators. The ore is in a mountainous mass that can be traced for miles, and it can be mined, smelted and shipped without difficulty. It is a coarse, granular magnetite, containing a large percentage of iron with only .003 per cent of phosphorus.

A little to the north of Taxada is a small group of islands, and then the island of Vancouver and the mainland approach one another to within two or three miles.

### THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS.

North of Vancouver island, and close to the coast of the mainland, there is a succession of islands continuing to the extreme limits of British Columbia. Of these, the Queen Charlotte Islands are the