

of Nanaimo is a settlement, known as the "Five-Acre Lots," an interesting experiment in small holdings inaugurated by the New Vancouver Coal Company, of which the present Western Fuel Company is the successor. Fruit-growing and small mixed farming are most successful.

Four miles farther on is Departure Bay, where the Wellington Colliery Company formerly operated on a large scale. The harbour is one of the finest and most commodious on the Coast.

At Cumberland, in the Union District, 100 miles farther to the north, the Union Colliery Company operates. This is an important agricultural as well as mining district. In connection with the collieries, which produce about 260,000 tons per annum, are coking works, the output of which finds a market at the smelters at Crofton, Ladysmith, Texada and Tacoma. The output of coal for Vancouver Island in 1902 was 1,247,665 tons, and of coke 16,000 tons, and to date from the outset 16,500,000 tons of coal.

The principal market for the coal mined on Vancouver Island is San Francisco. With the exception of the mines at Nanaimo, the collieries are controlled and owned by Mr. Jas. Dunsmuir, whose father, the Hon. Robt. Dunsmuir, opened and developed them. He also built and controlled the E. & N. Railway, as an inducement to construct which he received a large tract of land (with coal rights) about 2,000,000 acres in extent, from the Province, also a cash subsidy of \$750,000 from the Dominion.

The coast line of both the Mainland and Island of Vancouver is rich in minerals, timber, fish and building material. It has in contiguity a great abundance of iron, lime, coal and forest, elements which, in connection with geographical position and unexcelled shipping facilities, will conduce to a great industrial future.

From Nanaimo to Vancouver, to which place the steamer goes direct, is 35 miles, and is made in two hours by the "Princess."