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The Province may be considered as being divided into three distinct parts—the islands of Vancouver, Queen Charlotte, and the innumerable smaller islands, forming the first ; the region west of the Cascade Mountains the second, and the region east of the Cascades, the third division.

CLIMATE.—Vancouver and the other islands have a climate resembling that of Great Britain in almost every particular. The crops are usually sown, reaped, and housed with fine weather. Snow neither falls heavily nor lies long. In general, the summers are dry and warm, and the winters open and wet. The absence of thunderstorms is a remarkable fact. The rainfall in the West Cascade region is greater than that of England, being 62.33 in 1874. There are no extremes of heat or cold, malaria and ague being unknown.

In the region east of the Cascades the climate is quite different. The heat and cold are more intense, it being almost continuously hot in summer, and the mercury freezing in winter. As rain falls but rarely, irrigation is required. The dryness of the atmosphere near the head waters of the Columbia river, and the romantic nature of the scenery, render it a most favourable residence for consumptive patients, and several cures of this formidable disease have been effected by the genial properties of the climate.

POPULATION.—INDIANS.—The whites, who are mostly English, and Canadians, are estimated at about 20,000 ; coloured, 750 ; and Chinamen, 1,500. The Indians, who are very quiet and useful, number about 30,000 ; but as, from a combination of causes, they are rapidly decreasing, this estimate is probably wide of the mark. In all, the population may be considered to be 52,000. Victoria, which is the capital, contains over 5,000 white inhabitants, according to the census of 1876.

GOVERNMENT AND LAWS.—The province forms part of the Dominion of Canada, and sends representatives, chosen by the people, to the House of Commons at Ottawa. As regards provincial matters, there is a Lieutenant-Governor (Hon. Mr. Richards) and a Legislative Assembly, the members of which are elected for four years by the voters ; and three or four of the representatives constitute the Ministry. Any man who has the confidence of the electors, no matter what his social position may be, may become a candidate for political honours. The members are paid about 100% per annum for their services during the session, which rarely lasts more than eight weeks. The laws are just and founded upon those of England. The franchise is open to all British subjects. Municipalities choose their own Mayor and Council, and manage their own affairs. The administration of justice is in marked contrast to the lawlessness which exists in some of the adjoining States of the Union. Life and property are as secure as in England. Indians and whites are equal in the eye of the law. It is principally owing to the personal character and exertions of Sir Mathew Bailey Begbie, the Chief Justice of Columbia, assisted by com-

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