

San Francisco, are from Vancouver Island. Coal formations of tertiary age, furnishing very good coal of its kind, cover great tracts also, of the mainland of British Columbia. Anthracite coal exists in Queen Charlotte Island and on the mainland, and indications of its presence have been discovered in Vancouver Island.

It is only within the past five years that the coal trade from British Columbia to California has assumed large proportions. In the twelve years ending with 1873, the imports were 150,000 tons, or 12,500 tons per annum. In the last ten years these imports have been 1,280,000 tons, or 107,000 tons per annum. In the last five years they have averaged 153,000 tons per annum, or as much in one year as was received at San Francisco in the first twelve years of the above period.

The present indications point to a large increase of the coal trade of the province.

A test by the War Department of the United States, as already stated, in order to find the best steam-raising coal on the Pacific coast, showed that to produce a given quantity of steam, it took 1,800 lbs. of Vancouver coal to 2,400 lbs. of Seattle coal, 2,600 lbs. of Coos Bay coal Oregon, and 2,600 lbs. of Monte Diablo coal, California. This proved that, as far as the Pacific coast is concerned, the coal of Vancouver Island has a marked superiority over all the others.

IRON.

Great masses of iron ore exist on the coast—some of the finest iron ores known in Canada—and lying in close proximity to great beds of marble or limestone and the coal fields of Nanaimo. Dr. Dawson describes the bed on Texada Island as a "very rich magnetic ore assaying 68.4 of iron, and a very low percentage of phosphorus and other impurities," and having "only twenty miles of the navigable waters of the Strait of Georgia between it and the Comox coal field, and both the iron and coal close to the water's edge." Rich deposits of iron ore are found in many other portions of the Province.

SILVER.

Silver has been found near Hope, on the Fraser River. The specimens of ore assayed have given high yields of silver. It has also been found at Yale, on the Fraser, and a rich silver ore has been brought from Cherry Creek, a tributary of the Shuswap. Native silver has been found at Omineca, in the northern interior, and argentiferous galena at Omineca and Kootenay. The silver ores in the Kootenay district, both at Kootenay Lake and on the Upper Columbia, seem to be very plentiful. There is every reason to believe that rich mines of silver will be opened in the province. Specimens received by the Geological Survey, from the Rocky Mountains, show a high percentage.

OTHER MINERALS.

Copper, galena, mercury, platinum, antimony, bismuth, molybdenum, plumbago, mica and other minerals have been discovered in different parts of the province; copper being very widely distributed.

MINING LAWS.

FREE MINERS.

"Free miners" only can have right or interest in mining claims or ditches. A "free miner" must be over 16 years of age. His certificate may be for one year (\$5), or three years (\$15), and is not transferable. He may enter and mine Crown lands, or, on making compensation, lands occupied for other than mining purposes. To recover wages, must have free miner's certificate.

RECORD, &c., OF CLAIMS.

Claims must be recorded (\$2.50), and re-recorded (\$2.50). Time allowed for record is three days after location, if within ten miles of office—one additional day for every additional ten miles, or fraction thereof. In very remote places, miners, assembled in meeting, may make valid rules temporarily. Transfers of claims or mining interests must be in writing and registered. Free miners may hold any number of