

Native
fruits for
culture.

Straw-
berry.

Plants.

Enumera-
tion of
varieties.

Varieties
of plants.

Fern and
grasses.

Woods
economic.

Facilities
for com-
merce in
wood.

List of
trees and
shrubs.

Minerals.

Lime.

Ores of
iron.

Water pri-
vileges for
mills and
machinery.

Of suffi-
cient
extent.

Among the native fruits, the blackberry, mulberry, raspberry, strawberry, gooseberry, currant, and high bush cranberry, would require little pains or culture to produce luxuriantly. The strawberry, it may be mentioned, grows on the plain lands nearly of the same size as the garden fruit.

The varieties and species of plants are very numerous,—a few only were noted growing in the plain and meadow lands, among which are the following:—Wild pea (five to six seeded), wild bean, ground nut, clover (species of white clover), field strawberry, wild oats, cut grass, wild timothy, reed meadow grass, long spear grass, sweet grass, high ostrich fern, cowslip, crowfoot, winter cress, partridge berry, wild sunflower, marigold, wild lettuce, nettles, wild angelica, wild lily (white and yellow), broad-leaved rush, and reed rush. The fern attains an enormous height of from six to eight feet, and the grasses have all a most vigorous growth.

The chief economic woods met with are the pine and the oak. The pine attains a large size in places, but many other parts of the island afford far better inducements for the cutting and exporting of lumber than can be had in the Cowichan Valley.

The following are some of the trees and shrubs:—

Oak, red or swamp maple, alder, trailing arbutus, bois de flèche, crab apple, hazel nut, willow, balsam, poplar, pitch pine, and various other species, balsam fir, cedar, barberry, wild red cherry, wild blackberry, yellow plum, choke cherry, black and red raspberry, white raspberry, prickly purple raspberry, swamp rose, prickly gooseberry, swamp gooseberry, currants, bear berries, red elder, mooseberry, snowberry, blueberry, bilberry, cranberry, whortleberry, red and white mulberry.

It is believed that the country surveyed will prove rich in the economic minerals, sufficiently so to justify the Government in causing an investigation to be made at the proper time. Lime and freestones are abundant, with granular marble, and both the bog and mountain ores of iron. Indications of gold were remarked by the party upon the southerly slope of Mount Prevost, but no value was attached to these.

Water privileges, for the purposes of mills and machinery, are not frequent along the coast, although the region abounds with large rivers and small streams. Several good falls exist a short distance above the mouth of the Mill Creek in the Shawnigan district, and this creek has likewise facilities for mills at various other points. Other streams afford a sufficient extent of water privileges to answer the require-