

trol of Council of Public Instruction. Number of schools to date: Public, 523; Catholic, public, 46; Catholic, separate, 12; Protestant, separate, 3; total, 584. Expenditure 1899, \$158,625.33. Number of pupils in attendance in 1899, 16,754.

Government administered by a Lieutenant-

Governor, an Executive Council, and a Legislative Assembly. Council consists of such persons as are selected by Governor and afterwards elected to the Assembly by the people. Represented in Dominion Parliament by 2 Senators and 4 Representatives.

British Columbia.

Historical.—Mainland occupied and entirely under control of the Hudson's Bay Company previous to 1858. Vancouver Island leased by Company 1849; reverted to Crown and became a Crown Colony 1858; during same year mainland



Great Bluff on the Thompson River, B. C.

erected into a colony under title of British Columbia; Vancouver Island incorporated with British Columbia 1866; Colony admitted into Dominion of Canada 1871.

Area.—Total area, 383,300 square miles; length, 764 miles; breadth, 400. Vancouver Island, 15,937 square miles; Queen Charlotte Islands, 5,000 square miles.

Physical Features.—Four principal mountain ranges traverse mainland northwest to southeast. Rocky Mountains rising to about 16,000 feet; west of Rockies, Selkirk and Gold ranges with many elevations of 10,000 feet; farther west, Cascades and Coast ranges averaging

100 miles in width with mean elevations of 6,000 to 7,000 feet. Country between Gold and Cascade ranges great interior plateau. Lakes numerous. Principal rivers: Fraser, Columbia, Skeena, Nass, Stikine, Liard, and Peace. Pacific coast line, including indentations, 12,000 miles, noted for number of bays, passages, and islands.

Burrard Inlet most important harbor on mainland; at Esquimalt, on Vancouver Island, is the Imperial Naval Dockyard, with the finest harbour on the Pacific coast north of San Francisco.

Climate.—Southwest characterized by mild winters, cool, dry summers; southwest winds and occasional fogs; interior subject to extremes; winters in northern sections severe. Highest average temperature at Esquimalt for a number of years 86.4 deg.; lowest, 16.7 deg.; mean annual, 47.73 deg.; rainfall, 38.77 inches; snowfall, 41.9 inches. Highest average temperature at Mission Valley, upper mainland, for a number of years, 98 deg.; lowest, 17 deg. below; mean annual, 43.40 deg.; rainfall, 5.52 inches; snowfall, 59.7 inches. Nicola Lake—interior, —12 inches.

Forests, Etc.—Forests are most valuable resources of Province. Coasts as far north as Alaska covered with dense growth of valuable timber. Estimated wooded area, 285,554 square miles. Trees attain gigantic size on west slopes of Coast Ranges; among the most valuable are Oregon pine or Douglas fir, red and yellow cedar, and white spruce. Available timber 1899, 40 to 100 billion feet. Sawmills 1899, 90; capacity, 1,693,000 feet daily; exported, 52,531,458 feet; taken away by 57 vessels.

Agriculture, Etc.—Principal agricultural districts Fraser Valley, southeastern and northern portion of Vancouver Island, and Okanagan District; aggregate area of cultivable lands in these districts fully 1,000,000 acres. In the latter

