

been taken out, with a view to search for this valuable mineral, which, if found so close to a coal-bearing region, will be doubly valuable. In addition to iron, gypsum is found in such quantities as to be valuable as an article of commerce, as well as for agricultural purposes.

All visitors to Bay St. George speak in rapturous terms of the beauty of its scenery. Mr. Jukes in his Journal describes it as "gently undulating, with a fine short turf, not unlike some English landscapes." From a rising ground, at the spot where he landed, he saw "a tract of low, undulating land, covered with a rich sea of wood, stretching away into the interior for fifteen or twenty miles, backed by a range of blue hills in the horizon that rose towards the south-west, while toward the north-east they died away and coalesced with the hills at the head of the Bay." The rich-looking valley, with its bright waters winding away into the woods, he describes as "a most lovely and almost English picture."

The fisheries of St. George's Bay are exceedingly valuable, and to these the attention of the inhabitants is largely directed, to the neglect of the soil, in too many instances. Cod, salmon, herrings, seals and smelts, are taken in large quantities. Captain Brown, of H. M. S. *Danae*, engaged last year in the protection of the fisheries, says in his last Report: "The herrings in St. George's Bay are abundant, and the catch *unlimited*. Every man takes as many as he thinks he can cure. This year, about thirty thousand barrels are ready to go to Halifax and elsewhere. The inhabitants of St. George's harbour number about seven hundred, and are a well-to-do people, earning among them £35,000 per annum. This sum may seem excessive, but they catch herring in the spring, then salmon, and, later, cod. They have lately taken to go to Labrador for cod fishing. The salmon fishery they are doing their best to ruin. Dams, weirs and nets are set right across the rivers. Seals are sometimes caught in the Bay. Smelt is also taken every month in the year."

The climate of St. George's Bay is many degrees warmer in winter than that of Canada, Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, while the heat of summer is never oppressive. In an article in *The Canadian Naturalist* for March 1870, Dr. Bell, of Canada, says of the West Coast generally, "along the river-flats, in the valleys, and on 'the barrens,' when these are drained, and the country a little more cleared, there will be room for thousands of farms, and