

only fishery fully developed being Salmon canning. The greatest fishing grounds for Cod, Halibut and other fish are in the vicinity of Queen Charlotte Islands. A glance at the map will show that Bella Coola is remarkably well situated to capture a large share of the trade that will develop from these fisheries.

IRON, COPPER, COAL, ETC.

Coal is known to outcrop at several places in the Interior, but as far as now known is all lignite, which would only be used locally. Further explorations may however demonstrate the existence of bituminous coal, as a large area belongs geologically to the Cretaceous Period

Large deposits of Magnetite exist adjacent to Bella Coola Valley. Hematite ore has been reported from several localities, and I am informed on good authority that a very large deposit has lately been located. This means the possibility of a great traffic in ore to Bella Coola, Hematite ore being greatly in demand on the Coast, and also makes Bella Coola a probable location for iron and steel works. From reports I get, there are 30,000,000 tons of Hematite ore, and an unlimited supply of Magnetite available.

A large deposit of good grade copper ore has been developed to some extent on the Saloompt River 7 miles from Haggensburg on the proposed railway. The construction of railway will probably enable the property to ship, and numerous other prospects are reported. A large development is to be expected in mining in the vicinity of Bella Coola Valley, as favourable geological conditions occur.

In the Interior the geological conditions along the route do not appear favourable to other minerals than coal and iron, but there are hills adjacent that may prove on more thorough prospecting to carry other minerals.

GENERAL.

The traffic available on completion of railway will be greater in through traffic than is generally the case of a new railway; the local traffic as well as the through will rapidly increase, and in ten years after completion it will probably be rapidly approaching the full capacity of single track railway.

The through traffic to be expected from Peace River Country is not by any means confined to agricultural products. Geological survey reports point strongly to the presence of oil fields of enormous extent, as well as on the Athabasca River of asphalt, and further to the north extensive salt deposits.