

OVER FAVORS PROPOSED RAILWAY

of This City for Proper
Connections Succinctly
Set Forth

SAN FRANCISCO OF B. N. A.

Operations of Mexican
Ship Line and Railway Will
Stimulate Trade

San Francisco of British
America would, under these
circumstances, hold a greater commercial
political position," said the
of State for Canada as far
as referring to Victoria and
the. It is certain that the cir-
cles suggested are more ap-
plicable. And the thing designed
about these changes was the
mental railroad connection. It
is forgotten that the prin-
ciple held out by the British
when entering the confeder-
ation was the construction of the
railway. The phrase quoted
into this very clearly. Es-
tablished upon as the basis of
the proposed railway, not
any favoritism or as a po-
wer, but solely by means of
and geographical position.
Ultimate and Victoria are es-
sentially the same.

For political considerations,
the railway was from Esqui-
malt to Coal River. The move
did not alter the posi-
tional point of view
of commerce, that this
was, it was acknowledged
that the Butte Inlet route
this province was the best,
only real, not political, con-
sideration that presented the
difficulty of bridging. Sep-
arations.

Since the case a quarter of a
century ago, the right of the proposed
railway to favorable consideration
more evident. The passage
has not reduced the force of
arguments in its favor; it has
renewed them. The proposed
railway would have
luxury in 1895, today it is a
fact. A prominent member
of the board of trade on Saturday
said, at least, are competing
territories immediately adja-
cent, and there is not the
doubt they will all reach the
earliest possible date. The
points of people are watching
the open eyes which they term
"the opening of China." That
is a much greater advantage
in our own Dominion. We
years there will be a steady
one shipped west to keep
truly busy, and Esquimalt
will be the terminus of one

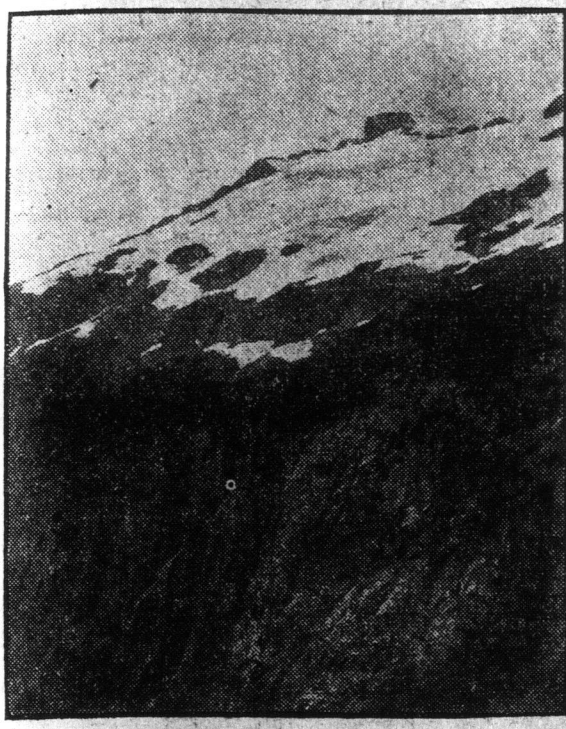
ancouver World summed up
on of affairs admirably in
of Saturday, when it said
people of Victoria are dis-
satisfied with the result of the
construction of a new rail-
road at Seymour narrows; but
disappointed, they will still
to agitate, is a bridge an
ing possibility? And if it is,
a traffic insured by the
be sufficient to pay interest
vestment. The time will come
when the question of the
be taken into consideration;
will still be the engineering
to be met and overcome. The
landlocked harbors some-
near Seymour narrows, where
facilities for a short railway
be secured and the bridge prob-
succeeding generations to
Victoria wants a railway, and
very badly by way of Butte
Inlet the Canadian Northern
want without a bridge. The
landlocked harbor necessary
had, in fact, two of them.
arm, on the mainland, and
ave, on Vancouver Island, are
ations for the terminal of an
ry, and Nodales channel is an
safe route for it to follow.
the opening of the Tehuante-
pec will affect Victoria, and
is not yet realized. Early in
new line of steamers between
and Mexico will commence
and thus place this city, in
with the whole of Canada, in
such with Salina Cruz, and
its western end.
months ago Admiral Shufeldt,
port to the United States, and
on the subject, had this to

will, be no troublesome and
consular invoices, customs
nections and the like to delay
going over the Tehuantepec.
In other words, if one ships
of say, cotton from New Or-
Leons, it will only be
so to manifest and bond it,
the atzacotcos docks it will be
ed direct to Tehuantepec
ars and at Salina Cruz, sever-
later, your cotton will be
to the Chinese steamship
an hour's delay for the taking
consular invoice—that great
in foreign shipping—of in-
by the customs house. In
admirably has been carried
straightening and rebalt-
the Tehuantepec National rail-
the dredging, deepening and
of her deep-water harbors.
Sir Weetman Pearson's con-
ought to be able after Jan. 1
to kill the business of that
line—the "Panama railway"—
knows but what it can yet
very favorably with the Pan-
ama? At least, the Panama
intends to have a "good try."
such stress cannot be laid on
ence of annoying regulations
ble from the present routes
ch grain is principally shipped
the report quoted from points
the steamer companies are all
shipment via Tehuantepec
routes will without doubt be
followed in the near future.
key to the situation. The
now being urged will of ne-
cessary the best outlet. Esqui-
malt offers natural induc-
ment no other can, and for all
is to Europe, when the Pan-
ama are utilized to their proper
and its admirable harbor will
deciding factor in bringing
mineral railways. As
who has been spoken to on
subject admits the time to get the
railway started is now.

Written for The Colonist

Minerals of Vancouver Island

By J. THEO. WILSON



Brecciated Zone of Big Interior Mine

ARTICLE NO. I.

The genesis of mining on Vancouver Island occurred in 1835, when, owing to information received from Indians, the Hudson's Bay Company com-
menced the exploitation of coal mea-
sures existing at Port Rupert, at the
head of Hardy Bay. These were
worked more or less until 1851. In
that year they were abandoned for the
discovery at Nanaimo, since which
time that city has been the head-
quarters of coal mining, though nowa-
days supremacy is threatened by the
recently opened mines in the southeast
corner of the province. Contrary to
the generally accepted opinion, the
first discovery of placer gold in the
province was made on the island, con-
temporaneously with a similar find on
Moreby Island, the southern member
of the Queen Charlotte group. There
was an incipient boom at the latter
place in 1851-2, several years before
the precious metal was discovered on
the Fraser, Columbia or Thompson
rivers.

What may be termed actual mining,
however, was not engaged in until
1861, when finds were made on Leech
Island, a tributary of the Sooke. With-
in a few years about \$200,000 was tak-
en out there, and a further sum of
about \$20,000 from Jordan river, now
called "Jordan."

Copper and Silver Found.
In 1864, also, copper was first found
in the province, another fresh discov-
ery on Vancouver Island. This was
also on the Sooke peninsula, to which
extended reference will be made later.
Still another new find was made
in the same year. Dr. Brown, in his
report of the Vancouver Island Ex-
ploration Expedition, records the dis-
covery of plumbago, but nothing has
been done commercially with it.

Silver was found for the first time in
1869 on Koksilah river, about 12 miles
from navigation at Spanish Inlet. Dr.
Dawson in his "Mineral Wealth of
British Columbia," states that the ore
was argentiferous galena, with small
gold values, the silver contents run-
ning from \$10 to \$75 to the ton.
It will be noticed that these discov-
eries, with the exception of that of
coal, made by Indians when hunting
on the northeast coast of the island,
all occurred within a very short dis-
tance of Victoria, then Port Camosun.
wards that new fields were invaded
and the mines of the west coast and
the interior of the island located. On
the east coast copper was found on
Tetia Island in 1874, and within the
past few years at Mount Sicker and
other places.

Though a chronological inconsis-
tency is committed in referring to
prospects before giving an account of
actual results, it is thought well, at
the outset, to draw attention to the
similarity of the deposits of minerals
on the west coast of Vancouver Is-
land to those of the Trail Creek camp
in Roseland and vicinity. Not only

are the ores of almost the same char-
acter, but the method of deposition,
according to competent authorities,
was precisely the same. R. W. Brock,
M. A., of the geological survey of Can-
ada, investigated the Trail Creek camp
in 1905; Herbert Carmichael, provin-
cial assayer for British Columbia, pro-
founded his theory of the west coast
deposits in a bulletin issued recently
after several trips along the west
coast, the last being during the sum-
mer of 1906.

Referring to the Roseland mines,
Mr. Brock, in his report, says: "From
the way in which the ore occurs in
veins and lodes and replacing the min-
erals of the various country rocks, it
is evident that the deposits were
formed through the agency of aqueous
mineral-laden solutions. The tem-
perature of the solutions, the fact
that the lodes at times branch or give
out, going upwards and the gen-
eral character of the minerals, all tend
to prove that those were ascending so-
lutions."

In Mr. Carmichael's report referring
to the west coast mines, with the ex-
ception of those at Quatsino Sound
and Great Central lake, the following
passage occurs:

"A careful examination of these de-
posits would lead one to the conclu-
sion that mineralization took place at
this time, not as a secondary enrich-
ment, but as a direct deposit of ore-
bearing solutions from below. The
solid mineral is seen to penetrate what
were originally cavities, and to follow
along old slip-walls, inside of which,
as a rule, no mineral whatever is seen,
as would be the case if segregation
had occurred."

Necessities of space prevent the in-
clusion of more than the foregoing
short extracts in the present article.
Those interested in the matter would
however, do well to read the reports
mentioned for purposes of comparison.
They are pamphlets No. 921 of the
geological survey, and bulletin No. 1,
1906, of the British Columbia depart-
ment of mines.

Mr. Brock's conclusions are as fol-
lows: "Since enrichment by descend-
ing waters does not seem to have
been of great consequence to these
lodes, except in some cases superficial-
ly, and since the mineralization has
been accomplished by ascending hy-
drothermal solutions, there is as yet
no apparent reason why pay ore
should not continue in depth."

The Outlook

Such being the case in Roseland, as
has been more recently proved by the
discovery of large ore bodies at much
greater depth than had been reached
at the time of Mr. Brock's visit, the
conclusion may be drawn with justice
that the outlook for west coast mines
becoming richer with depth is ex-
tremely bright.

When, under the provisions of the
Bureau of Mines Act, 1896, a separate
department was devoted to this indus-
try, it is interesting to note that Van-
couver Island was the first place to
receive attention. Wm. A. Carlyle, the

Provincial mineralogist, and now man-
ager of the famous Rio Tinto mines
in Spain, made his first tour of in-
spection in Alberni district, preparing
and publishing bulletin No. 1 in June,
1896.

Alberni First Visited
In this report Mr. Carlyle indicated
one feature that has prevented pros-
pecting being done, to any large ex-
tent, except along the sea coast and
near various small valleys through
which flow streams draining the
mountains of the interior. To quote:
"Prospectors find this country very
difficult to explore on account of its
being densely covered with heavy
timber and thick underbrush, especial-
ly near the coast, so that it is only
by pushing up along the streams that
they have picked up the clues that
have led to many of the locations now
made."

No Wild-Catting
Whether as a result of Mr. Carlyle's
warning or not is beside the question,
but his advice in the bulletin just
mentioned has been very generally
followed. He said: "I believe that
with careful systematic prospecting

inert region. A few may make some
small gains by such practices, but
everybody interested in the opening
up and advancement of a new local-
ity should strive to suppress such ul-
tra-highly colored statements as most
injurious to their own real interests,
and endeavor by actual development
work to prove up their property, as
one really promising claim thus de-
veloped will be of more substantial
value to a district than a vast deal of
puffing that cannot bear out investiga-
tion."

It must be conceded that Vancouver
Island mining has never been the sub-
ject of a boom. With very few excep-
tions, and all these several years old,
no "wild cat" have been exploited.
Though other districts of the province
have been the scene of dozens of com-
panies—each with its capital of a
million dollars or more—founded on
nothing more than a small surface
showing of minerals and sometimes
not even that, Vancouver Island has
been remarkably free from such in-
jurious fluctuations. For this reason the
mines have not occupied the important
place in the general view that other

mineral wealth to the general store. It
is not claimed that up to the present,
with very few exceptions, anything
more than indications have been ob-
tained. These indications, however,
warrant careful examination and de-
velopment which it is gratifying to
note, some are already receiving.

In a review of this character it is
probably best to "commence at the
top." Accordingly, an attempt will be
made to state the finds and develop-
ments along the west coast, commencing
with Cape Comberell.

So far as is recorded, the only in-
dication of mineral in this vicinity
was the bringing down to Victoria, in
1901, of several hundred dollars' worth
of placer gold by two miners who said
they had obtained it from a small
creek flowing into the sea near the
cape mentioned. They left, presum-
ably to return to their find, but noth-
ing has since been heard of the local-
ity.

Quatsino Sound

Quatsino Sound is the next locality
deserving of attention. Mineral has
been known to exist there for many
years. Both copper, gold and iron



Marble on Nootka Sound.

and exploratory work, work honestly
intended to prove and develop the
true value of a claim, but not intended
for purely speculative purposes, the
work of an intelligent miner, not of a
projector of mining schemes, this dis-
trict may become the centre of min-
ing activity; but what is to be most
depreciated is the issuing of extra-
vagant reports that, on the face of them,
are absurd, for such invariably re-
sult in the first place, discredit and
tardiness of what may be a useful prom-

Prejudice Exploded
Another fact is that a curious prej-
udice existed, even among experienced
mining men, that no good mines would
be found on the Pacific coast. The
proximity of coal was regarded as col-
lateral proof, the theory seeming to be
that the presence of deposits placed in
reposition by water, such as some sand-
stones and the altered vegetable mat-
ter, now coal, precluded the possibili-
ty of the discovery of the sea level
bearing veins, almost always of ig-
neous origin.

This erroneous impression has, of
course, been removed by later and
more careful investigation, the opin-
ion above, giving tangible reasons for
the change of view. At the risk of the
charge of too much iteration, it
must be pointed out, by way of il-
lustration, that similar occurrences
took place in England. In that coun-
try coal deposits stretch from the east
coast inland, the same as on Van-
couver Island. Yet even with tin and
copper mines of the southwest corner,
worked for more than two thou-
sand years as examples, the
attempts to find gold and other
minerals in the mountains of
Wales were generally treated as ho-
jokes. So much so, that almost the
first published story of George Du
Maurier turned on the hope of
happ of an unfortunate engineer for
one such property. But improved
methods have altered this state of
mining is being prosecuted with suc-
cess not only in Wales, but also in
Ireland. If the illustration may be
carried a little further it may be
pointed out, as a curious fact, that
metal was first discovered and worked
in the southwest corner of England
before the Christian era; on Van-
couver Island it was first found in a sim-
ilar location, really less than fifty years
ago, but equally far away, if develop-
ment is taken as the gauge.

The West Coast

Glancing now at the map, and tak-
ing the west coast alone, it may be
seen that from Cape Comberell to the
extreme northerly point, to Port San
Juan, at the southern extremity, al-
most every arm of the sea has already
contributed its quota of indications of



Head Bay, Nootka Sound

been spent on this property, principal-
ly on the New Comstock group, and
a considerable amount of ore shipped.
Want of money has hampered progress
but indications promise that, given
sufficient capital, the mine will become
a paying proposition.

In the same vicinity as the Edison
claim, upon which a series of open
cuts expose a vein of pyrrhotite and
copper pyrites, from 6 to 8 feet in
width. A tunnel has been run under
the surface showing of ore, and the
product, when sorted, will pay to
ship. Further development is in pro-
gress to discover if the ore does not in-
crease in value with depth.

Tetia River.
On Tetia river, a small stream flow-
ing into the southeast arm about five
miles from Yekka, several copper
claims have been located. The Red
Rock showed a 10-foot vein of solid
pyrrhotite, between diabase walls. On
the Fystrak claim, further up the
river, there was a small quartz vein on
the surface. A tunnel was run in for
a distance of 50 feet, when a lead of
9 inches wide was found mineralized
with copper pyrites. An assay gave
10.38 per cent copper, with small gold
and silver values. This showing
caused further development, and the
last report received states that the
lead has widened out to five feet of
pay ore carrying gold values.

The White Quartz claim. Also on
Tetia river, has an outcrop of brecciated
quartz on the surface, about 21 feet
wide. The quartz is mineralized with
some copper pyrites, but the owners
fear that the principal values are in
gold. Some very fine samples of ore
have been taken from this claim, but
so far, no shipments have been made.

The June Group.
The June group is one of the most
promising in the vicinity. There is on
this property a marked mineralized
zone occurring as a ridge, that shows
up for a distance of 300 feet. A tunnel
is being run that, when the vein is
struck, will give a depth of at least
150 feet. Harold Grant, the manager,
states that this tunnel is now in con-
sideration over 400 feet. In a 20-foot
crosscut to the north, ore carrying 20
per cent copper was struck, and a
considerable quantity can be hand-
sorted to a shipping grade."

Zinc.
Zinc, in what is believed to be pay-
ing quantities, has been found on the
Peeries, situated to the east of the
June group. Open quarry work ex-
posed a body nearly 30 feet wide
of nearly solid zinc blende, with a lit-
tle quartz vein matter. It has been
reported on two or three occasions
that arrangements had been made to
ship this ore, but so far nothing has
been done. The Elk adjoins the Peer-
ies. It has a showing of blende and
galena, occurring between lime and
diorite. An extension of this claim is
the I X L, that has a similar showing.

The Iron Deposits.
On the west arm of Quatsino Sound

there are deposits of both bog iron
and limonite. The Iron Mountain syn-
dicate, of Victoria, own eight of the
former and five of the latter. These
have been under bond to James A.
Moore, of Seattle, for some time. It is
stated that arrangements have been
made for extensive shipments to the
Ironstone smelter during the present
year. Not much development has
been done on the property, but there
is a very large surface showing.

Nootka Marble.
Coming now to Nootka Sound, as the
indications of mineral on Kykoet
Sound and Esperanza Inlet have not
been sufficiently prospected to require
notice, attention must be directed to
the marble deposits on Deseried creek
and the iron deposits at Head Bay.
The former were described somewhat
at length in a recent issue of the Col-
onist. It is therefore unnecessary to
mention more than the fact that the
marble is the only known deposit on
the coast where slabs ten feet square
at least can probably be quarried free
from flaws.

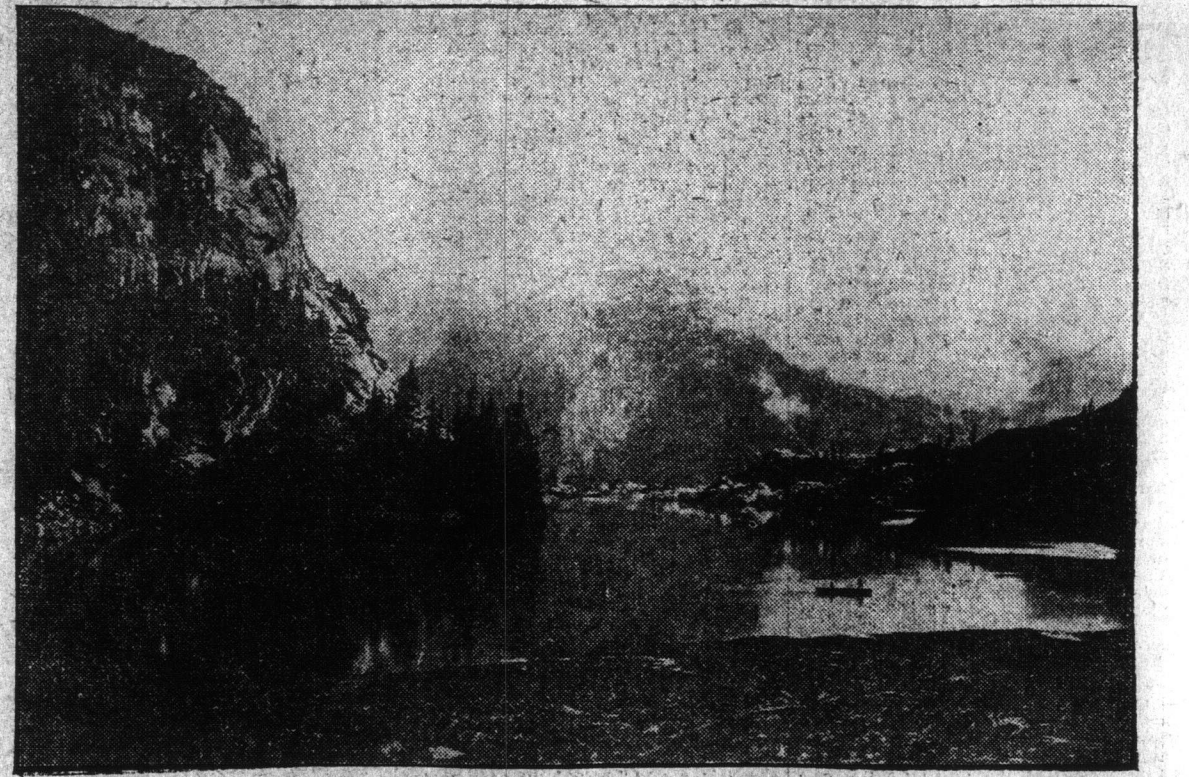
Head Bay.
The Sternmont, Glangarry and Texas
form a group of three claims owned by
Messrs. Stockham, Grant and Dawley,
of Victoria and Clayquot. They are
situated at the upper end of Head Bay,
about half a mile distant from the
water. Some surface stripping about
350 feet above sea level has uncover-
ed a body of magnetic iron ore, appar-
ently of considerable size. A bluff over
40 feet high has been stripped for 100
feet, in which exposed face the mag-
netite appears to be solid and unmix-
ed with rock matter. Analysis of an
average sample gave: Iron, 66.42 per
cent; sulphur, 0.25 per cent. The
group is favorably situated for cheap
mining, and a railway two miles long,
with easy grade, would convey the ore
to a sheltered bay with navigable
water. Other discoveries of iron were
reported from Nootka Sound late last
year, stated by the owners to be ex-
tensive areas of bog iron. No develop-
ment has been done on them, however,
nor have they been examined.

Hesquiat Harbor.
Several mineral claims have been
reported on Hesquiat harbor, the next
inlet to the south of Nootka Sound. As
early as 1898 mineral was found there,
among the locations being the Gulle-
mar and Thelma groups, located for
their copper contents. Nothing has
been done with these claims recently.

The Brown Jug group, owned by Nor-
ris and Smith, of Alberni, situated on
Hesquiat lake, has a good showing of
zinc blende carrying 20 to 25 oz. sil-
ver to the ton.
Iron has also been exploited to
some extent in the same vicinity. On
the Agnes No. 1 and No. 2 there are
exposures of magnetite, average sam-
ples of which assayed 60 per cent iron
and 13.1 per cent silica. The small
amount of work done simply proves
the existence of magnetite, and in the
opinion of the provincial assayer, "it
is quite possible, and even probable,
that further development will prove



Ptarmigan on Summit of Big Interior Basin. Elevation 5,500 Feet



Della Lake, in the heart of the Island