

growth, and difference of level. The low portions near the sea and on Vancouver's Island have a moderate climate, with a general range of from 20° in winter to 80° in summer. The spring is short, lasting from the beginning of March to the early part of May. The prevailing weather is fine and mild, alternated with occasional rain and squalls. Farming operations may usually be commenced at the beginning or middle of March, the "March winds" being seldom severely felt. The summer begins in May and ends with September. They are dry, with occasional showers; fogs and mists are rare, and the heat tempered by sea and land breezes. The temperature on the island is lower than on the mainland, owing to the prevailing southern winds blowing from the direction of the mountains across the sound. The crops are usually sown, reared, cut and housed with fine weather. October and November are the autumn months; cold and moist winds prevail; fogs and frequent rains. There are, however, periods of fine weather sometimes lasting for ten or twelve days, and even at the latter end of November the wild strawberries are sometimes seen in bloom. The winter lasts from the beginning of December till March; cold, moist northerly and southerly winds prevail, with frequent rains and occasional fogs. Snow neither falls heavily nor lies long, and the frosts are not severe, ice being seldom more than an inch thick. The general character of the climate is, a dry, warm summer, and an open wet winter. The absence of thunderstorms is a remarkable fact. Very rarely do any take place over Vancouver. Along the coast of British Columbia, for 150 miles inland the climate is humid, the thermometer rarely falling below 10°, or rising above 90°. Rain is abundant during the spring, and during summer and autumn sometimes continues for several days together. Snow falls from 1 to 2 feet in the northern part often more; near the sea, seldom so much. It seldom lies more than a week or two at a time; winter breaking up in the early part of March. When the atmosphere is clear there are heavy dews, and fogs are common at all seasons. The harbour at New Westminster is dangerous from floating ice from January to March, and over lies to ships. Beyond this district, lies a district of about equal breadth which is warmer and drier, the summer heat being more intense, and the mercury freezing in the winter. Beyond this again is another belt with a more humid climate. The larger lakes never freeze over; the snow in the open country seldom exceeds two feet in depth, and, throughout the Province, cattle, as a rule, can obtain feed at any time. The farmer who provides a month's forage is considered a very careful, prudent man. Both in summer and winter the climate is remarkably healthy—nothing like malaria or ague prevailing either in the summer or in the dampest places.

In the Cariboo district the weather is most variable, and subject to violent thunder storms both in winter and summer.

POPULATION AND INDIANS.

The population, according to the census of 1871, was 10,566, exclusive of Indians. The Chinese population increased during 1871 to 2,000. They are an industrious, clean and laborious community, and though not regarded with great affection by the people, are nevertheless useful. Among the colonists there is the same disproportion between men and women as in other gold regions, the men comprising more than two-thirds of the population. The people are intelligent and industrious, and remarkable for the spirit of order and submission to law.