

and it is not emigrants in Island—in might have ly from con— have been in addition to the writers of this article, of the most an miners in m-power were at is ever rise- a miner would

Many places has been unse- fortunes are on by season, ts to reach the take out gold, been compelled ostile element, y is inadequate h capital in the this difficulty, t a sufficiently sources of the vestments at so substantial com- land, and send the direction of no hesitation in ould be found ny receive from it in a career of

nd trading has nd distress upon mmanding geo- and exhaustless ounded, its con- buting European es on the coast, l station for our inspire the hope the cloud that at ho have had op- w of trade in agreed that con- tually be devel- d those of North- s that which is e and the Atlantic d flour from Ore- r Island to China, ce, silk, and pre- cease, and the fol- eading American ntiment in regard s a probable rival struggle for com- Pacific shores of

oses to effect in this true; that she has g to a union of her the opening of a ne does not seek to ements [Vancouver are yet to become

competitors for the trade of the East, if not the commercial supremacy of the Pacific, it were useless to deny. Entrepôts are soon to spring up on these hitherto undisturbed waters; there will be shipyards and fisheries, and to these lands will a numerous people go to dwell and to mine beyond a peradventure. . . . But however we may regard the advent of England upon our shores, or whatever estimate we may set on the value of her possessions in this quarter, one thing is certain—we have now got to meet her on this side the globe as we have met her on the other, and encountering her enterprise and capital, her practical, patient industry, and persistence of purpose, dispute with her for the trade of the East and the empire of the seas."

The imports of the infant "London of the Pacific" for 1865 amounted to 3,000,000 dollars. It already numbers five thousand inhabitants, and contains many substantial buildings—warehouses, shops, hotels, churches, hospitals, schools, public offices, and private residences. It also supports two daily papers, and is well supplied with gas and water.

Besides gold, which is found in increasing quantities in the island as well as on the mainland, large coal seams are being developed; and a new company, engaged in working this article, exported last year from their mines at Nanaimo 32,818 tons, chiefly for foreign consumption. Copper, silver, lead, and other ores exist in both colonies in abundance.

Of the many varieties of wood with which the country is stocked, the Douglas pine (*Abies Douglasii*) is the most extensive and of most economic value. Sections cut from a tree of this description, 300 feet long, were sent to the International Exhibition of 1862. The bark for some distance from the base of the trunk is often a foot thick. In all the qualities essential for spars, this sort of timber is pronounced unrivalled. Sawmills have been erected for supplying masts to the dockyards of European Governments. Planks are also shipped for building purposes to countries in all parts of the Pacific, and one firm exports upwards of 15,000,000 feet of timber annually.

The bays and streams teem with fish—salmon in particular being incredibly abundant, and at certain seasons the *cañons* or gorges of the rivers are densely crowded with them. The Indians, who live chiefly on salmon in winter, catch them with a pole, attached to the end of which is a cross piece of wood; in this they stick tenpenny nails, and harpoon the fish in the rapids, impaling one or two at every descent of the pole. Trout are found from four to six pounds in weight, and sturgeon which often attain 500 lbs. and upwards. From a female sturgeon, killed in the Fraser a few years since, a bushel of *caviare* was taken. Halibut are caught in large numbers, and of enormous size, so that a vessel of 600 tons may sometimes be loaded with them in forty-eight hours' fishing. The catching of cod, too, has begun in earnest, and with great success. A kind of smelt, called by the natives *hoolakan*, is caught by them in immense quantities, and utilized for the production of oil. From the degree of oleaginous matter contained in the *hoolakan*, they are in very general use among the Hydah tribes as candles, being lit at the tail.

The country cannot boast the agricultural capabilities of the Western States of the Union, though there are broad tracts of meadow land in every direction well adapted for the growth of esculent roots and cereals. Turnips have been cultivated weighing 20 lbs., cabbages 15 lbs., beetroots 11 lbs., and potatoes 2½ lbs. each; but these specimens are not adduced as showing the *average* productiveness of the soil. Melons of prodigious bulk and excellent flavour grow in the open air, and apples, pears, &c., ripen to perfection. The superior quality of the pasturo lands in British Columbia is proved by the thriving condition of the sheep and cattle grazing upon them. Farming is as yet followed to so small an extent that most of the produce consumed in the colonies is brought from neighbouring American States, and as prices rule high, the inducements offered to the settlement of hard-working farmers are tempting; 160 acres of unoccupied land is allowed to each *bona fide* settler, and when the Government survey shall have extended to the portion selected, payment at the low rate of 4s. 2d. per acre is called for in four yearly instalments. Military and naval officers of seven years' standing and upwards are entitled to free grants ranging from 200 to 600 acres, according to their rank and term of service.

Without attempting to enumerate all the species of indigenous wild animals, those may be named which are of special interest to the sportsman. Bears, racoons, martens, minks, otters, and foxes are not uncommon. The puma or catamount prowls in the vicinity of flocks, is exceedingly destructive to sheep and hogs, and is more than a match for any other animal in North America. The beaver is trapped by the Hudson's Bay Company. The stag and elk abound, and some have been shot equal to a small horse in stature, and weighing 600 lbs. Deer are found in large numbers, and generally are very tame. The mountain sheep is known close to the Rocky Mountains, and when full grown weighs several hundred pounds. It is covered with long, coarse, woolly hair, and provided with enormous crooked horns.*

For the last two years the Government of Vancouver Island and British Columbia has been administered by two separate bodies of officials. But as this double staff was felt by the mass of the settlers to be out of proportion to colonial wants, and to entail a more burdensome taxation than was agreeable, they memorialized the Crown to frame a new Constitution, and unite the colonies under one Governor; and the passing of a bill in accordance with the wishes of the colonists was among the first acts of the Derby Cabinet. These dependencies are not yet deemed strong enough to be entrusted with what in Canada and Australia is technically called "responsible government." In other words, there is no ministry, the sole minister of state being the Governor. He is assisted in the direction of public affairs

* An elaborate work on the natural history of these colonies, by Mr. Lord, naturalist to the late Boundary Commission, has just been published.