

municating with them, furnish great facilities for the conveyance of timber. The Lower Fraser country especially is densely wooded. Smaller streams and the numerous inlets and arms of the sea furnish facilities for the region further north.

MINERAL WEALTH.

The mineral wealth is very great. Gold does not seem to be confined to any one section. It is found all along the Fraser and Thompson Rivers, again in the north along the Peace and Omineca Rivers, and on Germansen Creek, and on Vancouver Island. From the United States frontier to the 53rd degree North lat., and for a width of from one to 200 miles, gold is found nearly everywhere. A thorough geological survey, roads to reach the mines, and capital to carry them on, seem to be the only obstacles to gold mining to an almost exhaustless extent. The yield of gold, under all these obstacles, for 1870, was over \$1,300,000. The yield from the new mines opened in the Omineca District, in 1871, is estimated at about \$400,000, and that from the older mines of the Cariboo district at over a million.

Silver mines are found in the Fraser Valley, and one mine has been put in operation with every prospect of success.

Copper is also abundant.

The coal mines are even more valuable than the gold. Bituminous coal is found on Vancouver's Island in several places, especially along the east coast. The mines at Nanaimo are the only ones that have yet been much worked. The coal is of fair quality, superior to the Scotch but not equal to the Welsh. The Dunsmuir coal at Departure Bay is pronounced, however, to be superior for steaming purposes to the Newcastle. This mine was only opened in 1869. The harbors both of Nanaimo and Departure Bay are excellent. Veins of coal have been found in other parts of the Province. That of the Nicola River, 160 miles from the sea, is said to be superior to that of the coast.

Anthracite coal, very excellent in quality, is found on Queen Charlotte's Island. There are also indications of coal along the whole west coast of Vancouver's Island. At Departure Bay there are quarries of very fine sandstone. Blocks fifty feet long by eight in diameter are obtained from it.

MANUFACTURES AND EXPORTS.

The manufactories are very few in number, but water power is everywhere abundant.

The exports in 1870 amounted to \$203,364, exclusive of gold.

Furs are one of the most valuable articles of export. The value of fur exported in 1869 was \$233,000. The most valuable are Black and Silver Fox, Sea Otter, Red Fox, Fur Seal, Mink, Martin, Beaver and common Otter. Buffalo are found on the plains, bears and mountain goats and sheep on the mountains, elk are met with on the coast, deer on the groups of small islands, wild ducks and geese are abundant, grouse and snipe are found everywhere, and in the plains a kind of tall buff cranes four or five feet high.

CLIMATE.

The climate varies according to the locality, owing principally to four causes, greater or less distance from the sea and from the vicinity of the mountain regions, difference in the nature and quantity of the vegetable