

Province of British Columbia

The area occupied by the principal lakes of the Province amounts to 2,439 square miles; these are as follows:

NAMES OF LAKES British Columbia	AREA Square Miles
Adams	52
Atlin, part in B.C.	331
Babine	356
Chilco	172
Harrison	122
Kootenay	220
Lower Arrow	64
Okanagan	135
Owikan	98
Quesnel	147
Shuswap	124
Stuart	220
Tacla	135
Tagish, part in B.C.	91
Teslin, " " "	123
Upper Arrow	99
Total	2,439

The submerged mountain range which lies to the west of the mainland is represented by an archipelago of islands, the most prominent being Vancouver and the Queen Charlotte Islands. Of the others, it may be briefly stated that they produce in miniature all the physical features of the larger group.

Vancouver Island may be described geologically as a group of up-turned gneissic rocks embracing certain tertiary areas worn down by glacial action so that in one place extensive gravel moraines, in another beds of boulder clay are to be found, while in a third a regular series of late sand-stones alternate with the barren cliffs of trap. Upon this surface generations of fir trees have flourished, and by their decay have gradually deposited a mould of increasing thickness sufficient to provide ground for other forms of vegetation, until the country has been covered with dense growths of timber, varying according to its situation and adaptability to the wants of each particular kind.

ECONOMIC MINERALS*

The Cordilleran region is, as might be expected from its geological history, a great mineral-bearing belt. In Mexico and the Western States its richness has been amply established, and in Alaska and in Canada it is maintaining this characteristic. Only in the Rockies,

* See "Canada and its Provinces," Vol. IX.—"Physical Basis of Canada," by R. W. Brock, p.p. 53-58.