

Strait; while the climate is further relieved by the benign influence of the warm Japanese current which approaches the western shores. Snow rarely lies longer than a day or two. Only very exceptionally is there more than ten or twelve degrees of frost. At the time of this writing, mid-February, daisies, primroses, snowdrops, tulips, and crocuses are in full bloom. The summer climate is very temperate throughout the year. The rainfall is rather heavy, though not so great as on the coast of the mainland in the same latitude, and the summer weather is frequently delightfully bright.

Good timber, of varieties already mentioned, abounds. A ready market is the only requisite wanting for the development of this resource. In 1852 gold was found on the west coast, and the Hudson's Bay Company worked out of the claim, it is estimated, between thirty and forty thousand dollars. Locations of copper and of silver and gold-bearing quartz have been made, but as yet the working is only in the initiative stage. Anthracite coal was also discovered, but not in sufficient quantities to warrant the expense of working. More extensive showings of bituminous coal are attracting considerable attention.

But the chief wealth of the islands is in the fish teeming about the shores. Salmon of many varieties run up the numerous small streams at various seasons of the year in great numbers. Only within the last year has there been any effort made to exploit this resource. Halibut are always to be had. Black cod may be caught off the west coast whenever weather permits, and in their seasons, blue cod and herring are abundant.

As yet, however, the chief fishing industry is the manufacture of oil from the bodies and livers of the



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dog-fish. Of these fish, two men in a fishing boat, with a troll bearing a thousand hooks, will catch in a day, with good luck, from three to six hundred or more, for which they will get one and a half cents each. Such good fishing lasts only for a short time each year, and many a day the fishermen work hard and take nothing. From thirteen to fifteen fish will make a gallon of oil. Of the oil, last year, though a poor season, the two establishments running at this place sent out nearly forty thousand gallons. About one-half of it was manufactured by the Indians of the mission. Canned clams is another output from their establishment which deserves passing mention.

On land, nature is most lavish, with a variety of small, wild fruits, crab-apples, blue and red huckleberries, strawberries, cranberries, and salaberries. A few wild animals furnish pelts for trade, chiefly black bear, land otter, martin, and mink.