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## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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For over eight hundred miles British Columbia lies along the Pacific Ocean; but its coast line in and out the many bays, inlets, and channels, and around its numerous islands could measure as many thousand miles.

It possesses one of the most remarkable stretches of inland navigation on the globe, remarkable for its bold shores, deep water, numerous channels, innumerable bays and harbors, abundance of fuel and fresh water, and freedom from the perils of the ocean. The great outlying islands of Vancouver, 300 miles long, and Queen Charlotte, 170 miles long, and many lesser ones form nature's gigantic breakwater to protect these thousands of miles of inland waters. The labyrinth of channels, around and between the islands, some of which are in some places less than a quarter of a mile wide, and yet too deep to drop anchor; the mountains rising from the water's edge from one thousand to eight thousand feet and covered with dense forests of evergreens far up into the perpetual snow that crowns their summits; the frequent slides of the avalanche cutting a broad road from mountain to water's edge; the beautiful cascades born of glaciers, the overflow of high, inland lakes, pouring over mountain precipices or gliding like a silver ribbon down their sides; the deep, gloomy sea-fjords cleaving the mountains into the interior; the beautiful kaleidoscopic vistas opening up among the innumerable islets; mountain-tops, jagged-peaked and sculptured by glaciers; the glaciers themselves sparkling and glistening in the sunlight, dropping down from the mountain-heights like great swollen rivers, filled with driftwood and ice and suddenly arrested in their flow,—all go to make up a scene of grandeur and beauty that cannot be adequately described. Happy are they who can see all this and more in the famous tourist route to Alaska.

The marvelous combination of mountain and water scenery along the coast is equaled, if not excelled, by the wonderful revelations of the mountains of the interior,—for hundreds of miles an endless succession of sharp peaks and deep valleys,

of precipice and gorge and rocks, some of which are still being carved into strange forms by the great ice sheets which cover them.

Far up into these almost inaccessible mountains during the gold excitement the Government built a wagon road at the expense of two and a half million dollars. Into, over, and under these same mountains the Canadian Pacific Railroad finds its way to the Pacific Ocean. Seven thousand men were engaged three years in building sixty miles of railway along the Cañon of the Fraser. Some portions of the work cost \$300,000 to the mile.

In these gigantic mountains very appropriately are born gigantic rivers. From them flow the mighty Yukon, which thousands of miles away is steadily at work filling up Behring Sea; the Liard and the Peace after draining an empire, three thousand miles away, through the great Mackenzie, are lost in the Polar Sea; and the rushing, impetuous Fraser and the queenly Columbia.

British Columbia is rich in minerals. From 1858 to 1888 the gold production was \$51,455,668. From Nanaimo on Vancouver Island 153,000 tons of bituminous coal are annually shipped to San Francisco. The output for 1888 was over 400,000 tons.

On Taxada Island, twenty miles from the Comax coal fields, are great masses of magnetic iron, assaying 68.4 of iron and having a low percentage of phosphorus and other impurities. Copper exists in a number of places, the most promising ledge, so far found, being on Howe Sound. Salt springs also abound.

The mountains and coast are covered with dense forests of valuable timber. Eighty per cent of this is Douglas fir, ten per cent red cedar, and the balance yellow cedar, spruce, white and yellow pine, hemlock, maple, alder, and cottonwood. An experienced lumberman from Michigan, who has been examining the forests, says that he found a tract of 55,000 acres of white pine averaging 100,000 feet to the acre, and a large tract of red cedar covered with trees varying