

THE COMMERCIAL—BRITISH COLUMBIA SUPPLEMENT.

The pack for 1892 was by general agreement reduced nearly 50 per cent., it being as well a very short year and therefore not a standard year so far as the pack is concerned.

CATCH OF SEALING SCHOONERS.

Sealing Fleet of 1892.—49 vessels—tonnage, 3,342 tons, 16 canoes, 384 boats, 696 whites, 356 Indians.

CATCH.—Lower Coast, 4,127 skins; Upper Coast, 17,443 skins; Behring Sea, 28,817 skins; Indian canoes 1,540 skins; Catch off Kurile Islands, 399 skins; Total, 52,365.

Sealing Fleet of 1892:—Victoria, 64 vessels, tonnage 4,465 tons, 244 canoes, 275 boats, 957 whites, 188 Indians.

Sealing Fleet of 1892—Vancouver, 6 vessels, tonnage 274 tons, crews 111 men.

TRADE RETURNS—IMPORTS.

The total imports of British Columbia for the year ending June 30, 1892:—

PORT OF	REVENUE.	FREE GOODS.	LEAP TOBACCO.	TOTAL REVENUE 1892.	TOTAL REVENUE 1891.
Victoria.....	\$ 2,925,401	\$832,681	\$20,506	\$1,035,801 18	\$987,672 17
New Westminster ..	507,662	161,340	—	15,616 43	98,650 45
Vancouver	931,500	782,695	—	330,418 65	61,9 6 31
Nanaimo	254,256	26,339	—	75,545 16	331,555 02
Total.....	\$4,671,858	\$1,803,105	\$20,506	\$1,506,971 37	\$1,451,222 95

EXPORTS.

PORT OF	TOTAL, 1892.	TOTAL, 1891.
Victoria.....	\$3,037,428	\$2,779,873
New Westminster ..	305,471	401,520
Vancouver	541,600	2,508,850
Nanaimo	2,628,490	160,400
Total	\$6,574,989	\$5,557,158

MAMMALS—MAINLAND AND ISLANDS.

IN the deer family the moose ranks first. Its principal habitat is in the Peace River country, the point nearest to the coast which it reaches being at Giscour Portage, Fort George. All through the Cassiar country it is plentiful, and north on the slope of the Arctic as far as the mouth of the Yukon and McKenzie Rivers. It has a very wide distribution.

At one time the American elk, or wapiti, was found all over the mainland, but has been exterminated, it being now confined to the Island of Vancouver, where alone in British Columbia it is found, and where it is likely to be safe for a long time to come. It is especially plentiful in the centre of the island, keeping away as far as possible from settlement. It is hunted more or less every year by sportsmen, but there is never a large number killed.

The woodland caribou is found in the interior, along the Selkirk, to the head waters of the Skeena and Naas rivers and ranges as far as Cassiar. It is quite plentiful, but not hunted much, except by those who can afford time and money.

The mule deer, so called on account of its large ears, is the largest of the small deer, and extends from Similkameen across the interior to Chilcotin. It is found east of the Cascades only, and is very plentiful. It is extensively shot, and rapidly thinning out as a consequence. Its habitat is in the open country, on mountain and plain.

The black-tailed deer is plentiful on Vancouver Island and all the islands of the coast as far as Alaska. It is, in fact, common on the coast and ranges all along it, but is not found east of the Cascades.

White-tailed deer are found only in the southern part of the Province in the valleys along the borders of streams. They are not plentiful, and are rapidly becoming extinct.

There are no mountain goat on Vancouver Island, their principal habitat being along the coast range, where they are abundant, but they are found all over the mainland wherever there are mountains. With the exception that they live in very inaccessible mountain peaks, they are not considered great game, being very stupid and easily shot when their haunts are reached.

The *sumnum bonum* of sport, however, in British Columbia is the hunt for big horn or mountain sheep, which are found throughout but not west of the Cascades. Their habitat is in the Similkameen valley, in the Chilcotin country, and as far north as the boundary of the Province. The big horn sheep are much hunted, the ram's heads especially being regarded as great prizes. One incentive to their hunting is the difficulty of the sport afforded. Unlike the mountain goat, they are very difficult to bag, which is accomplished by stalking and still hunting.

The black bear is found everywhere on the islands and mainland.

The grizzly is found only on the mainland and chiefly on the coast; also in Cariboo, along the North Thompson, in Kootenay, in the Horse Fly county and as far north as Alaska. He is wary and very hard to get a shot at, and the most dangerous of all animals when wounded. They reach as high as 1000 lbs. in weight.

The American panther is found all over British Columbia but is not common anywhere except on Vancouver Island, where he does a lot of damage. The largest shot was 8 ft., 2 in. in length, but despite his size and great strength the panther is one of the most cowardly of animals and is referred to by the Indians as "cultus."

A really dangerous animal is the Canada Lynx. He is found only on the mainland, on the coast, in Chilcotin, in the Peace River country, in Cariboo and is very abundant in Cassiar.

The wild cat is found only west of the Cascades, but not on the Island. Like the panther he too is very "cultus."

The wolverine, a member of the bear family, is a habitat of the mainland and island, abundant on the north and running south to the Similkameen. There are few on the coast.

The grey wolf, a lonely resident of the forest, is found all over the province, but more plentiful on the east coast of Vancouver Island. The Coyote, or prairie wolf, is east of the Cascades in the dry open country.

The fox—red, black, silver and cross—is east of the Cascades, and in the north.

The marten habitats in Vancouver Island, but is more abundant in the interior and northward.

Mink, abundant on the coast, but found everywhere.

Similarly the beaver is found all over, but is more abundant on Vancouver Island and northward on the mainland.

The land otter has a big range, being found all over, but is not common anywhere.

The fisher is not common, but like the otter is over the mainland.

The smaller animals are the hare, rabbit, weasels, skunks, and the ground hog.

GAME BIRDS.

The coast is rich in game-birds and water-fowl, as well as the whole of the interior. A check list published by Mr. John Fannier, curator of the museum, contains the principal of these, and from its pages the most common are enumerated.