

and the electric messages fly from house-keeper to market-man over wide cow pastures and truck gardens. The houses, too, are well built, and have an air of long residence about them; they are not merely houses, they are *homes*. Some of those in the suburbs, surrounded by grain fields, orchards, and by noble groves of oaks, are as attractive as you will find in all America, and bespeak not only culture, but wealth, and an intention to stay here and found a provincial aristocracy.

Commercially it is to derive great benefit from the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and from the development of the mineral resources of the coast north of it. The railway has pushed its line a good distance from the coast to meet the line from Lake Superior. It follows up the Fraser River from New Westminster, on the mainland, or, more exactly, from the lumber port of Burrard Inlet.

British Columbia, it must be remembered, is a very large province. It extends eastward along the northern boundary of the United States to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, northward to Alaska, and westward to the ocean, including Vancouver and a multitude of lesser islands. The interior is settled only very sparsely, and is scarcely adapted for a large population, since its surface is broken by mountains on the west, while east of the Cascade Range, which divides the territory north and south, lie dry sagebrush plains capable of little use except for cattle-raising, because of the difficulty in getting water, and also the likelihood of summer frosts. The upper part of the province is too far north to make agricultural pursuits profitable, though the Hudson Bay people raise precarious crops at their distant posts; and the off-shore islands are very rough, affording little chance for farming, except, perhaps, on Queen Charlotte's, where various sea-industries will in time, no doubt, support a large settlement. The really available part of the province, therefore, seems to be confined to the valley of the Fraser, which, after 1840, became the great channel of commerce, since canoes could be paddled four or five hundred miles up its course, with few portages. Upon the discovery of gold on the western slope of the Rockies in 1858 there was a great rush thither of men who went into mining all along the upper Fraser and its tributaries. The placers were worked out, or nearly so,

very speedily, and the region became almost deserted, yet about \$20,000,000 in dust is said to have been exported during the first ten years.

The permanent effect of the gold rush was the settlement of a considerable farming population along the bottoms of the Fraser and its tributaries, and the opening of a large region to immigration by good wagon roads and by lines of steamboats which ascend the Fraser nearly two hundred miles twice a week, and are passing up and down the coast and into all the smaller rivers as frequently as business demands. The western end of the Canadian Pacific Railway is completed from the Cascade Mountains to the ocean, and there are young settlements all along its line.

Mining for gold and silver has come to take a less prominent place in British Columbia than at first, and one hears now far more of the fine farms and cattle ranches, of the great lumber mills and coal fields, of the fishing and ship-building, than of quartz and placers.

The interior of the island of Vancouver is little understood, but it is very mountainous, some of the peaks rising far above timber line. Vast quantities of available timber exist, though not of such great size as that which grows on the mainland, and also much agricultural land; but at present there are no settlements or roads at any considerable distance from the shore.

After the settlement between Great Britain and the United States, fixing upon the forty-ninth parallel as the boundary line (but conceding Vancouver to the British), the Hudson Bay Company retreated from Oregon and Puget Sound. On the island of San Juan, however, it continued to have a farm and pasture a herd of sheep, out of which nearly came a war. In 1854 this property was assessed on the tax list of Whatcom County, Washington Territory, but the Hudson Bay Company's agent refused to pay. The sheriff, therefore advertised the sheep for sale, and went to seize them, whereupon he was resisted, and his deputy only escaped arrest by facing the company's *posse* with a six-shooter. Nevertheless the sheep were seized, though Governor Sir James Douglas himself came over from Victoria to enforce his pretended "rights." Peace reigned until 1859, the frontier being busy in repressing an Indian uprising, when a conflict about an old bear again brought