

Great iron deposits exist on Taxada Island, and copper deposits have been found at several points on the coast of the mainland, Howe Sound, Jarvis Inlets, the Queen Charlotte Islands and other points. Mercury, cinnabar and platinum have been found in small quantities during the process of washing gold.

COAL ON THE MAINLAND.

Several seams of bituminous coal have been discovered on the mainland, and some veins have been worked in the New Westminster and Nicola districts, and other indications of coal have been found in several parts. The same formation exists on the mainland as on the island, and the New Westminster and Nicola coal beds are probably small portions only of large areas.

Anthracite coal, comparing favourably with that of Pennsylvania, has been found in seams of six feet and three feet, in Queen Charlotte Island. Fragments of anthracite have been picked up on several parts of Vancouver Island, and this would seem to indicate that the seams found in Queen Charlotte Islands will be traced to Vancouver.

THE FISHERIES OF THE WEST COAST.

An important part of the future trade of British Columbia will arise from the wealth of fish in the waters of her coast. Of these, the most valuable at present is the salmon. They literally teem in the Fraser and Columbia Rivers, and frequently passengers on the Canadian Pacific Railway are astounded by the sight of broad expanses of river, or deep pools packed almost solid with wriggling masses of splendid fish, their motions being distinctly visible from the platforms or car windows as the trains pass by. The greater number of the canneries are on the Fraser River, but there are some in the far north.

The salmon make their way for great distances up the rivers. The salmon of the Columbia fill the streams of the Kootenay; those of the Fraser are found six hundred miles in the interior. There are several kinds of this fish, and they arrive from the sea on different dates.

Besides the salmon are the oolachan, which come in great numbers, and supplies a valuable medical oil. The black cod, a superior food-fish, abounds from Cape Flattery northward. Cod, similar to the eastern variety, are taken on banks off the coast of Alaska, and the same fish is said to haunt British Columbia waters. Halibut of fine quality and large size are plentiful in the inner waters, on the banks off the west coast of Vancouver Island, and farther north. Sturgeon up to 1,000 pound weight are numerous in the Fraser and large rivers. The surf smelt and common smelt are abundant, and valued for the table. Shad are taken occasionally, Herring is abundant, and both lake and brook trout on the mainland.

There are scores of men in the fishing trade of England and Scotland who struggle year after year for an uncertain percentage, who, in British Columbia, would find competency in a few years' working, and hundreds who are no richer at the end of December than they were at the beginning of January who would experience a very different condition of life on the coast of British Columbia.

These coasts afford wide fields for occupation, and dispense reward with less niggard hand than in the older home where every loaf has many claimants. There is no rent to pay, no leave to ask to run a boat ashore—the land is his who occupies it. A man who in the British seas toils year in and year out for others, may own his own home, his piece of land and his boat by no man's favour.