

umbia has grown
the figures are

THE DEER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Written for THE COLONIST.)

1880.	1890.
70,139	\$1,311,088
21,364	2,538,138
9,254	10,707
20,847	17,354
10,070	11,538
70,744	71,697
4,271	7,376
2,108	718
1,163	431,083
1,330	200
77	1,749
1,391	11,430
162	1,880
77	38,315
3,349	30
103	259
514	3,119
70,781	\$1,387,486

Columbia, for

1880.	1890.
488	\$2,301,304
10,185	3,125,176
2,815	2,051,743
1,861	2,777,285
1,163	2,700,083
1,330	2,346,093
77	2,763,147
1,391	2,708,848
162	2,521,534
3,349	3,089,841
103	3,345,263
514	3,100,404
1,163	3,172,391
1,330	2,921,931
77	3,371,601
1,391	3,092,071
162	4,374,309
3,349	5,545,613
103	6,527,138
514	6,257,138

Point of New W.

Point of Nanaimo

Point of Vancouver

Total

10

30

70

34

107,721

6,257,138

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THE DEER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Written for THE COLONIST.)

Of the eight species of deer belonging to North America, six are known to occur in this Province. These are the moose, *Cervus alces*; the wapiti or American elk, *Cervus canadensis*; the woodland caribou, *Cervus tarandus*; the mule deer, *Cervus macrotis*; the black-tailed deer, *Cervus columbianus*; and the common or Virginia deer, *Cervus virginianus*; better known here as the white-tailed deer.

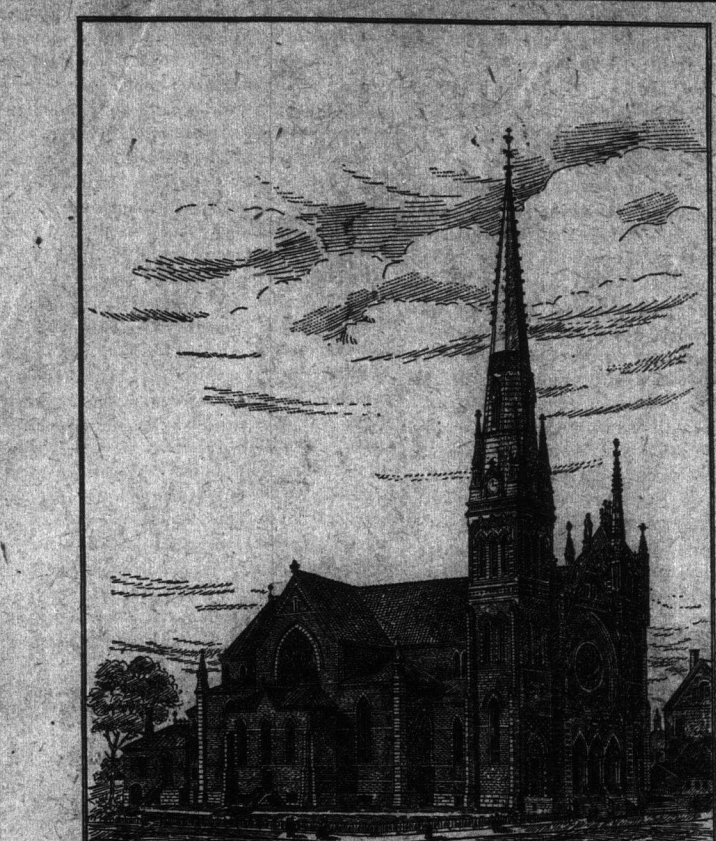
At the head of the list stands the moose, the largest of the family and, according to every authority, the most ungainly in form. The habitat of this animal in British Columbia is almost entirely confined to that portion of the Province which lies within the water-shed of the Arctic, although of late years a few have been taken close to the Fraser river, in the neighborhood of Giscumb Portage. Giscumb Portage is a narrow strip of land between the two water-sheds, and a line drawn on the map from this point through that portion of the Omicron country lying across the divide, through the Peace river country to Dease lake, will pretty clearly mark the encroachment of the moose towards our Pacific coast and its eastern boundary also. This line keeps within the Arctic slope, except at and near its starting point, and I have no evidence that the moose has been taken on the Pacific side, except at the eastern limit of its range. The moose, however, is a great wanderer, and has had the most extended range of any of the family, a range that reached from Newfoundland, through Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, through Manitoba and the North-West, into British Columbia, and beyond the boundaries of this Province into Alaska, reaching the shores of Behring's Sea, at the mouth of the Yukon and the Arctic ocean, at the mouth of the Mackenzie. At the present time this vast range is greatly restricted and from some portions of it he has disappeared altogether. In Cassiar, in the Peace river and Omicron districts, the moose is still tolerably abundant, and as these districts are beyond the regular blood-thirsty game butchers, it is safe to say that for some time to come British Columbia will hold its share of these noble animals. The food of the moose consists chiefly of the tall plants and grasses which are found growing in swampy places and around the borders of streams and lakes, and the browse of the cottonwood, white birch and willow, his short neck and long front legs making it somewhat difficult for him to graze as other members of the family. Moose have been known to reach a live weight of 1,500 pounds, the head and horns alone weighing sixty pounds, but the average weight of a moose is probably not over eight hundred. The head of all moose is of excellent quality, and its skin, when made into leather, is preferred before that of any of the other species. The horns of the moose are small while the animal is young, each succeeding year producing a larger pair until the animal is eight years old, when they reach the limit of their growth, and that broadly palmated form, so much prized as trophies of the chase.

The next on the list, and second largest of American deer, is the wapiti or American elk. Perhaps I should mention here that the names of some of our American mammals are very misleading to people coming from older countries. For instance, our moose is the elk of Europe, and the animal we call elk, is identical with the stag or red deer of the British Isles; and our caribou and European reindeer are alike, except as to the larger size of the American species. These western names, however confusing they may be to some, have become so associated through use with the animals to which they have been applied that even naturalists are compelled to adopt them, and it is hardly probable they will ever be eradicated.

The wapiti is one of the animals that does not hold its own against the encroachments of settlement, and every year its range is becoming more and more restricted. Old Indians assert that it was abundant throughout the greater portion of the mainland, but its disappearance is the only evidence now that it once existed there. Indeed, I do not know a single place on the mainland where one can go with a certainty of meeting with one of these animals. Twenty years ago they were to be found on the peninsula between Burrard Inlet and Fraser river, but it is nearly twenty years, if I remember right, since the last one was seen there.

On this island they are still tolerably abundant, but even here they are retreating further and further into the interior, and places where they were abundant a few years ago are now entirely deserted by them. The wapiti continues to grow till he is eight, or nine years old, when some have been known to reach a live weight of a thousand pounds. The antlers are cylindrical and are more uniform than those of any of the other species. Wapiti travel in bands, and when once overtaken, become easy prey to the hunter, and during the last two years I have received information of two small bands, one of seven, the other of five, shot down on this island by two men, who found the carcasses for the wolves to feed upon. Five of these wapiti were found with young. A couple of years in the chain gang would be a fitting punishment for such butchers.

The next on the list, and third largest of the species, is the woodland caribou, *Cervus tarandus*. This deer has a wider range in this Province than any of the other species, a range which extends along the wooded hills of the interior throughout the entire length of the mainland. It has been my good fortune to interview this animal in several widely separated portions of its habitat. On the hills which overlook the beautiful valley of the Spallumcheen, at the headwaters of the North Thompson and Clearwater, in the Cariboo country, and the plateau which divides the waters of the Stikine from Dease lake, and in all these places, with but very slight change, the nature of the country was the same—rolling hills, sparsely timbered with spruce, black pine and balsam, with little or no brush, open park-like



ST. ANDREW'S (R. C.) CATHEDRAL.

stretches, carpeted with moss and soft, fine grasses; through which coursed over pebbled bottoms, streams of the clearest and purest cold water, a drink of which he who picks a heavy rifle from the first peep of day till the shadows of approaching night warn him towards camp, knows how to appreciate. In all these places I have mentioned, the fauna was the same. The grizzly bear, the wolf, the yellow-haired porcupine, the heavy marmot, the ground squirrel, the "fool hen," or Franklin's grouse, shared the country with the caribou; and, with the exception of the grizzly, no doubt lived in perfect harmony, together. I mention these things here, not to dwell on the details of the Province occupied by the caribou are distinct and different from any other part of British Columbia, and also, in a sportsman's point of view, the most perfect.

Following the caribou, and next in size, is the mule deer (*Cervus macrotis*). The habitat of this deer extends through the open, grassy lands of the interior of the mainland, from our southern boundary to the Chilcotin plains. Unlike the black-tailed, it is not found with in the deep woods. In the Okanagan and Similkameen districts it is very abundant; in the latter place I have counted upwards of ninety in a single day's drive. This was four years ago, but I fancy the skin-hunters have thinned them out since. The weight of the mule deer runs from two to three hundred and fifty pounds; and, when in good condition, as an article of diet is far ahead of any of the other species. In the Rocky mountains and portions of the western States, this is known as the "black-tail," but the term is a ridiculous one, as its tail is almost entirely white.

The next on the list, and fifth largest of our deer, is the black-tailed deer (*Cervus columbianus*). This deer has the most limited range of any of the species, but in British Columbia it occupies all that portion of the province west of the Cascades, from the southern boundary to Alaska, including all the larger islands, except the Queen Charlotte group. It is the deer most familiar to us here, being the only one we have on the coast except the wapiti. It is still quite abundant on this island, notwithstanding the large number killed annually, and it is also plentiful along the coast of the mainland, east of Cascades, but, at the latter place and along the lower Fraser, where ten or twelve years ago it was quite common, it has become very scarce. This deer reaches a larger size, is faster and better flavored on the mainland than on the island, especially in this case in the neighborhood of the Skeena and Nass rivers, where some fine ones are taken.

The sixth and last on the list is the common or Virginia deer (*Cervus virginianus*). In British Columbia the range of this deer is very limited, being confined to the southern portions of the mainland, east and including the Cascade mountains. It is very erratic in its habits, and is to be met with on the summits of mountains, along river bottoms on the open plains and in the deep woods, far away from settlements. It is nowhere abundant in this province, and we have fewer of this species than we have of any of the others, not excepting the wapiti. In size it is little less than the last species, is very graceful in form, and its antlers are more regular and uniform than those of the black-tailed or mule deer. It is known here as the white-tailed, and in some portions of the upper country as the small deer, to distinguish it from the mule deer, with which it is often found associating. It is more abundant in the neighborhood of Okanagan lake than anywhere else in the Province that I know of.

The bighorn or mountain sheep (*Ovis montanus*), is confined to the mainland, east and including the Cascade mountains. It is abundant in the Bridge river, Similkameen and Chilcotin districts, and its range extends as far north as the limits of the Province. The goat-like goat (*Capra montana*), known also as the "white goat," "mountain goat," and by the Indians, "sheep," is also an inhabitant of the mainland, and is found on nearly all the mountains, including the Coast range, where it is very abundant.

Black bears are abundant on this island, while in some portions of the mainland both the black and grizzly are common. The American panther (*Felis concolor*), is found in limited numbers throughout the Province, but is more abundant towards the coast, especially on this island, than elsewhere.

Ten species of grouse are found in the Province. These are the sooty grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus*), Hab-

itat, west of the Cascades, including nearly all the islands; abundant. Richardson's grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus richardsoni*). Habitat, east of the Cascades. Franklin's grouse, "fool hen," (*Dendragapus franklini*). Habitat, the wooded portion of the interior of the mainland, north to Dease lake. Gray ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*). Habitat, foothills of the Rocky mountains and northward to the boundaries of the Province. Canadian ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus togata*). Habitat, nearly all that portion of the mainland lying south of the Fraser river, east of and including the Cascades. Oregon

ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*). Habitat, all that portion of the Province west of the Cascades, including nearly all the islands. Rock ptarmigan (*Lagopus rupestris*). Habitat, mountains of the mainland and Vancouver Island, north to the mouth of the Skeena. *Lagopus leucurus*. Habitat, mountains of the mainland, north to Cariboo and Dease lake. Columbia sharp-tailed grouse, "prairie chicken," (*Pedicularis phasianellus columbianus*). Habitat, open, grassy lands of the mainland, east of Cascades. Sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). But three specimens of this grouse have, so far as I know, been taken in the Province; these were killed near Osoyoos lake, and it is probable the bird is only an accidental visitor here.

The following game birds have been introduced here: ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus torquatus*); mountain partridge (*Oreortyx pictus*); California partridge (*Callipepla californica*). These are found only on this island and are abundant. The extermination of all the game animals from the greater portion of this continent in the not distant future, is, in my opinion, a foregone conclusion, let the laws of protect be framed as they will. The earliest tide of emigration, which is for ever rolling on towards new fields of industry, and the settling up of the country, will be the signal for the extinction of these noble animals we all so much prize. The history of the past only proves that wild animals will not live in close contiguity with man. The emigrant takes possession of a new district and, whether a shot is fired or not, the deer must relinquish their grazing fields to herds of domestic animals, which, after all, are more directly beneficial to the human race.

To those of us, however, who would look upon a country destitute of game as we would upon a waste of desert sand, there is this consolation to cherish, and I speak with an experience of nearly thirty years, having during that time traveled over almost the entire length and breadth of the Province, British Columbia is a

wonderful country; a country full of surprises for the sportsman and tourist; a country wonderful for its vast stretches of virgin forests, which will yield untold wealth to this and future generations; a country wonderful for its fertile valleys which are yet waiting the advent of the settler; a country wonderful for its mineral wealth, which is yet almost untouched. But, outside all these, amid the rugged mountains, the rocky inlets along the gloomy canoes and rocky inlets which indent her six hundred miles of sea coast, in those portions of the Province which offer no inducement whatever for settlement, and from which even the Mammoth-inspired energies of these latter days will recoil, there is ample food and cover for all our game, and probably the day will never come when it must be said that it has disappeared from the land.

JOHN FENNIE.

Provincial Museum, Victoria.

A REMINISCENCE OF THE WEST COAST.

(Written for THE COLONIST.)

In the early fifties the trade of the whole of the West coast of Vancouver Island, from San Juan Harbor to Cape Scott was in the hands of a few individuals who gained a precarious livelihood in the summer months by trading with the numerous wild and lawless tribes of Indians for their dog fish oil and a few marten and mink skins, which they trapped in the winter months, the fur seal being comparatively unknown at that time. The only market that the traders had for their goods was the Hudson's Bay Company's fort at Victoria, the tariff being 50-100 cash per gallon, in trade, 62-100 for marten skins, 50-100, and mink, 20-100 in trade. At that time, T. Laughton was employed by Mr. Swanson, agent for the firm of Mackenzie, Thompson & Co., of San Francisco, who had considerable business, supplying pilot for the San Francisco market, and putting up salmon, trading, etc. On the news reaching Swanson of Mackenzie's death, and recalling him to San Francisco to close up the affairs of the firm on Vancouver Island, in the interest of Mrs. Mackenzie, he left T.



WILSON-DALBY BLOCK, COR. GOVERNMENT AND JOHNSON STS.

Laughton in charge of affairs at San Juan, which station he kept for several years, residing in Victoria in the winter months. Here he kept a sort of open house for entertaining his friends (of which he had many), at the foot of Yates street, where Philip's soda water factory has been for a number of years. Mr. Banfield, who had been carpenter's mate on H.M.S. Pandora, and P. Francane, commonly called Frank, were partners; Banfield, residing at Clayoquot, where he had a trading station, and Frank ran the schooner with supplies (which schooner, called the Jibo, named after an Indian maiden of San Juan, was blown up while Frank was trading off Xitka, caused by Frank serving out water with a light pipe in his mouth, whereby himself and several Indians were badly burned and the schooner destroyed). They also had a Maltese called Barney, trading for them on shares, stationed at Kyquoot. Hugh McKay and Wm. Spring were partners, doing considerable trading with their schooner Morning Star, but having no station ashore. Captain Rossmore, now farming on Salt Spring Island, had charge of the iron schooner Albatross, making occasional trips. This schooner was brought out in pieces from London, by the Marine and Fisheries Department, on board of the ship Tory and put together in Victoria, where the railroad bridge now stands, the carpentering work being done by J. Yates and W.B. Bolton. And there was also an American schooner, the San Diego, Captain Grafton, which made occasional trips to different points from the entrance of Fraser river to Cape Scott, trading with whisky principally, and, although a good look-out for her was kept by Capt. Sangster, the then Collector, she was never caught. The Indians at that time were very numerous and troubled me, and I speak of each other, especially the more powerful tribes of Clayoquot and Kyquoot, the Clayoquot fighting or sub-chief being a polished scoundrel, named Cedar

Canon, and the Kyquoot chief, Ca-ca-hammas, a very intelligent man and friendly to the white traders. The summer of 1856 was a good one for dog fish—Laughton doing well at San Juan, Banfield at Clayoquot, and Barney, by the last accounts Banfield had received from him having received about 3,000 gallons of oil at Kyquoot. He was, however, short of trade goods, and wanting the schooner to take the oil away. Things were in this prosperous condition when the alarming rumor reached Banfield that Barney had been murdered by the Kyquoots. Any person that has lived in Indian territory was now a report spread from tribe to tribe. Banfield, thoroughly alarmed, could not trace the report to any authentic source, but it quickly spread along the coast. In great anxiety Banfield waited for Frank's schooner to arrive, but she did not appear, and as the time expired, he came to the conclusion that Frank was having one of his periodical absences in Victoria. However, about three weeks after, on getting up one morning, he was gratified to see the schooner San Diego lying at anchor of the village. He went on board and to his delight found that Frank was on board; had heard the news of Barney's death two days before, and made his way there by the first conveyance. A consultation was immediately held on board, and it was decided for the schooner to go to Kyquoot with Frank, to find out if the report was correct, and to recover the oil that Barney had traded. The schooner left the same day, being well armed with its guns on board and bearing marten, tried up, and proceeded to Kyquoot. On arriving there, the Chief, Ca-ca-hammas, came on board and was at once charged with the murder. He appeared to be much astonished, and indignantly denied the charge, explaining that Barney had left the station about a month before in a canoe with two Indians for Clayoquot, to get some trade goods from Banfield, as he was entirely out; that neither he nor the Indians had returned; that he had heard the report of the murder, but was entirely innocent of any complicity in the man's death and knew nothing about it whatever. Frank persisted in his charge and demanded of the oil that Barney, as his agent, had traded. The chief refused to give it up, stating that Barney had left the station a few minutes a canoe came off to know what the disturbance was about, and, on the messenger being informed, he hurried away to report. In a very short time about twenty canoes were manned, and after encircling the schooner, they began missing a started off in pursuit. About 9 a.m. they were perceived coming back, and on going alongside the schooner, informed Grafton that for some time they saw nothing of the chief, and were about returning in disgust, when, on passing a small island, they perceived the boat partly hauled up, and partially concealed with brush. They landed, discovered him, killed him immediately, cut off his head, and brought it back with them, and after giving Grafton a good talking for allowing the prisoner to escape, went ashore, and stuck the head on a thirty feet pole for the admiration of the whole village. At noon a council of war was held, to which Grafton and Frank were invited, and it was unanimously decided to go to war with the Kyquoots, and wipe them out before they would be on their guard by the news of the death of their chief. The schooner was to go with them and give them such assistance as she could, and also to cover their retreat if necessary. The balance of the day was occupied in getting their weapons ready, in hauling out their large canoes, and firing the bottom, so that they would paddle easier; and next morning at day-break they started on their expedition, accompanied by the San Diego. They camped that night and part of the next day, arriving very quietly off the Kyquoot village about midnight, when they at once landed and commenced the assault by rushing into the houses and slaughtering all they came across. In the confusion, caused by being attacked in their sleep many were killed, including women and children, but in a short time the Kyquoots rallied and attacked in their turn, and drove the Clayoquot to confusion to their canoes, a great many of them having shot wounds in their backs as an evidence of their bravery. The Kyquoots were so disorganized by the suddenness of the attack and the absence of their chief that they neglected to pursue them, or very few would have returned in safety to Clayoquot. On their return homeward, they passed the San Diego becalmed some miles outside the harbor, and being exasperated at their defeat, indulged in a deal of bad language to the crew of the schooner, taunting them with cowardice for not giving them assistance in wiping out their enemies, and then retired to their homes and indulged in the usual orgies which take place after a combat, and when the schooner arrived they found over thirty additional heads on poles, keeping company with the chief's trophies of war, two of which were recognized by Frank to be women's. They also had a few slaves, the number of

whom has escaped my memory. After a general jubilee, which extended over two days, the schooner left for Victoria to report to Mr. Douglas, and to request that an enquiry should be held into the murders of Barney apprehended. Mr. Douglas, on hearing their report, informed them that he had no force at his disposal for such a purpose; that he could only recognize them as adventurers; that the accounts they gave were so vague that he could take no action until better informed, and severely reprimanding them for the action they had taken, which resulted in the death of the chief and the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent Indians. Some two years after, Frank and Banfield built another schooner and went to Kyquoot to try and recover the oil, when Frank came very near losing his life at the hands of the chief's son (who had succeeded him), for the part he had taken in handcuffing his father, the two women having succeeded in getting back home and giving evidence of what they had witnessed. After a good deal of explanation he was let off, but could not get the fact that the Indians had contacted it, and traded it off to McKay and Spring, who made a good haul out of it and laid the foundation of their future prosperity. The mystery of Barney's death has never been entirely cleared up, but it is very generally believed that Ca-ca-hammas and his tribe were entirely innocent of the man's death, the guilty ones being the satellites of Cedar Canon, the Clayoquot sub-chief, who, hearing that Barney was coming down, sent his men to waylay him and the Indians and kill them with axes while asleep.

T. PAMPHLET.

THE SEALING INDUSTRY.

The season a Very Disappointing One—Government Interference and Low Prices.

There was considerable trouble in sealing circles during the year owing to the fact that the Behring Sea had been closed by the British and American Governments. Very many of the vessels were ordered out of the waters which they claimed in their work, and the owners were obliged to claim compensation for loss this season. Most of the skins were also contracted for before the opening of the season, and a fall in the London markets proved a loss to the sealing companies of \$5 per skin on an average. Nevertheless the fleet for the ensuing season promises to be the largest which has ever set out from Victoria. The following is a list of the catch for 1891, as officially reported:

Vessel.	Coast.	Sand Pt.	Sea.
W. F. Hayward	734	821	821
Sierra	388	734	821
Lasitla	46	412	1,688
Marie C. Moore	378	378	378
Manila	378	378	378
Ocean Bell	378	378	378
Mattie Dyer	62	378	2,635
Sapphire	176	686	171
Albatross	137	548	1,021
Maggie Mc	137	548	1,021
Albatross	137	548	1,021
City of San Diego	96	418	642
San Jose	378	378	378
Geneva	378	378	378
Rosie Olsen	378	378	378
Pioneer	123	713	1,484
Aurora	62	378	378
Albatross	137	548	1,021
Thistle (steamer)	276	686	32
St. Martin	44	409	1,062
Ocean and Hattie	44	409	1,062
Vanderer	44	409	1,062
Mascot	44	409	1,062
Mountain Chief	44	409	1,062
Beetle	44	409	1,062
Penn-o	44	409	1,062
Kate	44	409	1,062
Harville	44	409	1,062
Winifred	44	409	1,062
James	44	409	1,062
Maud S.	44	4	
Walter L. Rich	204	204	204
Albatross	137	548	1,021
Kathrine	199	199	199
Umbria	199	199	199
Carroll	173	173	173
May Belle	701	701	701
Albatross	137	548	1,021
C. H. Turner	255	255	255
Almoko	44	44	44
Labrador	44	44	44
Borealis	44	44	44
A. E. Paine	44	44	44
Laura	44	44	44
Albatross	137	548	1,021
Venture	44	44	44
Otto	44	44	44
Grand total	4,137	17,443	28,600

The total tonnage of ships employed was 3,232; the number of boats used, 314; and the number made up of 63 white men and 10 Indians.