

The higher the mountains, of course, the greater must be the condensation, because lofty summits are necessarily colder than those of less altitude.

With these general facts in view, let us now enquire as to the particular climates of British Columbia, which is to an extraordinary degree, a region of mountains and sea coast.

Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte archipelago have a climate upon which the inhabitants congratulate themselves. They have a mild and even winter, with rain, (the annual rainfall is estimated at 45 inches) and occasionally snow; an early spring; a dry, warm summer, and a clear, bright and enjoyable autumn. Sometimes the frost is sufficiently hard to permit of skating, but this is exceptional. As a rule flowers bloom in the gardens of Victoria throughout the year. The climate is warmer than that of England, and the rainfall is periodic—not irregular. The summer is decidedly dry, so that dust is one of the greatest inconveniences in every settlement. But it is a curious fact that July, the driest month on the coast, is the time of greatest wet in the interior. Fruits of all kinds indigenous of the temperate climates ripen in the open air, and amongst them some that are in England brought to perfection only under glass. Some of my hearers may remember an exhibition of apples, embracing some thirty varieties, all of extraordinary perfection, which grew near the mouth of the Fraser and were exhibited here in the early part of the winter. I have never seen plums and cherries to approach in size or flavor those of that region; and fruit culture will surely be one of the leading industries in the future of that coast. Thunder storms seldom break over the island. They can be heard in the distance but are rarely experienced. It is this climate, combined with the situation of Victoria, that makes that city so pleasing a contrast to those who visit it from the hot valleys of California.

Yet in the Interior of Vancouver Island mountains that rise more than 6,000 feet above the sea level not only hold the snow the year round, but even bear glaciers of large