

Island, also a very large proportion of that consumed on the mainland.

From the United States, also, British Columbia gets nearly all its staple cereals, flour, cotton goods, fruits, chinaware, shoes, machinery, tobacco and vegetables. It is added that the chief articles of import from Great Britain into British Columbia are ale, beer, porter; supplies for the government, army and navy; manufactures of cotton, flax and hemp; glassware, iron, tin, lead, spirits and wines, salt, seines, laces and millinery and wooden goods. Rice is imported from China and Siam in considerable quantities, teas from China and Japan, and fancy wines from France.

The chief articles of export are canned salmon, coal, lumber, sealskins, furs, gold-bearing quartz, gold dust and bullion. In the fiscal year 1889-90 the quantity of canned salmon shipped to Great Britain was 16,671,729 pounds, valued at \$1,923,271, and to other countries as follows: United States, 462,634 pounds, Argentine Republic, 16,800 pounds, Australia, 662,400 pounds, China, 38,505 pounds, Chili, 49,370 pounds and Japan 10,080 pounds. For the same year the export of coal amounted to 500,534 tons, of which 494,301 tons went to San Francisco and points in the southwest. Other shipments were: Hong Kong 1,855 tons, Japan 1,800 tons, Sandwich Islands 2,578 tons. The coal mines are located on Vancouver Island, and "are practically inexhaustible"; the quality is superior to any other in the vicinity of Puget sound.

The lumber industry is in its infancy, but a larger proportion of the mills are owned by citizens of the United States. Australia, Chili, Peru and China are the principal markets for this product. The total of boards exported for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1890, was valued at \$317,951. The sealskins exported are about evenly divided between Great Britain and the United States. The total value for the year indicated was \$290,376. Of other furs—bear, mink, wolf, fox, deer—the total value was \$246,242, the proportion going to the United States being valued at \$215,178.

The entire shipments of gold dust, gold-bearing quartz and nuggets go to the United States, and for the period named were valued at \$375,964. For 1886 the value of these products shipped to the United States was \$746,690, and there has been a decrease of about \$75,000 each year since. All bullion exported goes to the United States. Manufactures of clothing, liquors, musical instruments, etc., that are exported, are as a rule imported from some other country and then exported.

The values of import into and exports from British Columbia (from and to the three countries constituting her leading customers) for five years were as follows:—

Imports Great Britain.	United States.	China.	Totals, all countries.
1886.. \$1,243,320	\$2,253,412	\$151,405	\$4,011,726
1887 793,434	2,039,035	663,727	3,626,139
1888.. 837,170	2,012,927	429,435	3,401,299
1889.. 970,139	2,321,954	396,076	3,802,788
1890.. 1,211,058	2,559,426	445,503	4,357,456

Exports Great Britain.	United States.	Australia.	Totals, all countries.
1886 \$ 650,039	\$1,062,335	\$143,123	\$2,253,616
1887 512,767	2,328,764	100,676	3,478,767
1888.. 1,038,787	2,227,036	300,693	3,923,077
1889.. 873,425	2,819,155	423,663	4,331,308
1890 2,103,266	3,125,176	178,009	5,638,725

British Columbia.

A branch of the Bank of British Columbia has been opened at Nelson.

There is said to be a fair run of spring salmon in the Fraser river at present.

Farmers in Vernon district began about the middle of March to do their plowing and seeding.

The price paid for spring salmon at New Westminster on March 15th was one dollar each. This price was expected to rule for some time.

The first shipment of fresh salmon from New Westminster to the east, consisting of 500 pounds was made on March 15th by F. Boutilier & Co.

The Great Northern Express Co. will enter into competition with the C.P.R. in carrying fresh salmon from British Columbia to the eastern markets.

A large amount of mining machinery is being shipped into the Upper Country, which indicates that great activity in that industry will prevail there this year.

A large and handsome industrial school for Indians at Fort Simpson has just been completed. It is expected to be occupied and in full operation by the middle of April.

J. Corbett has discovered seam of coal six feet in thickness on the property of Mrs. A. A. Green in the Nicola Valley. The coal is said to be of an unusually good quality.

A. Bethune, formerly of Manitou, Manitoba, having decided to make Vancouver his home for the future, has entered into a partnership with Mr. Richard Mills, boot and shoe merchant of that city.

A Victoria report of March 25th said navigation was open on the Columbia river and Kootenay lake and that hundreds of miners who had been waiting to get into the country reached by those waters would now be able to do so.

It is understood that the Westminster Woolen Mills will not be removed to Victoria, as proposed some months ago. The promoters of the scheme build a large new mill in Victoria, and continue to operate the mill in Westminster as usual.

A Westminster report says: "The manager of the Westminster Slate Co., has succeeded in procuring a sufficient number of carrier pigeons to perform an air line message service between the company's office in this city and the quarry at Jarvis Inlet.

The reserve placed by the Government on a strip of land ten miles broad extending around Slocan Lake has been removed and the land thrown open for purchase with the exception of two blocks each a mile square which have been reserved as townsite.

Mr Kirschberg, of the firm of Kirschberg & Landberg, Victoria, has lately returned from an extended trip to Alaska. He brought back with him four large cases of handsome specimens of Indian workmanship, which he will exhibit at the World's Fair. He reports la grippe very prevalent among the Indians.

The "Commonwealth" Co. (limited), has been formed in New Westminster and will apply for incorporation. The company proposes to issue

a weekly paper to be called the *Commonwealth*, sixteen pages, and issue editions from Vancouver and Victoria, as well as Westminster. The paper will be under the editorial direction of N. C. Schon. The company have bought out the plant and business of Lewis & Groig.

A meeting of the syndicate formed to experiment on the raising of hops in the Squamish Valley was held recently, when the company's prospectus was received and approved. The name of the company will be the Squamish Valley Hop Raising Company, Limited, capital \$10,000, in 1,000 shares of \$10 each. The Provisional Trustees are Dr. Bell-Irving, Captain Gordon, and Messrs. W. E. Green, W. Shannon and E. Lindsey Phillips.

A syndicate of Puget Sound capitalists have purchased from W. P. Sayward, of Victoria, his big mill at Rock Bay, his timber limits, comprising some 15,000 acres on Vancouver Island, his steamers, and all the other paraphernalia of his immense business, which is one of the oldest and most important in the Province. The contract price is believed to be in the neighborhood of \$350,000. The company purchasing are allowed until May 1st to inspect the timber.

Interim fishing licenses are being issued at New Westminster to all fishermen who are *bona fide* British subjects, pending the settlement of the salmon fishing questions. It was seen that probably a month or two would elapse before the permanent regulations based on the report of the Fishery Commission would be issued and in the meantime the fishermen are to be permitted to fish under these interim licenses in order that they may catch the spring run. No licenses are being issued to canneries. Ten dollars is deposited for each permit which will go to pay for the regular license when ordered.

A missionary from the northern part of the province reports to the *Colonist* of Victoria that "Since last October great changes have taken place among the Tsimpian, Kitsomak, Bella Bella and Queen Charlotte Indian tribes. They have all completely abolished the old medicine bag and rattle for curing disease, and are now very anxiously striving to get to know something of the uses of civilized drugs." He also says: "A very great evil that the missionaries have to contend against is the continual and large importation of spirits by the steamboats, the liquor being sold to the Indians all along the coast. During the past six months this traffic has largely increased, in spite of all efforts to put it down."

A Westminster report says: At a meeting of the Council a bonus by-law for \$300,000 for the Northern Pacific was introduced. Mr. E. E. Rand, in its behalf, said that in April last year a charter was obtained for the building of this line, which it was proposed to hand over to the Northern Pacific, but the charter of that company did not allow them to construct a line in Canada. They could, however, enter into an agreement to operate the line. The estimated cost of the road was \$1,000,000. To obtain this money Mr. C. D. Rand went to London, and recently he had learned that the necessary funds could be raised with the assistance of \$300,000 from the citizens. The right of way from Vancouver to Sumas had practically been secured, and the bridge across the Fraser River would cost \$250,000 or more.