

the river which would prevent vessels entering in. A vessel drawing 12 feet might load within two miles from the mouth. The lands about the mouth of the river are pre-empted and sold; never heard of any minerals being found. On the west bank of the river the land is sold to the coal company for about two miles up; on the east bank it is pre-empted a mile up."

Cedar. "Cedar district is very gravelly, and covered with timber; large lakes in the district full of trout; all round the lakes are cranberry swamps. Agriculturally the land is chiefly third-rate, the good land being all sold. There are a few very fine prairies, say from 10 to 40 acres each, which would make capital farms. There is a good water power, with some good timber for lumber on the spot. Some indications of coal on the east coast, above Dodd's Narrows."

Comox. In Comox district (unsurveyed) there is supposed to be a considerable quantity of good land, prairie and forest, but the extent is unknown, as that section of country, from the coast back to the mountain range, about 8 or 10 miles in the interior, has not been fully explored.

Indian
Reserves.

4. There are several thousand acres set apart for Indian reserves, (see statement F, appendix No. 1,) some portion of which is very good land; but as it is necessary that these reserves should be kept in the occupation of the Indian tribes for some years at least, their value cannot be taken into account.

Government
Reserves out-
side of Vic-
toria city.

5. There are likewise some Government reserves in the districts outside of Victoria city, (see statement F, appendix No. 1.) The particular object of these reserves in some cases is unknown; but it is supposed that they were intended for the support of schools, in accordance with a resolution of the House of Assembly, a few years ago. The only one of these reserves that is likely to be of any considerable value is that at Maple Bay for a town. It may, if sold in town lots, yield some £3,000 or £1,000.

Coal in
surveyed
districts.

6. Indications of extensive coal fields have been found in the surveyed districts, in fact, extending from Comox to Sooke; and it only requires time, capital and labor to render these available within a few years. Some considerable crown revenue may be derived from this source, mainly however by the sale of the land containing the coal.

Copper in
surveyed
districts.

7. Abundant indications of copper-bearing rock exist in the surveyed districts. Several companies are at work opening them; but what their value may be, is still a problem unsolved. If the copper veins prove to be as rich in ore as many persons assert, they will doubtless be the means of adding to the revenue. Like coal lands, however, the copper-bearing land will have to be sold or granted in long leases to give an impulse to copper mining; and consequently the revenue from the mines, even if they turn out to be rich, will not be large; in fact, at present copper mining is only an experiment.

Timber.

Revenue
from crown
lands,
mines, and
timber in
surveyed
districts.

8. What has been said of timber lands, heretofore, holds good with respect to the surveyed districts, with the exception that nearly all the timber is held by purchasers of crown lands, and so but little revenue can be anticipated from this source.

9. It is apparent from this brief and imperfect review of the crown lands, mines and forests within the surveyed districts, that but very little can be derived therefrom.

Clergy and
Governor's
reserve in
Victoria
district.

XIV. The attention of the committee has been directed to certain reserves originally laid out by the Hudson Bay Company in Victoria district, beyond the boundaries of the city of Victoria. These reserves are known as,

1. The Clergy Reserve.

2. The Governor's Reserve.

On examination it was found that they had been sold by the Land Office, by the order of the Hudson Bay Company, sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the colonies,