

the Empire, defraying the whole cost of the administration of its government. If, in those crude, colonial days, the revenue derived from the scarcely utilized resources of the Island was sufficient to maintain the government, how much more capable of self-support should she be today, were modern methods used to develop them on a scale commensurate with their importance?

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Its geological formation, and that of the Queen Charlotte and other contiguous islands, has led to the scientific conclusion that Vancouver Island forms part of a submerged mountain range, detached from the continent by some great convulsion of nature, of which the chain of mountains which traverses the Island from north to south forms the summit. These mountains, with the intersecting valleys, the numerous streams broken by falls and rapids, the abounding lakes, and the luxuriant vegetation which covers every inch of soil, afford a variety of scenic splendor—wild and impressive in its sterner aspects, peaceful and homelike in the pleasant lowlands—unsurpassed in any portion of the globe.

The extreme length of the Island is 285 miles, from Gonzales Point to Cape Scott, and its greatest breadth is 80 miles. Its area is 16,400 square miles, about 10,000,000 square acres, of which about one-third is practically unexplored. The coast line is very extensive, indented with deep bays and fiords, all of which afford shelter for small craft, while many are capable of harboring the largest ships afloat. The west coast is remarkable for the number of arms, or canals, as they are called locally, which, with their numerous branches, run for miles inland, affording opportunities to the prospector and lumberman, giving easy access to mines and timber that would be out of reach under other circumstances. The waters of these canals are invariably very deep, permitting navigation by large vessels their entire length and are in many cases bordered by mountains which rise abruptly from the water's edge to heights of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet. On the east coast the shores are less abrupt, the bays are numerous but not so intrusive, and there are many safe and convenient harbors. A cruise around Vancouver Island in a staunch, well-found boat, makes a delightful summer outing, the scenery being incomparably fine and diversified and the weather, as a rule, perfect. The amateur photographer, the angler, hunter, and the mountain climber, will find unlimited scope for the exercise of their hobbies; the ethnologist will discover a