

CANADA.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

INFORMATION FOR SETTLERS.

British Columbia (including Vancouver, Queen Charlotte, and other islands along the coast) is that portion of Canada which looks out on the Pacific Ocean. It is the only British territory on the western, or Pacific Ocean side of the North American continent.

The principal other countries on the Pacific Ocean side of the continent are the American territories and states of Washington, Oregon, and California. These are fine countries, but each has its advantages and disadvantages. British Columbia, upon the whole, is the best of these countries to settle in, for the following substantial reasons:—Taking the whole year round, or, taking a series of years, the climate is more healthy and enjoyable. The wheat, barley, and hops of British Columbia beat those of California, and her root crops beat those of Oregon. Her grass-fed beef and mutton are the best on the continent. British Columbia has more coal, and better coal, finer harbours, superior fish, sounder trees. Her mineral lands containing precious metals are very extensive. The public domain is sold cheaply, the taxation is immensely less, titles are more secure, the Government maintains free, unsectarian public schools, the laws are better carried out, the people have as much political freedom as any people can desire.

BOUNDARIES.

The boundaries of British Columbia are as follow:—On the North the parallel of 60° N.; on the West the Pacific Ocean and the frontier of the United States territory of Alaska; on the South the parallel of 49° N. (the boundary of the United States); and on the East the Rocky Mountains and the meridian of 120° W. Vancouver Island, though extending southerly beyond the 49th parallel, is wholly within the province.

HISTORY.

Vancouver Island was constituted a colony in 1849. The great mainland territory became a colony in 1858. The two colonies were united in 1856, under the name of British Columbia, and so continued until the 20th July, 1871, at which date the colony became one of the provinces of Canada. From its fine climate, its harbours, the variety of its resources, its vast deposits of gold, coal, iron, and other minerals of economic value, British Columbia may be regarded as, in many respects, a duplicate in North-West America, of Great Britain and Ireland. The provinces must always be a most important part of Canada. Governor-General the Earl of Dufferin said on this point, in a speech in Victoria, 20th September, 1876:—

“Canada would indeed be dead to the most self-evident considerations of self-interest, and to the first instincts of national pride, if she did not regard with satisfaction her connection with a province so richly endowed by nature, inhabited by a