

Pacific Railway, was estimated at \$60,000,000. It is now far in excess of this. With present facilities for prospecting, much heavier returns are expected, for the era of scientific mining in British Columbia has only commenced.

GOLD-BEARING ROCKS.

In British Columbia, a belt of rocks probably corresponding to the gold rocks of California, has already been proved to be richly auriferous. Geological explorations go to show a general resemblance of the rocks to those of the typical sections of California and the Western States.

Silver has been discovered in several places, and its further discovery will probably show that it follows the same rules as in Nevada and Colorado. The best known argentiferous locality is that about six miles from Hope, on the Fraser River. The lodes occur at an elevation of about 5,000 feet.

Great iron deposits exists on Taxada Island, and copper deposits have been found at several points on the coast of the mainland, Howe Sound, Jarvis Inlets, the Queen Charlotte Islands and other points. Mercury, cinnabar and platinum have been found in small quantities during the process of washing gold.

COAL ON THE MAINLAND.

Several seams of bituminous coal have been discovered on the mainland, and some veins have been worked in the New Westminster and Nicola districts, and other indications of coal have been found in several parts. The same formation exists on the mainland as on the island, and the New Westminster and Nicola coal-beds are probably small portions only of large areas.

Anthracite coal, comparing favourably with that of Pennsylvania, has been found in seams of six feet and three feet, in Queen Charlotte Island. Fragments of anthracite have been picked up on several parts of Vancouver Island, and this would seem to indicate that the seams found in Queen Charlotte islands will be traced to Vancouver.

THE FISHERIES OF THE WEST COAST.

An important part of the future trade of British Columbia will arise from the wealth of fish in the waters of her coast. Of these, the most valuable at present is the salmon. They literally teem in the Fraser and Columbia rivers, and frequently passengers on the Canadian Pacific Railway are astounded by the sight of broad expanses of river, or deep pools packed almost solid with wriggling masses of splendid fish, their motions being distinctly visible from the platforms or car windows as the trains pass by. The greater number of the canneries are on the Fraser River, but there are some in the far north.

The Salmon make their way for great distances up the rivers. The salmon of the Columbia fill the streams of the Kootenay; those of the Fraser are found six hundred miles in the interior. There are several kinds of this fish, and they arrive from the sea on different dates.

Besides the salmon are the Oolachan, which come in great numbers, and supplies a valuable medical oil. The black cod, a superior food fish, abounds from Cape Flattery northward. Cod, similar to the eastern variety, are taken on banks off the coast of Alaska, and the same fish is said to haunt British Columbia waters. Halibut of fine quality and large size are plentiful in the inner waters, on the banks off the west