

cedar reach to a great size, the growth of ferns, plants, and bushes is rich and luxuriant, interspersed with thickets of salal (*Gaultheria shallon*). Inland, on the dry strip, on the contrary, vegetation is thin, the trees are small; and the presence of cacti remind one, at every step, that waterproof and umbrella might as well be left at home.

As regards Puget Sound and Victoria, the rainfall is somewhat lessened by the Olympic range of mountains, which stretches seaward and ends in Cape Flattery, which I before alluded to, so that the summers are dry and the climate delightful compared to other places on the coast.

For many years to come the timber will be a mine of wealth. In all parts of the Columbian coast, especially in the southern parts nearer the centres of population, are found little lumbering camps, which shift their position frequently, as the larger trees fall under the axe, chiefly for the foreign market.

The agricultural resources of this colony have not yet been greatly developed, owing to the necessity of irrigation in the dry zones and owing to the thickness of the forests in the damp zones, and on account of the difficulties of marketing the products. The land laws are wise and liberal, however, in British Columbia.

I must next touch briefly on mining. The rich ledges which are being profitably worked in California, Oregon, and Washington must have their counterparts in British Columbia and Alaska.

As I went northwards along the coast we touched at the coal-mines on Vancouver Island; the deepest shaft here at present is one of 626 feet, but it has been shown by boring that good coal is found at a much greater depth. In fact the supplies are probably almost inexhaustible, both on Vancouver Island and on other islands near. On another occasion, when canoeing to Bute Inlet, I visited the newly-found iron-mines on Texada Island.

During the next twenty years we shall see great mining operations begun in British Columbia. There has been a great rush of settlers and land speculators lately to Quatsino Arm, an inlet on the seaward side of Vancouver Island, because, besides the presence of coal, there is the probability that this harbour may become the starting-point of the trans-Pacific steamers. Then again, when I reached Fort Wrangell I found two separate companies about to commence hydraulic mining for gold along the diluvial banks and terraces of the Stikcen river—being the first enterprise of the kind undertaken. The river was still frozen over. It generally "opens" the first week in April. Then again, further up the coast on Douglas Island, I visited the celebrated Treadwell gold-mines and reduction works, containing, I understand, 240 stamps, and outputting between one and two hundred thousand dollars' worth of gold per month. With regard to mining, I have said enough to merely indicate its extent.