

together with the warm Japanese gulf stream, prevent a marked difference at any season of the year, and renders them extremely mild. The rainfall is considerably less than on the coast of the mainland, which is owing, no doubt, to there being no lofty mountain ranges. Snow seldom falls, but, when it does, soon disappears, on account of the general mildness of the air. These islands are well situated commercially, as there is no difficulty in sailing into the many harbours along the coast. Towing is therefore unnecessary, and thus, coupled with their other advantages, such as coal mining, &c., they will no doubt become a very important naval station. Communication at the present time with other parts of the province is somewhat irregular, though a project is on foot to provide regular service. Another industry which has not yet been mentioned, namely, fishing, though now only in its infancy, will shortly become one of the most important in the province. Fishing stations are being erected along the coast, the waters of which are teeming with fish. Among the various kinds is the black cod, which is considered a very great delicacy, and is caught here in large quantities, and shipped to the eastern market, where it finds a ready sale. Wild fowl abound everywhere, but no wild animal has yet been found existing on these islands.

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

This is by far the largest island in British Columbia, and is about 250 miles long, with a breadth of about 50 and 60 miles. The southern part is by far the oldest settled district in the province. The general appearance of the coast is broken and rugged, and to the eye of the stranger would appear rock-bound, though on a nearer approach numerous openings are discovered, disclosing bays and inlets, most of which afford the best of anchorage. The harbours on the west coast are used by the different schooners in the sealing fleet as the base of their operations, from which they sail out with their Indian hunters, who return to their homes at the end of the season. One