

a pocket on Moresly Island in the early fifties, and it is supposed that a much greater quantity was allowed to be washed into the sea. Argentiferous galena has also been found on this Island, but no prospecting has been done. Very fair samples of rock were shown. Native copper exists on the west coast and is used by the Indians.

A deposit of black clay slate, out of which the Haida Indians, who have their home on Queen Charlotte Islands, make their stone figures, and carve many artistic and ingenious designs, is located near Skidegate, and apart from its usefulness to the Indians, may yet be available as an article of commerce.

The waters about Queen Charlotte Islands abound with fish of especially fine quality. The Japan currents strike the Coast here, bringing with them nutritious fish food, and as a consequence the fish of the northern waters are larger, fatter and in every way superior to those further south. The principal economic species occupying these waters are dealt with elsewhere.

The climate of Queen Charlotte Islands is much better than that of the mainland in the same latitude, the moisture being greatly less, and in the spring vegetation is about three weeks in advance. There are no summer frosts. Oats and barley and all vegetables do well. Apples have been tried at Skidegate. Cherries and all small fruits are successfully grown. Summer extends from April to November.

FORT SIMPSON.

This place, upon which the eyes of railway men and speculators have been for some time resting, is situated at the head of Dixon's entrance, and has, in the opinion of naval men, one of the finest harbors in the world. It is directly connected with the ocean, is five miles long and three miles wide. When the Hudson's Bay Co. established itself on the Northern Coast, a brig was sent out to explore in order to locate a depot of easy access. Capt. Simpson, commander, of the vessel, after surveying the whole coast thoroughly, and notwithstanding that a depot had already been established at the Naas Estuary, recommended Fort Simpson as headquarters. This was in 1831, and the business was done direct with Fort Vancouver and London. It is still headquarters for the northern trade. Fort Simpson has a good deal in its favor as a candidate for the terminus of a second transcontinental railway. In Sandford Fleming's report of 1879, this route is strongly recommended, and it is stated that a locomotive between Fort Simpson and Edmonton would be equal in drawing power to three between Port Moody and Calgary.

At Fort Simpson cherries and small fruits are grown and peas, oats, flax and grasses. Three tons of timothy hay have been grown to the acre.

At Fort Hazelton, on the Skeena, oats and barley and vegetables are grown successfully. Tomatoes ripen in the open air.

The island adjacent to Fort Simpson are timbered along the shores, principally with cedar and spruce. The Tsimpsean Peninsula, upon which Fort Simpson and Metlakahtla are situated, is an extensive moor, covered with moss, owing to the humid climate, capable of drainage, and wherever reclamation has been attempted the land has proved fertile.

The Skeena is navigable to Hazelton, and the Hudson's Bay Co's steamer Caledonia made the first successful trip in 1891. With a little more attention by the Dominion Government to this river navigation would be greatly improved.

Southeasterly is a vast expanse of agricultural and pastoral land, possessing a healthful and excellent climate suitable for the cultivation of the hardy cereals, vegetables and fruits and for stock raising.

THE TIMBER INDUSTRY.

ONE of the principal sources of wealth on the Coast is its great timber resources. It is difficult to estimate the number of feet available now, but before the best timber is exhausted the second rate will have grown into a supply equal to the present, if not destroyed in clearing the country. Not only the extent of the timber, but its size and quality give value to the timber limits of the Coast, to which it is principally confined. Immense quantities, however, have been destroyed by fire. In fact, the whole of the interior has been denuded of its best timber, and a good deal on or near the Coast has thus been destroyed. No estimate of this loss can be made, but it might not be amiss to put it down at a sum equal to the value of the supply now on hand.

The bulk of the best timber limits is found on Vancouver Island, New Westminster district, up the inlets of the Coast as far as Knight's Inlet, and on the islands midway between, notably Thurlow, Crocow, Valdez and Harwick, upon which is situated the famous Bickly Bay logging camp.

The chief timber is made up of Douglas Fir (*A. Douglasii*), cedar (*Thuja gigantea*), hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*) spruce, (*Picea sitchensis*). These at present constitute (if we except the hemlock), the timber of commerce, but there are found also, speaking of Vancouver Island and the mainland coast as far north as Fort Rupert, maple, alder, white pine, some yew and crabapple and a little oak on the southern end of Vancouver Island, all of which enter more or less into the manufacture of house finishings and furniture. Maple and alder are both valuable woods and white pine, but are not found in any large quantities.

The largest body of valuable timber is found on Vancouver Island in the southern part, principally located and running up the valleys of Cowichan, Chemainus, Nanaimo, Englishman's, Little Malicum, Big Malicum, Comox, Oyster, Campbell, Salmon, Adams and Nimkish rivers and French Creek and Black Creek and other streams and tributaries of the foregoing. On the west coast the principal timber is in the Alberni Valley, where some large timber limits have been located. The rest of the timber is very much broken up. A good deal of cedar and spruce is interspersed in all this, but it is mainly fir. The spruce is found largely in swampy places and in the delta districts and attains as large a circumference as 44 feet, but is not so tall as Douglas fir. It is one of the most useful of timbers, but in this province is largely used for salmon boxes. The red cedar is found usually about three miles or so from the Coast, and attains enormous proportions in some instances from 50 to 75 feet in circumference at the root. Economically, it is one of the most useful of woods for inside finishings, shingles, posts and what not, its utility being greatly enlarged by its wonderful durability. It is the greatest friend of the settler, who can turn it to a great variety of uses. Douglas fir is, of course our forest king, being majestic in proportions, clear of imperfections and useful for all construction purposes, where strength and durability are required. It attains a height sometimes of 300 feet and a circumference of 50 feet, but the best aver-