Historical Sketch of British Columbia.

(Written for THE COLONIST.) Although in this new country, but as yet sparsely settled, a majority of the itants (if we except the aborigines), cannot apostrophize and say with the immortal Scottish bard, Sir Walter Scott, "This is my own, my native land;" yet, as it is the land of our adoption, and con-tains "peaks and crags," a "rugged strand," and is a "land of the mountain

Great Britain on the Atlantic seaboard.
The connection it has by the great Canadian 'Pacific transcontinental railway,
and by that company's magnificent fleet
of steamers to the Orient, along with its
international trade by land and sea from

which was made in 1872, the island was assigned to the United States.

EARLY NAVIGATIORS—1579.

There is nothing authentic in history to show that the early navigators in the North Pacific extended their explorations, on the west coast as far north as any portion of what now constitutes the westers frontier of British Columbia. The first trip eastward across the Pacific, is said to have been made in 1565, by Andres de Urdaneta, a Spanish friar and navigator. Sir Francis Drake is next mentioned as having made a voyage around Cape Horn, in 1579. He does not appear to have reached farther north than the bay near where San Francisco is now built, and where it is supposed he landed. In 1544 Francisco de Gali is also said to have speached the west coast from China, but nothing definite is known of his researches.

Daring the progress of this expedition, Behring Straits was discovered and the Alaskan coast visited and taken possession of in the name of Russia. Fur trading stations were located at various points. The Spaniah authorities in Mexico, hear-The Spanish authorities in Mexico, hearing of the Russian movements, communicated with the court of Spain. Orders were issued to secure the whole coast north of California. A man-of-war was fitted out in 1774, with eighty-eight men, including two missionaries, with instructions to take possession of any Russian settlements they could find along the coast, and convert the natives. The expedition appears to have reached as far as the northern shores of Queen Charlotte the northern shores of Queen Charlotte Islands, and net finding any trace of Russians, returned to San Blas.

CAPTAIN COOK AND OTHER EXPLORERS AT

Between the years 1774 and 1778 several expeditions were fitted out by the Vicercy of Spain, in Mexico, to explore the coast northwards. Each expedition

"This is my own, my native land;" yet, as it is the land of our adoption, and contains "peaks and crags," a "rugged strand," and is a "land of the mountain and the flood," it is fit and proper that we should not only appreciate and admire its grand, romantic scenery and fertile valleys, but become acquainted with its history, so the rising generation, as well as those who are pioneer colonists, should have placed before them, comprehensively and clearly, a connected, succent sketch of the history of the Province. An intelligent knowledge of that kind will show what part they have taken, and how they have been instrumental in making British Columbia one of the most valuable jewels in Queen Victoria's crown. It will foster their patriotism, and lead them also to exclaim, "This is my native land!" Then as to its position, extent and genc.

British Columbia is the most westerly province of the British possessions in North America. Its position on the seaboard of the Pacific gives it, is a ger graphical sense, an importance similar Great Britain on the Atlantic seaboard. The connection it has by the great Canadian Pacific transcontinental railway, and by that company's magnificent fleet.

A difficulty now arose as to the right of steamers to the Orient, along with its of the scale of steamers to the Orient, along with its of the steam of the orient and or an investment of the orient of the most orient of the ori

A difficulty now arose as to the right of of steamers to the Orient, along with its international trade by land and sea from other sources, secure to it a commerce and standing, which, with its own under veloped resources, more especially the deep sea fisheries, cannot fail to place it high as a Maritime Province. The area of the Province, including Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, is estimated at at 341,300 square miles. Its western boundary is

\$8,000, FOR AN OLD IRON CHISEL!

and standing, which, with its own underections, one companies of the Provinces, more appealing the success of the County of the Provinces, including Vaccous, in Vacc

searches.

HIATUS FOR 200 YEARS.

Subsequent to the time last mentioned, nothing further is in record of what transpired on the porthern portions of the nothing further is in record of what transpired on the northern portions of the Coast for about two hundred years. The Spaniards had entire possession, but their time and attention were so fully occupied with Mexico and Peru that they did not press their explorations northwards until after 1740, when a Russian expedition was fitted out under the command of Ivan Ivanvoich Behring, a Dane by birth, who had previously been selected by Peter the Great to take charge of an expedition to India.

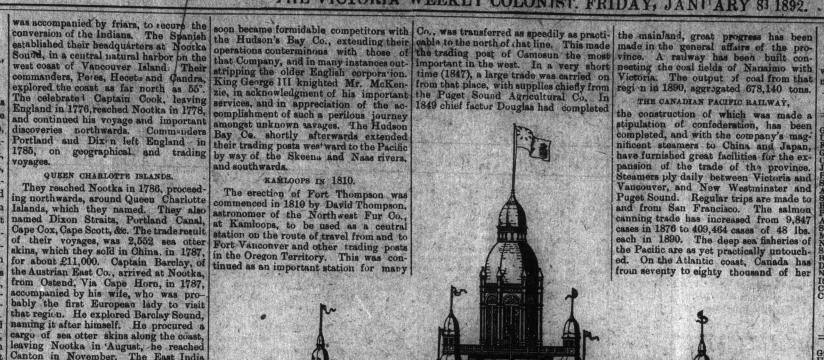
BISCOVERIES BY THE RUSSIANS.

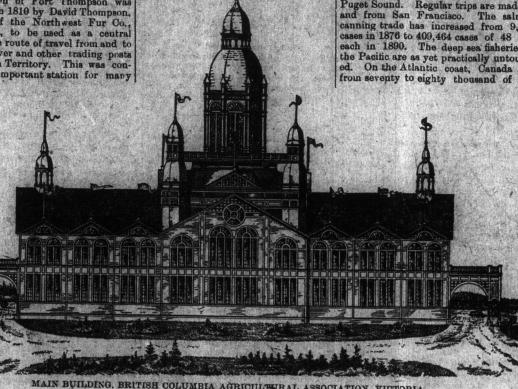
who cared only for their own profit. Thus commenced amongst the dwellers on the coast, an era of decadency, retrogression and poverty, which, along with diseases of various sorts, contracted by careless and immoral habits, has left only a feeble remnant of a race, who, a hundred years ago were warlike, vigor us and independent, numbering tens of thousands. The detribes of the interior. This is owing, in a great measure, to the manner in which they had been treated by the Hudson's Bay Co.

SWEEDING TRADE. IN MARINE STEES

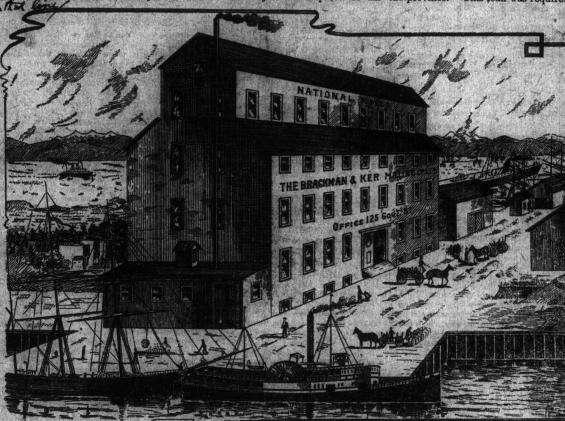
"SWEEPING TRADE" IN MARINE FURS From 1790 to 1812, it is narrated that there were 108 United States vessels, 22 English, 3 French and 2 Portuguese vessels engaged in the west coast trade. In the year 1802, more than 15,000 sea-otter skins were collected on that coast and carried to Canton. These enormous catches had the effect of reducing the number of had the effect of reducing the number of those valuable animals to such an extent that, in subsequent years, in many locali-ties, they became nearly extinct. The war of 1812, between Great Britain and the United States, caused a complete stagnation of the trade—the U. S. traders

A SCOTCHMAN LEADS THE WAY. The first over-land passage north of the Rocky Mountains, to the western coast, was made in 1793, by Alexander McKenzie, a native of Inverness, Scotland, and a partner in the North-West Fur Company. This company was organized in Montreal in 1789, by a few Scottish merchants. They





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were engaged from 1858 to 1870 in making complete charts of the thousands of islands bays, sounds, and inlets along the whole western frontier of British Odumbia. Their work is a marvel in extent and thousand gold miners in 1858 made it country, to ke correctness. Governor Simpson of the H. B. Co., who made a tour of the western and southern extent of his furdominion in 1841, being guided by the decrease in

works, such as

NEW ROADS, SURVEYS, BRIDGES, ETC. The influx of from twenty to thirty thousand gold miners in 1858 made it necessary for the protection of life and property to extend the government nearer to the mining districts on the mainland. New Westminster was chosen as the most convenient location. Frederick Savenage was appointed on the convenient of the conv connected with the opening up of the country, to keep pace with the growth of new and remote settlements, as yet only partially developed, but which become re-munerative when afforded the requisite in 1841, being guided by the decrease in furs, consequent on prospective immigration into Oregon, instructed chief factor Douglas to withdaw the headquarters of the Company at Vancouver to a suitable place farther north. The place where Victoria now is, was selected and a fort commenced (at first named Camosun), in 1842.

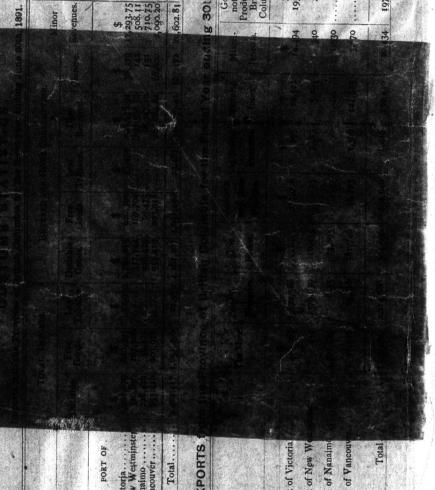
THE BOUNDARY OF 1846.

The 49th parallel of latitude was agreed on by treaty between Great Britain and the United States, to be the boundary line between Oregon and the British possessions. As a consequence the for trading business belonging to the H. B.

HOME AND FOREIGN TRADE.

In illustration of the extent to which the trade of British Columbia has grown in the past few years, the subjound table will be introduced to the process.

A THE STATE OF THE		IMPORTS	·Kozalaki		
Great Britain United States France Germany China Japan Holland Spanish Possessions, W. Ind. Austria Siam Belgium Portugal Australia Switzerland Mexico Norway and Sweden Sandwich Islands British East Indies Dutch East Indies New Zealand Italy Chill	1886. \$1.243,329 2,23,442 12,148 3,180 451,407 223 9,486 19,168 197 2,870 344 19,168 197	1887. \$ 793.434 2,559.035 2,519.035 663.727 53,819 10,073 460 55,172 127 1.970 329 300	1888, \$ 837,170 2,042,927 8,614 5,550 420,435 42,213 4,990 105 25,044 4,280 555 7,556 	1880, \$ 970,139 2,321,954 9,257 20,847 396,076 60,744 4,271 2,108 21,165 1,359 21,165 1,359 291 163 -77 3,349 514 418 514	1890. \$1,211,058 2,559,492 10,707 17,35; 44,508 71,687 72,942 7,376 43,144 200 144 11,430 1,880 6,65 30 62 229 3,159 10
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HE DEE BRITISI

North Ameri

n elk, Cervus Co bou, Cervus Tous Macrotis; irginia deer, Cer At the head of acceptance ording to every a ainly in form. The largest ording to Every 10 ainly in Form. omb Portage awn on the rough that po country lying acr he Peace river will pretty clearl ments of the moos oast and its eas line keeps within at and near its sta no evidence that taken on the Pacil tern limit of wever, is a gr had the most ex the family, a ran Newfoundland, th lew Brunswick, and Ontario, throu North-West, into beyond the boun into Alaska, reachi ring's Sea, at the and the Arctic of the Mackenzie. this vast range till tolerably these districts reach of the game butchers, that for some time umbia will hold its animals. The foo animals. The foo chiefly of the te which are found places and around and lakes, and the wood, white birch neck and long from what difficult for h what difficult for I members of the been known to 1,500 pounds, the weighing sixty poweight hundred, is of excellent quamade into leather that of the sixty of th

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6,257,158

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The next on the of the species, at the Cervis Taraudus. Cervis Taraudus. The of the other species along the worterior throughout the mainland. It the mainland. ine to interview widely separated to On the hills which lley of the Spall ters of the N learwater, in the le plateau which de Stickeen from I these places, the nature