

Government. Steamers ply constantly between the ports on the islands and the seaports of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and New England States. The chief drawback is that during a part of the winter communication is interrupted with the main shore, owing to ice blockades.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

This province, which includes Vancouver's Island, is the most western of the provinces which constitute the Dominion of Canada, its boundaries being the Rocky Mountains on the east, and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

It possesses many fine harbours, one of which (Burrard Inlet) will probably form the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway when completed; 125 miles of the line in this province are now under contract.

British Columbia has a large extent of valuable timber land, productive fisheries, which are increasing in value yearly. Gold and coal are also found in large quantities.

Heads of families, widows, or single men can obtain free grants of land from 160 to 320 acres, according to the locality; the fee is about 7 dols.

Surveyed lands can be purchased at one dollar per acre, payable over two years, and improved farms cost from £1 to £8 per acre.

The leases for mining and timber are at the disposal of the Government, and are so granted from time to time as they may think fit, and as circumstances may require.

A most important feature of the Government of this province is that which is called the "Homestead Act," and in the case of a settler having a family to support it is of the greatest importance. The farm, and all the buildings thereon, are exempted from seizure for debt up to the value of £500, as are also his chattels up to £100; so that if misfortune should assail him he is at least sure of covering for himself and family. This Act applies to debt incurred after the registration.

The entire population of British Columbia does not exceed much over 50,000, and Victoria, its capital, contains only a population of about 5,500, and this may be accounted for by the fact that the fares by the principal staple routes are very dear; but when the Canadian Pacific Railway is opened, which will obviate in a great measure this drawback, there will be, no doubt, a great influx of settlers.

The climate of British Columbia resembles that of Great Britain more than any of the other provinces of the Dominion. Fruit is reared in the greatest luxuriance, and it is of the best kind; and it is quite certain that when the railway is opened up, this will form a special feature in the products of the country.

The rivers and bays teem with fish of various kinds, from the sturgeon weighing some 700 lbs. to the salmon weighing 70 and 80 lbs. The lakes and streams abound with trout of various kinds, and many other varieties of fish are found in abundance.

Gold has been found in various parts of the province, and it is emphatically asserted, by those who have surveyed the various localities