

British Columbia—a range uplifted later than the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, and not of the same formation. The large Islands of Vancouver and Queen Charlotte, which shelter the mainland coast, are above-water portions of a still more westerly range of mountains now half submerged in the Pacific Ocean. The Cascade Mountains of Oregon, though described in some accounts of the province as running longitudinally through it, in fact merely enter the south-west angle of British Columbia and disappear on the east side of the Fraser, about 150 miles up that river. In the extreme north of the province, as above said of the Rocky Mountains, the mountains generally, except those of the coast range, diminish in height, and the surface has a gentle northerly and north-easterly slope towards the Arctic Ocean.

The above brief description, read with the map lying open beside it, will make the general physical structure and surface of British Columbia sufficiently clear to the reader. It is necessary, however, to add a word or two on the remarkable coast line of the province. Here we shall see a further resemblance to north-western Europe, particularly to the coast of Norway and the west coast of Scotland.

COAST LINE.

The coast line is much broken with numerous long inlets, bays, coves, and islands. It is noteworthy that, while from San Francisco to Cape Flattery there is not a single harbour for ocean-going ships, good harbours are numerous in British Columbia, both on the mainland and on Vancouver Island. Among these may be mentioned Burrard Inlet on the mainland, to which the trans-continental railway comes, Esquimaux, the Naval Station in Vancouver Island, and Nanaimo, a great coal shipping port on the east coast of that Island, all of which are excellent harbours much frequented by shipping. A remarkable feature on the coast of the province is the noble barrier for the protection of the mainland shores formed by the outer half-submerged mountain range above-mentioned, represented by the large Islands of Vancouver and Queen Charlotte.

His Excellency Governor-General the Earl of Dufferin thus describes the coast line of the province in a speech at Victoria, on the 10th of September, 1876:—

“Such a spectacle as its coast line presents is not to be paralleled by any country in the world. Day after day for a whole week, in a vessel of nearly 2,000 tons, we threaded an interminable labyrinth of watery lanes and reaches that wound endlessly in and out of a network of islands, promontories, and peninsulas for thousands of miles, unruffled by the slightest swell from the adjoining ocean, and presenting at every turn an ever shifting combination of rock, verdure, forest, glacier, and snow-capped mountain of unrivalled grandeur and beauty. When it is remembered that this wonderful system of navigation, equally well adapted to the largest line of battle-ship and the frailest canoe, fringes the entire seaboard of your province and communicates at points, sometimes more than a hundred miles from the coast, with a multitude of valleys stretching eastward into the interior, while at the same time it is furnished with innumerable harbours on either hand, one is lost in admiration at the facilities for inter-communication which are thus provided for the future inhabitants of this wonderful region.”

WHO SHOULD GO TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In a pamphlet issued by the Provincial Government of British Columbia it is stated:—

“The Government receives many letters asking for a statement of the actual advantages from different occupations and investments in the province. To such questions no entirely satisfactory answer can be given without the power to gauge, in some degree, moral dispositions; so much depends on the individual himself in every colonial undertaking. Emigration is a matter that should be undertaken very prudently, and with clear notions of what settling in a young country really means. The rough task of re-beginning a career means at first a time of hope, followed generally by depression and often by disappointment, and almost always by more or less hardship. The province has great resources, but these require capital, cheap labour, and time for their development. Its surface is uneven and without any extensive connected agricultural areas. It is only in the power of the Government

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