

Bute Inlet is much farther north, is surrounded with lofty mountains, and receives the waters of the River Hamathco. Valdez Island lies between its mouth and Vancouver.

Milbank Sound, still farther north, will become valuable as a harbour, as the gold mines on Peace River attract population.

The River Skeena is now ascended by steam vessels from Nanaimo, and is one of the routes to the Omineca gold mines.

The River Nass, a little further north, is near the frontier of Alaska. It has been ascended by a steamer more than twenty-five miles. It is believed that the region its waters is rich in gold, and both it and the Skeena are valuable for the fisheries.

The total number of vessels that entered the ports of British Columbia in 1870, was 804, of which 597 were British, and 207 foreign, 515 with cargoes, and 259 in ballast. The total tonnage was 170,624 tons. The number of vessels that cleared from the ports for the same year was 835, and the tonnage, 173,209. There are steamers between Victoria and New Westminster on the Fraser River as far as Yale. A steamer has also been put on this river on the Cariboo route, between Soda Creek and Quesnel, and as far up as Fort George; and another on Lake Fatiz for the convenience of reaching the Omineca Mines.

FISHERIES.

The fisheries are probably the richest in the world. Whales and seals abound in the northern seas. Sturgeon are plentiful in the rivers and estuaries of British Columbia. They are found weighing over 500 lbs., and are caught with little difficulty.

Salmon are excellent, and most abundant. Those of Fraser River are justly famous. There are five species, and they make their way up the river for 1,000 miles. The silver salmon begins to arrive in March, or early in April, and lasts till the end of June. The average weight is from four to twenty-five lbs., but they have been caught weighing over seventy. The second kind are caught from June to August, and are considered the finest. Their average size is only five to six lbs. The third, coming in August, averages seven lbs., and are an excellent fish. The noan or humpback salmon, comes every second year, lasting from August till winter, weighing from six to fourteen lbs. The hookbill arrives in September, and remains till winter, weighing from twelve to fifteen, and even forty-five lbs. Salmon is sold at Victoria at five cents per lb., and there appears to be no limit to the catch.

The oulachans, a small fish like a sprat, appearing at the end of April, are a delicious fish, fresh, salted, or smoked, and yield an oil of a fine and excellent quality. They enter the river in millions, and those caught at the north are said to be so full of oil that they will burn like a candle. Several species of cod are found, and it is believed, there are extensive banks in the Gulf of Georgia.

Herring also abound during the winter months, and are largely used, both fresh and smoked, and are of good quality.

Halibut banks are of frequent occurrence, and the fish attain an enormous size.

Anchovies are only second to the oulachans in abundance, and may be taken with great ease during autumn.