

some of which are still being carved into strange forms, by the great ice sheets which cover them.

Far up into these almost inaccessible mountains during the gold excitement, the government built a wagon road at a cost of two and a half million dollars. Into, over, and under these same mountains the Canadian Pacific Railway finds its way to the Pacific Ocean. Seven thousand men were engaged three years in building sixty miles of railway along the Cañon of the Fraser. Some portions of the work cost \$300,000 to the mile.

In these gigantic mountains very appropriately are born gigantic rivers. From them flow the mighty Yukon, which thousands of miles away is steadily at work filling up Behring Sea; the Liard and the Peace, after draining an empire, three thousand miles away through the great Mackenzie, are lost in the Polar Sea; and the rushing, impetuous Fraser, and the queenly Columbia.

British Columbia is rich in minerals. It would be difficult to indicate any defined section in which gold has not been, or probably will not be found. From 1858 to 1888 the gold production was over fifty one million dollars. The first mines discovered were in the southern part of the province, the next in the Cariboo district, in the centre of British Columbia, and until the recent discoveries in the Kootenay district the richest diggings in work were the Cassiar mines in the far north.

The railway now pierces the auriferous ranges; men and material can be carried into the heart of the mountains, and with each succeeding season fresh gold deposits are being found. In 1893 great progress was made in quartz mining, though placer work was not neglected. Twenty-five certificates of incorporation were granted to mining companies of all kinds representing a capital of eleven and a half million dollars. The greater number of these were hydraulic propositions. The great

hope of placer mining lies in Cariboo, where the old diggings are being prospected and opened up as a field for hydraulicing. Dr. Dawson's prediction made some years ago that Cariboo would yield more gold in the future than it has ever done in the past, is being fulfilled. The silver mines are not now being worked to any great extent.

Now that railway communication has been afforded—heretofore its lack being the great drawback—there can be little doubt of an early mining boom, not less remarkable than occurred in the western and Pacific States.

Bituminous coal has been worked for many years past at Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island, at which place there are large deposits, and indications of coal have been found at several other places on that island. Coal has also been found on the mainland. Last year a strong company with a registered capital of four million dollars was formed for the purpose of developing and working the Crow's Nest coal fields. The total output of coal in British Columbia for 1888 was 400,000 tons; in 1893 it was 850,000 tons.

The mountains and coast are covered with dense forests of valuable timber. Eighty per cent of this is Douglas fir, ten per cent red cedar, and the balance yellow cedar, spruce, white and yellow pine, hemlock, maple, alder, and cottonwood. The timber is very large; the red cedar especially grows to an enormous size. Large tracts of the red cedar are found varying from ten to twelve feet in diameter, with trunks 150 to 200 feet to the first limb. The lumber industry is just now at its lowest ebb. The foreign demand is light and the prices low. The export last year was 45,600,000 feet, worth about \$4,500,000 in round figures.

The rivers, bays, and inlets swarm with fish, among which are salmon, halibut, herring, oolachan, black and rock cod, sturgeon, etc. Of these the most valuable at present is the salmon. They literally teem in the Fraser and

Columbia Rivers, and frequently passengers on the Canadian Pacific Railway are astonished at the sight of broad expanses of river, or deep pools, packed almost solid with wriggling masses of splendid fish, their motions being distinctly visible from the platforms or car windows as the trains pass by. The greater number of the canneries are on the Fraser River, but there are some in the far north.

The salmon make their way for great distances up the rivers. The salmon of the Columbia fill the streams of the Kootenay; those of the Fraser are found six hundred miles in the interior. There are several kinds of this fish, and they arrive from the sea on different dates.

In 1887 there were twenty one salmon canneries which packed 205,000 cases of four dozen one pound cans to the case. The total number of salmon caught, including those salted in barrels, was 1,800,000. The salmon pack for 1888 was 177,000 cases.

In 1893 there were about 570,000 cases packed, which represent a value of \$2,500,000. The importance of this industry may be more properly appreciated by the fact that about \$3.50 represents the actual outlay per case from first to last. To fill the 570,000 cases, over 6,000,000 salmon were required, which at eight cents apiece means a payment of \$480,000 for fish alone. Allowing 350 cases to a car, it would take 1,600 cars, to carry the British Columbia pack of salmon for 1893.

The increase in the fishery output each year has been most marked. In 1892 the total fishery products amounted to \$2,800,000. In 1893 the total product was over \$4,675,000.

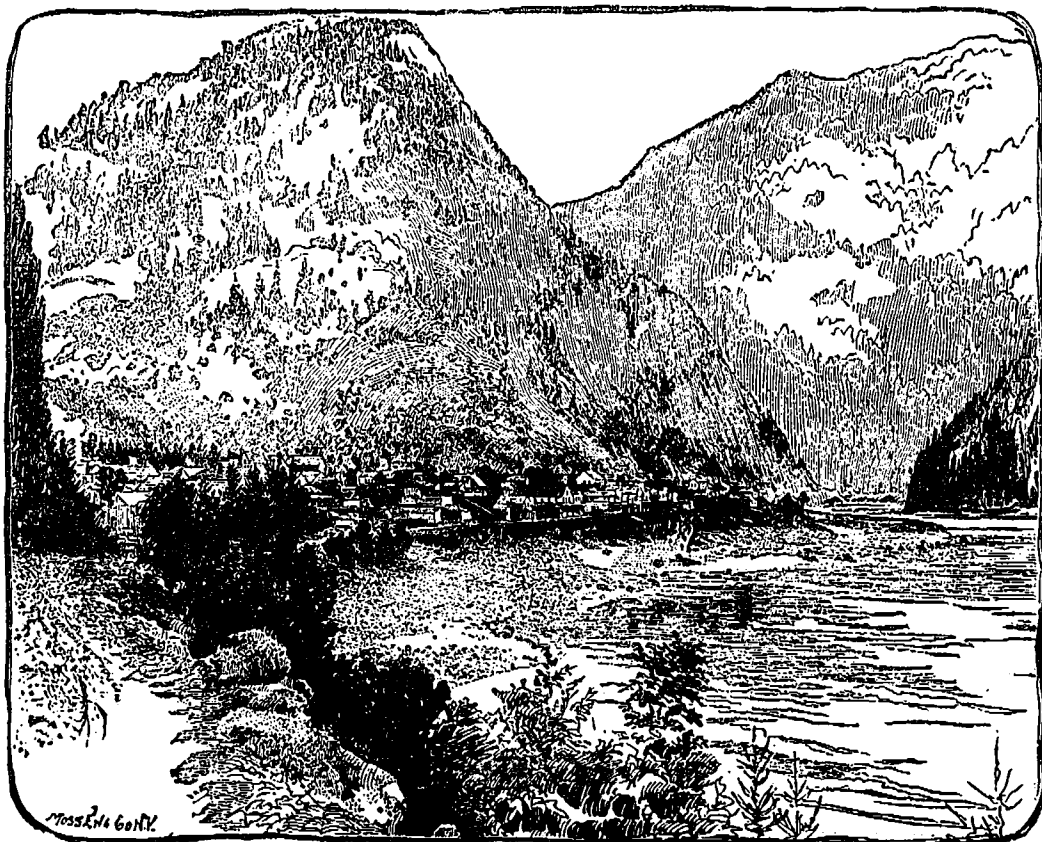
While much of the land is rocky and unsuited to cultivation, there are valleys in the mountains and on the island which have an arable soil suited to the production of the fruits, grains, vegetables, and flowers of the temperate zone. Victoria, on the south end of Vancouver Island, is noted for its beautiful flower gardens, and abundance of choice fruit.

From Vancouver city (the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway) there are regular lines of steamers for China, Japan and Australia, which have secured a large portion of the Chinese and Australian rapid transit trade and much of the commerce of the Pacific Ocean.

The climate stretching across a country over 700 miles north and south and from the coast 500 miles inland among the mountains, comprising an area of 800,000 square miles, is very different in different sections. In a general way, however, it may be said to be moist and mild on the islands and coast and drier and colder in the interior. The coast region, warmed by the Kuro Siwo, the great warm current of the Pacific Ocean, has a winter climate as mild as Virginia in the United States. The mild, invigorating and delightful climate of Victoria makes it a pleasant resort.

The Indians, as a rule, are industrious and self-sustaining. They are in demand at the lumber mills, salmon canneries, and fisheries on the coast, and in herding cattle and horses in the interior. They are in all stages of advancement from barbarism upward, in proportion to the time they have been under the influence of the missionaries.

British Columbia, unlike the other provinces of Canada, does not recognize any native owner-



YALE, B.C.