

open in February, early plants burgeon in March, and strawberries bloom in the middle of April. The littoral, both of the Island and of the mainland—British Columbia proper—partakes of these characteristics, but the interior of both is mountainous and highly picturesque, intersected by valleys, deep and fertile, by elevated and extensive plateaux, where in winter the snow does not impede travelling, and the pasture is such—a species known as bunch grass—that animals thrive well at all seasons.

Cattle—horses, bees, sheep and swine, multiply and fatten, winter and summer, on these nutritious grasses; oxen were seen, six years old, and in good case, which during their bovine existence, had been housed by the vault of Heaven alone; while the farmer who provides against accident by a month's winter forage in advance, is regarded as a precautionary paragon.

These conditions of climate operate exuberantly on a soil whereon flourishes, in great abundance, the Douglas pine, rising often to 150 and 175 feet, without knot or branch; and turns out logs which would make the mouth of an Ottawa lumberman water—say 80 feet long by 6 in diameter—and yet, by the side of this sylvan giant, and other noble forest trees, common to Canada, do not disdain to grow cabbages, carrots, turnips and potatoes, equal to any in the Dominion; and even at a level of 2,700 feet above the sea, on the plateaux before adverted to, were seen fields of wheat, oats and barley, which, aided by an ingenious system of artificial irrigation, presented the finest possible appearance, proclaiming, as it is prettily put, “in their mute language, that those who believed that Columbia was a land of mountains, unfit for cultivation and destined to prove a source of expense to Confederation, had made a great mistake.”

Of the flora and the fauna of British Columbia our Minister of Public Works says little. Being the head and the representa-

tive of the working-men—the class and the order of the day—he may, and he probably does hold, as a practical man, that *pommes de terres* and cauliflowers are enough of flower and fruit for a reasonable emigrant population; but an appendix tells us, extracted from a pamphlet by Dr. Charles Forbes, surgeon, R. N., that, in the end of March, buttercups were in flower, strawberries in bloom in the middle of April, with lilies, heartsease, jonquils, campaniola and lupins; apple trees in blossom, and roses in bloom by the middle of May. Of the fauna we are informed, in an appendix ascribed to J. D. Pemberton, that game of all sorts abounds. Larger species, the buffalo, is distant and but rarely seen; of bears, the brown and the grizzly, the less seen the better. The elk and the smaller deer tribes are wastefully slaughtered; in their season wild fowl swarm, ducks and geese, grouse, snipe and wild pigeons are ready to the hand of those who have the time and the taste to shoot them.

But the hidden riches of this picturesque country far exceed those which meet the eye. In the bowels of the earth, in the waters under the earth, on the rocky shores of the inland seas, in the beds of rivers, nature has been prodigal of gifts. Gold and silver, copper and coal, crop out, geologically, all over the country. Near the town of Hope, on the Frazer River, Mr. Langevin saw specimens of silver of such richness as to justify the construction of extensive works, including a road from Hope to the mine itself, and there is every reason to believe that the silver region extends through the range of mountains in which this mine is situated. Of the copper little is said, but Governor Douglas, in a report communicated to the Colonial Office, dated August 27, 1852, stated that he had “procured a rich specimen of copper ore found in a distant part of Vancouver Island,” and manifestations of the existence of this metal have reproduced themselves since; but when gold