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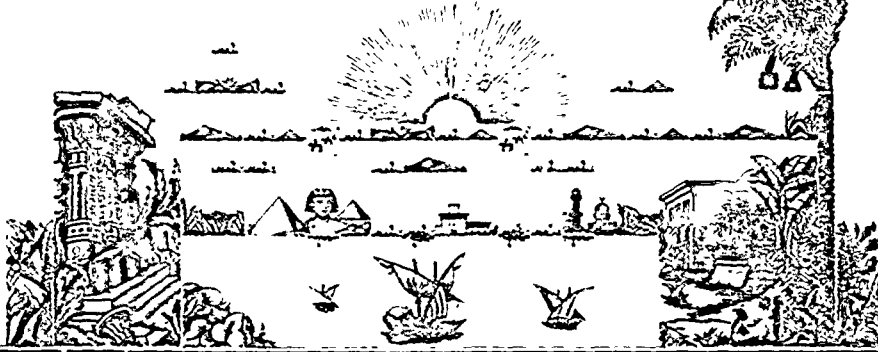
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"WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

Volume I,
No. 1.

March,
1883.



THE

RESOURCES

OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

ILLUSTRATED.

A Monthly Journal devoted exclusively to the Moral and Material
Interests of British Columbia and the Dissemination of
correct Information regarding its great
and varied Resources.

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For the Emigrant, the Tourist and the Resident.

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Published at Victoria by J. J. McARTHUR, Editor and Proprietor.

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SALUTATORY.

In presenting this, the initial number of the *RESOURCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA*, to our readers, we feel that no prefatory apology is necessary, because we believe that the best interests of the Province, as well as those of intending emigrants, will be greatly subserved by the dissemination, far and wide, of reliable information regarding the great natural wealth of this country. British Columbia needs a large immigration for the development of its varied resources as much as the distant home-seeker desires to find the most profitable field for his labor or the investment of his capital. But, inasmuch as the necessary information, like any other commodity, can be obtained only from those who have it, and as this country is comparatively unknown abroad, it is therefore evident that in order to induce emigrants to come and settle in the country, they must first be made somewhat acquainted with the character and extent of its resources; otherwise they will go to such other places as, from their knowledge of them, may seem best suited to supply their wants. As the interests of British Columbia and those of the emigrant are measurably co-existent and mutual, the columns of this publication will be exclusively devoted to their advancement. Every considerable industry and resource of each district of the Province will, from time to time, receive special attention in the order of their importance; and we have no hesitation in assuring the public that the excellence of our paper will be commensurate with the patronage it may receive.

At our expense, one or more copies of each number will be regularly mailed free to the leading public libraries, newspapers and free reading rooms of Europe and America; especially to those of Great Britain and the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion of Canada. In addition to the large number which will likely be ordered and sent abroad by our leading business firms, capitalists, real estate owners and transportation companies, it is expected that each single subscriber after having perused it, will take the trouble to mail each copy to the address of some foreign friend or acquaintance and thereby aid in the dissemination of facts regarding our unrivalled resources.

Those writing for any particular information regarding the country or other cognate matter will be answered in our columns under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

A BRIEF SKETCH OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Its Early History, Present Condition and Brilliant Prospects.

William H. Seward, one of the most illustrious of American statesmen, has, in the terse and vigorous style which characterized the great secretary, left upon record the following sentences, which to-day, ring like an eloquent prophecy of Isaiah:

"The United States will one day regret of having treated Canada with such arrogance and pride. Canada is destined to become the seat of an immense empire, the Russia of North America, but a Russia with a more advanced civilization than the European Russia. All the political stars of the South may become faint, while those which light the North Pole increase in eclat and splendor."

The possible destiny of British North America as a country of fifty millions of freemen, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, living under the laws of Alfred and speaking the language of Shakespeare and Milton, is an august conception. But the foundation of that destiny has already been laid, and every breaker that foams and thunders across the historic entrance of the Strait of Fuca, and every ringing blow that drives a spike in the great trans-continental highway, now hastening hither, add proof to prophecy and swell the pean of its final accomplishment. The shadow on the dial of Canadian progress had hardly turned westward when that great advocate of territorial expansion gave utterance to the prophetic words above quoted; and now, sooner even than his swift imagination could have conceived, a young civilization, bold as the Roman and splendid as the Greek, has arisen here on the western verge of the continent, where the Orient meets the Occident, and the great oceans blend their eternal anthems under a sweeping arch of national advancement and renown.

These thoughts are inevitably suggested as we sit down to write a brief sketch, descriptive however feebly, of the resources of this fair Province; and, as the topic naturally includes a running *resumé* of the leading facts connected with its discovery and early settlement, a few remarks on these subjects will not be deemed inappropriate.

Although the bold mariners of Spain are usually accorded the honor of having been the first messengers of any civilized nation to this *terra incognita*, yet as their pretensions are misted with doubt in this respect, we may, without further comment, dismiss as mere "sailor yarns," the varying and absurd accounts of the alleged explorations of the mythical De Fuca, and claim for that bold English tar, Capt. Vancouver, the distinction of being the first to circumnavigate that fair Isle, the England of the Pacific, which has ever since borne his honored patronymic. In 1790, Captain Vancouver, formerly a lieutenant under Capt. Cook, was sent by the British Government to meet a Spanish commission at Nootka Sound, in order to adjust a dispute which menaced the peace of both powers. The dream of a Northwest passage

was then at its height, and the legend of the river of the West, brooding like a mist on the ocean and beckoning spectrally from many a wave-lashed headland, excited to intense rivalry, the greatest maritime nations of the globe in the race of discovery and empire. Therefore, in addition to the diplomatic business with which he was charged, Vancouver was instructed to examine the coast from the 35th to the 60th parallel, with reference to the existence of a maritime passage between the Pacific and Atlantic. Finding when he reached Nootka that the Spanish commission had not arrived, he resolved to make a survey of the Strait of Fuca and Admiralty Inlet. After an easy passage through Fuca and over the blue unchartered bosom of the Gulf of Georgia, he entered upon the tedious and difficult navigation of Johnstone Strait and at length came out again into the Pacific, 100 miles above Nootka. Although nothing came of all the sailing to and fro and swaggering sea talk that characterized the search for the western river and the Straits of Anian, yet, none will grudge the gallant captain the honor which so righteously attaches to his name, as a most intrepid seaman and eminent explorer. From this time till 1843, when the Hudson's Bay Company established an Indian trading post on the shores of Victoria harbor, the island remained untraversed by white men, and the Mainland was regarded as a vast and unexplored wilderness. During the succeeding 14 years but little progress was made; Victoria, then as now, the chief business centre, having only attained the humble position of a straggling hamlet of two or three hundred souls. Thus the winter of '57 wore away; but as the memorable spring of '58 opened, the returning birds sang the resurrection of the year with charming *esprit*. They were right. It was, indeed, eminently fitting that "the days of gold" should be thus signally announced. The yellow glitter of the precious grains picked up by a small body of prospectors on the banks of the Thompson and Bonaparte rivers, on their way to the far famed Fraser, had grown into a consuming flame that was sweeping over the world. Gold! There was music in the word and elysium in its import. The bosoms of the sturdy pioneers of the west, lightly bared to every danger, were not proof against the subtle enemy within the walls--the *suave fames auri* deprecated and denounced by Roman philosophers. Hither they came in swarms. The plow was left in the furrow, and the woodman's axe ceased to ring in the dim corridors of the forest. The bronzed and grizzled frontiersman and the gay young Corydon went out together, for one dream inspired all--riches swift, sure and countless! In the brief space of four months 20,000 souls poured into the harbor. This motley throng included gamblers, thieves and ruffians with not a few of a higher moral grade. Innumerable tents covered the ground in and around Victoria, far as the eye could reach, and speculation in town lots attained a pitch of unparalleled extravagance.

But a change soon came over the fair dream of these wooers of the fickle Goddess. Sombre and portentous clouds began to raise and darken the erstwhile golden horizon. Unlike the rivers with which these adventurers were acquainted, the Fraser and its tributaries begin to swell in June and do not reach their lowest ebb till winter. The few, therefore, who happened to enter the mining region in March or April succeeded in extracting large quantities of gold from the bars or benches not yet covered with water. Ignorant of this periodic raise and

fall of the streams, the mass of immigrants who arrived later, found the auriferous parts under water. Their patience becoming exhausted waiting for the uncovering of the banks, many of them, crestfallen and disappointed, returned to Victoria. An absurd impression that the river never did fall began to prevail and thousands of them losing heart went back to San Francisco heaping execrations on the country and everything that was English. The press of California took up the refrain and effectually put an end to further immigration. In consequence of these disparaging accounts of British Columbia, published far and wide, large sums of money sent up from San Francisco for investment were shipped back again; and whole cargoes of goods, ordered during the heat of the excitement were thrown upon the hands of merchants, and croaking was the order of the day.

At length, however, the river did fall; and the return of successful miners to Victoria with bags of dust and nuggets rallied the fainting hopes of the community, and they were regarded as walking advertisements that the country was safe. A healthy relation between supply and demand in every department was gradually effected. During the first six months of mining operations over \$700,000 were taken out. For a few intelligent and persevering men, these facts and figures had weight. But amateur miners, romantic speculators, and whiskey bums, could not, by the most attractive representations, be detained in the country, and it was wisely ordered that it should be so. Out of the tens of thousands who arrived in '58 not more than 1500 remained till the following year. Nor were those who came in '61 and '62, as a rule, adapted to the pursuit of mining in a wilderness. The chief misfortune connected with the influx of population at this period was that it comprised an excessive proportion of clerks, retired army officers, prodigal sons, and a host of other romantic nondescripts, who indulged visions of sudden wealth obtainable with scarcely more exertion than is usually put forth in a pleasure excursion. The vague imaginations with which they left home were soon dissipated, when, on the termination of the voyage, they discovered that 500 miles lay between them and Cariboo--a distance which must be passed over muddy roads and frowning precipices, with whatever necessaries might be required for the trip strapped to their shoulders. Hundreds went half way to the mines and returned in despondency; hundreds more remained in Victoria, and were only saved from starvation by the liberality of more prosperous citizens. Of those who went to the mines, one-third made independent fortunes, one-third netted several thousand dollars, and one-third from a variety of causes, were unsuccessful.

Of course, placer mining or "poor man's diggings" was all that was then attempted. When the auriferous benches had been worked over, few cared to prospect further, and consequently the great mass returned, declaring in the simple and sententious language of the miner, that the placers were "played out." Of those who remained in the country and continued to mine, or engaged in other pursuits and industries, there are but few who have not an ample competence while many are possessed of affluence.

In 1866, the Mainland and Vancouver Island, formerly separate colonies, were politically united, and in 1871 were admitted into the confederation as one of the seven Provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

Notwithstanding the many grave hindrances to her advancement, such as the distance from the Euro-

pean markets and base of supplies, the want of settlers adapted to her rapid development, and above all the gross breach of faith on the part of the Dominion government in failing to complete the trans-continental railway in the time and manner agreed upon when she consented to join the confederation, yet being endowed with the loveliest of climates, with all the mineral, agricultural and forest riches man can desire, and with her mighty rivers and spacious bays and harbors teeming with innumerable finny inhabitants, British Columbia can proudly point to her chief city, Victoria, as one that has far outgrown all other cities on Puget Sound, albeit they are under the aegis of the "screaming bird" and aided by all the "dash" and go-aheadiveness so characteristic of Brother Jonathan.

A quarter of a century ago, when British Columbia was made an English Colony, Her Majesty, the Queen, whose rare foresight and wisdom have added grace and empire to the British Crown, gave expression to the following sublime sentiment:

"I hope that this new Colony in the Pacific may be but one step in the career of steady progress by which my dominions in North America may be ultimately peopled in an unbroken chain from the Atlantic to the Pacific, by an industrious population. To the fulfilment of this sublime hope a railway across the continent would infallibly lead. When by its construction England shall have solved one of the greatest problems of the age, and made another stride in that career, which as the great civilizer of the world she seems called to pursue, then British Columbia will assume the importance which her geographical position and her resources conspire to bestow. As one of the great highways of the world, she will be the scene of a busy traffic between Europe and Asia. Passengers, mails and at least the lighter goods will pass through her territory between England and Australia, China, perhaps India. She will become a center-point where the commerce of the Pacific and the Atlantic will meet and receive the produce of the one for transmission to Europe; the goods of the other for dispersion over the Pacific."

MANY REASONS WHY EMIGRANTS SHOULD COME TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The great diversity of industries which may be profitably pursued here should constitute an important factor in determining the emigrant to seek British Columbia as a future home. The products and industries of a country mutually assist each others, and these benefits are always found to be in exact ratio with their extent and variety. Thus, agriculture and stock raising aid mining and manufacturing, while these in turn, furnish the best markets for the products of the field. The same rule applies with equal force to all other industrial pursuits.

In addition to these manifest advantages, the emigrant will here find a country free from malarial or endemic diseases: with balmy sunshine alternating with a genial, refreshing and generous rainfall; with a virgin soil of excellent productive capacity where are to be found no grasshoppers, potatoe bugs, or any of the thousand and one insect pests which elsewhere prey upon the growing wealth of the toiling husbandman; with a protective tariff which gives the farmer an advantage of not less than \$800 per annum on the ordinary products of 160 acres under cultivation, with a home market at his very door, the consumption of farm produce within the Province, on account of its varied industries, being far in excess of local production: with forests of trees as valuable for timber as they are grand and stately in their proportions, and

these woods stocked with game alike valuable for their flesh and furs: with the whisking pinions of myriads of wild duck, geese and other feathered game at times beclouding the heavens as they wing their way from place to place: with its lakes, rivers, bays and inlets fairly alive with the finny denizens of the water, and every babbling brook or meandering creek that may pass by on its way to join the "great waters," literally swarming with trout—large, plump, speckled beauties that would tempt the fastidious palate of an Epicurus, with free public schools and ample church privileges: with an economic administration of public affairs, both municipal and provincial and consequent low taxation: with a judiciary, pure and incorruptible, gracing the ermine and rendering life and property most secure by dispensing even-handed justice alike to the rich and to the lowly: with that "mirror of a busy world," the newspaper, (now as indispensable to the requirements of modern life as its prototype of the *boudoir* is to the lady of fashion) published in all the principal towns of the province—newsy, crisp and vigorous, and read by every body: with hundreds of miles of excellent country roads constructed by the government at a cost of several millions of dollars: with a system of railways, rapidly approaching completion which will afford direct communication with the Atlantic seaboard: with all these and many other advantages, good land in almost any district of this favored country may be purchased of the government at the nominal price of one dollar per acre. There are in this province to-day more than a hundred millions of acres without a white human occupant or local owner—ample room for hundreds of thousands of the over-crowded populations of Europe and Eastern America. Here they will find a country of most varied and extensive resources, with a genial climate, health restoring and invigorating. A land where even Royalty delights to linger—the health of H. R. H. Princess Louise being completely restored by a recent visit to our shores where she spent several months in sketching the surpassingly beautiful scenery of the country. A land whose sands are golden, whose grass covered hills and forests clad mountains are pregnant with the precious and useful metals and minerals, mysteriously prepared by the chemistry of nature in the crucibles of the ages and stored for man's benefit in their capacious vaults. A land of fertile valleys, of lakes and rivers and park-like prairie beautiful beyond description. A land of magnificent distances, being in extent an empire and upon which the generous hand of nature has lavishly strewn her richest gifts.

As the toiling bondsmen of the old dominion in "the cruel slavery days," with hearts yearning for freedom, the rightful heritage of every human being, were wont to gaze upon *Arcturus*, that grand stellar orb high in the northern heavens, as a celestial beacon pointing the way to a land of liberty, so too, may the thousands of home-seekers landing on the eastern shores of America, confidently follow "the star of empire" westward for the full realization of their hopes. The polar star guided the fugitive slave of the "Old Dominion" to liberty, a priceless boon indeed, but the setting sun in resplendent vesture robed, indicative of the beauty and wealth of the largest and brightest

star in the galaxy of the "New Dominion," points the eastern emigrant to fair Columbia, who, from the cornucopia of her bounties, is ever ready to bestow upon him, not only the fullest liberty, but also a beautiful home in a lovely country, a competence and perhaps even affluence.

To those who are desirous of improving their condition by following the advice of the sage of Chautauqua, "Young man, go west," this we can confidently state that in no country will they find a more pleasant home or more profitable field for their labors or the investment of their capital. Trite but true is the aphorism, "the early bird catches the worm" and not less true is it that those who come hither first will necessarily have first choice of location. We here present no overdrawn or highly colored picture of the country and its wonderful resources: on the contrary it is but a meagre sketch of its great natural wealth. Should the emigrant under whose eyes these lines may fall, wisely determine to come to British Columbia, our life for it that after he has inspected the country and gained personal knowledge of its immense advantages to the settler, he will heartily join us in declaring that THE HALF HAS NOT BEEN TOLD.

**The Great Natural Wealth of British Columbia
requires only to be Known to be
Appreciated.**

To the isolation of its position and the paucity of information concerning it abroad, may be attributed the unsettled and undeveloped condition of a large portion of British Columbia. This fair province, with vast and varied resources unequalled by any State in the American Union or any province of the Dominion of Canada and with a climate, genial health-restoring and invigorating, yet, for the reasons above stated, a correct census of its present white population would not show more than one rural inhabitant to each 30,000 acres of this extensive domain.

Should the almost limitless possibilities of this sunset land longer remain unknown to the over crowded populations of Europe and eastern America, daily struggling for elbow room and nightly dreaming of some far but fair Arcadia, to which they fain would emigrate? The tide of emigration has been successfully directed to many countries possessing but a tithe of the natural resources of British Columbia. The State of Kansas for instance by persistently and widely advertising one of her two resources, namely, agriculture, and studiously avoiding any mention of the other, to wit, the festive grasshopper, added, in a single decade, 600,000 new settlers to her population. In glowing terms she proclaimed her merits. People poured in and the country filled up. Excitement and speculation were in the very air. Embryo cities were located at every point presenting any supposed advantage as a commercial centre, and every one was filled with dreams of the great future of this new Utopia. But the gilding soon wore off as it was found that her resources were purely agricultural, and that often the pitiless grasshopper ravenously devoured every green thing that grew

upon her soil. Diversity of industries, so necessary to the accumulation of wealth by a country, is practically impossible in Kansas. She has no timber and no water power to speak of. A little coal in the eastern part of the State comprises the bulk of her mineral wealth, while by her inland situation and lack of navigable waters she can never attain a commercial position.

On the contrary British Columbia has all the fundamental elements necessary to a great and wealthy country. Thus with a fine climate, rich soil, grand scenery, immense forests of valuable timber, inexhaustible and varied mineral wealth and an enviable maritime position, its future is not hampered by the knowledge that its resources consist wholly of a single variety. Commerce, manufacturing, agriculture, mining, stock raising, lumbering, fishing and a dozen other industries may be pursued here as profitably as anywhere in the world. Indeed, the most enthusiastic writer on the subject may let his imagination run riot among the possibilities of a country so richly endowed, and not fall far short of the truth.

Prof. Macoun, of the Dominion Geological Survey, than whom no more competent witness can be cited in proof of the immense resources of this Province, after having made a careful and painstaking examination of the whole country, concludes his report on British Columbia (page 117) with the following eulogium :

"It remains only for me to add that as years roll on, and our possessions become developed, the value of this second Britain will come so vividly before our people that men will ask with astonishment why such ignorance prevailed in the past. To-day there are four hundred miles of coast line in our western possessions, clothed with a forest growth superior to anything else in the world at present. Its shores indented with multitudes of harbors, bays and inlets, teeming with myriads of fish. Its rocks and sands containing gold, iron, silver coal and various other minerals. And besides all this, a climate superior to England in every respect, both as regards heat and moisture, and yet men will ask what is it all worth? I answer, 'worth more than Quebec and all the maritime provinces thrown in,' and sceptics may rest assured that the day is not far distant when my words will be accepted as truth."

Surely the disinterested statements of this distinguished scientist, made from personal knowledge of the facts, should carry conviction to the minds of all intelligent and thoughtful emigrants as to the abounding natural wealth of British Columbia.

AREA.

The total area of British Columbia is about 390,000 square miles or nearly 250 millions of acres. It is bounded on the North by the 60th parallel; on the East by the Rocky Mountains; on the South by the 49th parallel, and on the West by the Pacific Ocean. Included within its limits are the large Islands of Vancouver, the Queen Charlotte group and many smaller ones, nearly all of which are well adapted for settlement. A better idea of the vast extent of this empire Province will be gained by the reader when he is informed that it is three times as large as Great Britain and Ireland; is greater in extent than California, Oregon and Washington Territory combined, or the Provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edwards Island and Manitoba collectively.

CLIMATE.

As might be expected in a country so vast and of such varied latitude and altitude, British Columbia possesses great diversity of atmospheric conditions ranging from the equable and salubrious climate and perennial verdure of the coast districts to the snow-capped peaks of the distant mountains, the abode of perpetual winter. Along the whole coast from Victoria to Fort Simpson and extending far inland, the mean temperature varies but little; that of winter being about 42°, and that of summer a little over 60° Fahrenheit. In Victoria, this winter up to date, we have had but little frost and only half an inch of snow fall, which remained on the ground about twenty-four hours. The cause of this remarkable mildness of climate is due to a current of warm water, analogous to the gulf stream, commencing near the island of Formosa, on the eastern coast of China, and moving in a northeasterly direction it passes east of Japan, a part of it entering Behring Sea, while the remainder, passing south of the Aleutian Islands, ameliorates the climate of Alaska to such a degree that the annual mean temperature of Sitka, in lat. 57° is higher than that of Ottawa, in lat. 45° 25'. The former being 44.8° while the latter has only 37.4°. Esquimalt, three miles from Victoria, in latitude 45° 25', has a mean temperature only three degrees higher than that of Sitka, nine degrees further north. A remarkable similarity of climate and physical features exist between north-western Europe and north-western America. A warm current of water flows down the coast of the latter, while the shores of the former are bathed in the tepid waters of the gulf stream. Again, both are deeply indented by inlets, and the forests of the British Isles and Norway are measurably simulated by those of British Columbia. The moist climate of each is due to like causes. The vapor rising from the warm sea water is blown inland, and becoming condensed by the cooler air over the land, falls in rain or fog upon the slopes and valleys. The old forests of Great Britain and Ireland, including those of Norway, were a product of the gulf stream, while our own mighty forests are as certainly a product of the "Kuro Siwo."

That part of the province lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Cascade Range has a much drier climate with greater extremes of temperature than that of the coast districts. However the climate, even of this interior portion, is much milder and more equable than that of places in the same latitude on the eastern side of the continent, and has been described by Prof. Macoun of the Dominion Geological Survey as strongly resembling that of North Germany. Of course in the more northerly parts of this region greater extremes of temperature are experienced than in the middle and southern interior.

The average annual rain fall of the country west of the Cascade Range is about 50 inches, while the average precipitation of the middle and southern interior does not exceed 20 inches; but this dearth of rainfall, prevailing specially in the latter region, is measurably compensated by copious dews.

Agriculture and Stock Raising.

This is the most inviting field for the agriculturist or stock-raiser on the Pacific slope; here are more than fifty millions of acres eminently adapted for these pursuits. Nearly all vegetable life common to the temperate zone will thrive in British Columbia. Wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, hops, hemp which here grows wild, flax, rape, root crops of all kinds, pears, apples, plums, cherries and the small fruits grow rapidly, are of excellent quality and abundant yield, while grapes, peaches, melons and the more delicate fruits are grown successfully in the southern portion of the Province. To all these varied products of the field, the sure reward of the industrious and intelligent farmer, nature with a generous hand, has added the abounding game of the forests, the wild fowls of the air and the finny inhabitants of the water to the repletion of his stores. Although we would not, for obvious reasons, advise any one to come to this country without some capital, yet it would be quite possible for a healthy, industrious and frugal man, with but little means to come here and pre-empt, (see summary of land laws in another column) 320 acres of good agricultural land, east of the Cascade Range, for which he would only pay \$80, at the end of the year, and the same amount each year for three years thereafter; the price charged by the government being one dollar per acre, payable as above stated. Such a man could easily earn sufficient to make the necessary payments on his purchase by working a short time each year in the fisheries or other industries pursued here where labor is always in active demand, leaving him at least nine months of each year to plant and harvest, to build upon and otherwise improve his farm, which, if well selected, would be worth from \$5,000 to \$10,000 at the end of the fourth or fifth year. A portion of the C. P. R. passing through a fine agricultural section of this country will be completed during the coming summer, connecting at Yale with steamboat navigation on the Fraser, thus affording, to a large portion of the interior, cheap and rapid communication with the principal business marts of the province.

The late Sir James Douglas whose knowledge of the country, acquired by intelligent observation and long residence here, was both accurate and extensive, thus described the vast region drained by the Thompson, Bonaparte and Chapeau Rivers, and through the centre of which the railroad passes:

"The district comprehended within these limits is exceedingly beautiful and picturesque, being composed of a succession of hills and valleys, lakes and rivers, exhibiting to the traveller the grateful spectacle of miles of green hills, crowning slopes, and level meadows, almost without a bush or tree to obstruct the view, and even the very hill tops, producing an abundant growth of grass. It is of great value as a grazing district—a circumstance which appears to be thoroughly understood and appreciated by the country packers, who are in the habit of leaving their mules and horses here when the regular work of packing goods to the mines is suspended for the winter. [The climate is so mild here that no food or shelter for stock other than that provided by nature, is necessary.—Ed.] It has never been my good fortune to visit a country more pleasing to the eye, or possessing a more healthy and agreeable climate, or a greater extent of fine pasture land; and there is no doubt that with a smaller amount of labor and outlay than in almost any other colony, the energetic settler may soon surround himself with all the elements of comfort and even affluence."

Nor is the district referred to, by any means, an exceptional one. There are here many others which even surpass it in productive capacity. Among these may be mentioned the rich and extensive deltas of the Fraser, the Similkameen and Okanagan districts, Grand Prairie and Kootenay valleys, to say nothing of the fertile tracts of Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlotte group and the coast districts of the mainland, each of which will be more fully described in future numbers of the RESOURCES.

The high reputation which our cattle and sheep have attained all over the Pacific coast proves the excellence of our luscious grass pastures. The display of meats, especially at Christmas in the butchers' shops at Victoria, challenges the admiration of all, and is certainly unexcelled in any quarter of the globe. On entering one of these spacious establishments for the first time, a rare and unique scene is presented to the visitor's wondering gaze. Here, on the adipose tissue of the erstwhile lowing, bleating and grunting slain, are wrought in the most artistic manner, many beautiful flowers and figures, the charming effect of which is perfected by further adornments of trailing woodbine, creeping ivy, English holly, tricolored resettes and natural and artificial flowers. In the waste places as it were, between the pendant limbs of the larger carcasses are seen the nude but plump forms, golden in their fatness, of once gaily feathered beauties of the cackling, quacking and gobbling "persuasions," hanging stark and cold, stript of their fair plumage and mute as Egyptian mummies; albeit they were respectively the pride of many a roost and the grace of many a pond. On the lower shelves and fringing the walls around are long rows of juvenile grunters in all the glory of a clean shave and profuse floral decorations. The *l'oute ensemble* presenting the combination, if the reader can imagine such a picture, of a first class meat market and floral conservatory.

The fact that many of San Francisco's millionaire magnates of epicurean tastes, are in the habit of sending all the way to Victoria for choice meats to regale their pampered palates, affords another proof alike of the skill of our butchers and the superiority of our herds. But the surprise of the stranger will be greatest when he is informed that these coveted joints are from animals fattened only on the abundant natural grasses which cover many hundreds of miles of the great interior—cattle that are unsurpassed, if equaled, by the best stall fed in any part of the world.

Summary of Land and Mining Laws.

Any person being the head of a family, a widow, or single man over the age of 18 years and a British subject, or any alien upon declaring his intention to become a British subject, may record any tract of unoccupied, unsurveyed and unreserved Crown Lands, not exceeding 320 acres, north and east of the Cascade or Coast Range of Mountains, and 160 acres in the rest of the Province, and "pre-empt" or "homestead" the same, and obtain a title therefor upon paying the sum of \$1 per acre in four equal annual instalments, the first one year from the date of record. Persons desiring to acquire land under this law must observe the following requirements:

1st. The land applied for must be staked off with posts at each corner not less than four inches square,

and five feet above the ground, and marked in form as follows: (A B's) Land, N. E. post. (A B's) Land, N. W. post, &c.

2nd. Applications must be made in writing to the Land Commissioner, giving a full description of the land, and also a sketch plan thereof, both in duplicate, and a declaration under oath, made and filed in duplicate, that the land in question is properly subject to settlement by the applicant, and that he or she is duly qualified to record the same, and a recording fee of \$2 paid.

3rd. Such homestead settler must within 30 days after record enter into actual occupation of the land so pre-empted, and continuously reside thereon personally or by his family or agent, and neither Indians or Chinamen can be agents for this purpose.

Absence from such land for a period of more than two months continuously or four months in the aggregate during the year, subjects it to forfeiture to the Government. Upon payment for the land as specified, and a survey thereof at the expense of the settler, a Crown grant for the same will issue, provided that in the case of an alien he must first become a naturalized British subject before receiving title.

Homesteads upon surveyed lands may be acquired, of the same extent and in the same manner as upon the unsurveyed, except that the applicant is not required to stake off and file a plat of the tract desired.

There is a Homestead Law, by which under due registration, real and personal property is protected to the extent of not more than \$2,500 from seizure and sale in bankruptcy.

Unsurveyed, unoccupied, and unreserved Crown lands may be purchased in tracts of not less than 160 acres for \$1 per acre, cash in full at one payment before receiving title by complying with the following conditions:

1st. Two months' notice of intended application to purchase must be inserted at the expense of the applicant in the British Columbia Gazette and in any newspaper circulating in the district where the land desired lies, stating name of applicant, locality, boundaries and extent of land applied for, which notice must also be posted in a conspicuous place on the land sought to be acquired, and on the Government office, if any, in the district. The applicant must also stake off the said land as required in case of pre-emption, and also have the same surveyed at his own expense.

Surveyed lands, after having been offered for sale at public auction for one dollar per acre, may be purchased for cash at that price.

THE MINING LAWS

Provide that every person over sixteen years of age may hold a mining claim, after first obtaining from the Gold Commissioner a Free Miner's Certificate or License, at a cost of five dollars for one year and fifteen dollars for three years. Every miner locating a claim must record the same in the office of the Gold Commissioner, for a period of one or more years, paying therefor at the rate of \$2.50 per year.

Every free miner may hold at the same time any number of claims, by purchase, but only two claims by pre-emption in the same locality, one mineral claim and one other claim, and sell, mortgage, or dispose of the same.

The size of claims are as follows:

The bar diggings, a strip of land 100 feet wide at highwater mark and thence extending into the river to the lowest water level.

For dry diggings, 100 feet square.

Creek claims shall be 100 feet long measured in the direction of the general course of the stream and shall extend in width from base to base of the hill, or bench on each side, but when the hills or benches are less than 100 feet apart, the claim shall be 100 feet square.

Bench claims shall be 100 feet square.

Mineral claims, that is claims containing, or supposed to contain minerals (other than coal) in lodes or veins, shall be 1,500 feet long by 600 feet wide.

Discoverers of new mines are allowed 300 feet in length for one discoverer, 600 feet for two, 800 feet for three, and 1000 in length for a party of four.

Creek discovery claims extend 1000 feet on each side of the centre of the creek or as far as the summit.

Coal lands west of the Cascade Range in tracts not less than 160 acres, may be purchased at not less than ten dollars per acre, and similar lands east of the Cascade Range, at not less than five dollars per acre.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

The manufacturing industries pursued in the Province embrace but a limited range and may be said to be only in their infancy. A broad and inviting field for the investment of capital in a variety of such enterprises is here presented. Among these may be mentioned that of ship-building which could be carried on here as profitably as anywhere else in the world. Our advantages for engaging largely in the lumber trade and especially in certain kinds of ship-building are far superior to those through which New Brunswick has grown and flourished. In that Province the timber must be felled in the winter and at great cost and labor hauled long distances to streams and on the breaking up of the ice in Spring floated to the ship yards. Here in many places, the timber is found near the water's edge and close to the ocean. This consideration more than counterbalances the higher rate of wages paid on the Pacific as compared with the Atlantic coast. This is a branch of industry which does not require to pass through the stages of growth from infancy upward, but may be ushered at once into full grown stature. For obvious reasons a large establishment would be more profitable than a small one, inasmuch as a wealthy corporation could secure a large area of the best timber lands and avail itself of the most efficient machinery for economizing labor. That great advantages to the owners of saw-mills would accrue from the building of their own ships must be apparent. Timber being so bulky employs a great amount of tonnage in transportation, and the difference between its value here and in the market to which it is sent is the cost and profit of carrying it. These costs and profits are sometimes equal to first cost of cargo and the aggregate earnings of two or three trips to distant markets not unfrequently equal the cost of the ship. An article so bulky, and yet in such great

demand, is sufficient to create a commerce of itself and keep vessels solely engaged in the trade especially as return cargoes would be easily obtainable at the low rates of freight for which they could thus be carried. This is only one of the important enterprises which could be very profitably pursued here. The *Daily British Colonist* of a recent date contains a very sensible and timely article advocating the establishment of several much needed manufacturing industries here which we reproduce with pleasure:

"In the unmistakable revival of business interests, the upward tendency of real estate and general prosperity throughout the province, the establishment of more manufacturing industries should not be lost sight of. There can be no question that this is an opportune period for making a commencement in various branches - on a small scale perhaps at first, which will grow with our growth till they may become gigantic in extent and bonanzas of wealth to their enterprising projectors. But to lay such foundations for future prosperity a beginning must be made now, in order that the first year of struggling may be over before the completion of the Canadian Pacific railroad and the consequent levelling down of prices to almost eastern rates, which that event will bring about. Foremost among the needed manufactures is a woolen mill. For two or three years, efforts more or less strenuous have been put forth to encourage the erection and working of such an establishment. But hitherto little or nothing has come of these. The city bonus of \$5000 has not been claimed; neither has a like sum offered by the provincial legislature. It is somewhat singular that with a clear gift of \$10,000, added to the facts that the large quantity of wool grown in the province is exported at a low price and returned again in the shape of woollen goods, at enormously high rates, a woolen and cloth mill should not have been built and in full blast long before this. The bonus should be again revoted by the legislature and city council; and with the influx of people that the approaching spring and summer will bring to the Pacific province there are sure to be men of the requisite skill and capital to embark in such an enterprise. The margin between the price of raw material and manufactured articles which are so largely consumed is so great that the ultimate success of such a project is placed beyond peradventure. This is but one industry that is sure to pay largely, if not in the immediate future then in a very short period. The large consumption of paper in this province of every imaginable description, fully warrants the erection of a paper mill on a small scale. At present a vast quantity of the raw material used in this industry is wasted because it cannot be utilized here and will not pay for collection and export. In manufacturing the coarser kinds of wrapping paper woody fibre is extensively used in the east and no better material for the purpose than the cotton-wool of British Columbia can possibly be found, while the accessibility and inexhaustible supply are such that the world might be furnished with paper produced from it for centuries. Nail and spike manufactory is another industry that would pay from the outset; but it is probable that the new Allion foundry syndicate will enter this field at no distant date. But of all the manufacturing enterprises that might be inaugurated on this coast, iron smelting works are perhaps the most promising. Most of the elements requisite for such an undertaking are in close proximity to each other to an illimitable extent. Iron ore of the best quality, coal and limestone are almost in juxtaposition. The de-

mand for pig iron, steel rails and an infinite variety of such merchandize is already great, and will increase almost in arithmetical progression as railway work goes on and our great northeast is opened up. Many other openings might be mentioned; but those enumerated should be sufficient to draw the attention of eastern capitalists to the numerous opportunities for profitable investment on this coast."

WAGES.

The following are the general rates of wages paid in British Columbia: Mechanics or skilled labor, from \$3 to \$5 per day; common labor from \$1.75 to \$2.50 per day; fishermen employed in canneries from \$30 to \$60 per month; farm labor from \$25 to \$30 per month; household help from \$12 to \$20 per month; overseers on railway \$125 per month; rock foremen and bridge foremen from \$3 to \$4 per day. There is a prevailing scarcity of, and consequent active demand for labor in nearly all industrial pursuits. The peripatetic "tramp" is a species of the *genus homo* rarely met with in this country. With varied industries and wages ruling high, the sober and industrious settler need fear no want. Knowing as we do the practically inexhaustible sources of competence existing here, and seeing the bountiful provisions of nature constantly wasting through lack of settlers to utilize them, it is indeed painful to listen, as it were, to the sad plaints of woe, want and starvation echoed from abroad through the columns of the daily press.

FISH and FISHERIES of BRITISH COLUMBIA.

As has been elsewhere briefly stated the seas, bays, inlets and rivers teem with domestic resources of this description in almost incredible quantities and endless variety. Few can imagine the enormous scope which here presents itself for the extension of enterprise. The facilities for curing fish are pre-eminent. The indented character of the coasts of the Island and Mainland signally adapts them for the catching, curing and exportation of this commodity: while the salt springs on Admiralty Island and at Nanaimo could be utilized so as to furnish much of the saline element so necessary to the fish-packer.

Herring, which make their appearance in our waters in March are large and numerous. Various species of salmon, among them the much prized silver variety, arrive in early spring in immense schools and literally crowd and jostle each other in ascending our rivers to deposit their spawn, while trout of excellent flavor and large size abound in the various lakes and rivers where may also be found numerous sturgeon, not unfrequently weighing from 100 to 500 pounds each. Halibut may be caught in immense numbers along the coast and it is asserted that a vessel of 600 tons might be laden with them in 48 hours. A certain species of sea perch is found in abundance, often reaching from 60 to 80 pounds in weight. Cod banks exist in Plumper's Pass and close to the north end of

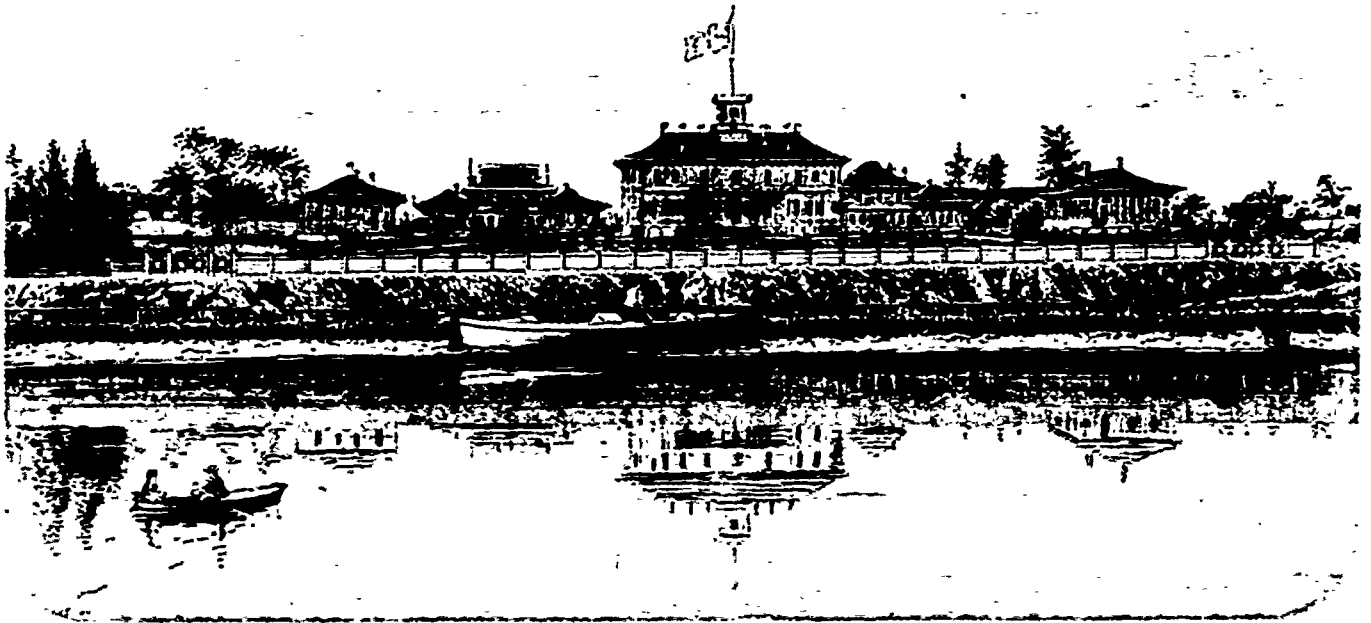
Vancouver Island. Smelt, haddock, whiting, dog-fish, rock, skate, bass, anchovy, flounders and oolachans throng the waters. These latter ascend the streams in April in dense shoals. Their approach is indicated by the presence of sea-gulls swooping down to devour them, and causing the banks of the rivers to echo with their screeching. They are a small fish but extremely fat. The abundant yield of oil which may be obtained from them besides being an excellent luminant, contains medicinal properties of a high order and is superior in this respect to cod-liver oil for pulmonary affections. This fish when dried and ignited emits a brilliant light, and is often used as a torch by the natives who catch this wonderful and valuable species by impaling them on rows of nails at the end of a stick about four feet long, and so thickly do they swarm, that every time this rude implement is waved in the water several of them adhere to it.

Now that the sardine fisheries of France are almost exhausted, and inasmuch as the oolachan is, in point of flavor, richness and delicacy, much superior to its French congener, a bonanza of wealth awaits the enterprise of canning and exporting it to American, European and other markets where it would inevitably command ready sale at highly remunerative prices.

Our coast affords marked advantages for the fitting out of whaling fleets and as a place of rendezvous for such expeditions. The capturing of the walrus, which exists in dense profusion in the vicinity of the Aleutian Islands, is another branch of Pacific fisheries that would prove very remunerative from the amount of ivory it is capable of yielding. The place could be reached in two week's sail from Vancouver Island.

Few portions of the globe are better situated for an export trade in fish. Besides the European markets, Mexico, Central America and all the countries of the west coast of South America would immediately become customers were our fisheries entered upon with capital and vigor. In fact the fishing grounds in and adjacent to this province present a field of prospectively unlimited fertility: and how magnificent must be the future of a country of which the product, here briefly described, is but one of its manifold resources.

Already the industry of canning salmon for export is rapidly assuming great commercial importance. More than a score of establishments, some of them quite extensive, on the Fraser, Naas and Skeena rivers are actively and profitably engaged in this business: while herring, dog-fish and oolachans are caught for oil. Besides private firms there are two joint stock companies, one at Skidegate, the other at Burrard Inlet engaged in the fish oil and fish manure business--an industry which promises to assume large dimensions. Apart from the salmon canning and fish oil business no effort is being made to utilize the countless millions of other valuable fish with which our waters are fairly alive, if we except what is caught merely for local consumption.



GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, VICTORIA.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

On our first page will be found an illustration of the old Hudson's Bay Company's Fort at Victoria as it appeared in 1860. This pile may be regarded as representing the chief business and government buildings of Victoria, and in fact of the Province, a little more than a quarter of a century ago. With the exception of the annual visits of one of the company's trading ships from England, the little sailing crafts and Indian canoes with the solitary little wharf and its solitary attendant, shown in the picture, fairly indicate the commerce of the Province in those pioneer days. Although the sketch, which is the best we could obtain, is by no means a very pretty one, yet it cannot fail to be deeply interesting to our readers as representing the initial mile-stone on the great High-way of our country's progress. The site of those primitive structures with the bastions and high, surrounding palisades or ramparts embraced the area bounded by Bastion, Government, Broughton and Wharf streets. No trace of the venerable pile exists to-day. The last to succumb to the inevitable was the building used as a store-house by the company, which after serving for a time as a public hall and theatre, was recently torn down to make room for a magnificent four-story edifice to be erected by that veteran and successful journalist, D. W. Higgins, Esq., for the accommodation of the mammoth presses of *The Colonist* and the extensive color and job-printing business also conducted by him. The foundations are now being prepared and the structure, which will be one of the largest and finest in the city will be completed at an early date. In this connection it is somewhat significant of the progress made that these old ramparts and frowning bastions should thus give place to the requirements of the most potent of modern weapons of defence or offence that

two edged sword, the press. The other portions of this historic area are occupied by large wholesale houses, manufactories, retail stores, &c. Substantial wharves and capacious warehouses line the water front, and the flags of all nations are seen flying at the masts of the many vessels now frequenting the beautiful harbor of Victoria.

As a further indication of progress and in striking contrast with the old log fort, we here present an illustration of the present

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Which are five in number, built of red brick, of Swiss style of architecture and situated on a gently rising slope on the south side of James Bay, a charming enclosure with well kept lawns and embowered with beautiful shrubbery and evergreen trees. The large building in the centre contains the rooms of the Lieut. Governor, Treasury, Provincial Secretary's office and Executive Council Chamber. The printing office is on the right, the land office on the left, and standing immediately behind, as viewed from the Bay, are the Court House and hall of the Legislative Assembly.

OUR ENGRAVINGS.

Art, like the flowers of nature, blooms only in season; and the winter and early spring of high northern latitudes are no more favorable for the products of the easel than for the gems of Flora. The cool and bracing condition of the atmosphere usually prevailing at such time, though very agreeable to most persons, is very different from the soft leamy weather of summer or early autumn when nature, dressed in her fairest and richest robes, lures the artist to the field where he delights to make sketches of the beautiful world around him. When that time arrives we will endeavor to give our readers fresh and graphic illustrations of some of the magnificent scenery of our country. Mean time they must be content with such as are now obtainable.

THE OKANAGAN VALLEY.

Its Scenery, Game, Rich Farming Lands and Extensive Bunch Grass Meadows Described by a Correspondent of the London "Morning Post," one of the Vice-Regal Party.

Situated in the South Eastern portion of the Province this extensive and fertile valley forms the environment of a lake of the same name bisected by the fifty-first parallel and contiguous to the line of the C. P. R. The advantages which it affords for the establishment of prosperous homes for future settlers although priceless are fully equalled by those of many other districts of the country. All intelligent observers who have had an opportunity of examining the wonderful resources of the country, bear the same unvarying testimony as to its great fertility, geniality of climate and beauty of scenery as does this talented correspondent. We are glad to reproduce the opinions of such writers on this subject—glad

"That some kind power would the giftie gie us
"To see ourselves as others see us,"

and thereby convince us that these grand sources of ample competence are not day-dreams but palpable realities:

"OKANAGAN LAKE, October 12.

"Undoubtedly the pleasantest of all our provinces for any Englishman fond of sport, and with a moderate fortune, of say, from £200 to £600 a year, is British Columbia. What weather, what scenery, and what sport! Here we are on the 10th of October, in a gigantic glen, like the valley of the Tay, and though ducks and geese are arriving in great flocks the birches and poplars are only now turning into a golden yellow, relieving the dark masses of pine-clad hills. The air is soft and pleasant, and no snow is expected until after Christmas. Returning homeward to write this letter we pass from the shore of a lake, and were crossing a strip of grass-covered land, on which numerous cattle were enjoying their evening feed. Up the valley in front of us a slight shower was illumine by a brilliant rain-bow, across which whole armies of brown geese, were winging their clangorous war. Dark against the rain-bow, and of a rich green in the sunlight, stood the rising pasture slopes, in a stately and independent fashion, the vanguard of the pines, rising separately, and with no undergrowth to conceal their tawny-coloured stems, the jagged branches well furnished with upward-pointed tassels of long needles, hanging down on many of them almost to the ground. The ancient lake margins on which they grow, and the slopes, shaming grey against the indigo-hued, forest-covered mountains, are clothed with bunch grass. Nothing can compare with this in food for cattle. There is much of it about here, for over wide spaces the timber leaves the valley sides in flat Savannah-like levels, bare of any undergrowth save an isolated willow or poplar clump here and there. These are now of bright golden tints. Perhaps they are growing in some small creek now full of mallard, scaup, widgeon, and teal. A grey collie-like form trots across the open and enters the timber. That is the coyote—half wolf, half fox—an impudent scoundrel, who comes down from the hills and makes reconnoissances in force in the night time upon the house and farmstead, where we are staying. On his ap-

pearance all the dogs turn out, and there is a general barking, but not much fighting, both sides being of the opinion that Providence is on the side of the strongest battalions. The next day we are off early to shoot prairie chickens, a sharp-tailed, grey grouse of the plains. These are common wherever there is flat land throughout this province, as well as throughout the vast central regions of the Dominion. They may have found their way through the mountains by way of one of the broad grass-covered straths near the border. They are almost as foolish a bird as their cousin of the woods, the brown or willow grouse, who sits on a bough until he is taken; for these sharp-tailed grouse can be seen occasionally sitting on a snake fence until they are positively driven off by the sportsman. Beautiful blue grouse of a slate grey are also common in the woods. Some wild swans were seen, but none were obtained.

As an encouragement to our appetite for our dinner our host offered us a decoction of *Uva Ursi*, a common plant in English shrubberies and found everywhere here in the woods. It has a holly-like leaf, but the leaf is flat, the berry blue, and the shrub never seems to grow in these woods higher than two feet from the ground. In the States the juice is mixed with some alcohol and is known as the "Oregon Blood Purifier," and may be familiar to some of your readers as one of the hideous advertisements that cover the rocks in the tourist haunted places of resort. Conversation falls upon wild beasts, and a very fine set of cariboo horns, bigger than any seen, except, perhaps, in Newfoundland, are shown. The warptiti, though common in Vancouver Island, is not seen here, but the roe deer-like skin and horns of the black-tailed deer are to be met with at almost every log hut. Some fine wolverine skins are gradually being collected at the adjoining store to form a rug for a Canadian gentleman who entertained us, and who, having come some years ago from Ottawa, seemed as happy as a man could be with 1,500 head of cattle, wheat crops yielding forty bushels to the acre, and in exceptional years fifty, and wetter land yielding two and a half tons per acre of hay. Some fine bearskins were to be sent down to the steamer which had brought us up on the beautiful but shallow river which connects the two lakes, one 80 miles in length and the other 40. One of these had been the property of the cinnamon bear, a gaunt and gigantic brute, more formidable even than the grizzly, for he attacks men without rhyme or reason, and is altogether a savage fellow. His skin is only worth \$7! here, whereas for the black bear \$12 to \$15 are paid. The grizzly, being rarer, has no fixed price, but would hardly command more. Peltries are not much seen, or the Indians have taken so much to farming that they hardly ever care to make a business of hunting. Beavers are still numerous, and what is supposed to be a curious monument of their industry is to be seen in a lake hard by. This sheet of water is two miles long by over half a mile in breadth. Its shores, though the hills are not far off, are low, and around its whole circumference is an earthen dike sometimes three, sometimes nearly four feet in height from the water's edge. So regular is it in formation that it is most difficult to believe that it is not constructed by human hands, but the settlers in the neighborhood say that it has been done to protect the beaver's young from enemies during the period of the spring overflow, when the rasher youngsters sporting in the shoal water might be the prey of their enemies. The dyke ensures deeper water at the edges at these times.

Among the gentlemen who have made these beautiful valleys their home are two younger sons of Mr. Vernon, of Clontarf Castle, county Dublin, and their success well illustrates what can be accomplished by gentlemen coming from the old country. In a stately grove of Douglas pine, varied at this season of the year in color by the brilliant yellow undergrowth of poplar, they have built a pleasant house and have a herd of about 200 horses and 1,500 head of cattle, with many an acre of fine stubble lying below the rich pasture slopes of the wood-crowned hills, all speaking of a happy home. Many a hunt on horseback after cariboo and coyote has been enjoyed under the leadership of these gentlemen by the surrounding farmers. In further proof of all this are subjoined the words of several gentlemen recently settled in the country. Mr. Donald Graham, of Southerland, who is at present in Happy Valley, states that he left Scotland in 1866, and commenced farming in this valley with about £200. He has now twelve head of cattle and 40 pigs. Last year he raised 1,163 bushels of wheat, 10 tons of oats, 7½ of barley. Potatoes and roots he finds do remarkably well also, but he only raises enough for his own use, there being at present no market for these productions. This, however, the railway will remedy in a few years. The first frosts, he states, never come before the end of September or the beginning of October.

Mr. Donald Matheson's experience is even more encouraging. He came to this country from Loch Aish, Rosshire, and started with no capital. He has been two years farming in the Salmon River Valley, having worked for some years previous to commencing to farm. He now owns 320 acres of prairie, 50 of which are scattered pine, and 16 head of cattle. His only loss has been four beasts, which the unusually severe winter of 1879-80 entailed upon him. He has 22 acres of wheat this year, and expects to have a ton and a half of oats and one ton of wheat to the acre. He also owns 8 horses and 40 pigs. There is, he says, plenty of game in the country—grouse, geese, ducks and deer—and there is room for more settlers who have had experience of country life.

Mr. Jas. Crozier, of Carlisle, England, has been farming for two years and commenced with £1200. He has now sixty acres under crop, from which he expects thirty bushels of wheat to the acre. The timber he finds of the best quality. There are only four months of winter, while the summer is not hot. Indian labor can be had at \$1 50 per day, equivalent to 7s. 6d. He left England 18 years ago, and is decidedly of opinion that the people living in the Spellamacheen valley are better off than those in Cumberland were when he left.

Farmers not content with the tame sport of lassoing their cattle as occasion may serve, sometimes throw the rope round an old bear. When got in the open bruin is no match in fleetness for a good horse. Once headed from the timber, to which he is probably making, a lasso thrown around him and attached to the pommel of the rider's saddle, soon places him at the mercy of his mounted assailant. But attractive as are these bottom valleys and rolling grass lands with the fine timbers always near at hand, it is only within a few years that they have been inhabited by the white man. A good many have come in of late now that the Canadian Pacific railway is no longer a promise, but is already half a performance, but many a cozy prairie, or natural open, hid in the recesses of the magnificent woods, and many stretch of bunch grass slope awaits

the coming of those who prefer a three or four months' to a six months' winter in Canada, or that combination of sleet, east wind, and discomfort honored by the same name in England. Snow only begins to fall here in December, and does not stay during March. Alas, that it must be added, the beauties of these valley scenes are yet mysteries to the gentler sex, and many a gallant stalwart pioneer speaks to sympathetic ears of the loneliness of his situation, and how much he longs for the coming of "The lady of the lake, and partner of the prairie."

OUR FOREST WEALTH.

It is now universally admitted that our forests produce the best timber to be found in the world. The following are the names of the principal varieties growing in the country: The Douglas Pine, Spruce Fir, Yellow Fir, Balsam Fir, Hemlock Spruce, Wild Cherry, White Pine, Yellow Pine, Cedar, Yellow Cypress, Arbor Vitæ, Yew, Oak, Maple (broad leaf), Maple (vine leaf), Alder, Dogwood, Arbutus and several others.

Some of these are adapted to furnish material for the manufacture of carriages, agricultural implements, household furniture and for ornamental purposes. But the kind having chief economic value is the Douglas Pine, which for strength, lightness, elasticity, erectness, beauty of grain and height cannot be surpassed. Magnificent forests of this timber exist on Burrard and Jarvis Inlets, Mud Bay, Howe Sound and the east coast of Vancouver Island. As it is in great demand for ship's spars and timbers as well as for building purposes, over thirty millions of feet are annually manufactured into lumber. For this purpose, besides small mills in the interior, there are two lumber mills at New Westminster, one at Victoria, another at Sooke, and another at Cowichan. The two largest in the province, situate at Burrard Inlet, are almost exclusively engaged in cutting timber for exportation, the principal markets being South America, Australia, China and Great Britain. These several mills with their necessary logging camps afford employment the year round, at good wages, to a large number of men.

THE DIRECTORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A copy of this publication for 1882-3 was laid on our table by the enterprising publisher, R. T. Williams, Esq., of this city. After making a thorough examination of the volume before us, we have no hesitation in stating that it is one of the most complete and valuable works of the kind we have ever seen. Besides the name and address of each person and business firm in every city, town, village and hamlet in the Province, it contains a new map of the country and carefully written descriptions of each locality. Typographically the work is a gem of "the art preservative;" and, as the price is only two dollars, it is a marvel of cheapness as well as excellence.

MESSRS. ROYSON & SMITH, of the North Arm, have sold their upper farm on Lulu Island, 400 acres, for \$11,000. The purchasers are Messrs. McMyn Bros., who have lately come out from Scotland.

POPULATION.

On this subject we find an excellent article from the pen of A. C. Anderson, Esq., published in the British Columbia Directory for 1882-3, an invaluable work, from which we make the following extracts:

"But large as the area of British Columbia, and attractive for settlement the various points within its confines, it can boast only of a proportionately small number of inhabitants. It is difficult to reach even an approximate conclusion on this point; and trustworthy as the official census taken nearly two years ago may have been, circumstances have changed considerably since; and, whatever the antecedent result, it may be questioned whether at the present day the total population could be estimated at more than seventy thousand, of whom some 30,000 or more are Indians and perhaps nine or ten thousand Chinese.

The majority of the population, of European extraction, may be classed for intelligence, industry, and orderly conduct, prominently among the peoples of the various dependencies of the Crown. The total is variously composed. One finds here the British, either directly from the Old World, or from the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion, and the Colonies abroad; cousins of cognate race, from adjacent States and Territories; French, Germans, Italians, and in short, possibly, representatives of every European nationality. But all are in concord; and its argues well for the community that here the Law, rightly administered, is, as a rule, strictly obeyed. Of this fact the British Columbian, without seeking to extol inordinately the excellent judiciary through whose prudence the end has been attained, may justly boast. Indeed it may be questioned whether in any part of the civilized world, greater security for property, or more safety for life and limb, in as far as the law can protect them, exists than in this remote and hitherto little appreciated Province of the Great Dominion.

The Indian element of our population is a great feature and a feature, too, which appreciatively viewed, cannot but possess much interest for the philanthropist while to the intending settler the consideration of the question is one of manifest importance. I would here fain caution the reader, remote from these scenes, to dispossess himself of those preconceptions which, possibly, he may have acquired from reading either the alluring fictions of Mr. Cooper, or the sensationally insane stories with which venal book-makers, writing professedly of these regions, have chosen to adorn their works, in view of the mercenary penny. In lieu of the "blood-thirsty savage," as too frequently of late delineated, we have here, in the main, a well-ordered native population studious of improvement and eager in the acquisition of those industrial arts which alone, conjoined with other instruction, can elevate them permanently in the social scale."

But the Indian, notwithstanding all that has been and is being done for his advancement, is fast disappearing before the march of civilization so that only tens can now be found where hundreds once stood. To the reflective mind the conviction is therefore irresistible that the time is not far distant when the curious name of some settlement, some quaintly carved crest or other relic of the aborigines, will be all that is left to remind men of the once numerous and powerful tribes of British Columbia.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

There are mail steamers making regular trips from San Francisco to Victoria three times per month; from Portland, Oregon, and Puget Sound three times per week; from Victoria to Nanaimo and East Coast bi-weekly; from Victoria to New Westminster almost daily and from New Westminster to Yale, (except during a portion of the winter season) almost daily also. Steamers and sailing vessels make trips more or less frequent up the coast as far as Alaska.

British Columbia has over 2000 miles of excellent wagon roads. Not less than three millions of dollars have been expended in their construction, and there is an annual outlay of about seventy-five thousand dollars by the government in keeping them in repair. We have no line of railway in operation but work on the C. P. R. in the province is being pushed as rapidly as possible. The impetus given to the leading industries of the country by the large railway expenditures is very considerable. Thousands more men are wanted and labor of all kinds is in active demand. Now is the time for farmers, miners, capitalists, mechanics, laborers and all other classes desirous of improving their condition to come to British Columbia.

First class passage by steamer from San Francisco to Victoria is only \$20 or from Portland, Oregon, \$13. We subjoin the following

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

Victoria to Nanaimo and Comox:—Victoria to Cowichan, 35½ miles, to Burgoyne Bay, 7½, to Maple Bay, 3½, to Vesuvias Bay, 4½, to Horseshoe Bay, 6½, to Nanaimo, 19½, to Departure Bay, 3; to Comox, 54. Total, 131 miles.

Victoria to New Westminster and Yale:—Victoria to New Westminster, 75 miles; to Maple Ridge, 12; to Langley, 5; to Riverside, 14; to Matsqui, 2, to Sumas, 5, to Chilliwack, 6; to Hope, 38; to Yale, 15. Total, 175 miles.

Victoria to Puget Sound:—Victoria to Port Townsend, 38 miles; to Port Ludlow, 13, to Port Gamble, 7; to Port Madison, 15; to Seattle, 12; to Tacoma, 25, to Steilacoom, 8, to Olympia, 22. Total, 140 miles.

Victoria to Barkerville:—Victoria to Boston Bar, 200 miles; to Lytton, 32; to Spence's Bridge, 23; to Cache Creek, 30; to Clinton, 26; to Soda Creek, 131; to Quesnelle, 54; to Stanley, 46; to Barkerville, 15. Total, 557 miles.

Victoria to Wrangel, Sitka and Takou:—Victoria to Wrangel, 700; to Sitka, 160; to Takou, 165. Total, 1025 miles.

MINES AND MINERALS.

Space in this issue will not admit of more than a brief notice of these important resources of the country. We will, however, in future numbers of this journal endeavor to give the subject the careful and painstaking consideration which its importance so eminently merits.

British Columbia is unquestionably a great mineral country. The range of mountains which traverse it from north to south for 750 miles are analogous to those which gave such world-wide fame to California as the "Golden State of the Union." As numerous lodes of gold and silver have been discovered, the croppings of which have been proved by assays to be remarkably rich, it is reasonable to

expect that with the advent of population and capital quartz mining will become one of the most profitable industries of the country. Since 1858 placer mining has been successfully prosecuted in the various discovered gold fields, the most important of which now are Cariboo, Cassiar, Kootenay and Omineca in the interior, and Leech River on Vancouver Island. In these and several other places gold has been found not only in paying quantities but by the million; the total yield being nearly fifty millions of dollars.

Iron ores, in mountain masses of excellent quality, exist in various parts of Vancouver Island and on the mainland, while Texada Island, in the Gulf of Georgia, may be said to be one mass of magnetic iron ore of very superior quality. The proximity of coal and limestone to these extensive deposits adds additional value to them. This is another of the many resources of the country which affords a rare opportunity for the profitable investment of capital.

Although extensive deposits of copper and silver are known to exist in various parts of the mainland and on the islands they have not yet been mined to any extent.

In addition to these almost boundless sources of wealth, and with generosity bordering on profligacy, Nature, as if determined to make this Pacific Province the veriest "pet of fortune," has provided vast stores of latent heat and light in the inexhaustible coal fields of the country. Vancouver Island alone comprises some hundreds of thousands of acres, to say nothing of several other localities where coal is abundant. Robert Dunsmuir, M. P. P., the coal king of British Columbia, is the millionaire proprietor of extensive coal mines (5000 acres) known as the Wellington, on Departure Bay. Near these are the mines of the Vancouver Coal Co., also quite extensive. In fact Nanaimo district may justly be regarded as the Newcastle of America. The Wellington mines employ 600 men and the Vancouver Coal Co. about 325. Miners earn from \$3 to \$5 per day. The fact that the coal product of this district commands a higher price than that of England and \$2 per ton more than that of Washington Territory fully demonstrates its superiority.

THE WEATHER.

Since our article on climate was "set up" in type a little more snow has fallen but the weather has again moderated and spring bulbs are waiting only for a little less frost in order to jump into bloom. The winter although quite frosty for a time has on the whole been a very pleasant season, and stock living in the open on the bunch grass pastures are reported as being mud fat and doing well. Now that old Sol has got so far on his northward march, we may safely regard the winter's greatest cold as something of the past, and for which we have no reason to fear the return of a similarly agreeable season.

The experience of other, and generally considered more favored lands, has not been so fortunate. In California oranges have been frozen on the trees even in the southern portions of the State. Ice and snow

have been of frequent occurrence in San Francisco, and some distance south at Fresno considerable snow fell recently. In Colorado the thermometer has registered thirty degrees below zero, while further east in latitudes as far south, mercury has remained congealed for days together. On the other side of the Rockies the cold has been still more intense. Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, the Northwest, Manitoba and all the eastern provinces have experienced an amount of cold altogether unprecedented. The immunity a great portion of British Columbia enjoys from the extremes of heat as well as cold, should be a powerful inducement to intending emigrants to decide in favor of the Pacific province. But when to the salubrity and equality of climate are added an infinite variety of valuable resources, agricultural, mining, lumbering and fishing, the wonder is that ten times the number of people and a hundred times the amount of capital have not long ago found a home and an investment on this side the Rocky Mountains north of the 49th parallel. A few drops of the shower are coming, however, and sooner perhaps than many expect another tide of immigration will set in: and unlike the great influx of twenty years ago, it will assist in developing our resources and building up one of the finest and richest of all the provinces.

FURS.

Excepting perhaps Alaska no other part of America contains more fur-bearing animals than this province. For the past 40 years the Hudson's Bay Company has here obtained the greater portion of the furs with which it may be said to have supplied the world.

Fur seal are caught in large number during the spring and early summer off the coast of Vancouver Island, as they travel northward to their breeding grounds. The skins are worth from \$8 to \$9 each and a rapidly increasing and profitable business is obtained from this resource. Of the land skins which figure prominently in the export returns may be mentioned, beaver, martin, fox, deer, bears, badgers, coyotes, fishers, minks, otters, panthers, racoons, wolves and those of other small animals.

When admiring her "love of a cloak," or mantle of warm, downy fur, little does the gay northern belle think how much she is indebted to the bronzed and grizzled old trappers of the far northwest for these important additions to her wardrobe; or that the comfortable garment, which now adorns and protects her fair form, once contained a life always wild and savage, and often vicious and cruel.

BRITISH COLUMBIANS are confident that the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, now not far distant, will be the signal for a great rush of immigrants, and will usher in an era of prosperity such as the Pacific Province has not had a glimpse of since the abatement of the gold fever, nearly twenty years ago. Already a number of Orillians have gone thither, attracted by the delightful climate, and with the advent of better business prospects more will follow. As mentioned in the PACKET last week, Mr. George Tite is taking time by the forelock and is gone to spy out the land. Others await his report with interest. *Orilla Packet*. [Those who are wise in their day and generation will, for obvious reasons, come on at once. Ed.]

SCENERY--Mount Baker.

As if vying with the territorial extent and material resources of this empire province, the scenery of the country is equally varied, always charming and often sublimely magnificent. Whether by the placid waters of some crystal lake, gazing into its mirrored depths, or roaming along the verdant banks of some majestic river; whether reposing in some shady grove and listening to the silvery music of some babbling brook or following the devious course of some meandering creek or rivulet on its way home to mother ocean, whether wandering over hill and dale or contemplating the bright carpet of emerald sward, decked with vari-colored flowers, covering the broad savannas of the interior; whether in beholding the awe inspiring

spectacle of immense thundering torrents madly leaping down from giddy precipitous heights and lashed into fury as they fall and break on the rocks below; whether wrapt in extatic admiration as from some convenient eminence his eye feasts on the whole grand panorama crowned by the cloud piercing peaks of the distant mountains, no where else will the tourist find scenery more charming or on a scale of greater magnificence. In a word it is Swit-

zerland and Italy combined. Our engraving represents one of the many charming and extensive prospects that may be enjoyed here and which never fail to elicit the glowing encomiums of every beholder. As viewed from one of the shady slopes bordering the Gulf of Georgia a contemporary contains the following pen picture of the scene.

"The situation is very beautiful, as the whole neighborhood is a gently sloping, grassy park, inclining to the placid sea. In summer this spot is clothed with exquisitely colored flowers of every hue, shaded by a grove of oak, on which hang long pendant fringes of the grey lichen.

"Let the stranger lay down where he will, he must, regretfully, and with sorrow, crush the beautiful, the delicate and exquisite gems of Flora, but ere

he does so, let him choose a spot where, from beneath the gracefully hanging branches of the oaks, he may catch a vista of the scenery outside, for there, before him, the shimmering waters of the Straits of Fuca lie smiling in the full blaze of the mid-day sun, when all the world beyond is shut out by a soft ethereal cloud, or, it may be the mystic vapor, in mirage, is playing a charade by picturing scenes of spirit land as I oft have seen it do on Arab's barren sands. Presently, however, the veil dissolves before the retiring sun, and the unnumbered isles appear in their varied hues from aerial silvery gray to dark and sombre blue. Thence rising from the sea and breasting the sky for half the length of view, is the high Olympian range, in massive softness, rared and smoothly clad in purple, giving rest to the wondering eye. Then upward, in admiration, the gaze is carried to the countless snow-clad peaks, which boldly probe the sky. This glorious range is only lost to view, or seems to cease, in distant Rainer's

needle pointed peaks; then, northward, the waters of the Sound make the break, when, up springs, as if from a mighty plain, the hoary Mount of Baker, rearing its cold and stately head, turbaned with a cloud, and its white fingers, far up in heaven, pointing everlastingly to unknown realms, and silently kissing golden and vermilion adieux to the setting sun.

"Full many a land I've seen, but none so fair."

As our first volume will embrace a complete description of the resources of the Province subscribers should commence with the first number.



A GLORIOUS SUNSET.—Last evening the sun went down in splendor behind the Metchosin hills, tinged in red and gold a thick bank of clouds that fringed the western sky and bathing earthly objects in a rich warm glow of beauty. When the glorious orb sank out of sight radiant arms shot out towards the zenith and remained there as if loth to depart until in the gathering gloom they faded reluctantly away and were seen no more. The sight was one that will not soon be forgotten by a small group who watched it from Wharf street. *The Colonist, 15th ult.*

WE are informed, says the *Columbian* of New Westminster, that the Dominion Government intend greatly to enlarge the penitentiary near this city by the addition of another wing. The addition will cost \$100,000. The contract is expected to be let during the present season.

PREPARING FOR THE RUSH--TWO SPLENDID STEAMERS ORDERED.

Although there are at present steamers making regular tri-weekly trips between Victoria and Sound points, these are not deemed sufficient to meet the requirements of the great passenger trade of the immediate future. Accordingly the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, owners of the present line of steamers, have just let contracts for two steel, side-wheel, walking beam steamboats for service on this route. They will be alike in every respect, 260 feet long, 48 feet beam, and will draw 12 feet. Each will have stateroom accommodations for 300 passengers, and for 1500 day passengers, and the pair will cost \$250,000. They will come round the Horn under sail and steam, and the contract requires that they be delivered in Puget Sound waters by December 15th of this year. It is needless to add that they will be the finest and the swiftest boats in the Pacific waters. They have been ordered to meet the constantly growing travel northward, and will be used exclusively for passengers.

FRASER RIVER FISHERIES.

Statement showing the kinds, quantities and value of fish cured--canned and fresh--also the number of vessels, boats and nets used in fishing on the Fraser River, &c., District of New Westminster, B. C., year ending 31st December, 1882:

3,308 Bar. of Sal. salted, @ \$9.00 per bbl.	\$ 29,772
199,204 cases of Sal. (canned) @ \$5.00 per case	996,020
112,600 sal. fresh (home consumption) @ 8c. each	9,008
\$130 sal., smoked "	130
79,760 lbs. sturgeon " " @ 6c.	4,820
1' 600 lbs. whiting " " @ 5c.	980
423 kits of herrings (cured) at \$3.25 per kit	1,375
1,289 1/2 bar. of her. (cured) at \$8 per bbl.	10,316
\$100 worth smoked herring	100
29,000 lbs. her. (fresh) at 5c. per lb.	1,450
26,900 lbs. trout @ 8c. per lb.	2,152
10,400 lbs. oolachans. at 3c. per lb.	312
7,245 gallons dog fish oil, at 40c. per gal.	2,898
15,000 gallons herring oil, at 35c.	5,250
150 tons herrings (dried scrap) @ \$15 per ton	2,250
Value of Fish.	\$1,066,833
9 steamboats	28,600
417 fishing boats	17,145
37 flat boats or scows	4,020
666 salmon nets (205,600 yards).	70,910
6 herring nets (1,790 yards).	2,450
1 oolachan net	100
Total Value of Fish, Gear and Nets.	\$1,190,088
G PITTENDRIGH, Fishery Overseer.	

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will, at the same time, secure that extended publicity of his business which the very large circulation of the magazine necessarily guarantees. In view of the facts, we hope that business men throughout the Province will cheerfully give us a share of their advertising patronage. The reading matter of the RESOURCES will not be materially decreased to make room for advertisements as the paper, if necessary, will be enlarged for that purpose.

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DAVIES, J. P. & CO., Wharf St., near Yates. Liberal advances on consignments.

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GARESCHE, GREEN & CO. Also, Agents for W. F. & Co. Corner Government and Trounce Sts.

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HIBBEN, T. N., Importers. Established 1858. Masonic Building, Government Street.

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TIPPINS, W. J. Trade supplied at lowest rates. Fort Street, between Douglas and Broad.

Crockery, Wooden and Glassware.

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FELL & CO., Importers. Also, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Fell's Block, Fort Street.

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