

Washington Territory to meet the requirements of Eastern builders.

While this is not an exhaustive topic, it certainly suggests to the unemployed able-bodied men of the Pacific Northwest an honorable and profitable industry worthy of their consideration.

Finally, if by penning this article we shall have conveyed valuable information to one of the hardy yeomenry of our land, and induced such an one to embark in the enterprise, we shall feel amply repaid for time and pains expended.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Vancouver Island is about 280 miles long and 50 broad, containing 8,000,000 acres. Its shore line is so deeply indented that the island can be crossed at several points by less than one-third of its width of land travel. This feature is, of course, a great advantage, as it brings the interior of the island, with its vast wealth of timber and minerals, within easy distance of the sea. The surface of the island is very much broken, the agricultural land being in small patches and interspersed with mountains.

In the northern division, down to a line adjoining Seymour narrows and Nootka sound, there are 4,100,000 acres. Of this, only about 77,000 acres are cultivatable. The central division, bounded on the north by the Qualicum river Alberni canal, contains 2,190,000 acres, of which 57,000 are estimated to be cultivatable. The southern division contains 2,670,000, of which 250,000 are accounted cultivatable, making a total of 380,000 acres of cultivatable land in the island.

It is clear enough that Vancouver will never be agriculturally wealthy. Its varied resources of other descriptions will, however, make its agricultural land exceptionally desirable, and will give a high value to the little patches of good soil found among the hills. There are also, it appears, many small lakes and swamps which could probably be drained and turned to account at small expense.

The chief wealth of Vancouver is in its timber, but even that may hereafter be eclipsed by its production of coal and other minerals. The island is densely wooded from end to end, and the trees attain to proportions unheard

of in the East. In the order of their present commercial importance they are, the Douglas fir, red cedar, white pine and spruce fir. On the Nanaimo river there is said to be enough wood to give work to a large camp for ten years. The Chemainus river valley is densely clad with excellent fir and spruce for more than thirty miles. In the Cowichan district there is estimated to be 20,000,000 board measure of marketable lumber. The agricultural crops in the island comprise everything that is grown in Ontario. The yield of nearly everything is great; oats, 90 bushels; wheat, 40 bushels; turnips, 45 tons to the acre are spoken of. Peaches, grapes and tender vegetables

are nothing but a chain of mountains—the continuation of the Olympian range of Washington Territory, of which range the Vancouver mountains form a part. Mountains of 4,000 feet are quite common in Queen Charlotte Islands. A few peaks reach 5,000 feet. The whole of the country is covered with coniferous trees, and these are rendered easy of access by the numerous fiords which run far into the interior. The trees are chiefly the Menzies spruce, western cedar, western hemlock and yellow cypress. It is too far north for the Douglas fir. At a Hudson Bay post at Masset, on the north-east of the islands, cattle take care of themselves winter and summer. Snow

falls occasionally in the winter, but does not lie long except on the mountain tops. The quantity of rain, especially in winter, is excessive. Gold has been found on the islands, but not as yet in paying quantities. The interior, however, has not been examined. At Skidegate, anthracite coal, of excellent quality, crops out, and has been mined a little. Bituminous coal is also supposed, from the geological appearances, to be present. Lignites have been found at several places on the coast. Copper ore and magnetic iron ore are also found. The chief business of the natives, who are Haidas, is fishing and fur hunting. There are about 2000 natives, who would be better men if the grog-sellers of Victoria and other towns were more particular as to whom they sold liquor. The report about these islands is written by Dr.



DRIARD HOUSE, VICTORIA, B. C.—From a photo by R. Maynard.

ripen well in the Saanich peninsula, and hopes are entertained of their being successfully cultivated. About one-tenth of the available agricultural land has been taken up, and only one-quarter of that taken up is being cultivated. The chief reason given for the smallness of the quantity is that the settlers who have gone to the island have mostly resorted there for mining and other pursuits more exciting than agriculture. Mr. Joseph Hunter is the author of the report about Vancouver Island.

The Queen Charlotte Islands lie off the coast of British Columbia, between latitude 52 and 54½. The length of the islands is 150 miles, and the greatest breadth 50 miles. Agriculturally the islands are of little value, as they

G. M. Dawson.

THE DRIARD HOUSE.

Located in proximity to the business centre of the beautiful city of Victoria, British Columbia, is the Driard House of which Messrs. Redon & Hartnagel are proprietors. It is a fire-proof brick building, well furnished, and, we are happy to state, in the hands of men who know how to keep a hotel. Mr. Hartnagel, for a number of years "chief de cuisine" to the Duke of Baden Baden, is now "chief de cuisine" of the Driard, and the many dainties served in the dining-room of this popular hotel fully attest to the skill of Mr. H. The office and general management of the Driard is in the hands of Mr. Redon, one of the most pleasant hotel-men of the Pacific Coast. As a place to spend the summer vacation, and to travelers in general, the Driard is to be especially recommended.