

and having a light, sandy soil. Along a series of lakes near the large one is a valley thirty by fifteen miles in extent, having a rich soil, good grass, water and timber. Grain and vegetables yield in abundance. There is plenty of vacant land for settlement. Stock raising is the leading industry. Placer mining has been carried on quite extensively for twenty years, and numerous rich quartz ledges have been located. A company has been organized to open this region by a short railroad and a steamer line on the Columbia River. There is much good agricultural land along Columbia lake and river, across which the railway passes in the northern portion of the district.

#### Lillooet, Clinton, Cariboo and Cassiar.

THE Lillooet District lies on the west side of the Fraser above the mouth of Thompson River. It extends for 100 miles along the Fraser, whose auriferous deposits have been worked for many years, though not now on an extensive scale. It embraces several agricultural sections, such as Lillooet Valley, six by four miles, in which lies the town of Lillooet, and the valleys of Lakes Seton, Anderson and Lillooet. In the district is Bridge River, a considerable stream flowing into the Fraser from the west.

The town of Clinton lies in Clinton, or Cut-off, Valley, fifty miles northeast of Lillooet and east of Fraser River. It is an important station on the stage road from Yale to the mines further north. Agriculture is carried on quite extensively in the valley, also in the valley of the Bonaparte further south. Both farming and mining are engaged in by settlers at Big Slide, Dog Creek and points along the Fraser.

Cariboo District embraces the whole region of the Upper Fraser above Lake La Hache, and is the great placer mining portion of the province. The chief town is Barkerville, on Williams Creek, while Richfield, Stanley, Quesnel, Soda Creek, Alexandria, Lake La Hache, Lake Williams and San Jose River are mining camps and agricultural districts. The annual gold product is about \$100,000. On the west side of the Fraser is a vast rolling prairie, lightly timbered, through which runs the Chilcotin River. It is a good agricultural region and almost wholly unoccupied.

The District of Cassiar occupies the northern end of the province, and is a rich and extensive mining region. Its population is 500, chiefly miners. The winters are rigorous and the summer season short, yet agriculture is carried on successfully along Dease Lake, Dease River, McDame Creek and Deloire River. Peace River and other tributaries of the Mackenzie head in this region.

#### Upper Coast and Islands.

FROM the head of Vancouver Island to the southern extremity of Alaska the coast presents the same indented and tortuous line, flanked by innumerable islands, though without the great outlying land, except in the extreme north, where the Queen Charlotte group shelters for many miles the inner islands which fringe the coast. The mountains border closely upon the sea, their sides,

as well as the mountainous surfaces of the adjacent islands, being densely covered with timber. The population of this region is chiefly Indian, and they are both intelligent and industrious, performing nearly all the labor of the two industries—salmon canning and lumbering—which have gained a foothold there. The climate is mild, the thermometer in the southern portion never falling below zero, and but seldom doing so in the extreme northern end. The rainfall is very great, the mountains of the coast causing the first precipitation of rain from the warm, moisture-laden air moving inland from the sea.

The various centres of settlement and industry are Rivers Inlet, on which are the village of Weekeeno, two canneries and a saw mill; Bella Coola, on Burke Channel, where is a Hudson Bay Company's post; Bella Bella, on Campbell Island, the site of another post; Skeena River, with canneries at Aberdeen, Inverness Slough and Port Essington; two missionary stations and a small settlement at Mumford's Landing; Metlakahla, on the Tsimpshcean Peninsula, where are located a cannery and a mission station, with a saw mill, barrel factory and other industries; Fort Simpson, a Hudson Bay post on Portland Inlet, opposite the southern extremity of Alaska; Nass River, at the head of Portland Channel, where are two canneries, a saw mill and two mission stations. The special feature of this region is the Queen Charlotte Islands, an outlying group of large islands, three in number—Graham, Moresby and Provost. They are 170 miles long by 100 wide, are mountainous and heavily timbered, and possess a warm, moist climate. Both anthracite and bituminous coal have been discovered there. They appear to be better adapted to stock raising than general agriculture. At Skidegate, on Graham Island, a company is extensively engaged in producing dogfish oil. There are a Hudson's Bay post and a mission at Massett, on Graham Island.

#### Cities of British Columbia.

VICTORIA, situated on the southeastern extremity of Vancouver Island, just outside the eastern entrance to the Straits of Fuca, is the chief commercial city, social metropolis and seat of government of British Columbia. It was founded in 1843 by the Hudson's Bay Company as a general supply point and headquarters for this region, and was named in honor of the young queen who had reigned a few years before ascended the throne of England. The site was most wisely chosen, since it is the ocean gateway to the province, and must ever command the commerce and receive the tribute of the interior and coast regions alike. What San Francisco is to California, or Portland to Oregon, Victoria is to British Columbia, at once the great market, base of supplies and financial centre. The advantage of location was first demonstrated in 1858, when the endless throng of miners poured into the Fraser River gold fields, and 30,000 of them wintered in and around the city. Victoria then sprang suddenly into commercial activity, and when, as the excitement abated and the greater portion of the campers departed, their tented city vanishing as quickly as it had sprung up, it