

and marketed fresh; also such table fish as anchovy, haddock, rock cod, flounder and whiting, crab, prawn, cockles, mussels, etc. Lobster is not a native to these waters, but is being introduced, and will soon be plentiful. Oyster beds are found in numerous places, but the *littorines* are small, and inferior to those on the Atlantic coast. Several beds have been planted with large oysters from Boston, and probably will, ere long, supply the market with a superior quality. The inland streams and lakes abound in salmon trout and the delicious mountain trout, which are the delight of sportsmen, and the famous lake white fish. The *holothura*, a small mollusk, generally known as the "sea cucumber," inhabits the waters about the islands. These, when cured and dried, make the article of commerce known as "beche de la mer," and highly prized in China for food, where it is called "trepang." A valuable industry might be built up by preparing this commodity for market.

Seals and sea otters are annually caught in great numbers off the Straits of Fuca and the west coast of Vancouver island. From ten to fifteen schooners are engaged in sealing, employing about fifty sailors and some three hundred hunters, the latter chiefly Indians. The annual catch is about ten thousand fur seals, valued at \$10.00 each, and three thousand hairy seals, valued at fifty cents. Sea otters are not so numerous, and are very wary, requiring much patience and skill in their capture. They are generally shot with a rifle, and at such long range that only the best marksmen succeed in killing them. About one hundred are taken annually, valued at fifty dollars each.

One can not read the above brief statement without being struck with the great possibilities of the province. In the waters lies an uncounted and exhaustless mine of wealth, which will amply reward those who work it in the proper way.

CITIES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

LYING on the extreme western verge of Canada, and being the gateway of the dominion for the commerce of the Orient, and, to a certain extent, to England, herself, under the new conditions introduced by the Canadian Pacific railway, the cities of British Columbia possess more than a local or transitory interest. Especially do they attract the attention of all those who are considering the question of seeking a home in that province, or who have relatives or friends already there. They are not many in number, but for enterprise, thrift and probable growth, they are not surpassed in the dominion.

The oldest, the largest, and the most metropolitan, is Victoria, the capital of the province, lying on the extreme southeastern coast of Vancouver island, facing the Straits of Fuca and the territory of the United States on the south and east. It was named in honor of the queen, whose jubilee year the loyal citizens are about to celebrate; and from the time the Hudson's Bay Company first established a trading post there, nearly half a century ago, it has been the metropolis and general supply point of that entire region. It first became of commercial importance in 1858, when thousands of miners flocked into the country, after