

their development. The same is true of the lodes of Kootenay. Silver ore, yielding high assays, has been found near Hope and Yale, on Fraser river, at Cherry creek, a tributary of the Shuswap, at Omineca, Kootenay, Upper Columbia and Similkameen. These prospects give every promise of development into rich silver mines in the future. Mining laws are very liberal, and strictly enforced. Peace and order prevail in the mines, and the rights of all are fully protected by law. The era of quartz mining is just beginning to dawn in British Columbia, following the appearance of cheaper and quicker methods of transportation.

Coal mining is an industry which, of late years, has undergone a wonderful development. Coal has been found in places over a wide area of both the mainland and islands. At Nanaimo, on Vancouver island, is found the best quality; and there the industry has reached great proportions. The quality varies in different localities, from the common lignite to anthracite, the latter being on the Queen Charlotte islands, and the only vein of anthracite yet discovered on the Pacific coast. No effort has yet been made to work it. The coal at Nanaimo is the best quality of bituminous coal to be found on the coast, and is shipped in quantities to all points, San Francisco being the best market, notwithstanding the high tariff. The quality of this coal especially adapts it for steamers, and the large steamers placed on the China route, to connect with the Canadian Pacific, will draw their supplies from this source.

From 1860 to 1875, inclusive, there were shipped to San Francisco three hundred and twenty thousand tons. The shipments then began to increase rapidly, and during the past five years, the average has been one hundred and fifty-three thousand tons per annum. Car-

gons are also sent to the Sandwich islands and China. The mines producing this coal are those of the Vancouver Coal Mining and Coke Company and the Wellington collieries. The former are five in number, and are situated in Nanaimo and vicinity. The operations of this company are very extensive, giving employment to about eight hundred men. The Wellington collieries are situated at Wellington, a few miles from Nanaimo, and are connected with their shipping wharves, on Departure bay, by a narrow gauge railway nearly five miles long. About a mile distant are the South Wellington mines. This company employs about nine hundred men. All of these mines are connected with shipping wharves at Nanaimo and Departure bay by lines of narrow gauge railway. The coal beds at that point cover a wide area. At Comox, still farther north, it is estimated that they occupy three hundred square miles. They are also found at other points on the island. Large fields of lignite exist near New Westminster, in the Nicola valley, and along the North Thompson and Skoena rivers.

On Texada island, situated in the Gulf of Georgia, and only twenty miles from the Comox coal fields, and consequently not far from the mines at Nanaimo and Wellington, are great masses of rich magnetic iron ore, assaying sixty-eight and four-tenths of iron, and having a low percentage of phosphorus and other impurities. This ore is now being used by the smelting works at Irondale, just across the line in Washington Territory, where it is mixed with the brown hematite found in that vicinity. The existence of great bodies of superior coal and iron in such close proximity, suggests the springing up, ere long, of large smelting and iron works. Such industries are certain to come; but how soon, none can tell. Copper has been found in a number of places, the most promis-