

that will, probably, equal in importance anything that has taken place on this continent. This is not a mere supposition, for the work is now being carried on, and the results show for themselves. Any one who chooses to study the situation will readily become convinced that its industrial prospects are, indeed, promising.

Reference to the map will show that the country tributary to Vancouver has a wide extent. As the most important shipping point in British Columbia, most of the products of the whole province are drawn in that direction for the local market or for shipment abroad. The lumbering business first engaged the attention of outsiders, and saw mills have been located at favorable points for thirty years or more. The practically exhaustless supply of red fir, cedar, hemlock, white pine, spruce and maple have made the province famous as a land of valuable timber; but its minerals and fisheries have recently come into prominence among its resources. A large portion of the province is densely covered with timber. While the streams are not well suited to towing logs or lumber, the vast extent of coast line renders a large portion of the valuable timber accessible directly from navigable waters. The mills that have been in operation for years have scarcely made any impression on the forests, as yet. The large size of this timber makes it eligible to the markets of the world for special purposes.

The fisheries of British Columbia are one of its chief resources of wealth. The salmon canneries of Fraser river are the best known, though the industry is prosecuted on Alert bay, Rivers inlet, and Skeena, Metlakshita and Naas rivers. Five species of salmon run in the Fraser river and its tributaries a distance of a thousand miles from its mouth, and fish are caught there the entire year. The annual product of the salmon fisheries of the province is worth \$1 250,000.00. The oolachan, or candle fish, belongs particularly to that part of the Pacific, and is a delicious food fish. It is about the size of the sardine. Its oil is considered superior to cod liver oil for medical purposes, and it always finds a ready market. Herrings equal to those caught off the coast of the British Isles swarm the waters of the straits. Halibut, cod, haddock, anchovy, flounder, whiting, rock cod, crab, etc., are abundant. Dog fish are caught in abundance, and a superior quality of lubricating oil is manufactured from them. Sturgeon weighing from three hundred to a thousand pounds are plentiful in the rivers and estuaries. The streams and lakes abound in salmon trout, mountain trout and a species of fresh water white fish. Fur and hair seal and sea otter skins are a source of considerable profit to British Columbians. Whales and seals are numerous in the

northern seas. The value of the annual product of the fisheries of the province is not less than \$2,500,000.00. The fish curing business is receiving more attention since the completion of the Canadian Pacific railway, and is fast expanding.

The chief minerals of British Columbia are gold, silver, copper, iron and coal. The mining history of the province resembles that of most of the rich mineral fields of the world. With the precious metals, the placers are first worked, and subsequently the quartz lodes are exploited, the latter being the more substantial and lasting. Quartz mining has not been engaged in to any considerable extent yet in this province. The yield of gold and silver, however, is gratifying to those employed in the business, and promises to rapidly increase with the general development which the whole country is experiencing. There are seven or eight mining districts on the main land in which gold and silver mining is regularly carried on, most of the work being done in placers. Recently there have been valuable quartz discoveries in the vicinity of Burrard inlet, and it is probable that Vancouver will itself become the center of an important mining district. A good deal of the work thus far has been directed to the development of iron and coal measures, which are found in different parts of the province. The iron mines are located on Texada island, near Vancouver, where there is a mountain of ore favorable for working, on Rivers inlet and on Vancouver island. The ore is of the best quality, and the output is constantly increasing. There are indications of iron in many places where no mines have yet been opened. Coal exists in large quantities and is quite extensively mined. The collieries about Nanaimo, on Vancouver island, are well known, and their product finds its way to all the large cities of the Pacific slope. There are anthracite coal beds on Queen Charlotte island, near Skidegate inlet. Coal measures exist under the very town site of the city of Vancouver, and there are numerous outcroppings in that vicinity that indicate paying deposits. At Ashcroft, on the railroad two hundred miles east of Vancouver, coal was recently discovered and a shaft sunk between sixty and seventy feet. A cross cut of forty feet each side of the shaft did not run out of the vein, which is a good quality of bituminous coal, and preparations are being made to open and work an extensive mine there. Copper is found on Howe sound, only a few miles from Vancouver, where a mine produces very rich ore, the assays showing fifty-nine per cent copper and \$87.00 silver to the ton. At other places on the main land and on Vancouver and Texada islands there are locations of copper. The facilities for utilizing the mineral resources of British Columbia were not until recently such as to warrant