

MINING

Mineral Wealth of British Columbia

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Possibilities of Iron Production—Extent of Coal Fields and Non-Metallic Products—Contribution of Mining to World's Wealth and its Hazards as an Industry.

Synopsis of previous issue: Mines of British Columbia have produced \$500,000,000 to date, and this Province is now producing 28% of minerals of the Dominion. Large number of companies that are regular dividend payers. Several of the world's largest mine development companies are in the market to buy Provincial mines. Extent of mineralized area of British Columbia. Ten years ago the Cordilleran belt in Mexico and United States had produced of precious metals \$10,000,000,000 over a length of over 3,000 miles; in Canada the total had been \$166,000,000 over 1700 miles. As British Columbia is known to be at least equally mineralized the possibilities in this Province are enormous.

There has been a very rapidly growing demand for iron and steel products in Canada during the past few years, accompanied by a corresponding increase in the output of Canadian iron and steel furnaces. At the same time extensive preparations are being made to increase the output and supply a larger proportion of the home market. The importance of this is emphasized when we consider that the present production of pig iron is nearly ten times that of 1904.

It is generally well known that we have vast deposits of commercial iron ores in this Province, and we are often asked why, if they are so good as reported British Columbia iron mining is not receiving any attention. It is difficult to explain to the untechnical layman why these local iron ores are lying dormant and not already being converted into marketable iron, and why steel foundries, machine shops, and shipbuilding yards are not an established fact.....

Several leading business men have expressed their determination to aid in founding such an industry, and the Vancouver Board of Trade is now compiling information on the subject. There is a market here now for 150,000 tons of iron and steel per annum. The cost of pig iron here is estimated at \$15.00 per ton; and of steel at about \$20.00, and a profit of from \$5 to \$10 a ton should be realized once the industry is established, and should have command of a wide market as there are no known deposits of economic iron ores on the Pacific coast of North America south of British Columbia. Having stated in a cursory way only some of the facts known to date about possible iron production, it seems reasonable to draw the conclusion that the ore is here, the quality is not excelled elsewhere. With an abundance of electric power, the necessary time fluxes, charcoal and coke are adaptable to economic assembling, under sufficiently favorable conditions to turn into profitable account the iron ore resources of British Columbia.

The importance of the coal fields of British Columbia is well understood. The estimate for this Province is 1,351 square miles and 40,225 million tons of mineral coal.

The value of non-metallic products used for building materials is often overlooked. With the rapid growth of towns and cities in this Province there is an increasing demand for structural stone, marble, lime, crushed rock and gravel, clay and the constituents that go to make cement and plaster, in the last named is gypsum. Although there

are known to be extensive deposits of gypsum in the Province they have not yet been developed and the local demand has been supplied from as far away as Kansas City and other outside centres. Vancouver alone imports about 100,000 tons of calcined plaster at a cost of about \$1,500,000 per year. The price of calcined gypsum laid down in Vancouver is from \$15 to \$16 a ton. There are several other materials used in building construction that can be found near at home and this money kept here and be available for profitable extraction if more attention were given to their economic value and the ready market which obtains. The same condition applies to Portland cement. Concrete construction has become so extensive on the coast that although several companies have been formed to supply material for such work, the supply is insufficient to meet the growing demand.

It is now becoming more generally realized the great heritage we possess in the mineral deposits so generously distributed over the greater portion of British Columbia. Mining has been the foundation of wealth from the beginning of time. The governments rich in minerals have always been the richest and strongest governments on earth. The mineral sections of any country have always ruled that country. Remember that the man who is producing gold, silver, copper, and iron is creating the raw material of money and the mining of the world's metals is the life blood of modern industry. A country of great mines always becomes a country of great industries, wealth, influence and power. Cecil Rhodes, the man who built up an empire for Great Britain, and who made riches for hundreds of his followers, paid a remarkable tribute to mining in one of his speeches, which briefly summarized, was as follows: "I have made a great study of the question and have had statistics not only of Great Britain, but of the whole world, carefully compiled, so that I may not be in error, which shows that mining properly conducted offers greater inducements than any business in the world.

"This investigation that I have had made further shows that even farming is more risky than mining, that 32 per cent. more people lose money and fail in the mercantile business than in mining, that 17 per cent. more people lose money and fail in the banking business than in mining, and that more people lose money and fail proportionately in any of the professions than mining. Mining is the backbone of all wealth, though of course you can lose money in mining if you put it into a proposition that is worthless, just as you would lose money if you invested it in a store that had no merchandise, which means that you must investigate as you would any other business."

It is the consensus of opinion that British Columbia is on the eve of the greatest mining revival the Province has known, and that the Province may have the full benefit of the promised renewal of mining activity it behooves every man who has the mineral industry at heart to keep it clean from unsound promotions. There are enough resources for legitimate work that warrant the expenditure of capital for the development of our mineral wealth, till British Columbia takes its place among the leading mining countries of the world.

For the third week of May the Granby smelter at Grand Forks treated 24,123 tons of ore, of which all but 226 tons were from their own properties. In the same week the smelter shipped 347,000 lbs. of blister copper. From January 1 to May 21 Granby has treated 472,023 tons of ore and has shipped 7,855,652 lbs. of blister copper.