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BRITISH COLUMBIA DIRECTORY.

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JOHN IRVING, Manager.

COAL.

The coal fields of British Columbia are extensive—inexhaustible—while the quality of the "black diamond" is second to none. An area of 200 square miles is about that of the Nanaimo coal measures; those of Comox about 300, computed to yield 16,000,000 tons per square mile. In various other parts of the province coal of excellent quality is also being mined, notably in the Nicola Valley, the Crows' Nest Pass of the Rocky Mountains, the Thompson, etc.

IRON.

The iron ores of the province have not been worked to anything like their capacity, although in quality many of them compare most favorably with the best known deposits in the world, while in quantity they are practically inexhaustible. Of recent date, however, more attention has been paid to this source of wealth. The ready market which the ore meets with from abroad has encouraged capitalists to many of the well known sources of the higher grades. Like the precious metals, iron is found almost in every section of the province.

SILVER AND COPPER

are also found in great abundance, and of excellent quality, and are being worked with great success. It is claimed for Manitoba that all that is necessary is to tickle the surface with the plow, and the crops will grow. Slightly paraphrased the statement would be equally applicable to British Columbia, the tickling process being done by the pick, and the yield precious metal instead of cereals.

LUMBER.

The timber limits of British Columbia are among the finest in the world, but unfortunately the trade in lumber cannot be said to be much more than in its infancy. As, however, the supplies of the forest states of the Union, eastern Canada or other great sources of supply become exhausted, or the lumberman is driven back from the navigable waters, the prospects for the trade of this prov-

ince must necessarily become very bright. Cedar and Douglas fir are the woods chiefly handled, the supply in each case being unlimited. Good specimens of the former measure from sixty to eighty feet in circumference, and the number of such trees to the acre can be estimated when it is stated that 30,000 feet is considered a low average in some of the limits on Vancouver Island as well as on the mainland. Timber limits or forest areas can be leased from the government upon very favorable terms—ten cents per acre per annum; fifty cents per thousand feet cut, with a rebate of twenty-five cents per thousand exported out of the province, is the royalty.

FISHERIES.

Seal hunting, salmon canning, and deep sea and coast fishing, are the marine industries of this Province. They are pursued with a vigor worthy of the success which attends them. In each department a steady advance is year by year taking place, and with the immense possibilities for even more rapid development, it is difficult to estimate the wealth assured. Despite prolonged international disputes concerning the Behring Sea, the sealing fleet has more than doubled in number within the past few years, about seventy vessels being last season engaged in the industry, giving employment to over fifteen hundred men. The result of the International arbitration is not received with general favor in this Province at least, as the season during which seal can be captured is shortened, and the appliances for capturing the precious skins have been changed from the rifle to the spear. For years Victoria has been the headquarters of the sealing fleet, and should the sealers be obliged to change their rendezvous it would be a very serious loss to British Columbia's capital. Besides the business done in seals, there is a large trade in the skins of other fur-bearing animals, such as the bear, beaver, fox, otter, lynx, wolf, mink, skunk, racoon, etc., but it is chiefly in the hands of the Indians, who make very clever trappers.

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