

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINERAL WEALTH.

In the last issue of this paper appeared the map of the Cariboo district, and in this issue, that of the Kootenay. The plates for those maps were kindly lent by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, who also publish the following information concerning the mineral wealth of B.C.:

"No known country, to-day, is richer in mineral wealth than British Columbia, from whose various mines have been extracted during the past thirty-eight years an immense output of gold, silver, copper, lead, coal, etc., etc., aggregating in value \$100,000,000. As the most primitive methods only were employed in mining the more precious ores, up to a few years ago, the full value of the mineral resources of the country could not even be approximately estimated, but with the recent commencement of the era of scientific mining, and the greater facilities for prospecting now enjoyed, it is assured that the coming great development will show an enormous richness hitherto past comprehension. New finds are being constantly made, and there is every indication that almost the entire Province is underlaid with precious metals. The name of British Columbia has in fact become the synonym of mineral richness, and its TREASURE CHESTS ARE NOW OPEN TO THE WORLD.

The recognized and greatest authority on mineralogy in Canada, Dr. G. M. Dawson, F. R. G. S., who for fifteen years was engaged in exploring British Columbia, says: "The ex-

plorations of the Geological Survey of Canada have already resulted in placing on record the occurrence of rich ores of gold and silver in various places scattered along the entire length of the Cordilleran (Rocky Mountain) region in Canada. * * * Because a mountainous country, and till of late a very remote one, the development of the resources of British Columbia has heretofore been slow, but the preliminary difficulties having been overcome, it is now, there is every reason to believe, on the verge of an era of prosperity and expansion of which it is yet difficult to foresee the amount or the end." Capital is pouring in from all directions to ensure that development. No fewer than thirty-seven of the new English mining companies formed during the past year, and over \$16,000,000 of the new capital involved, are to operate in British Columbia, besides the large sums of American, Canadian and Australian money which are being invested here.

The richest of these marvellous auriferous alluvial deposits are in the Cariboo district, a region which, with the neighboring mines of Omineca and Cassiar, has yielded over \$60,000,000 in yellow metal since their discovery. Cariboo is yet a promising field for the miner, that fabulous output being the result of explorations and operations necessarily confined to the surface, the enormous cost and almost insuperable difficulties of transporting heavy machinery, necessitating the employment of the most primitive appliances in mining, while supplies and labor commanded almost prohibitive prices.