

tons of coal a year for over 7,000 years, and a new district has been discovered within a twelvemonth which the provincial mineralogist told me on Christmas Eve was the most important economic discovery ever made in British Columbia, where there are known to be 1,000 square miles of the best of anthracite and which is probably the richest known anthracite district in the New World west of Pennsylvania.

I have mentioned these few brief illustrations, but by them I cannot give you any adequate idea of what economically alone the opening up of British Columbia will mean to the British Empire—that is, provided it remains in the Empire. Is it not your task and mine to see that it remains a part of the British Empire? This is a part of the great Pacific question. The country is menaced in two directions. We Anglo-Saxons have been too comfortably esconced in the luxuries of the *status quo*. British Columbia is threatened by American ownership and Asiatic overflow. Just here it is not amiss for me to say a word about the Imperial aspect of British investments.

Much the greater part of the wealth of the Canadian Cordilleran region belongs to British Columbia, and it is a part of my duty to say to a British audience that the economic possibilities and opportunities for investment and development in British Columbia are simply incredible. We must remember that this wonderful Province is in its infancy and that its entire population is but a trifle larger than that of Birmingham. I have travelled as far as five hundred miles through the northern interior between one white man and the next one. Is it to be supposed that a fraction of one per cent. of its unimagined wealth has been discovered?

British Columbia is a vast neglected opportunity. You have no idea of the wealth which is being alienated to the more alert and appreciative Yankee. He at least is alive to the opportunities of the New World. It does not matter so much that you are willing to sit here waiting for 4 per cent.—if you like that sort of thing—and where your money is doing nothing particularly toward the building of Empire. If it does not interest you that so many Americans are doubling their money in a year—two years—in British Columbia, there is a political aspect of this matter which some day will interest you.

You no doubt have been congratulating yourselves upon a narrow escape from Americanisation in a recent vote on reciprocity. The dangers of the Americanisation of Canada do not lie so much in a freer trade between north and south of the American Continent as in the matter of *who owns Canada*. The peril does not lie in trade but in ownership, for you may rest assured that the people who own a country will rule it.

The Yankee is not the only one who has discovered British Columbia, but Great Britain is about the only country which has not. Alas, even the Asiatic has found us out. And this means that we are face to face with a new peril of no uncertain magnitude.

The one all-absorbing movement of the world to-day is Asia *redivivus*, the immediate issues of which are involved in the Japanese programme. Let no one think that it will be less alarming when China has found her programme. But that is another question for another day.

The vital world-issue of to-day, now especially on the Pacific, is the Japanese programme of Asiatic Imperialism.

*Asia and the American Hemisphere and the Pacific Ocean for the Japanese.*

This is no less than the anseconda ambition which is being crystallised in the Orient with unprecedented and sinister dispatch and is being carried forward with a celerity unknown in modern times. It is not necessary, but it is not amiss, to say here that all