

Naturally this leads one to ask what of the future? She has apparently started in the past few years on a course which is rapidly bringing her to the front. Is it likely this will continue?

We enter here into the region of surmise and the role of prophet is a position neither easy nor gratifying to fill. Still there is a certain amount of geological and other evidence available upon which one may justly base some general conclusions as to the possibilities for the future, always remembering that the element of chance is a very dominant factor in prospecting, which can by no means as yet claim to be an exact science.

The causes affecting our future are both economic and geological. In regard to the first a moment's thought will make them evident.

Firstly we have a population of only about five million, with considerable areas of territory, the mineral possibilities of much of which are fairly certain, and still larger areas where less is known, but where the probabilities are great. Eliminate from our consideration the very large proportion of the population and of the local capital of the country, which will necessarily be busied with other pursuits, and we have but a handful of the people left, wholly inadequate to prospect and work even the more accessible portions of our mineral territories.

Thus it is evident that should we desire to see still more rapid advancement in the future we shall be largely dependent upon outside assistance, especially in regard to capital, and in many districts for a supply of prospectors. The discovery of exceptionally rich, shallow, placer ground, as in the Klondike, may from time to time bring us more rapidly to the front for short periods of years, but for permanent growth we must look rather to the extension of our operations in the systematic exploration of our veins and other mineral deposits, and of our less rich and accessible, but more extensive gold bearing gravels. These industries, however, requiring a considerable expenditure of capital, are necessarily of slower growth. On them must be based, however, our hopes for the permanent prosperity of our mineral industries.

A good instance of this is found in the history of British Columbia previously mentioned. Here, in the early sixties, we had discoveries of very rich placers at various places, much of