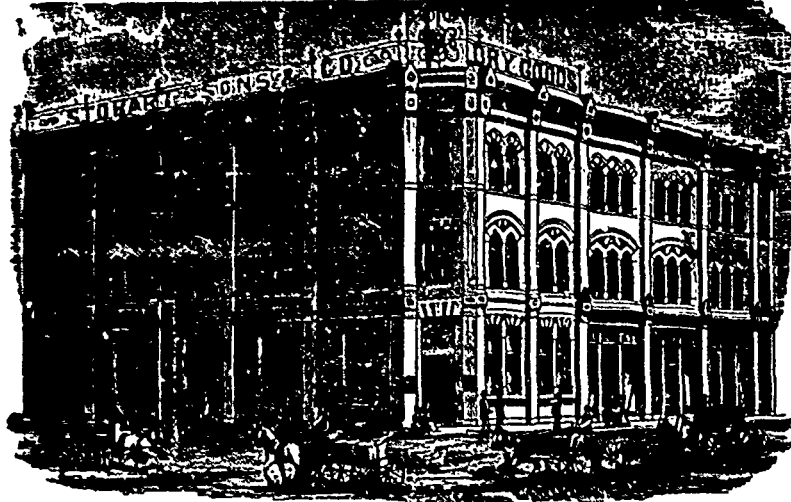


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### Coal Mining in British Columbia.

Wellington coal in San Francisco bring from three to five dollars more per ton than any other Pacific coast coal in the market. This coal is mined at Nanaimo and Wellington, on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island, and almost directly across the gulf from Vancouver. Here are located the most extensive coal mines on the coast. At Nanaimo the company in working their coal properties have drifted far out under the bay. The supply here is said to be practically inexhaustible. This coal is pronounced by experts to be truly bituminous, of the very finest quality. Wellington or Nanaimo coal is pronounced superior to even the Pennsylvania anthracite. The following from Dr. Dawson, an expert on the subject, will be read with much interest by those interested in the coal developments of British Columbia:—

"It is true bituminous coal of the very best quality. It was tested by the war department of the United States some years ago to find out which fuels give the best results for steam raising purposes on the western coast, and it was found that to produce a given quantity of steam it took 1800 pounds of Nanaimo coal to 2400 pounds of Seattle coal, 2600 pounds of Coos Bay coal (Oregon), and 2600 pounds of Monte Diablo (California), showing that as far as the Pacific coast is concerned, the coal of Nanaimo has a marked superiority over all others."

During the year 1887 nearly half a million tons of coal were exported from Vancouver Island alone. Coal of good quality is found on Queen Charlotte Island to the north, on the mainland of British Columbia, both on the line of the Canadian Pacific railway and also contiguous to the Fraser river. Small seams of coal can be plainly seen cropping out along the bluffs abutting on English bay, Burrard Inlet and False creek, thus proving conclusively the existence of the black diamond in that locality.

The greatest single industry of British Columbia to-day is coal mining. With the coming great demand for this kind of fuel for manufacturing and other purposes, this is one of the industries of the province that as yet is in its infancy.—*Exchange.*

### Japanese Competition in Silk Manufacture.

American silk manufacturers think that at no distant day Japan will be a strong competitor in the manufacture of silk fabrics, and on the subject the Patterson, N. J., *Press* says very aptly:—"Now even if this would work in the case of competition with England, how about Japan? This problem of cheap silks from Japan has for some time past engaged the attention of intelligent observers, and we heard the prediction made long ago that in the near future the gravest danger to the American silk industry would be found, not from English, but from Oriental competition. That wonderfully adaptive, ingenious and industrious people, the Japanese, have always been adepts in silk making: they by this time understand and have in operation every process known in the United States and can copy any piece of American machinery in the smallest screw. And they can get the labor to run their throwing, weaving and printing machinery for a few cents a day. It is this sort of competition that the American manufacturer of more than one kind of goods has got to face before long. When this fact becomes thoroughly understood we shall hear less of the "rot" of buying everything—even the labor—"in the cheapest market," for, although some of our manufacturers may be able to contemplate without repugnance the possibility that they may have, one of these days, to reduce the wages of their operatives to the level of those in Europe—solacing themselves with the fancy that, all things taken into account, including "the purchasing power of money," the European workingman or woman is as well off as those in America—we cannot conceive of the most inveterate free-trader, unless he is utterly heartless, being willing to subject American labor to an unprotected competition with that of Asiatic countries. Better an absolute prohibitory tariff than that.

LITTLE Elsie—"Oh, Mr. Bull! When did you get well?"

Mr. Bull of Wall street (who comes out often to see Elsie's big sister)—"Get well, little girl? Why do you ask that question?"

Little Elsie—"Because I heard my papa say this morning that you weren't able to take up your paper!"

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