

belt" of New Ontario there is farmland upon which every inhabitant of Canada at the present time could subsist. He tries to imagine as unpeopled a tract of equal area in Europe. It would comprise Germany, Austro-Hungary, and half of Russia. He cannot quite remember what the populations of these counties were,* but it seems to him that, added together, they would make a very large figure. Nor are there in this Canada any great marshes or deserts. It has none of the far-stretching "tundra" wastes of Russia. The only barren lands it once did believe itself possessed of, he is told, have of late begun to be turned to such account by a certain Mr. Clergue and his fellows that any man might well wish himself the possessor of many square miles of them. True, the temperature averages uniformly a few degrees lower than in Europe, but of late he has been much enlightened upon this matter of temperature.

And in the great North-west the farther one penetrates into the interior, the finer becomes the natural system of irrigating waters. Nor is the land crossed and broken by the hundred little mountain ranges of the older continent. Yet in one place there *are* mountains. In the Rockies could be hidden Alps and Vosges, Balkans, Appenines and Carpathians. And between these Rockies and the Pacific he sees once more this British Columbia with its 250,000 square miles of valleys and plains and plateaus, and its twelve thousand miles of coast-line, and its population is of tens of thousands where in Europe it would be of scores of millions!

Again our Martian speechlessly overlooks the land. It is timbered throughout one-third of its entire area. What billions of feet have been already cut serve but as the merest measuring-rod to gauge the rest. In the Pacific province, the Douglas fir and red and yellow cedar alone count their fifty thousand million feet; he has learned to know that to almost any European country such amazing forests would be its most valuable of natural

assets. Yet in the upper North-west, in the central section and the whole East, there is *pine* in such quantity that the fir and cedar of British Columbia could very well be altogether neglected. And of spruce and poplar there is enough to supply the world its pulp-wood for a thousand years to come.

Indeed, to our traveller, what settlements there are, seem little more than so many clearings in the woods. Prince Edward Island, a coast and river-line fringe in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the St. Lawrence and Ontario valleys, and a small part of Manitoba,—these districts alone can be said to be under cultivation, as he has been taught in Europe to understand the word. True, too, as in Europe, through the middle region there is beginning to be much production of cheese and other dairy products. Yet, commensurate with its area, how very little! In Alberta and Saskatchewan, as upon the *steppes*, there is found the raiser of cattle and horses. Yet again only thousands are grown where in Europe there would be millions.

Our Martian is, by now, as near exasperation as it is possible for a mandarin of that smooth and urbane planet to become. Yet still he pursues his investigations. He finds that East and West and North there are minerals, gold and silver, copper and iron and nickel in a profusion astonishing even after what he has seen in such countries as England and Spain. There is the best bituminous coal in Cape Breton, peat and lignite in "Old" and New Ontario, surface coal in Manitoba and the territories—(the farmers dig it from the banks of the Saskatchewan)—and more of the highest grade bituminous in British Columbia. His atlas tells him tersely that the fisheries of Canada, both fresh water and salt, "are the most extensive in the world." Hudson's Bay, that inland sea containing everything from salmon and herring to whale and walrus, has no parallel in any other continent. And it seems to the Martian that the untouched

*About 145,000,000.