

this route to and from Australia, India and China, over the American lines are easily apparent, and there is little doubt they will commend themselves to the commercial world. While the stimulus imparted by the completion of the through line of railway was largely confined for the first year to the cities, where fortunes were made very rapidly, it did not, fortunately for the immediate future of the Province, exhaust itself here. The agricultural districts began to fill up rapidly, or at least those districts where the farmer saw he would have a convenient market for his produce. The rich valley of the Fraser River, where already many settlements existed, especially attracted the agriculturist. The salmon industry, which had already attained large proportions, gained a larger market, and the exhaustless wealth of timber induced the capitalist to place his money where a return in proportion to the judgment exercised in the outlay was assured. An impetus was given to quartz mining, which as yet had been attempted on a very limited scale, and the mountains once more became the haunt of prospectors. As soon as it was placed beyond a doubt that the Canadian Pacific Railway was to be built local companies were formed for the construction of lines which would further open up the country. In 1883 the New Westminster Southern road, which will very soon be an accomplished fact, was projected, and a company was incorporated to build it. The Fraser River Railway Company was also incorporated, and the Columbia and Kootenay Railway Company. In 1885, also, a company was formed for the purpose of building the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway, to connect with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and open up the Okanagan and Spallumcheen valley. This district, which contains, perhaps, for mixed farming, and especially for wheat growing, the finest land in the Dominion, was very little known at that time, (and indeed this may be said of a great portion of the country), and the efforts of the projectors of this railway were met with opposition, both in the local and Dominion Parliaments. The persistent labor, however, of one or two men, who knew the value to the Province of settling and developing this tract of country, finally triumphed over the adverse stand taken by the legislature, and this year will see the commencement of this line.

The Province as she now exists is among the most promising and valuable members of confederation, and her people are fully alive to the greatness of their possession. Their representatives in the local and federal parliaments are men of ripe experience