

them on all sides—once there—will be opportunity for home and money making unequalled in any other section of the world. This home and wealth can be won in consideration of less expenditure of labor each year than is required to sink the average mining prospect shaft. I refer to the almost limitless acres of rich agricultural soil, across which they will wander. Land, the productiveness of which has been demonstrated, and which may be had almost for the asking; land which in innumerable cases has produced a crop in dollars greater per acre than the original cost thereof is their reward.

The only benefit to the world that gold mining stampedes has produced results from the fact that men, unsuccessful and discouraged in the pursuit, have looked the world in the face, and with the wisdom born of experience realized that through the tilling of the soil lay the surest way to a home and independence. In the rush for California, in the days of '49, here and there along the miles of trail, men, who travel to endure the hardships of travel, dropped out of the ranks. Then locating a spot in the valleys, or on the prairies built a home, and commenced to till the soil with success that soon neighbors came, towns were built, and a state formed, and the present wealth thereof is counted in sums so many times greater than the value of all the gold in existence that one marvels.

And so the discouraged miner of the Cariboo, settling down to the true life of a farm paved the way for the winning from the soil returns in grain and fruit and other agricultural products, which have brought to British Columbia a portion of wealth in comparison with which her past yield in gold is but a speck. And so, too, in the Klondyke country, close clinging to the arctic circle as it does, men who tilled and planted produced returns in vegetables and grains and grasses that counted a fortune for them. While the miners round about them picked and shovelled themselves deeper into poverty day by day.

Of course, in this day and age, just as has been in all the past, men court adventure different from that which comes to them through the ordinary happenings in the locality of their birth. Pulling up home stakes they venture into another province or alien land. If this had not been so America would not have been discovered, would to-day be inhabited only by the Indians. The adventurous spirit born in men is to be commended. It has been the avenue through which food and clothing and shelter has been provided for the ever-increasing millions of the world. It is good to see a young man striking out

into the world for himself—brave and strong in the ambition to make a home and take a place among men. For such a young man just starting out here in the North-West are opportunities for success just as great, if not greater, than have ever existed. These opportunities are in all lines of human effort—business, manufacturing, farming—what not? And with a minimum of effort insure a maximum of reward in return.

Experience and investigation have impressed me—have strongly embedded within my mind—the conclusion that no young man should be satisfied these days until he has acquired at least a few acres of unencumbered land, and built a home on them. It is a step towards self protection, that means an independence for him so long as he holds them. No matter what misfortune fate may hand him, no matter where he is located, any advice to him, founded upon an experience gained from an investigation of every section of North America, from the Gulf to the Arctic, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, is to locate those acres, and build his home somewhere in the North-West. Here there is a wealth of soil, at a price per acre uninflated and easily obtainable. Upon this land he may produce a diversity of crop which always brings a big return in dollars, because of the never sluggish big market close at hand.

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