

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES LUMBER

The principal factor in the upbuilding of a country is the development of its natural resources.

British Columbia is rich in her resources of timber, minerals, agriculture and fisheries. Are they being developed to the extent they should be, and are they each contributing their fair share of the revenue of the Province? I will tonight take up, in a measure, the first two—timber and minerals—and endeavor to show that a helping hand is necessary to the full development of each, and that the revenue derived therefrom is manifestly unequal.

It will, I think, be admitted that at the present stage of development of our natural resources, the lumbering industry ranks first, with the mineral industry a close second.

Mr. Raphael (Manager of the North Pacific Coast Lumber Co.) in an excellent paper read before the Rotary Club on "Preferential Trade with Australia in Lumber," stated that the export trade to Australia alone from the Pacific North West (Washington, Oregon and British Columbia), had increased from 61 million feet in 1902 to over 238 million feet in 1913, or over 390 per cent. British Columbia's share of that trade decreased from 33 per cent. in 1902 to 4 per cent. in 1913.

The combined shipments to all parts of the world in 1913 reached a total of 600 million feet, 40 per cent. going to Australia, 20 per cent. to South America, 21½ per cent. to China and Japan, and 18½ per cent. to all other points, showing conclusively that Australia is our most important and natural market. Of the 170 American vessels owned on the Pacific Coast, used in the carrying trade, mill owners and lumber dealers own 50, while not one schooner is owned in British Columbia.

For the year 1914, the lumbering industry produced \$28,000,000.00.

It has been said by Chief Forrester, H. R. MacMillan, in a paper given by him at Tacoma, December 7th, 1914, that it costs on an average \$12.00 per