

described by Prof. Selwyn and others before a committee of Parliament, will be conveyed to the Pacific seaboard in British Columbia, to supply the demand in the countries on the Pacific. This demand for the petroleum products of America has already attained the proportions of a great commerce.

The mutual wants of the countries which constitute so large a portion of the globe, will, in the near future, find out the advantages of commercial position very briefly indicated in this chapter. The settler in British Columbia may, therefore, fairly set before his mind pleasures of hope sufficient to satisfy the most ardent imagination.

EXISTING TRADE.

The trade of the province already deserves particular attention. The exports amount to nearly four million dollars annually. They consist of minerals—chiefly gold and coal—sea products—chiefly salmon and oils—timber, furs, skins, etc., which reach markets in Great Britain, the United States, Mexico, Peru, Chili, Africa, Australia, China, Japan, and the Sandwich Islands. The amount of the exports is remarkable, considering the number of the population. The per head value of exports from British Columbia is more than three times the highest per head value of exports from the other Provinces of Canada. It exceeds that of any of the adjacent American territories.

The imports amount, at present, to about two and a half millions of dollars annually, the largest amounts being from the United States, Great Britain, the Eastern Provinces of Canada, and China, with some, also, from Central America, Sandwich Islands, Spanish West Indies, Chili, Germany, France, etc. The imports from the Eastern Provinces of Canada have grown rapidly within the last few years.

The increase of the external trade of the province has been accompanied by the starting and growth of several important provincial manufactures.

MINERALS.

The minerals of the province form its chief resource. The experience of miners, and the data collected during nine years by the geological officers of the Canadian Government, establish the existence of great mineral wealth in British Columbia—gold, coal, silver, iron, copper, and other minerals. When the country is opened up and the cost of labour and supplies lessened, it will soon take first place as the mining province of the Dominion of Canada, and, ultimately, as second to no other country in North America.

GOLD.

There is scarcely a stream of any importance in which the "colour" of gold cannot be found. Paying gold mines exist in localities that extend through ten degrees of latitude. The gold formation proper of the country, consists of a series of talcose and chloritic, blackish or greenish-grey slates or schists, which occasionally become micaceous, and generally show evidence of greater metamorphism than the gold-bearing slates of California. The greatest area of these rocks, probably corresponding to the gold-bearing rocks of California and proved to be richly auriferous, appears in connection with the disturbed region lying west of the Rocky Mountain Range, known in various parts of its length as the Purcell, Selkirk, Columbia, Cariboo, and Omineca ranges. Other considerable belts of auriferous rocks, probably belonging to the same age, however, occur beyond this region, as in the vicinity of Anderson River and Boston Bar, on the Fraser, and at Leech River, Vancouver Island. Gold has been found in other parts of Vancouver Island, and also in Queen Charlotte Island.

COAL.

All authorities agree as to the extent and value of the coal beds of British Columbia. The deposits are widely spread. In quality, the Vancouver Island bituminous coals are found to be superior, for all practical purposes, to any coals on the Pacific coast. Nature has given this advantage, exclusively, to Canada on the Pacific sea-board. On an average, nearly two-thirds of the sea-borne Pacific coast coal, received annually at