

the adjoining States has been drawn, and contains within its vast extent enormous deposits of gold, silver, lead and copper ore.

Among its localities which have attracted especial interest are those of Spillamachene and Jubilee Mountains and Job's Creek on the Columbia River within easy reach (by water communication, maintained by two steamers) of Golden City on the C.P.R. A number of mines there have been bonded to capitalists, who are preparing to operate them in conjunction with the smelter now being erected at Revelstoke, 100 miles west of Golden City.

The Toad Mountain District in South-west Kootenay promises to be one of the richest mining centres in the province, ore giving results of from 300 ounces of silver to the ton to 2,700 has been found on a number of claims. The town of Nelson has sprung up in its midst, and when the projected railway from Revelstoke, in connection with the through line, is constructed, the produce of these valuable mines will be retained in Canadian territory, instead of being diverted as at present to the smelters of Montana, which is adjacent to the Toad Mountain country. Nor in the quest of quartz with its costly milling processes have the simpler modes of gold mining by placer and hydraulic means been neglected. Thirty-six new placer claims have been recorded in East Kootenay, while hydraulic mining, viz., placer mining with machinery, has been in active operation for some years, notably in Wild Horse Creek, which has four hydraulic companies at the present time. Though returns have not been made by all of these, some of them have reported a yield of \$1,000 to each man employed. Perry Creek, like Wild Horse in the interior of East Kootenay, is being operated by the Perry Creek Mining Company, which is running a tunnel to reach the old bed of the Creek. Although they have not yet attained this object, they are making excellent progress and encountering no difficulty. From the gravel removed from the tunnel, which is 7 feet by 6 feet, about \$300 a week is being washed out. Various other creeks in the East Kootenay district are being worked by parties of miners, among which may be mentioned Weaver Creek, Findlay, Bull and Moyca Creeks, from which gold has been taken in paying quantities. The Big Bend of the Columbia River in West Kootenay has also shown some very satisfactory paying results, which have been obtained by some 40 men, who are mining in this locality. Some general idea may be formed of the amount of prospecting that has been done from the fact that 109 new mineral claims were entered in the Recorder's Office for East Kootenay at Donald during the year 1888, besides the odd claims which are on the books. In West Kootenay quite as much has been done.

#### DEPOSITS OF OTHER MINERALS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

British Columbia also gives promise of containing extensive deposits of copper, although no mines have yet been worked. Prospecting has, however, disclosed large quantities of copper in the country, especially on Texada Island, 20 miles north of Nanaimo, and also in Howe Sound, just north of Burrard's Inlet. Immense deposits of iron have also been found on Texada Island, which appears to be a veritable iron mountain. Iron is also met with in the mountainous districts of the interior on Vancouver's and Queen Charlotte's Islands, at the Douglas Portage on the Fraser River, and at the entrance to Sooke Sound, at the south end of Vancouver's Island. The iron on Texada Island is not only extensive in quantity, but the ore is of the very best quality, being magnetic, giving 80 per cent in iron. There is also in the same locality a large vein of hematite iron ore, going as high as 80 per cent in pure iron. All these deposits possess the advantage of being close to navigable water. With the proximity of coal and coke to these iron beds, with their inexhaustible supply of cheap fuel, large rolling mills and manufactories of pig iron will, there is every reason to hope, be shortly established in British Columbia. Mica and cinnabar also exist in the province. Large deposits of the latter metal have been discovered in the Wapta Pass of the Rocky Moun-

tains on the line of the railway, which are now being developed. A good quality of asbestos has recently been found, and also a number of veins of nickel; but no attempts has been yet made to mine these minerals.

#### TIMBER AND AGRICULTURE.

The question of the future lumber supply of America is one which has lately been attracting the attention of the whole eastern continent, on which the supply in each year is becoming smaller and more difficult of access. The vast prairie tract of the North-West Territories is almost treeless. It has no timber for its own needs and must look to the forests of the West for its future provision. A large portion of British Columbia is covered with the finest timber in the world. The principal varieties are the Douglas fir, which furnishes the most useful general purpose wood; hemlock, spruce, the great silver fir, often growing to a length of 150 feet and 15 feet diameter at the base; the yellow cypress, tamarac, maple, yew, crab apple, elder, birch, oak, dogwood, cottonwood, ash and juniper. The tree of most commercial value is undoubtedly the fir, of which there are two varieties—the red and the yellow. From the southern boundary of Oregon northward, almost to the Arctic circle, heavy forests skirt the entire coast. Following it for nearly 3,000 miles is an almost impenetrable belt of the largest timber in the world, which also extends inland for a distance ranging from 50 to 100 miles. It is probable that two-thirds of this western portion of the province is covered with timber. Centuries of inroads into these forests for legitimate purposes cannot exhaust the supply. British Columbia is now shipping lumber to Australia, China, Japan, the Sandwich Islands, and other countries, which for general building purposes and for bridges cannot be excelled. Timber is often sawed out of these trees 100 to 120 feet in length.

There are large tracts of agricultural land still unoccupied in all the fertile valleys of the province, more especially in the delta of the Fraser and the south-eastern districts, to which the early settlers did not penetrate. Industrious, steady men will find in British Columbia few of the hardships experienced in the development of new homes which the pioneers of old Canada encountered. The surface of the country is park-like throughout Kootenay, where, as well as in the Thompson Valley, ranching is extensively practised. Water is abundant and excellent, and all stock thrives well on the native bunch grasses, requiring little care and attention during the winter, as the climate is tempered by the Chinook winds, and the cold, except in the higher altitudes, is but of short duration. Vegetables and fruit grow abundantly, the former attaining an abnormal size, testifying to the richness of the virgin soil. Ranching requires capital, and does not yield returns for three years; but a limited amount of money would be sufficient to equip a dairy farm or market garden, or both combined, near some of the growing towns on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. There is great and urgent demand from the Rocky Mountain to the Coast for milk, butter, eggs and poultry, which are at present in some places monopolies in the hands of a few, who make their own prices, and would be benefitted by a little wholesome competition; while in others there is absolutely no supply for the demand, with the exception of milk, which is distributed at 10 and 15 cents per quart. Butter and eggs are brought at present from the east and sell at 35 and 40 cents per lb. and 25 and 30 cents per dozen. Poultry is almost an unknown luxury.

The original owner of a chicken ranche at Donald was at one time making as much as \$2 a day by his eggs and chickens. I believe that at the Coast the Chinamen have monopolised the market garden business; but they do not attempt anything else. As the mining and lumbering interests are developed there must be an increased demand for all farm produce, stock, etc. Good markets create good prices. Railways are in contemplation, connecting the interior with the main line, while water communication is already established in all the agricultural districts, bringing the

buyer and seller within easy reach of each other. The British Columbia Government has been most liberal in granting and expending money in the construction of roads and the building of bridges. In the Kootenay district alone the expenditure for the year 1888 amounted to nearly \$20,000. I cannot do better in concluding this account of the present position and advantages of the country than to add a few figures from official returns showing the material advances British Columbia has made in general prosperity and increased trade:—

The population of British Columbia in 1871 was estimated at 36,000, exclusive of 30,000 Indians, and it is now placed at over 100,000.

In 1876 the value of the fish product, in round numbers, was \$100,000; it is now \$2,000,000.

The coasting trade in 1876, 125,000 tonnage; now 1,500,000 tonnage.

The exports in 1872 were \$160,000; now \$350,000. Imports, 1872, \$180,000; now \$3,600,000.

Duty collected in 1872, \$350,000; now \$900,000.

Tonnage of vessels in and out, 260,000; now 1,200,000.

Output of coal in 1874 was 81,000 tons; in 1888, 500,000 tons.

The above figures could be multiplied greatly in detail, but, as a general outline, will indicate pretty clearly the progress made.

#### ROSSETTI AS HE MIGHT HAVE CRITICISED.

Johnson—As to Rossetti, though I remember having read him, I found in him but little that pleased. Interviewer—He certainly had what you praise Tennyson for—precision in luxuriance. For romantic richness of colour I believe him to be without an equal, and along with this gorgeous affluence he has the strictest verbal compression. He valued himself upon his turn for condensation—rightly, I think. Here Dr. Johnson takes down from his shelves Rossetti's poems, opens at random, and reads aloud as follows:

Like labour-laden moonclouds faint to flee  
From winds that sweep the Winter-bitten world—  
Like multiform circumfluence manifold  
Of night's flood tide—like terror that agree  
Of hoarse-tongued fire and inarticulate sea—  
Even such, within some glass dimmed by our breath,  
Our hearts discern wild images of death,  
Shadows and shoals that edge eternity,  
Howbeit athwart Death's imminent shade doth soar  
One Power, than flow of stream or flight of dove  
Sweeter to glide around, to brood above.  
Tell me, my heart, what angel-greeted door  
Or threshold of wing-winnowed thrashing floor  
Hath guest fire-fledged as thine, whose lord is Love?"

Sir, I know not but you are in the right to claim for Rossetti's verse the merit of condensation. Here is truly a greater body of nonsense condensed within fourteen lines than I had believed fourteen lines to be capacious of. Now, Sir, I invite you to consider this sonnet, line by line. Let us begin at the beginning. Clouds are often spoken of as "labouring;" and clouds may also, with permissible looseness, be said to be "laden," as with rain; but how can they be "labour-laden"—that is, laden with labour? And what is a "mooncloud"? And what does "faint to flee" mean? "Circumfluence of night's flood tide" is inoffensive, but "multiform" and "manifold" have here little if any meaning, and of use none whatever, save to swell out a line. In "terrors that agree of hoarse-tongued fire and inarticulate sea" I know not what agreement is to be understood. In line seven, the words "within some glass dimmed by our breath" can only be held to verge toward a possible meaning by being charitably supposed figurative; but figurative of what does not appear. "Shadows and shoals" are brought together for no better reason than their initial alliteration; a reason, however, which appears to have much weight with some of your modern poets. "Howbeit" is an odd and uncouth word by which good taste is revolted. Expletives like "doth" were in my time, by common consent of the judicious, rejected as awkward incumbrances, and I am sorry to see them come in after our diction had been supposed purged of them. In lines nine to eleven, a power sweeter to glide around and to brood above than either the flow of a stream or the flight of a dove is soars against the imminent shade of death. It were vain to discuss these lines in hope to come at their meaning. They have none. The three lines which follow, and in which we meet with the guest of the threshold of a thrashing floor, are equally vacant of import. Pope speaks of writers who "blunder round about a meaning." To blunder round about a meaning is bad enough, but it at least implies a meaning round about which the writer blunders; and when we see an author in manifest labour and travail with a thought, compassion for his pangs disposes us to assist at the delivery. We are willing to believe that the value of the thought may compensate its difficulty bringing forth. But this is not Rossetti's plight. It is not that he is here painfully struggling to present us with a thought. He had no thought to present. Your contemporaries, I presume, called this poetry. Mine would have called it gibberish.—*The National Review*.