

the Kootenay mines. It is to be hoped also that they will not stop then, but that other branches, especially one into the rich gold-fields of the Cariboo will be built. With the Americans on the one side and the Canadians on the other, each striving to get a share of the marvellous mineral wealth of the country; the prospects of British Columbia in the near future indicate great prosperity for the Province. Our great Dominion, with its comparatively sparse population, requires money to aid in the development of its varied resources and the increase of its people. Here, in British Columbia, are millions upon millions in gold and silver, only awaiting to be taken out in order to give an impetus to every industry throughout Canada. It is the duty then of the Dominion Government, not only to British Columbia, but to every province in Canada, that all possible assistance should be given towards opening up our mining regions. If it is not done soon Uncle Sam will not fail to take full advantage of the opportunity which will be afforded him.

At the present time there is a good deal of interest shown by English investors in the gold-fields of South Africa. Money is being contributed largely toward the opening up of those regions, and we understand the returns so far have in most cases been satisfactory. But if English investors understood that they could obtain nearer home and at less risk as good results by investing their money in British Columbia mines, they would not hesitate to furnish the necessary capital. British Columbia has never been noted for blowing its own trumpet. Indeed it has been a little too much the other way and the result is, that to-day very little is known about the province and its resources by people in England or even Canada. The time has come however, when the capabilities of British Columbia should be made widely known, especially in regard to its mines. That immense wealth lies hidden in the rocks and gravel beds of the Pacific Coast is an ascertained fact and not a matter of speculation. To turn these rich deposits of gold and silver into use requires capital and in order to obtain the means to develop them their value and extent must be clearly demonstrated to those who have the money to invest. Once the capabilities of the Province are thoroughly understood in Great Britain, there will be little difficulty in obtaining the necessary capital to develop our mines.

### The Salvation of the Province.

Premier Turner of British Columbia when in England spoke to many people with a view to enlisting capital for the development of the mineral wealth of the Province. "What is wanted," he said, "in order to attract more attention to the province, is some actual returns in the form of dividends from some of our large new mines. When these are forthcoming, which will, I believe, be very soon, we shall have a proportionate boom in the precious metals of British Columbia, to that which is taking place in regard to South Africa. At the present time South Africa is, to a certain extent, attracting a great deal of capital which we should like to draw to British Columbia. I have been talking to several parties interested in South African mines, and, on my suggesting that probably a great deal might be lost, as there is so much gambling in mining stocks, and that it would be better for them to transfer their investments to British Columbia, the invariable reply is: "Large fortunes have been and are being made in South Africa, not only by members of the stock exchange, but large dividends have actually been paid to the shareholders at home. When capitalists," continued the premier, "see the published returns of these companies, they naturally think that South Africa is the best place for them to invest in. What we want in order to divert

attention to British Columbia, is to have a good output from our mines, and to have it made known, and thus to show that British Columbia mines can pay dividends, thereby giving an opportunity of our figures being compared with other mineral producing countries." Incidentally it may be mentioned that the new agent-general for British Columbia, Hon. F. G. Vernon, is doing good work in this respect, as he is constantly forwarding to English mining journals, particulars of the output of British Columbia mines. These journals gladly publish the information, and it must, accordingly, be very evident that the premier and the agent-general have hit upon the right plan wherewith to attract westward a portion of the capital which at the present time goes to Africa and to Australia.

### Alberni.

Alberni is attracting some attention as a gold mining camp. It is said that two or three companies have been organized, and have secured the necessary capital to equip and carry on hydraulic works on China Creek, about 7 or 8 miles from the town of Alberni.

Fair prospects are found in many places along the Creek, and it is possible that a considerable area of workable pay gravel will be found when the old channels have been located. The county is heavily wooded, and there is a good deal of underbrush, making it difficult to trace out the different steps or benches which mark the channels of various periods, formed by the decreasing volumes of water which flowed from the Great Canon, between the two high mountains to the east, towards Alberni Canal in the west.

China Creek enters the Alberni Canal on Barclay Sound, west coast of Vancouver Island, about 7 miles south of Alberni, and is a fair sized stream, carrying 5,000 miner's inches of water or more in the spring, when the snows are melting on the mountains, but probably not one-fourth of that at low water, which will be for about half the working season. The present stream runs in a westerly direction through the pass in the mountains, about 8 miles from its mouth, takes a bend round to the northward and then flows in a south-westerly direction into the canal. The fall in the stream varies from 50 or 60 feet to the mile near the mouth, to 100 and even 150 feet to the mile in the canon above.

The gravel banks or benches vary from 10 to 150 feet in height above the stream, but the depth of gravel is not known, no shafts having yet been sunk to bed-rock at any distance back from the creek.

The gold quartz lodes on Mineral Creek, which comes into China Creek from the north about 8 miles up, give every promise of a good gold camp. The leads are of a good average size and are generally most favorably situated for development by means of tunnels.

Very high assays have been talked about and published, but as these have generally come from pieces of quartz in which free gold could be seen, they are not sufficient to establish the average grade of the workable ore. Work is now being carried on, and openings have been made in quite a number of places on the lodes, and there is not much doubt that, on the properly opening up of the claims, they will develop mines capable of giving very satisfactory results.

### Gold Mining in British Columbia.

The following are extracts from the *Mineral Wealth of British Columbia* by George M. Dawson, D.S.F.G.S., Director of Geological Surveys of Canada, referring to mining in British Columbia on the Fraser river:

"The Fraser carries to the sea a great part of the entire drainage of the interior of British Columbia. At its mouth, the great quantity of detritus which it has brought down has formed an extensive delta. Followed up to the vicinity of Hope, its valley becomes defined by bordering mountain ridges, which gradually converge to the mouth of the canon at Yale. This lower part of the valley must be regarded as an ancient salt-water inlet, which has been filled up by the material transported by the river, the harder and older rock-bottom of the valley being generally covered to a great depth. Between Yale