

Nanaimo's Resources.

The following article is from the *Free Press*, a journal published at Nanaimo, the coal mining centre of British Columbia:—

The discovery announced by the *Free Press* of a bed of superior fire clay on the property of the East Wellington Coal Company, within three miles of this city, is a most valuable one, and opens up the possibilities of this favored district to an almost unlimited extent. In the matter of iron smelting this immediate vicinity now provides in abundance, and of the most excellent quality, the three necessary ingredients—iron ore, coal and fire clay. Nature has most unquestionably completed her full share, and now, all that is needed, is the necessary enterprise and capital to start in our midst extensive blast furnaces, that will be able to supply, not only, the local demand, but by means of the Canadian Pacific Railway reach out for the eastern provincial trade, until it is met by the Atlantic seaboard article. The *Free Press* is sufficiently imbued with optimistic proclivities to believe that the day is not very far distant, when Vancouver Island will not alone supply all the coal needed on the Pacific slope, but the iron also. Our cousins to the south have obtained by purchase, valuable iron claims on the adjacent Island of Texada, the product of which they transport by steamers to Port Townsend, where smelting works on a somewhat limited scale, are now in successful operation. To enable our American friends to use their bog grade of iron ore—the only grade yet discovered in the Pacific States—they have to use a very liberal proportion of the superior magnetic iron ore of Texada Island. If our neighbors can therefore make a success of the enterprise, with all the adverse surroundings, surely Canadian pluck, enterprise and capital, which when once moved is fully equal to the similar attributes of our neighbors across the 49th parallel, can effect even greater results, when it is considered what opportunities an ever beneficent nature has placed in unlimited quantities at their disposal. Texada and Vancouver Islands are without doubt permeated with extensive deposits of iron ore, even as the latter is underlaid with valuable and extensive seams of coal that are rapidly making her the second, if not the first, Newcastle in the world. It has been clearly demonstrated for some time that the coal and iron beds are practically inexhaustible, and now we have the discovery, of what has been anxiously and energetically searched for—a valuable deposit of fire clay. Attempts have been made in the past to endeavor to get foreign capital to come in and open out our resources. While foreign capital would be acceptable and meet with the most cordial and liberal greeting, still the *Free Press* is of the opinion that the day has now dawned when Canadians, and British Columbians especially, should be self-reliant, and depend principally upon their own skill, capital and enterprise to open up, develop and operate the iron beds and transpose the native ore into the merchantable commodity, which has become such an important factor in the world's mechanical, commercial and social history. Iron in some shape or another enters into the service of mankind generally in nearly every phase and movement of life. British Columbia, yea, Nanaimo itself, has sufficient latent capital to erect and operate smelting works on an extensive and profitable scale. It is a true maxim

that "God helps those who first help themselves," and this should be the watchword of the people of Nanaimo. There is sufficient money lying idle within a radius of ten miles from the "historic Bastion" to successfully start and operate half a dozen large smelting works. What is needed are some shrewd, practical men, who enjoy the confidence of the community, to take the matter in hand and success would be assured.

Fur Prices at Montreal.

The *Trade Bulletin* quotes fur prices as follows:—Beaver, per lb., \$1 to \$1.50; bear, per skin, \$12, \$15 to \$18; bear cub, per skin, \$5, \$7 to \$8; fisher, \$5; fox, red, \$1 to \$1.50; fox, cross, \$2.50; lynx, \$4 to \$5; marton, \$1 to \$1.25; mink, \$1.25 to \$1.50; muskrat, fall 10c, winter 15c; otter, \$10 to \$12; racoon, 50c to 75c; skunk, 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.

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