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## The State Versus the Speculator in Australia

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EDITOR'S NOTE.—The resources of British Columbia are unrivalled in Australia or any other portion of the Empire, and this article does not aim at giving the palm to the Commonwealth as the haven for any foot-loose pioneer, British or otherwise, in preference to our own province. It does aim, however, at planting some seeds of thought in our minds as to improving our own methods for placing good, solid citizens on our own soil. If any of our readers writes us down as tiresome in the matter of reiterating the fact that the source of all our wealth, present and future, is the land, he can find cold comfort in the fact that when he and we have passed on, the best friends of British Columbia will still be preaching the same old gospel from the same old text.

THE steady tramp of forty boys, almost all from Western Australia, was recently heard in the streets of Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria. Since leaving us these boys have been received by the King in the heart of the Empire. One of the principal objects of their world-encircling tour is to draw attention to the great western state of the Australian Commonwealth. The practical advertising value of the tour was recognized by the Government of Western Australia in a grant of money towards the expenses of the boys.

In British Columbia, and indeed everywhere they have been, they proved an attraction such as the shrewd Young Australia League intended. Their appearance has caused people to make enquiries about the resources of Western Australia, that great state which covers an area of nearly a million square miles and possesses every

variety of climate from that of dry, desert heat, to a rainfall in the southwest greater than that of the coast towns of British Columbia.

The glamour of the gold rush has come and gone, and Coolgardie has become little more than a name. The flourishing city of Kalgoorlie with its neighbor, Boulder, has, however, taken its place.

The drought of Coolgardie is historic, and is almost the only striking fact about Western Australia that sticks in our minds today. It will be news, therefore, to most people that a great feat of engineering has rendered the parched district in which the gold fields are situated a habitable and well-irrigated area. For hundreds of miles a great water main extends through the wilderness of sand from Mundaring. At Freemantle a magnificent artificial harbor has been built with splendid breakwaters, and it is here that passengers from Europe by