

PROSPECTUS

OBJECT With the *primary object* of placing before the reading public a *blende* of short stories *sorted* from the lives of those who *delve* into the hills in search of Mother Earth's hidden treasure vaults, the *promoter* of this journalistic *venture* formed a *small syndicate* of pencil pushers

DESCRIPTION Lying between Christina lake on the east, the Hope range of mountains on the west, with the forty ninth parallel of latitude for its southern *end line*, and stretching some fifty miles to the north, is an *area* of more or less heavily timbered, mountainous country with intersecting fertile valleys, mighty streams and torrential water courses and placid lakes a country where Nature has been lavish in the *distribution* of her *mineral wealth*. Embosomed in this veritable Empire are the *main divisions* of the Boundary, Osoyoos and Similkameen, British Columbia

HISTORY Half a century ago this vast hinterland was practically unknown except to roving bands of warlike Indians and an occasional trapper in the employ of Canada's historic commercial corporation. "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay." In 1857-8, the years of the Fraser river gold excitement, came the *prospector* who scoured the country in search of *placer*, several streams and creeks yet bearing witness of having been *exploited* for the *yellow metal* to be found in the *auriferous sands*. The mainland of the Province was an independent Crown Colony administered by Governor. Afterwards, Sir James Douglas. The fall of '59 saw hundreds of *prospectors* cradling the *sands* of the Similkameen, Tulameen and other rivers to the east. The necessity at once arose for means of better *communication* between the numerous *camps* on these rich streams and Yale and Victoria, the natural *supply points*. Governor Douglas in the winter of 1860 called to his service a young English civil engineer named Edgar Dewdney, to whom he entrusted the task of building a four foot *trail* from Hope across the almost impassable Hope range to Vermilion Forks, the junction of the Similkameen and Tulameen rivers, a distance of 65 miles. The year following witnessed the *rush* of over 2,000 *miners* to the Rock Creek *placers* and the *trail* was continued on to that point. Three years later, in 1863, Wild Horse creek in east Kootenay was *discovered*, and upon the *reports* of its fabulously *rich dirt* reaching the coast a *stampede* started to the new found *El Dorado*. Governor Frederick Seymour knowing the importance of having direct means of communication on the coast, followed in the steps of his predecessor in employing young Dewdney, and within seven months the *trail* was completed and the merchants on the coast were sending in *supplies* by *pack train* a distance of some 500 miles. It will thus be seen that in the earliest days of its *exploitation* all *trails* led to the coast and all *supplies* came thence. This should be repeated in the fuller and permanent *development* of the country, when steel roads are

taking the place of *trails* and the iron horse of the *convoys*. The total cost to the Colony of that *undertaking* amounted to only \$74,000. Even today some parts of this historic highway are still in use, but for the most it is overgrown with rank vegetation and the numerous bridges that spanned gorges and streams have rotted and fallen away.

METALLIFEROUS DEPOSITS The *alluvial deposits* having been *depleted*, the southern portion of the province remained *dormant*, practically speaking, until the '80's, when once again came the *Bedouin* of the hills, this time in search of *metalliferous lodes* and *veins carrying gold, silver, copper and lead*. From thence onward the districts, hampered at first for *lack of capital* to develop their *latent resources*, slighted by the Government in their frequent petitions for much needed appropriations to *construct trails and roads*, and even *hounded* down by the "yellow leggers," slowly but persistently came to the front. The construction of railways into the Boundary, now being extended into the Osoyoos and Similkameen districts, and the *investment* of millions in the *development* of its *mines* and the erection of big smelting works, has already placed this district in the front rank of British Columbia's *mineral producing divisions*. History is repeating itself further west. During the last two decades hundreds of adventurous spirits have faced the perils of the bleak mountains, dismal forests and turbulent streams while *traversing* the mineralized and barren dyles and *forming* to fight with Dame Fortune.

REPORTS Herewith recorded will be found *reports*, accompanied by *plans* and illustrations, *stamped* from the *camps* of the Boundary, Osoyoos and Similkameen—treasure tales of old Mother Earth that may produce a *shoot of interest* in the lives of the "trail blazers" who have already done so much to make known the potentialities of these districts. Some of these *reports* carry the *air marks* of truth. Others are *based* on fact but embellished with a *strain* of fiction, and the rest are *pouched* from *expert* imagination that must be accepted *cum grano salis*. Whether this classical quotation be the origin of the term "salting" the promoter cannot say.

IN CONCLUSION it might be pointed out that even today this section of the Province has barely been *scratched over*. It offers an *entree held to* *deft* into for intelligent effort and brawn, and Fortune, be it remembered, plays no *favorites* between *practical prospectors* and *lenderfoot*.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS Should your *investment* *pay out* satisfactorily the *Syndicate* trusts that you may be able to obtain other *subscriptions* to the *venture*, so that a *dividend* may be declared by

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The Promoter.