

The Resources of British Columbia.

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

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Opinions of Eminent Personages.

There is no doubt that any Canadian who visits this Island and the Mainland shores, and sees the happiness of the people, the forest-laden coast, the tranquil gulfs and glorious mountains, can but congratulate himself that his country possesses scenes of such perfect beauty.

No words can be too strong to express the charm of this delightful land, where the climate, softer and more constant than that of the south of England, ensures at all times of the year a full enjoyment of the wonderful loveliness of nature around you.

Agreeable as I think the steady and dry cold of an eastern winter is, yet there are very many who would undoubtedly prefer the temperature enjoyed by those who live west of the mountains. Even where it is coldest, spring comes in February, and the country is so divided into districts of greater dryness or greater moisture, that a man may always choose whether to have a rainfall small or great.—*The Marquis of Lorne.*

Well, I may frankly tell you that I think British Columbia a glorious province—a province which Canada should be proud to possess, and whose association with the Dominion she ought to regard as the crowning triumph of Federation.—*The Earl of Dufferin.*

If any citizen will bring his family here for one summer he will find the truth to be that Victoria combines in itself more and rare advantages as a summer resort than any of the eastern resorts with which he is probably familiar. Victoria must become the great summer resort of the Pacific coast.—*American Tourist.*

This is the most delightful country I have ever seen; in all my travels I have never experienced so enjoyable a day.—*Senator Edmonds, Vice President of the United States.*

There is no doubt that with a smaller amount of labor and outlay than in almost any other country the energetic settler may soon surround himself with all the elements of comfort and even affluence.—*Sir James Douglas.*

It remains only for me to add that as years roll on, and our possessions become developed, the value of this second Britain will come so vividly before our people that men will ask with astonishment why such ignorance prevailed in the past. To-day there are

four hundred miles of coast line in our western possessions, clothed with a forest growth superior to anything else in the world at present. Its shore indented with multitudes of harbors, bays and inlets, teeming with myriads of fish. Its rocks and sands containing gold, iron, silver, coal and various other minerals. And besides all this, a climate superior to England in every respect, both as regards heat and moisture, and yet men will ask what is it all worth? I answer, 'worth more than Quebec and all the maritime provinces thrown in, and sceptics may rest assured that the day is not far distant when my words will be accepted as truth.'—*Prof. Macoun.*



THE MODERN ROCKER.

One of the most simple and useful machines used in placer mining is the Rocker, of which the above cut is an illustration. The old time miner whose eyes may fall upon this page will greet the picture as that of an old and familiar friend, one scarcely less dear to him than the trusted "pard" with whom he shared his well filled sack of yellow nuggets, or, if need be, his last pound of beans and only slice of bacon.

The Rocker, as its name implies, is simply a kind of cradle, the bottom of which is perforated or slatted and resting on an inclined sluice traversed by a number of transverse grooves. From the great difference of density existing between the particles of gold and the siliceous and ferruginous gravel with which it is commonly associated, its separation from these bodies becomes an extremely simple operation. The same principles which regulate the fall of solid bodies through a liquid medium in a state of rest, are equally applicable to their removal by the action of a stream of running water. The gravel or earth to be washed is placed in the Rocker which is agitated to and fro, water being poured on at the same time, until the gold, together with a small portion of ferruginous sand, remains in the furrows, after which the matrix is removed and treated with quicksilver by which the precious metal is separated from the sand or other base matter.