

north-west, just inside the Rocky Mountains, and includes the mining localities which have been called Kootenay, Big Bend, Cariboo, Omineca and Cassiar from south to north.

Coal mining is one of the most important industries in British Columbia. The deposits are very widely spread, both on the main land and in the islands. The coal of Nanaimo and vicinity, on Vancouver Island, being so far the best that has been found on the western coast of America. All authorities agree as to the extent and value of the coal beds of British Columbia.

There is every indication that the silver mines of British Columbia will within the next few years prove to be the most valuable ever discovered on the American continent; the specimens of ore so far assayed having given high yields of silver. There are also deposits of copper, iron, galena, ciannabar, platinum and other ores in large quantities awaiting development.

Of British Columbia as a farming, grazing and fruit growing country, the Marquis of Lorne says :--Wherever there is open land the wheat crops rival the best grown elsewhere, while there is nowhere any dearth of ample provision of fuel and lumber for the winter. As you get your colonization roads pushed, you will have a larger available acreage, for there are quiet straths and valleys hidden away among the rich forests, which would provide comfortable farms. As in the North-west last year, so this year, I have taken down the evidence of settlers, and this has been wonderfully favorable. To say

the truth, I was rather hunting for grumblers and found only one. There is no reason why British Columbia should not be for this portion of our territory what California is to the States, in the supply afforded of fruits. The perfection attained by small fruits is unrivalled, and it is only with the Peninsula of Ontario that you would have to compete for the supplies of grapes, peaches, pears apples, cherries, plums, apricots and currants.

The most richly endowed with gifts of material advantage of all provinces, British Columbia excels them all in beauty. In the magnificence of her rugged mountains, the charm of her land-locked waters, the lonely grandeur of her forests and the quiet beauty of her prairies, she possesses a wonderful variety--a combination of scenic beauty. Whether a traveller approaches from the east after crossing the apparently illimitable prairies, or from the west at the conclusion of an ocean voyage, he is filled with a sense of relief, mingled with curiosity and pleased expectancy. The features that may be found almost beautiful must depend on the temperament of each spectator, but it happens that nature has so arranged the forms and attributes of this country that whether coming from the east or west the traveller finds a striking contrast to that which he is leaving behind him, and as contrast is a primary condition of excellence in that which is to delight the eye, his aesthetic sense is sure of gratification.

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