

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S RESOURCES.

Montana Correspondent Writes Discouragingly to Leading London Daily—Big Timber Deal.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Vancouver, June 1st.

The publication of a letter in a London daily from an anonymous correspondent, who gives his address as Canton, Broadwater, Montana, U.S.A., may result in harm to British Columbia among a section of the British public who may not have information. It states that this province is sparsely settled, and is simply a wilderness of mountains, with a few cases of garden spots along narrow valleys, and that these locations are often adapted to fruit growing. It further states that the common idea that the country is one of great natural resources in mines, agricultural or timber is untrue, and that in this light the proposal of the government here to endow the Provincial University with two million acres of land may prove a white elephant for that deserving institution. Statements such as these may not be wilfully made, but nevertheless they are incorrect, and the London editor should know sufficient about this portion of the Empire than to allow such a communication to be printed without comment. British Columbia has an agent general in London, Hon. J. H. Turner, and statistics can be given to show any anonymous correspondent that the idea that British Columbia possesses great natural resources in mines, agricultural and timber is quite correct.

Rapid Growth of Towns.

Such a letter betrays an ignorance which can only be excused because the writer must have been immured in the mountain fastnesses of Montana since before the days of the advent of the railways into this province. If he were familiar with current events or moved outside of Canton, Broadwater, Montana, he must have encountered people, who, if not among those who made fortunes in British Columbia, at least had personal knowledge of its immense resources. Perhaps he was one of those who in the early mining boom of the Pacific North-West invested, or rather threw money, into some hole in the ground.

It is not a long trip from Montana to the coast of British Columbia. The correspondent should make it, since he gives evidence of having travelled little. Should he come by way of Fernie he would see how a new city has been built in a year because of its great coal mines; a visit to Rossland and Nelson would show what mines and local industries have done for those towns; a trip to Revelstoke and Kamloops, cities on the main line of the C.P.R., would prove that they could not flourish if his statements were true. Then on the coast, there is the wonderful progress of Vancouver, the prosperity of New Westminster and the substantial appearance of Victoria, as well as the activity in Nanaimo. He will realize that there must be material resources of mines, timber and agriculture in the province to maintain these in all their affluence.

Should Retrieve the Wrong.

If there is justice in him, he will be prompt to remove his name from the list of irresponsible correspondents.

It is opportune to be able to mention a deal that took place during the week, which is one only of a very large number that have marked the activity in timber during the last few months. It was the paying of \$250,000 cash to J. M. MacKinnon, managing director of the Canadian Pacific Sulphite Pulp Company of this city, for seventy square miles of timber. The buyers were R. W. Gibson, of Victoria, and Thomas Meredith, of New Westminster. Mr. Meredith left this week on a holiday trip to Europe. He and Mr. Gibson came west from the prairie country, and their combined investments total close on a million dollars. It is hardly likely business men of their calibre would sink such a large amount of money in enterprises if there were not substantial resources to be developed and which in time will make their holdings all the more valuable.

DEVELOPING ALBERTA'S RESOURCES.

Representatives of Zion City, Illinois, are now in Southern Alberta selecting a tract of 100,000 acres on which will be located a small colony of Zionites, and an early start will be made during the spring of next year. The colony will be made composed of experienced farmers, who will farm the land on improved methods and with the most modern machinery. That the partially explored and undeveloped regions of Alberta are rich in gold, coal, asphaltum and petroleum, and that the Peace River district in particular contains possibilities in this direction, will shortly be put to the test. A prospector who has just returned from the Peace River country states that he saw gold in the creeks in paying quantities, rich hard coal in the ravines, deposits of rich black asphaltum, and indications of petroleum. In this connection a party will return north and locate a large ranch in the Grande Prairie district, where there are 75 miles of clean level prairie of the finest grazing land, and from there will carry on prospecting trips into the northern Peace River country. A survey will also be made this summer by survey parties from Winnipeg looking to the selection of 320,000 acres of the Hudson Bay Company's land grant north of the Saskatchewan River. That Alberta has possibilities as a field rich in natural gas and oil, is the opinion of Mr. Eugene Coste, mining engineer of Toronto. He has been engaged by the C.P.R. Company, and is supervising boring operations at Bassano and Brooks, in Bow River valley, and the announcement is made that already favorable indications of oil have been recorded. Boring is also going on at Bow Island, and the C.P.R. executive has made a large appropriation for drilling for petroleum at this point also.

CANADIAN COPPER DEPOSITS.

Although copper has been mined for many years in the eastern provinces of the Dominion, and the mines of Georgian Bay, in Western Ontario are of practically the same age as the oldest of the Lake Superior properties in Michigan, the Canadian copper industry did not come to importance until the exploitations of the great nickle copper deposits of the Sudbury districts, beginning with about 1886, says Mr. Horace J. Stevens, in his Copper Handbook for 1908, which has just been received. Ten years later, he states, the production of the Trail district in British Columbia became important, and was followed by far greater development in the boundary district of the same province, this field now ranking among the real important copper districts of the world. Despite its considerable present development, the copper industry of Canada must be rated as merely in its infancy, and the Dominion must be included in any list of the copper producing countries of the present or future.

British Columbia produces more than three quarters of the Canadian copper output, and Ontario furnishes nearly all of the balance of the production, but there are small mines in most of the other provinces and the territory of Yukon is a potential producer of importance.

This review of Canadian copper fields, no doubt, will be found interesting. In his book Mr. Stevens deals with all the copper producing countries of the world and gives the names, addresses of, and some useful information about every copper mining company of importance. The handbook is a fifteen hundred page edition and is an absolute necessity to all interested in this mineral. The Copper Handbook, Vol. 8, 1908, by Mr. Horace J. Stevens, Houghton, Mich. Price, \$5.00.

Mr. R. G. McCraw, of Lindsay, who for the past five years has been station agent of the G.T.R. of that town, has been appointed travelling freight agent of the Wisconsin Central, which has been taken over by the C.P.R.