

“enjoyed exceptional opportunities of investigation, I feel no
“hesitation in recording my belief that the northern moiety of
“the Cordillera will ultimately prove to be susceptible of a
“development corresponding in importance to that which has
“already been attained in the southern.”

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“With respect to vein-mining proper, we have as yet to
“chronicle merely the first steps, but in the southern part of
“the province the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway
“has at length afforded the necessary impetus in this direction,
“and it is very gratifying to find, as an immediate consequence,
“that this part of the country is rapidly beginning to prove its
“valuable character and to justify the confidence which those
“best able to form an opinion on the subject have always felt,
“and frequently expressed. Everything which has been ascer-
“tained of the geological character of the province as a whole,
“tends to the belief that so soon as similar means of travel and
“transport shall be extended to what are still the more
“inaccessible districts, these also will be discovered to be
“equally rich in minerals, particularly in the precious metals,
“gold and silver.”

Regarded then as a producer of the precious metals, Canada
would seem to have a bright future before her. Even if in the
past she has not held a very prominent position, the progress
recently made has been very rapid and encouraging, whilst a
study of all the conditions seems certainly to justify the belief
that she will yet hold her place amongst the larger producing
countries of the world.