

extensive, the question arises as to their richness, or rather their capacity to give immediate and profitable employment to any considerable population. The practical point to be decided is, whether everything considered, better wages can be realized there than in the mines of California. Of course, it is not to be expected that any person, however much he may have seen of the two countries, or however conversant he may be with their comparative advantages, will assume to advise which should be chosen as a field for mining operations. So much depends on circumstances—the situation of parties, their fitness to endure hardship and exposure, on the increase of facilities for reaching the interior of British Columbia, and a variety of considerations, applying with greater or less force in each individual case, that any advice given on this point would necessarily be qualified to an extent rendering it nearly valueless as a general rule of action. The most that could be expected of one treating on the subject is that a full and candid statement of facts should be given, leaving each one to judge for himself as to the propriety of going or staying. It is the opinion of very many who have visited these northern mines that a hardy and persevering man, being without a mining claim here, or sufficient means to buy into one, might for the next few years make more money there than in California. This, however, is on the supposition that he is capable of not only doing hard work, but also of subsisting on coarse and scanty fare, and that he can be absent for a length of time without serious inconvenience to himself or others; and also, perhaps, on the further condition that cheap and expeditious means of transportation be supplied between the head of steamboat navigation and the mines, since, with the present inadequate means of carriage, the inducements for emigrating to that quarter are greatly diminished, the cost of subsistence in these mines being enormous; not less in the more remote localities than the combined expense of living and the price usually paid for labor in this State. That additional improvements will shortly be made for effecting that object, either by the Colonial government engaging in the work or encouraging others to do so, there is every reason for believing, from the prompt and liberal manner in which it has hitherto responded to demands of this kind; not less than \$150,000 having already been expended from the public treasury in opening new routes, or in endeavors to facilitate the carriage of goods into the mines. From present indications, it may be safely inferred that the cost of passage and freight over these routes, heretofore oppressively high, will be reduced one hundred per cent., if not more, during the coming summer, causing a corresponding reduction in the expenses of the miner, and a like increase in the net profits he will be able to realize from his labor. Should this be done, there is little doubt that men of moderate means might, unless going in too great numbers, do quite as well for the present on Fraser

river as on any of the streams in our own State. One advantage in these comparatively fresh mines is that every man can be his own master; he can own his claim and work it himself; none need be hirelings, and none need be idle; whereas, in California it is quite different. It is not every miner who can be a proprietor here; nor is it always that a man can get work when he wants it.

It requires capital to buy into a claim here, or else much time must be spent in prospecting before one is found, and then not always with success. There, no persevering and industrious man need have any difficulty on this score; none need hire out their services, or be compelled to go for a length of time without employment. In saying this, of course we mean on the upper Fraser and its tributaries, where alone, the real mines are, and to which most new comers must make their way if they expect to be successful. The writer is aware how little short of seditious this sort of language will be regarded by those who fear the transfer of a few thousand men, the mere shifting the point of consumption from one place on this coast to another, will effect the ruin of California. But still he is of opinion that a candid statement of facts can never work harm, and that labor, while it should never be diverted into profitless channels, should always be left to seek its most remunerative field. There are sufficient discouragements to emigration to the Fraser river mines without recourse to misrepresentation or concealment. Their remote and inaccessible position, the exorbitant prices of provisions prevailing at present, the cold winters and long continued stage of high water, with many minor difficulties and objections, make up a formidable argument against their claims to attraction, and will no doubt check any undue diversion of our people that way. Yet in the face of all these discouragements, there is good reason to believe some thousand of the more hardy and adventurous of our population, with an indefinite number of the idle and unemployed, might repair to these northern mines with profit to themselves and no great detriment to the public. Indeed, whatever of damage certain interests may have suffered from the begira of last year, it cannot be denied that much good resulted to this community in the happy riddance of a large number of worthless and non-producing members effected through its agency.

The cities and towns throughout the State had become sadly infested by a class of lazy, listless drones, some discouraged through want of success, others broken down by dissipation and vice—some vagabonds from force of circumstances, and some from force of habit, yet all more or less a burden to their friends and a nuisance to society, and who, but for some stimulous like this Fraser river excitement, never would have made another honest effort to earn a livelihood; but who, aroused by the prospect of easily acquired wealth, again be-