## Hon. J. H. Turner Sets Forth Resources of B.C.



HE East Anglican Times, in its issue of Tuesday, April 14th, had the follow-

Suffolk men have a decided interest in British Columbia, and East Anglians a still greater share in its development. One of the most dis-tinguished Suffolkers who has "made his mark" in that wonderful country, which is said to be more British than Briton itself, is the Hon. J. H. Tur-ner, a native of Claydon, who, after

ner, a native of Claydon, who, after an absence of over sixty years from this "native heath," is now on a visit to Ipswich for the purpose of giving a lecture on the country of his adoption at the Town Hall this evening. By the kindness of Mr. W. F. Paul, who is Mr. Turner's host on this occasion, a representative of the East Anglican Dally Times was permitted to have a chat with the Agent-General of British Columbia, at his house on the heights of Beistead on Monday evening. Mr. Turner, as a resident for many years in the city of Wictoria, has been accustomed to gaze on one of the finest panoramic views in the world, but the hope may reasonably be entertained that if, during this forenoon, he surveys the grand, view to be obtained from Orwell Lodge, over the flowing tide of the beautiful estuary which gives its name to the house, he will take away with him a recollection of the home country which will be as difficult to effect as some of those glimpes of the Western paradise of which he is so proud. so proud.
Mr. Turner has since 1901, been resident in London

Mr. Turner has since 1901, been resident in London, but for forty years before that date he was one of British Columbia's most active and useful citizens. He left this district at the age of seven, and he is now turned seventy, so that his glance backwards does not contain a great deal that has relation to the Gipping Valley. He remembers, however, paying a visit to lipswich when a parliamentary election was in progress, and his recollection of that occasion is chiefly of blue and yellow favors mixed confusedly amongst the populace and traffic in the streets. Another memory of those tender years is of a visit to Batty's circumory of those tender years is of a visit to Batty's circumory of those tender years is of a visit to Batty's circumory of those tender years is of a visit to Batty's circumory of those tender years is of a visit to Batty's circumory of those tender years is of a visit to Batty's circumory of those tender years is of a visit to Batty's circumory. mory of those tender years is of a visit to Batty's circus, in Ipswich. Is it not a strange vagary of the brain that right across the busy life of a politician of the Western "wilds," a life teeming with great events, and topics of still enthralling interest to this active and topics of still enthralling interest to this active public man, comes the clear recollection of a circus in what was then but a small country town?

Mr. Turner turned his face to the West as a young man, in obedience to the magic influence of "gold," which had been found in great quantities in

the famous Cariboo mines, but on arriving on the Pacific slope he found that thousands were returning Pacific slope he found that thousands were returning in disappointment from the heart-breaking journey to the gold country without having reached the goal of their ambitions. Profiting by the hard experience of others, he decided on adopting a more prosaic, but less desperate, career, in the chief town of the island of Vahcouver—Victoria—now one of the most beautiful and most up-to-date cities in the world. He soon took a part in the municipal life of the place, and in 1879 became mayor of the city—a position which he held for three years. From this beginning he developed into a representative of Victoria in the Liegislative Assembly of the Province. He became Minister of Finance and Agriculture in 1887, and occupied that post until 1898, and again took up that portfolio in 1899, until in the first year of the present century he accepted his present appointment. For cupled that post until 1898, and again took up that portfolio in 1899, until in the first year of the present century he accepted his present appointment. For thirteen years he had the honor of introducing the budget. He also introduced acts for the encouragement of truit growing, dairying, and the formation of farmers' limitotes and farmers' banks. On the last subject the writer invited him to express his opinion, and he had to confess that farmers' banks did not "catch on" in British Columbia, therefore he had not had actual personal experience of hew they worked. He added, however: "I read up a good deal for those Acts, and I remember that I was very much impressed with the success of the farmers' bank in Continental countries. If a man wanted a cow, for instance, the bank would let him have the money with which to purchase it, and their only security very often would be the cow itself. Yet the system praved such a success that the losses at the time I was enquiring into the subject had not been 3 per cent."

Naturally the subject of British Columbia was uppermost in the interview, but in the view of the lecture he is to give tonight, the topic for publication had its limitations. British Columbia, as a place for tourists, was a subject on which he waxed cloquent, and what a subject it is! "The country has been," he said, "very difficult of access, but when the Canadian Pacific Railway came through, it altered that. The making of the railway was bitterly opposed in Eastern Canada, as on account of the small population in the West they said they would have to pay for it.

tion in the West they said they would have to pay for it. Events proved, however, that British Columbia itself paid for the railway, and there is a decent margin to its credit into the bargain.

Asked as to how it had been done, he explained that when the line was projected, the province granted twenty miles of land on each side of the line for about five hundred miles, and before the line was concluded the Pominion government represented that about five hundred miles, and before the line was concluded the Bominion government represented that, on account of the nature of the country through which, the railway passed, the twenty miles did not contain the number of acres that was anticipated, and the province then gave to the Dominion government some two million acres of land in what is known as the Peace River country in the North-Bastern portion of British Columbia. This Peace River land is reported as well adapted for wheat growing. In addition to these grants of land, the Customs tariff (the whole of which goes to the Dominion government) has vielded

these grants of land, the Customs tariff (the whole of which goes to the Dominton government) has yielded some twenty million dollars more than the Dominton government has expended in the country. In the Okanagan the wheat fields are being pushed out by fruit farms. Coming back to the tourist facilities and attractions of the country, Mr. Turner said:

"The facilities of the railway are now so good, and also the steam facilities, that people are tempted to British Columbia from all quarters. The scenery is magnificent, and the climate is wonderfully good. Mr. Whymper, the great Alpine climber, says in his book that the mountain scenery of British Columbia is equal to fifty Switzerlands. Then you get on the coast one of the most enjoyable inland seas imaginable for boating and fishing. There are four or five hundred miles of islands in still water up to Alaska—snow-olad mountains on one side and beautiful rich land on the other. There is plenty of big game and fish in abundance. The streams and lakes are full of trout, and the sea is full of salmon. The C.P.R. have now engaged some Alpine guides, and fine fellows they are."

Turning to another branch of the subject, Mr.
Turner spoke eloquently on the wonderful spectacle
presented in connection with the building of Prince
Rupert City—a city being absolutely created out of
nothing-through the enterprise of the Grand Trunk
Pacine Railway.

The Great Opportunity in British Columbia has
not passed, according to Mr. Turner, but is coming.

A Talk on British Columbia British Columbia, the most westerly portion of the Dominion of Canada, is the Gateway of Great Britain to the North Pacific Ocean, being the terminal point at that side of the American Continent for the great Canadian Pacific Railway, and also two other railways, the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern which are now better the canadian Northern which are Northern, which are now being constructed across the continent. British Columbia is the largest province of the Dominion, being about 700 miles in length by 500 broad, and containing about 280,000 acres or approximately three times the area of the United Kingdom, but with a population of only 260,ooo, hardly equal to that of some of the good-sized provincial towns in England. It is very evident therefore, that after making a large allowance for mountain ranges, lakes and rivers, there is still land and room enough for some millions of inhabitants, and owing to the healthiness of its climate, the beauty of its scenery and its great natural assumption of the section of the second of th

of its scenery, and its great natural resources, it is eminently suitable for many thousands from over-crowded Britain to make new homes in. The Pacific Ocean on which British Columbia The Pacific Ocean on which British Columbia looks out is where the most momentous changes in the world's affairs are now going on. With the vast population of the country surrounding this ocean, and its great islands, the largest increase of the world's commerce must take place. In fact this increase has commenced, and is now rapidly growing. One thing alone will illustrate this. The inhabitants of China some 400 millions, only about 10 years ago practically used no wheaten flour, their staple food being rice, but since the increased intercourse of the Chinese with the American continent, they have be-Chinese with the American continent, they have become educated up to using wheaten bread, and in consequence the Canadian mills were working night and day last year to supply the Chinese market with flour. This is already becoming an important trade, but what will it be when the majority of the 400 mil-

lions of China become users of wheaten bread, as undoubtedly they will speedily do.

Forty-six years ago when I first went to British Columbia, there, were practically no steam ships on the Pacific Ocean. A coasting line from Panama north to California and Oregon and another line south to Valparaiso and other ports was about all, but to-day there are many lines of fine steamers crossing that ocean to Japan, China, New Zealand, and the Islands of the Pacific, and more are yearly being added. British Columbia was, at that time, served by an American steamship line with two steamers monthly, and oceasionally these failed, the only other communication with the opter world was by ship via monthly, and occasionally these falled, the only other communication with the outer world was by ship via Cape Horn. Our letters cost 25 cents from Europe, and were five or six weeks on the way. In urgent cases, however, letters could be sent by Wells-Fargo's express to San Francisco, then by pony express across America to New York; the postage being about 2s. Today, we have daily mails from the east of the Rockies and Europe and the United States by the Canadian Pacific Railway and by the American railways. Indeed, British Columbia is served by one Canadian Pacific Railway and by the American railways. Indeed, British Columbia is served by one Canadian and two United States railways already. Our letters cost now only one penny and we can cable to London for little more than the former charge for postage, and every morning we get on our breakfast tables, cabled news from the Old World of events that have already taken place, but according to our Western clocks will not happen for too or three hours later. Owing to these changed conditions, British Columbia has been brought much nearer to the Old Country. Country.

The only way from England to Victoria was The only way from England to Victoria was either a six or seven months journey by ship via Cape Horn or by steamer to Panama, rail across the Isthmus, then steamer to San Francisco and steamer again north to Victoria; time, five to six weeks. Today the journey from London to Victoria can be made in 10 to 12 days, and by Lord Strathcona's All Red route it will be done in 7 or 8 days, and the contrast as to comfort on the route is as great as the contrast in time, for Atlantic steamers have now become luxurious comfortable hotels, crossing the ocean in half the time they did 40 years ago, and some of them have practically done away with the terrors of sea-sickness. Naturally, these improved conditions for travel have had the effect of making travelers, and British Columbia that was at one

and British Columbia that was at one time really a somewhat out of the way corner of the world has now become the highway of communication between Europe and the countries of the Pacific.

highway of communication between Europe and the countries of the Pacific.

About 1860, the northwest part of America beyond the 49th parallel was looked upon generally by people in other parts of the world as a country somewhere up towards the Behring sea, as a land of black forest, forbidding rocky shores, deluged by the rain, or buried in snow; as in fact, about the last place in the world for anyone to go to, the only apparent use for it being for breeding fur-bearing animals, and their skins as the only valuable produce. The discovery of gold on the Fraser river and subsequently on the streams of the interior of the country was really the raising of the curtain for that part of northwest America. Gold seekers poured in from all parts of the world and soon made their way, as only gold seekers can, hundreds of miles into the land over apparently impassable gorges, canons and mountains, washing gold out of the sand bars on the rivers or digging it from the benches, in many cases going through most terrible hardships in their hunt for the precious metal. Thousands were disappointed in their search, and gradually went, out of the country, but a considerable number had success and in the course of a few years produced and sent out into the world gold to the value of ten to twelve million pounds sterling obtained from placer workings. There was really no mining in the rock for gold or silver, at that time in the province, that form commenced about 1888 and made steady progress, the output increasing yearly until last year it and made steady progress, the output increasing yearly until last year it reached a value of nearly 17 million dollars. The production of the placer mines was at its highest in 1862. From that time it gradually dwindled away, the average product fell to about 750,000 time it gradually dwindled away, the average product fell to about 750,000 dollars annually, and the miners either left the province or looked around for some other means of livelihood there. Some settled on the land as farmers; others tried fishing; others looked to the forest as a means of procuring wealth, but as a fact until about some 30 years ago, British Columbia was generally thought to be a country that was good for mining as the minerals were certainly there, for timber as its wonderful forests spoke for themselves, and for fish as its streams were evidently full of salmon, and the seas with ocean fish, but for agriculture, the country was not worth considering. It had fine scenery, magnificent rivers and lakes,

agriculture, the country was not worth considering. It had fine scenery, magnificent rivers and lakes, and possibly there might be a little dairying and root growing, and a man on the land could probably scratch a living. This was the position in the early seventles; what is it today? It is acknowledged by those who understand anything about the business that British Columbia produces the finest in the world of such fruits, as apples, pears, plums, prunes, cherries and peaches, nectarines, and similar fruits, at any rate equal to the best, whilst its crops of small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, etc. at any rate equal to the best, whilst its crops of small fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, etc., are wonderfully fine. It is admirably adapted also for mixed farming, dairying, poultry, pigs, cattle, sheep and horse raising, and being practically free from insect pests and difficulties of climate, produces regular and almost unfailing crops, then owing to its geographical situation and also local conditions it has unfailing and profitable market for its products. The present good position of the fruit industry no doubt partly arises from the fact that British Columbia began fruit growing somewhat late, and had therefore the experience of other countries to go by, and could appropriate their most successful plans, and in some cases, improve on them, and at any rate avoid their greatest mistakes.

Take for instance the difficulty of insect pests on

Take for instance the difficulty of insect pests on truit. Thousands of acres of orchards in California, Oregon and Washington became valueless and the trees had in many cases to be cut down by thousands. In Oregon alone many thousands were practically valueless owing to codlin moth. British Columbia was actually free, or almost free, from these troubles and active in its full scruwing career. Columbia was actually free, or almost free, from these troubles, and early in its fruit-growing career, the government introduced a number of acts for the encouragement and assistance of agriculture, and under these, and with the consent and co-operation of the Dominion government, all trees and plants from other countries were carefully inspected at ports of entry, and if found in the least infected were fumigated and rendered innocuous or destroyed. Then the old gardens and orchards throughout the province were examined by government inspectors. were fumigated and rendered innocuous or destroyed. Then the old gardens and orchards throughout the province were examined by government inspectors and if found in a foul condition the owners were compelled to spray and thoroughly deanse or destroy the trees. These several methods proved highly satisfactory and the good result arising therefrom was thoroughly demonstrated by the apples and pears sent from British Columbia and exhibited in London and in a number of the principal crites of England and Scotland, during November and December last These exhibitions of Colonial fruit have been going on for five years and every year British Columbia has taken the highest awards at fruit and other shows; not only was the fruit entirely free from insect ravage, but all of jt was practically without speck and blemish, as fresh, rosy, and with nature's bloom on its cheeks as if gathered an hour or two before. This fruit had come from widely distant parts of the province; from Vancouver island in the far west; from Westminster district and the coast, and the mainland, from Lytton, 150 miles inland; from Kamloops, still farther inland; from Chanagan, 200 miles farther west; from Boundary, 200 miles to the south and Nelson and Kaslo on the Kootenay lake, where less than ten years ago people never dreamt of seeing fruit growing, and from Rossland fine apples grown at an elevation, of 3,700 feet, an important fact that I will refer to later on. It had traveled from all these points to a centre on the Canadian Pacific railway, then 3,000 miles to feet, an important fact that I will refer to later on. It had traveled from all these points to a centre on the Canadian Pacific railway, then 3,000 miles to Montreal, then by steamer a voyage of 3,000 miles to England. Arriving here it traveled to a number of Horticultural and Agricultural shows; west to-

Exeter, also to Sheffield, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Norwich, and other important towns. After all this knocking about it still appeared in good condition when sold by ordinary market wholesale auction in Covent Garden, and Liverpool and Glasgow, and brought prices that would have proved profitable to the growers in British Columbia, if the fruit had been shipped in the ordinary commercial way.

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I may be asked how it is possible that fruit could be in such good condition, fit for a piccadilly fruit window, or for the most recherche tables, after all this handling and traveling. My reply is that it was largely due, to its perfect growth, and the admirable method of packing. The fruit growers British Columbia realized at an early time in the history of the trade that not only was it important to grow perfect, clean fruit, but also to have it placed in the market in an equally good condition and that the only way to effect that was by careful and systematic packing. Experienced men visited the orchard districts and gave instruction on the most improved methods of grading and boxing. And the Fruit chard districts and gave instruction on the most improved methods of grading and boxing. And the Fruit Growers' Association and Horticultural Societies paid, and still pay, great attention to this most important part of the industry, the final result being that the apples and other varieties of fruit are so packed and graded that the buyer can, with confidence, make his purchase practically without seeing the fruit simply by the grade, No. 1, No. 2 or ordinary. This, or a similar system should be adopted in Great Britain, which at present, seems to be very much beaind hand in this respect. Last year I was at an auction sale of fruit at Covent Garden. There I saw boxes of British Columbia apples that had travelled over the round I have described, yet when these boxes were opened the fruit was found to be plump, free from specks and bruises, and consequent-

plump, free from specks and bruises, and consequently brought good prices. At the same time I saw English apples brought in packed in all sizes and shapes of boxes and baskets, looking as if the fruit had been taken up on a steam shovel and dumped into these receptacles, regardless of size and quality.



HON, J. H. TURNER Agent-General for British Columbia in London

Some of this English fruit was, I believe, excellent, but owing to the muddling methods could not be possibly sold as equal to the Colonial specimens.

I spoke of fruit grown at an elevation of 3,700 feet. This is an important feature as if generally practicable it enormously extends the amount of land suitable for orchards in the province beyond what has hitherto been estimated as the acreage.

The progress of this particular branch of horticulture is shown by the fact that though it was commenced only some twelve of fourteen years ago there was sent out of the province last year to Alberta. Saskatchewan, Manitoba and other points, 4,743 tons of fruit all sold at prices that gave the growers handsome profits. The acreage under fruit in 1901, when I left the brovince was about 7,400, it has now increased to nearly 100,000 acres. I have already stated that the geographical position of British Columbia helped to give it good markets. This can readily be understood when I point to the adjoining great wheat growing provinces of the Dominion where fruit is not growing brovinces of the Dominion where fruit is not grown, but where the population is increasing by many thousands annually, and where it is found that millions of acres of land that were considered as nearly valueless a few years ago are really adapted for growing the best quality of wheat. A country so large that in a few years it will be raising enough wheat for all Great Britain as well as for the Chinese and other demands. The population of this great section will in the not very distant future be millions, all customers for British Columbia fruit. Then, in addition to the Canadian Provinces the countries round the Pacific are already becoming buyers of British Columbia orchard productions. Even Australia and New Zealand, owing to the difference of seasons are already purchasers, whilst at another part of the year they send their fruit to British Columbia, These outside markets are rapidly growing; then the market in the province is exceedingly good and and earn large wages.

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I have, so far, said nothing of the British market, which no doubt for our finest fruit will be an exceedingly good one, but is hardly wanted at present, as practically all can be sold to markets closer at hand, the growers receiving cash in a few days in place of having to wait several weeks or months for a return from the Old Country. This industry has proved singularly profitable and industrious men can make a fair living on 10 acres of land. The average net profit of an orchard of five or six years' standing, runs from £20 to £40 per acre. For older orchards it goes up to £50 or £80, and there are instances where the net profit considerably exceeds £100 an acre.

If we turn now to other branches of agriculture we find that dairying, for which the country is particularly suitable, is very profitable. This industry is rapidly increasing, but does not nearly supply the home demand yet, there having been imported last year into the province, dairy produce, butter, milk, and cheese, to the value of \$1,507,466, and meat and poultry to the value of \$572,771, eggs \$571,512.

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In addition to dairying, there is mixed farming, poultry, plg, sheep, and cattle raising, all offering splendid opportunities for industrious men.

In a former paper on the province, I enumerated the lattent resources of British Columbia as minerals, timber, fish, and products of the soil. It will be noted that the first three of these have to be opened up by workers who will be great users of the last, and who being well paid are able and willing to be the very best customers, so providing an ever increasing home market.

I place agriculture first, as that is the most important industry for any country, and must in time-percent industry for any country, and must in time-become the greatest, whilst the others really reduce the latent wealth of the country by removing its minerals, timber, etc. The agriculturist, on the other

hand, is all the time producing wealth and simultaneously adding to the value of the land from which that wealth is drawn.

that wealth is drawn.

By turning now to the other great resources we consider first, minerals, which has hitherto been the most important product. I referred, early in this paper, to the time when placer mining declined and the product went down to \$750,000 annually, but then paper, to the time when placer mining declined and the product went down to \$750,000 annually, but then lode mining commenced and has gone on steadily until we find last year the production of gold, silver, copper and lead, amounted to \$16,670,000, and this will, in a few years' time, be looked upon as a very triffing amount, as this form of mining is really only in its infancy—these minerals have only just been touched at present in a dozen places, while yearly it is being demonstrated that the mountains are full of them from the boundary in the south for 700 miles northward to Alaska and from the Rockies in the east to Vancouver Island 600 miles to the west and hundreds of thousands of acres, known to be rich in minerals, are waiting to be developed. Throughout the same widely spread areas of the country, there are important deposits of from ore, not touched at present, except in a small way on Vancouver Island and the Islands of the Straits, copper is also found in large quantities in a similar way, almost all over the province and is already being worked extensively and smelted, the product in 1901 being \$7,680,000, the smelter at the Grand Forks is considered by good authorities as perhaps the most perfect copper smelter in America, and at the present time, it smelts nearly 3,000 tons daily. Silver and lead ore are also abundant throughout a large part of the province. Coal, too, has as wide a diffusion as other minerals for the great Crow's Nest seams are at the southeast corner whilst far north, up by the Skeena are the new veins near the great line of railway now being built, the Grand Trunk Pacific. Then, on Queen Charlotte's Island, farther west, is an immense deposit. Of the vast fields of coal on the Vancouver Island, I need hardly speak as they are well known and have been supplying the Pacific for the last 40 years, but we can go to the interior of the province, Nicola, Kamiloops, and Similkameen, all possessing great coal measures, or we may look at the far northeast towards the Peace River count

try, a land also reported rich in coal We turn now to another most valuable product, timber. As regards this asset British Columbia stands in an unique position, for timber in all parts of the world is being so rapidly cut down that some authorities fear a timber famine in the very near future. The demand has grown so rapidly of late, arising partly from the enormous and rapidly increasing quantity used in the manufacly increasing quantity used in the manufac-ture of paper and manufacturers must, in the near future, look to British Columbia as one of the most reliable sources of supply. The forests in that province are the most ex-tensive and prolific of any on the Continent of America. It is well known that in the United States timber is nearing extinction. The product per acre in British Columbia is very remarkable, there are instances of 500,000 feet being cut to the acre, whilst 50,000 very remarkable, there are instances of 500,000 feet being cut to the acre, whilst 50,000
feet is quite common. In Eastern Cahada
20,000 to the acre is considered to be a very
large cut. The extreme change in the condition of the timber business in the province
is evidenced by the present prices which run
from \$18 to \$25 per 1,000 feet, whilst at the
same time I left British Columbia, 6 years
ago, it was only \$7.50 to \$12.

A number of very large mills have been
erected in the province during the last few
years, and the timber output in 1907 was
about \$40 million feet.

Then we may turn to the fisheries of the

Then we may turn to the fisheries of the province—these have been of very large importance and up to domparatively recently were confined to salmes, the British Columbia Rivers were, in the season, full of these fish. I have seen small streams practically impassable on account of the millions of salmon pushing their way up to the spawning grounds, last year, however, was a poor one for salmon fishing, the total pack being about \$2,900,000 in value, whilst in 1905, it was over \$8,300,000, but in recent years ocean fishing has been commenced and the value of the halibut and herring caught in British Columbia water in 1907 is estimated at over two million dollars.

Having now somewhat hastily indicated the most important products and assets of the province, though there are many other sources and foundations for industry, I can no better show its prosperity and the oppor-

no better show its prosperity and the oppor-tunities it offers for settlers than to call at-tention to the enormous value of the indus-trial production of the country in proportion

Fish	 	** **	** **	7.	.\$25,738,883 . 4,900,000 . 12,690,000 . 7,500,000
					\$50,828,883

or about \$200, say £40, per head of population. Then the state of the public treasury demonstrates the progress of the province—in 1898 the revenue was \$1,500,000; in 1907 it amounted to over four and a quarter millions; the surplus over the expenditure was a million and a quarter, enabling the government to pass large votes for carrying on extensive public works with as making roads and trails and surveys which works will still further develop the country's resources.

In addition to the material assets that I have en-In addition to the material assets that I have enumerated the province possesses others of much importance such as climate, scenery, big game and beautiful trout streams, all of these are of great value and they attract hundreds of travellers, many of whom, charmed by their surroundings, become permanent settlers in the country.

Then how very important it is to the miner, the

Then how very important it is to the miner, the lumberman, farmer, sportsman or explorer, that they should have not only a pleasant, but a healthy, invigorating climate and a beautiful country to live in. The fact of there being practically two climates; one east of the Coast range of mountains, cold in winter, warm in summer, but very dry, bright, and healthful; the other on the Coast and Islands, very similar to that of the South of England, but with more sunshine, is also a great advantage. In the interior winters are very rare in which cattle do not thrive with practically little protection, whilst in the other portion of the province, flowers and vegetables are growing almost all through the winter months, and we see in the gardens, English holly with its glistening leaves, and a greater profusion of berries than in the old home. There are too, the broom, the gorze, the laurel, bay, box and hawthorn, all imported by early settlers.

laurel, bay, box and hawthorn, all imported by early settlers.

As to the scenery, I cannot do better than quote a work by E. F. Knight, who travelled with the Duke of York's party in 1901. He writes:

"Extremes of heat and cold are unknown on this beautiful Coast, and the climate of Victoria has been compared with that of our South Devon Health Resorts. Vancouver, standing as it does on an undulating, wooded peninsula has a splendid situation. As one wanders through its thoroughfares, one finds onewing ff frequently brought to a pause at street corners and in open places to admire the wonderful views that suddenly burst on one, extending far over blue waters, pine clad shores and distant peaks, and the Stanley Park is surely the finest pleasure ground possessed by any city on the continent."

Of Victoria, he says:

"Victoria has been described as being the most

Of Victoria, he says:

"Victoria has been described as being the most English city in Canada and visitors soon realize this. We had two full days there, one would feigh have stayed longer, for of all the cities in the course of this long and royal progress, the fair capital of British Columbia seems to me the one which the Englishman would most gladly make his home. Victoria is not only a busy place and emporium of trade, a distributing centre for British Columbia, but it is also a favorite place of residence for well-to-do people. Some drives and walks I took in the neighborhood of the city gave me a full explanation of why this Some drives and walks I took in the neighborhood of the city gave me a full explanation of why this place is so beloved of the British. The country outside the town is singularly beautiful, the undulating promontory being covered with woods of fir, spruce and a lovely wild jungle of arbutus, roses, flowering bushes and English broom. The carefully laid out gardens surrounding most of the mansions and cottages astonished one by the profusion of their flowers. Never in the environs of any city have I seen such a glory of flowers as surrounded these lovely homes Never in the environs of any city have glory of flowers as surrounded these

Then how magnificent are the landscapes, embracing the mighty ranges of the mainland with their summits of eternal snow."

I have now hastily sketched some of the conditional statements and the conditional statements.

tions and resources of the province, and I may be asked: "What are the drawbacks?" In reply I would say they are similar to those of all countries, but am sure much fewer. In fact, it is very difficult forme to remember them. No doubt there are sometime backward springs, dry summers, and on the Coast, forest fires, but in my 40 years of residence in the province, I cannot remember any serious detriment to the community, arising from any of nature's

works.

There was some trouble last year from the want of laborers. They were difficult to be got for any price. Farm hands, whose average pay is £5 to £6 a month and board, were getting as high as £7 to £8 and board, and hard to be obtained at that. Domestic servants (generally Chinese) were being paid £5 to £8 a month and board, owing, however, to the financial panic in the United States to the south many mines and manufactories there were closed during the past winter, and a large number of unemployed found their way into British Columbia. This during the past winter, and a large number of unemployed found their way into British Columbia. This sudden influx of some thousands into the cities of the province (which are not very large) in mid-winter, caused, for a time, a good deal of trouble on account of the unemployed. The government, however, at once commenced public works and advertised for laborers at \$2 a day. Strange to say, however, though at that time we had accounts in the English papers of hundreds being out of work and starving in Vancuiver, all the applications for employment the government received were less than 150.

With the opening of the spring there is plenty of

With the opening of the spring there is plenty of work, as hundreds of new railways and roads are being constructed, many thousand acres of land are to be surveyed, and an enormous additional area laid out for orchards and general farming, in addition to the

ordinary works of the country.

There is no doubt that British Columbia is the best country in the world for British people who think of emigrating and taking all the facts into conthink of emigrating and taking all the facts into consideration, it is evident that this great western country, with its beautiful and wonderfully healthy climate, possessing magnificent scenery, well-administered laws, and free education, is eminently the land for the capitalist, the gentleman of leisure, the sportsman, the farmer and particularly the working man. Idlers and loafers are no good there, but to the able and industrious, this Britain of the West, offers the best opportunities for success and for making good and happy homes in.

## THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND SAN FRANCISCO

The American Ambassador was present at the annual dinner of the Luton Chamber of Commerce.

In the course of a speech, he referred to the earthquake and fire at San Francisco—a disaster so sudden and appalling that it chained the attention of the whole world, and a recovery so amazing as to deserve even greater attention. He returned, he said, a few weeks are from San Francisco, budges event the whole world, and a recovery so amazing as to deserve even greater attention. He returned, he said, a few weeks ago from San Francisco, having spent the time given him by his government for rest and recreation, American fashion, in a 12,000-mile journey. He knew San Francisco well, but had not seen it since a year or two before the earthquake. They would recall the condition in which the catastrophe left the city. Multitudes of its buildings were thrown down, the strongest stone walls were torn apart, the tramways were twisted, the stone pavements were split open, the water system was destroyed, and the whole population were turned into the streets. Then the houses the earthquake had spared burnt down steadily through four awful days and aights. There were four and three-quarter square miles burned eyer roughly speaking, a territory greater than the burnt district amounted to \$235,000,000—say £47,000,000; while, of course, many buildings were insured to only a tithe of their value, and others, including some of the largest and costilest, not at all. Immense numbers of the people had to leave at once for lack of shelter and food. Then came weary months of waiting to realize on securities, to collect insurance, negotiate loans, and persuade the outside world that the spot was not doomed. After that came scarcity of building material, scarcity of labor, impossible prices, questions of public health, and all the other disadvantages they could readily imagine.

Well, 22 months had elapsed since that fatal morning when the inhabitants were foused from slumber to find their strongest buildings tumbling on their heads. The first impression, as he passed through

to find their strongest buildings tumbling on their heads. The first impression, as he passed through the familiar streets, was that even then, in many quarters, they were just beginning to clear away the debris. At even the streets was the streets and the streets was the streets and the streets are streets. to and their strongest buildings tumbling on their heads. The first impression, as he passed through the familiar streets, was that even then, in many quarters, they were just beginning to clear away the debris. At every turn, were yawning cellars, filled with twisted fron beams, inextricably entangled with cach other, and with masses of fallen masonry. But beside them would be fine brick or stone structures, already boiling with business, and others at first glance looking ready for it, though little but the exterior shell was finished. Then, eyerywhere, loomed against the blue, steel-like brilliancy of the Californian sky the skeletons of buildings, huge frameworks of iron posts and girders boiled together. 10 or 12 storeys high, with marvellous and splendid human monkeys at the top swinging more iron beams into place, and filling the upper air with the deafening clangour of hammered rivets and bolts. The pavements were blockaded with building materials; the streets were jammed with strugging trucks; the very passengers in the tramways carried the tools of their trade and were covered with mortar. Everybody was in a rush. The town that had been growing feverishly enough through 60 years was being rebuilt in two. Ten thousand permanent buildings had either been completed or were well advanced in construction since the fire, at an outlay of about;100,000.00.00-on-third of the structures destroyed by the earthquake and fire had been rebuilt, and on a scale so much granter that the floor space destroyed. And the people were doing business again. Sometimes they did it in shantles, while their new palaces were being finished; sometimes they did it on desks made of boards laid across the ends of cement barrels in unfinished rooms. But in one way or another they were doing business; doing it to such an extent that, in the December after the fire, the San Francisco, bank cost is all across the ends of cement barrels in unfinished rooms. But in one way or another they were doing business; doing it to such an extent tha

A produce commission house, which prides itself on filling all orders correctly, received a letter from a customer recently saying:

"Gentlemen, this is the first time we ever knew you to make a mistake in our order. You are well aware that we buy the very best country eggs. The last you sent are too poor for our trade. What shall we do with them?"

The fair fame of the house for never making an error seemed to be at stake, but the bright mind of

The last tame of the house for never making are error seemed to be at stake, but the bright mind of the junior partner found a way out of it. He wrote: "Gentlemen: We are sorry to hear that our last shipment did not suit you. There was, however, no mistake on our part. We have looked up your original order and find that it reads as follows: 'Rush fifty crates eggs. We want them bad.'

Colonel Very

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Report o Ernes

Ottawa, M. morning resu affairs of the W. P. Ander department. Watson, one rine departm Witness ha port of the co but had read ferred to the the departme direct or ind in this part know of any tractors from science was point. When not done by day labor, but better denied any ances having tractors, he edge of any ing lack of Messrs. Stur er, Cunningl Spain, or I Asked If or wrongdol Fraser, comming expendit inating appa he had no k outside of t cases he ha Fraser as to thought then ted, however an honest di no knowleds personal adv tures. On reported to and Broder mendations had often r Gourdeau, same effec Regarding J. F. Fraser they were fact," he sa him official

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