

VIII. CONCLUSION.—It is apparent, from what I have said, that there are abundant supplies of coal on the North Pacific, sufficient, if properly developed, for the supply of the railroads and steamers, which are yearly on the increase; but that the only coal fitted for steaming purposes is found in the British possessions, all others being of tertiary age, and very inferior in quality. In these coal-fields British Columbia has within itself the elements of lasting prosperity, which, if properly managed, might be the means of raising the colony from its present state of commercial depression to a condition the reverse of this. The high rates of labour will, however, long act as a deterrent to the full development of the mineral riches of the coast, but this obstacle is gradually lessening in magnitude. It is not the province of this paper to enter upon the discussion of what expense would be incurred in opening up these mines,—even did its limits admit of such a digression.