

minerals and farming-land, and everything to stimulate commercial activity, close to our own doors.

And that is why I regret to see the comparatively little interest taken in the development of British Columbia, and why I seek to arouse in Britons a spirit of indignation at the thought that they may be dropping behind in the race of national competition.

British Columbia used to be stigmatised by the opponents of a trans-continental railway as "a sea of mountains." That designation, though apparently justified by reference to any ordinary map, which generally represents the Rockies as coming down to within a few miles of the Pacific coast, is a most unfair and inaccurate one. Hemmed in, as indeed it is, by great ranges, for which there is every reason to be thankful, it contains extensive areas of valuable farming and grazing land, sufficient to support a large population in comfort.

But, as all the world knows by this time, it is not to its agricultural resources that the country looks for its future importance. And here arises the first difficulty in the way of providing it with an industrial population. For the average emigrant, whatever his former life may have been, seems to invariably expect to become a farmer. So much has been said about the great wheat-growing countries of the west, that there seems to be only one idea in the mind of the vast proportion of would-be settlers, How soon can I get a free grant of land and grow a crop?

If the emigrant is not this sort of a man, he is generally something worse: the fellow who is ready to do anything and can do nothing.

Now, the chief resources of the country are of such a kind that special skilled labour is required to develop them. Lumbering, mining, and fishing are not occupations, such as I recently heard an ingenious Florida agent describe orange-growing, "requiring no previous knowledge of the subject." If an employer of labour has to engage men who are raw hands in any of these occupations he soon finds that he is paying for their education at about the same rate as if he was sending them to an English University. And that is discouraging. Yet, on the other hand, none of these industries are at present conducted on a sufficiently extensive scale to make it desirable to import skilled labour in anything like considerable numbers. For instance, although the lumber trade is acknowledged to be a most important staple, the exportation of lumber in 1890 amounted to only \$449,000, and even if this be doubled, as it probably ought to be by the amount sent east over the Canadian Pacific