DR. DAWSON'S REPORT.

The Royal Colonial Institute Told of the Vast Possibilities of the New Eldorado.

High Estimate by an Eminent Official —Wonderful Development in the Past Five Years.

At a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute in London on March 14, Dr. George M. Dawson, C. M. G., the assistant director of the Geological Survey of Canada, by request read a paper on the Mineral Wealth of British Columbia, as follows :—

Had I known in time that it would be my privilege to address the Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute on the subject of the "Mineral Wealth of British Columbia," I should have taken pains to provide myself with specimens of the ores, and with photographs and maps suitable for illustration. Without these means of enforcing and explaining my remarks, I feel that my endeavor is undertaken at some disadvantages, and this especially because I wish to speak of a country of which the mining importance lies chiefly in its future, and for which, though some substantial progress has already been made, it is not yet possible to refer to the statistics of great mining enterprises.

As it is, I am indebted to the Royal Geographical Society for the use of the map exhibited, upon which I must rely in order to convey some definite ideas on the subject in hand.

For fifteen years or more I have been engaged in the exploration and geological examination of British Columbia in connection with the Geological Survey of Canada, and have thus enjoyed the opportunity of traversing and inspecting a large part of this province of Canada. The information gained has been embodied in a series of official reports, published from year to year, and it is only because it may be assumed that such reports are seldom read, that I can venture to hope that what I have to say may possess some interest or novelty at the present time.

British Columbia is the western province of the Dominion of Canada, with a coast line of over 500 miles in length, from south to north, on the Pacific. It is the largest of the Canadian provinces which has yet been defined, and may be described as possessing truly imperial dimensions. Its length of coast (without counting its extraordinary sinuosities) is nearly equal to the combined length of England and Scotland; while its area of 389,300 square miles, is over three times that of the United Kingdom, and greater than that of any country in Europe except Russia.

It is in the main a land of mountains, including nearly 1,000 miles in length of that broken western margin of the American Continent, which, in lieu of any better name, is known as the Rocky Mountain region or Cordilleran Belt. Although it possesses valuable fisheries and remarkable resources in its forests, besides important tracts of arable and pasture land, much of its prosperity must depend on the development of its mineral wealth, which is the compensation afforded by nature for the generally rugged character of a large part of its surface.

Less than one hundred years ago, the region now named British Columbia was wholly unknown. At about that time its coast began to be explored in some detail by Cook, Vancouver, and other navigators, and soon after, this coast became the resort of a certain number of trading vessels in search of furs; but none of these adventurers acquired any knowledge of the interior of the country. Almost simultaneously, however, the explorers and traders of the North-West and Hudson's Bay Companies, pushing on and extending their operations from point to point in the interior of the North American Continent, began to enter the hitherto mysterious region of the Rocky Mountain from its inland side. Mackenzie was the first to reach the Pacific, and following him came Fraser, Thompson, Campbell and others, all Scotchmen in the service of these trading companies, till by degrees several trading posts were established, and "New Caledonia," as the whole region was then named, came to be recognised as an important "fur country."

This era of discovery, with its results, constitutes the first chapter in the known history of British Columbia. It is replete with the achievements and adventures of these pioneers of commerce, who with their limited resources, and without knowing that they had achieved fame—often without even placing their journeys on record—extended the operations of their Companies across a continent. But this chapter, though full of interest, is not that with which we are at present concerned. It must suffice to say that what is now British Columbia, remained a "fur country," and that alone, for many years. The existence of coal upon its coast was recognised by Dr. Tolmie, an officer of the Hudson's Bay Company, as early as 1835; but though small quantities of coal were actually obtained from natural outcrops from time to time, for the use of blacksmiths at the Company's ports, no importance appears to have been attached to the discovery. The world was at that time very spacious, and the Pacific Ocean was still regarded rather as a field for the exploration of navigators than as a highway of commerce between America and Asia.

In 1849 gold was discovered in California, and with the resulting influx of miners, the seizure of that Mexican province by the United States, if justifiable at all by its subsequent development, all are familiar. Two years later, a discovery of gold occurred on the Queen Charlotte Islands, now forming part of British Columbia. This forms an interesting episode by itself, but, though some attention was drawn to it for a time, no substantial results followed, and no alteration in the condition of the country as a whole was brought about. The meaning and the worth of this particular discovery yet remain to be determined.

In 1857, however, four or five French Canadians and half-breeds, employes of the ubiquitous Hudson's Bay Company, found gold on the banks of the Thompson, a tributary of the Fraser River, and their discovery becoming known, changed the whole fortunes of the country. California was at this time filled with gold miners, and it required only the rumor of a new discovery of gold to create a new "excitement." In the following year, it is estimated that within three months over 20,000 people arrived at the remote trading port which then stood upon the present site of the city of Victoria, while many more made their way overland to the New El Dorado.

The difficulties in the way of these fortune hunters were great. The country was without roads or other means of communication, save such rough trails and tracks as had served the purposes of the natives and those of the fur traders. The Indians, if not openly hostile, were treacherous, and not a few of the men who actually reached the Fraser Canyons were never again heard of.

The Fraser and Thompson were at this time the objective points, and much of the lengths of these rivers were impracticable torrents. It is not therefore surprising, that by far the larger part of those engaged in this sudden migration returned disappointed, many without ever reaching their destination. Some, however, persevered, several thousand miners actually got to work on the auriferous bars of the Fraser, and a new state of affairs was thus fairly inaugurated.

To follow the rapid progress of these miners along the Fraser and Thompson with their tributaries would be full of interest, though the records of their work now existing are scanty, but this again would lead us too far afield. The gold found on the lower reaches of the Fraser was what is known to miners as "fine" gold, or gold in very small scales or dust, minutely divided. Further up "coarser" gold was obtained, and the miners very naturally jumped to the conclusion that somewhere still further up the great stream the source of all the gold should be found. Thus, with restless energy, they pushed on till before long the Cariboo country, some 400 miles from the sea, was reached; and here the richest deposits of alluvial or "placer" gold were found, and for a number of years continued to be worked, with results which, considering the comparatively small number of men engaged, were most remarkable.

Later and more thorough investigations show that the theory so readily adopted by the miners was incorrect; that there is no regular gradation in amount or "coarseness" of gold from the lower part of the Fraser to the head waters in Cariboo, but that the gold found on the bars of the river is of more local origin. Still the theory referred to, as a matter of fact, led the miners to Cariboo, which proved not only to be the richest district so far discovered in British Columbia, but for its area one of the richest placer mining districts ever found.

In this district the valleys of two streams, Lightning and Williams Creeks, have been the most remunerative, and these and their tributaries have actually yielded the greater part of the gold obtained. The work was begun by the washing of the gravels of the streams themselves, but with the experience already gained in California and in Australia, the miners soon began to search deeper. The valleys through which these streams flowed were found to be filled to a considerable depth by loose material, gravel, and boulder-clay due to the glacial period or to inwash from the sides of the bordering mountain ranges; and in sinking beneath all this material the channels of older streams, the predecessors of the present were found, with their rocky bed smoothed and worn and filled with rounded boulders and gravel. These contained vastly richer deposits of gold, because they represented the concentrated accumulations of great periods of continued work by natural forces of denudation and river action.

This discovery, once made, led to the initiation of more extended mining operations, which often necessitated large expense in labor and the construction of heavy pumping machinery; but the results as a rule repaid the enterprising miners. Thus the old deeply buried channel of Lightning Creek was found to average something like $200 in gold to each running foot of its length, while considerable lengths of Williams Creek yielded as much as $1,000 to the same unit of measurement.

Williams Creek affords some notable instances of the extraordinary concentration of "coarse" gold in limited areas:—Thus, from Steele's claim, 80x25 feet, over $100,000 worth of gold was obtained. From the Diller Company's claim, it is stated that in one day 200 lbs. weight of gold, valued at $38,400 was raised; and in 1863, twenty claims were producing from 70 to 400 ounces of gold each per diem. Four hundred miners were at work on Williams Creek in this year, which is still admiringly spoken of as the "golden year."

Though, like Williams Creek, discovered in 1861, the deep channel of Lightning Creek was not successfully reached till 1870, but great developments followed. The Butcher claim at one time yielded 350 ounces of gold a day; the Aurora, 300 to 600 ounces; and the Caledonia, 300 ounces.

It must be remembered that the Cariboo mining district is situated in a high and densely forested mountainous region, which, because of its inaccessible character, had remained almost unknown even to the wandering native hunters. At the time in which these great discoveries in it occurred, it was reached only with extreme difficulty by trails or imperfect tracks, over mountains and across unbridged rivers. Every article required by the miner was obtained at an excessive cost; but all these drawbacks did not prevent the rapid growth of typical mining camps in the centre of this remote wilderness, with their accompanying lavish expenditure and costly if rude pleasures. So long as the golden stream continued to flow in undiminished volume, everything that gold alone could buy was to be obtained in Cariboo.

Perhaps more worthy of note, is the fact that the development of these mines was carried out entirely by the miners themselves. No outside capital or backing was asked for or obtained. Money made in one venture was freely and at once embarked in another, and the investors were to be found working with pick and shovel in the shaft or drift.

But the lengths of the rich old channels on both these famous creeks which could be worked in this way proved to be limited to a few miles. Below a certain point in each case, the "bed rock" was found to be at so great a depth, that it was not possible to reach it through the loose and water-saturated materials filling the old valley. Thus the great yield of gold became gradually reduced to comparatively modest proportions, and at the present time, mining in the Cariboo district is mainly confined to hydraulic workings, by which poorer ground is utilised and a much larger quantity of material requires to be removed to obtain a given amount of gold. But the old valleys of Cariboo have never ceased to produce gold, and in 1892 their product still amounted in value to about $200,000.

It has been impossible to follow the fortunes of the Cariboo mining district in any detail, and time can only be afforded to name the other placer mining districts of the province. The Omineca district was discovered soon after Cariboo, but little was done there till 1867. This district is situated in latitude 56°, in the drainage basin of the Peace River, and, though so remote, has produced a considerable quantity of gold. Still further to the north, in latitude 58°, is the Cassiar district, first found to be auriferous in 1872, for some years thereafter resorted to by many miners, and still a mining centre not without importance. This is the northernmost mining region of British Columbia proper, but beyond the 60th parallel (forming the northern boundary of the province) alluvial gold mining has of late years been developed in the Yukon district, embracing the numerous upper tributaries of that great river, and extending to the borders of the United States territory of Alaska.

Neither must it be forgotten to note, that the working of alluvial gold deposits of greater or less importance has occurred at many places in the southern part of the province, to the east of the Fraser River, including Big Bend, Similkameen, and Kootanie districts, from all of which some gold still continues to be produced by the old methods.

The story of the discovery and development, the palmy days and the gradual decline in importance of any one of these mining regions, rightly told and in sufficient detail, would constitute in itself a subject of interest. But without attempting to do more than name the districts here, it is of importance to note how general, throughout the whole extent of the great area of British Columbia, the occurrence of deposits of alluvial gold has been proved to be. The gold thus found in the gravels and river beds is merely that collected in those places by natural processes of waste acting on the rocks, and the concentration of their heavy materials during the long course of time. The gold has been collected in these places by the untiring action of the streams and rivers, and it must in all cases be accepted as an indication of the gold-bearing veins which traverse the rocky substructure of the country, and which await merely the necessary skill and capital to yield to the miner still more abundantly.

Nevertheless, the results of alluvial or placer gold mining alone in British Columbia have not been insignificant, for, since the early years of the discovery, the province has contributed gold to the value of some $50,000,000 to the world.

One feature in particular requires special mention, and this is a deduction which depends not alone on experience in British Columbia, but which is based as well on that resulting from the study and examination of other regions. The "heavy," or "coarse" gold, meaning by these miners' terms the gold which occurs in pellets or nuggets of some size, never travels far from its place of origin. It is from this point of view that it becomes important to note and record the localities in which rich alluvial deposits have been found, even when the working of these has been abandoned by the placer miner. Their existence points to that of neighboring deposits in the rock itself, which may confidently be looked for, and which are likely to constitute a greater and more permanent source of wealth than that afforded by their derived gold.

Reverting for a moment to the Cariboo district, where such notably rich deposits of alluvial gold have been found within a limited area, and where, very often, the gold obtained has been actually mingled with the quartz of the parent veins, it cannot be doubted that these veins will before long be drawn upon to produce a second golden harvest. This district has suffered and still suffers from its great distance from efficient means of communication; but, notwithstanding this, praiseworthy efforts have already been made towards the development of "quartz mining," while much also remains to be done in utilising by operations on a larger scale and with better appliances, the less accessible placer deposits which have so far baffled the efforts of the local miner.

It is necessary to bear in mind that alluvial gold mining or placer mining requires but a minimum amount of knowledge on the part of the miner, though it may call for much individual enterprise and effort when a new and difficult region is to be entered. Any man of ordinary intelligence may soon become an expert placer miner. It is after all, in the main, a poor man's method of mining; and, as a rule, the placer miner lacks the knowledge as well as the capital necessary to enable him to undertake regular mining operations on veins and lodes. However promising the indications may be for such mining, he either does not appreciate them, or passes them over as being beyond his experience or means. He would rather travel hundreds of miles to test a new reported discovery, than spend a summer in endeavoring to trace out a quartz reef, with the uncertain prospect of being able to dispose of it at some later date.

Thus, though the development of placer mining in British Columbia began a new history for that great region, raising it from the status of a "fur country" to that of an independent colony, and subsequently to that of a province of Canada, there remained a gap to be bridged in order that the province should begin to realise its proper place among the mining regions of the world. It was necessary that railways should be constructed to convey machinery and carry ores, as well as to bring to the metalliferous districts men who would not face the hardships of pioneer travel in the mountains, but who are in a position to embark the necessary capital in promising enterprises.

For a portion of the province, the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway has afforded these facilities, but by far the larger part still awaits railway communication. Had the Canadian Pacific Railway, in accordance with some of the surveys made for it, traversed for instance the Cariboo district, there can be no doubt that we should have already been able to note great developments there. This railway has, however, been constructed across the southern portion of the province, and in its vicinity, and concurrently with its progress, new mining interests have begun to grow up, of which something must now be said.

Before turning to these, however, I must ask to be allowed to say a few words respecting the development of the coal mines of British Columbia, which was meanwhile in progress.

The discovery of coal upon the coast, at an early date in the brief history of British Columbia, has already been alluded to. Following this discovery, the Hudson's Bay Company brought out a few coal miners from Scotland, and proceeded to test and open up some of the deposits. Thus, as early as 1853, about 2,000 tons of coal were actually raised at Nanaimo. San Francisco already began to afford a market for this coal, and the amount produced increased from year to year. The principal coal-mining district remained and still remains at Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island. At the close of the year 1888, about four and a half million tons in all had been produced, and the output has grown annually, till in 1891 over a million tons were raised in one year. California is still the principal place of sale for the coal, which, by reason of its superior quality, practically controls this market, and is held in greater estimation than any other fuel produced on the Pacific slope of North America. The local consumption in the province itself grows annually, and smaller quantities are also exported to the Hawaiian Islands, and to China, Japan, and other places. In the various ports of the Pacific Ocean, the coal from British Columbia comes into competition with coal from Puget Sound in the State of Washington, which, because of the high protective duty established by the United States, is enabled to achieve a large sale in California notwithstanding its inferior quality. It also has to compete with shipments from Great Britain, brought out practically as ballast, with the coals of Newcastle in New South Wales, with coal from Japan, and in regard to the Pacific ports of the Russian Empire, with coal raised by convict labor at Duai, on Saghalien Island, in the Okotak Sea.

It is sufficient guarantee for the quality of the coal of British Columbia that it is able to hold its own as against all these competitors.

Though Nanaimo has been from the first the chief point of production of coal, work has been extended within the last few years to the Comox district, also situated on Vancouver Island; while other promising coal-bearing tracts have been in part explored and examined on this island, and on the Queen Charlotte Islands.

These particular coal regions, bordering upon the Pacific Ocean, have naturally been the first to be employed, but they by no means exhaust the resources of the province in respect to coal. Deposits of good bituminous coal are known also in the inland region, and some of these in the vicinity of the line of railway are now being opened up, while others, still far from any practicable means of transport or convenient market, have been discovered, and lie in reserve. One of the most remarkable of these undeveloped fields is that of the Crow's Nest Pass, in the Rocky Mountains, where a large number of superposed beds of exceptional thickness and quality have been defined.

Besides the bituminous coals, there are also in the interior of the province widely extended deposits of lignite coals, of later geological age, which, though inferior as fuels, possess considerable value for local use.

In the Queen Charlotte Islands anthracite coal is found, but has not yet been successfully worked; and in the Rocky Mountains, on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, coal of the same kind again occurs, near Banff and Canmore stations. The places last named lie just beyond the eastern border of British Columbia in the adjacent district of Alberta, but require mention in connection with the mineral resources of the province.

The coals of British Columbia may, in fact, be said to represent, in regard to quality and composition, every stage from hard and smokeless fuels, such as anthracite, to lignites and brown coals like those of Saxony and Bohemia. Many features of interest to the geologist might be mentioned in relation to these coal deposits, did time permit, but it must not be forgotten to note one principal fact of this kind—the very recent geological age to which all the coals belong. None of the coals of British Columbia are so old as those worked in Great Britain; they are in fact all contained in cretaceous and tertiary rocks.

The very general distribution of coals of various kinds in different parts of the province is of peculiar importance when considered in connection with the building of railways and the mining and smelting of the metalliferous ores. It insures the most favorable conditions for the development of these ores, to some further examination of which we must now return.

It is especially worthy of note, that wherever in the United States the Rocky Mountain or Cordilleran region has been traversed by railways, mining, and particularly that of the precious metals, has immediately followed. It appears to require only facilities of transport and travel to initiate important mining enterprises in any part of this region. The building of the Canadian Pacific Railway across the southern part of British Columbia, with the construction of other railway lines in the neighboring States, near the frontier of the province, has already begun to bring about the same result in this new region; which, till these railways were completed, had remained almost inaccessible. It had long before been resorted to by a few placer miners in search of alluvial gold, and their efforts were attended with some success. Silver-bearing lead ores were also found to occur there, but under the circumstances existing at the time these actually possessed no economic value. It was impossible to utilise them.

In 1886, some prospectors, still in search of placer gold only, happened to camp in a high mountainous region which has since become familiarly known as Toad Mountain, and one of them, in seeking for lost horses, stumbled on an outcrop of ore, of which he brought back a specimen. This specimen was afterwards submitted to assay, and the results were such that the prospectors returned and staked out claims on their discovery. The ore, in fact, proved to contain something like $300 to the ton in silver, with a large percentage of copper and a little gold.

In this manner what is now known as the "Silver King" mine was discovered, and, as a consequence of its discovery, the entire Kootanie district, in which it is situated, began to be overrun with prospectors. Hundreds of these men, with experience gained in the neighboring states of Montana and Idaho, as well as others from different parts of the world, turned their attention to Kootanie. The result has been that within about five years a very great number of metalliferous deposits, chiefly silver ores, have been discovered, and claims taken out upon them. Several growing mining centres and little towns have been established: roads, trails, and bridges have been made, steamers have been placed on the Kootanie Lake and on the Upper Columbia River, and a short line of railway has been built between the lake and river to connect their navigable waters. The immediate centre of interest in regard to mining development in British Columbia has, in fact, for the time being, been almost entirely changed from the principal old placer mining districts to the new discoveries of silver-bearing veins.

So far as they have yet been examined or opened up, the metalliferous deposits of the Kootanie district give every evidence of exceptional value: They consist chiefly of argentiferous galena, holding silver to the value of from $40 or $50 to several hundred dollars to the ton. Nelson, Hot Springs, Kaslo, Illecillewaet, and Golden are at present the principal recognised centres in the new district, but it would be rash as yet to attempt to indicate its ultimate limits.

Though much has already been done in this Kootanie district, two principal causes have tended to prevent the more rapid growth of substantial mining up to the present time. The first of these is the difficulty still existing in respect to the local transport of large quantities of ores; the second, the exaggerated values placed by discoverers upon their claims. While it is evidently just that the prospector should receive an ample remuneration for his find, it is to be noted that the laws of British Columbia are so liberal that he (whatever his nationality) may, at a cost scarcely more than nominal, hold and establish his claim, even though he may be practically without means of developing it. Such development in all cases requires the expenditure of considerable sums, and this must always be of a more or less speculative character, while, even if thus fully proved, it becomes further necessary to incur an additional large expenditure in plant and machinery before any property reaches the status of a going concern. Scarcely an instance can be quoted of a mine which has paid its own way from the "grass" down, but almost every prospector is fully convinced that his claim is precisely of this kind.

Such circumstances, which have unfortunately for the last few years retarded the development of the Kootanie country, are now happily passing away; and there can be no reasonable doubt that in the next year or two this country will establish its place as one of the most important, not only in British Columbia but in North America as a whole.

So far as England is concerned, the actual investment of capital in this district has been small. The investor here would rather pay half a million for some property which, as demonstrated in a prospectus, will produce a good annual rate of interest, than embark a comparatively small sum in a promising venture. But to a man with some knowledge of mines and mining and the command of even a limited amount of capital, who will visit and live in the district himself for a time, the opportunities for profitable investment are, I believe, to day excellent.

I have been unable to say anything in detail in regard to the actual modes of occurrence of the ores now being brought to light in the Kootanie district and their geological relations. Neither is it practicable, on the present occasion, to pursue in further detail the history or description of other districts of the province in which more or less good work of a preliminary kind has been done in the development of metalliferous deposits of various kinds. Okanagan, Rock Creek, Nicola, Similkameen, the North Thompson, and Cayoosh Creek can only be named. It has been possible merely to endeavor to indicate in broad lines what has already been done and what must soon follow. Within a few years this province of Canada will undoubtedly hold an important place in the list of quotations of mining stocks in London and elsewhere, and then the further development of its mines will become a subject of common interest from day to day.

In conclusion I wish to draw attention to one or two ruling features of the actual situation which are too important to be left without mention:—

The Cordilleran belt, or Rocky Mountain region of North America, forming the wide western rim of the continent, has, whenever it has been adequately examined, proved to be rich in the precious metals as well as in other ores. This has been the case in Mexico and in the western states of the American union. Though some parts of this ore-bearing region are undoubtedly richer than others, generally speaking it is throughout a metalliferous country. The mining of placer or alluvial gold deposits has in most cases occurred in advance of railway construction; but this industry has always proved to be more or less transitory in its character, and has almost invariably been an indication of future and more permanent developments of a different kind. Placer gold-mining has, in fact, often been continued for years and then abandoned, long before the gold and silver-bearing veins in the same tract of country have been discovered and opened up. This later and more permanent phase of mining has followed the construction of railways and roads, and the series of conditions thus outlined are repeating themselves in British Columbia to-day.

There is no reason whatever to believe that the particular portions of British Columbia now for the first time opened to mining by means of the Canadian Pacific Railway, are richer in ores than other parts of the province. On the contrary, what has already been said of the Cariboo district affords *prima facie* evidence of an opposite character. The province of British Columbia alone, from south-east to north-west, includes a length of over 800 miles of the Cordilleran region; and, adding to this the further extension of the same region comprised within the boundaries of the Dominion of Canada as a whole, its entire length in Canada is between 1,200 and 1,300 miles. This is almost identical with the whole length of the same region contained within the United States, from the southern boundary with Mexico to the northern with Canada.

Circumstances have favored the development of the mines of the Western States of the Union, but it is, as nearly as may be, certain that the northern half of the similar region will eventually prove equal in richness to the southern, and that when the mines of these Western States may have passed their zenith of productiveness, those of the north will be still increasing in this respect. The explorations of the Geological Survey of Canada have already resulted in placing on record the occurrence of rich ores of gold and silver in various places scattered along the entire length of the Cordilleran region in Canada, and though so far we have to chronicle only an awakening of interest in the southern part of British Columbia, these discoveries stand as indications and incentives to further enterprise to the north.

While the remote and impracticable character of much of this northern country places certain obstacles in the way of its development, on the other hand the local abundance of timber and water power in it, afford facilities unknown in the south, which will be of importance whenever mining operations have actually been set on foot.

No attempt has been made in this brief sketch of the mineral wealth of British Columbia to enumerate the various ores and minerals which have so far been found within the limits of the province in any systematic manner. Nothing has been said of the large deposits of iron, from some of which a certain amount of ore has already been produced, and which wait to realise their true importance merely the circumstances which would render their working on a large scale remunerative. Copper ores have also been discovered in many places. Mercury, in the form of cinnabar, promises to be of value in the near future, and iron pyrites, plumbago, mica, asbestos, and other useful minerals are also known to occur. In late years platinum has been obtained in alluvial mines in British Columbia in such considerable quantity as to exceed the product of this metal from any other part of North America.

While, therefore, the more important products of this western mountain region of Canada are, and seem likely to be, gold, silver, and coal; its known minerals are already so varied, that, as it becomes more fully explored, it seems probable that few minerals or ores of value will be found to be altogether wanting.

Respecting the immediate future of mining, which is the point to which attention is particularly called at the present time, it may be stated that coal-mining rests already on a substantial basis of continued and increasing prosperity; while the work now actually in progress, particularly in the southern part of the province, appears to indicate that, following the large output of placer gold, and exceeding this in amount and in permanence, will be the development of silver mines, with lead and copper as accessory products. The development of these mining industries will undoubtedly be followed by that of auriferous quartz reefs, in various parts of the province, while all these mining enterprises must react upon and stimulate agriculture and trade in their various branches.

Because a mountainous country, and till of late a very remote one, the development of the resources of British Columbia has heretofore been slow, but the preliminary difficulties having been overcome, it is now, there is every reason to believe, on the verge of an era of prosperity and expansion of which it is yet difficult to foresee the amount or the end.

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Administrator's Notice.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In the matter of the Estate of James Mitchel Pirie, deceased, and in the matter of the "Official Administrators Act."

Notice is hereby given that by an order of the Honorable Mr. Justice Walkem, bearing date the 30th day of March 1893, I was appointed administrator of all and singular the personal estate, chattels and credits of James Mitchel Pirie, late of the City of Victoria, B. C., deceased intestate.

Persons having claims against the estate of the said deceased are requested to send me particulars thereof on or before the 30th day of May, A. D., 1893, and all persons indebted to the said deceased are requested to pay such indebtedness to me forthwith.

W. MONTEITH, Official Administrator.

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