

British Columbia Mining Prospectors' Exchange and Investors' Guide.

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The British Columbia Mining Prospectors' Exchange and Investors' Guide

is published monthly as a Guide to Investors generally, to whose interests it devotes itself.

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ADVERTISING RATES on application to Business Manager, 612 Cordova Street, Vancouver, B. C.

NOTES.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all. We hope to be a medium for assisting the solid advance of our Province.

Greetings to our confederates of the U. S., Africa, Australia, and the mining and financial world generally.

The penny postage to the British Isles will inaugurate the most important postal reform since the time of Rowland Hill.

Within a decade after the discovery of gold in Australia, in 1851, quantities of no less value than £960,000,000 reached England from New South Wales and Victoria.

Our mining laws, particularly those relative to the recording of claims and assessment work, sadly needs revision. We shall have something to say under this head in another issue.

The question has been asked us repeatedly, especially by our Australian visitors, what are the conditions which militate against your enlisting capital for the development of your immense mineral deposits throughout British Columbia. In Australia, with such prospects, we have no difficulty in financing our properties. We hope to be able to elucidate this satisfactorily further on.

Less locating and more actual prospecting we hope to see in the future.

We ask this very pertinent question: Where will British Columbia be at the coming Earl's Court Exhibition?

1899 promises to be a record year in the development of British Columbia. We are not laboring under the disadvantage of an alien government, as in the Transvaal.

The Transvaal troubles will be a factor in favor of B. C. mining, if advantage be taken of opportunities and certain elements eliminated from methods adopted in the past, which are becoming notorious.

Steps are being taken, we understand, to ensure the establishment of a Government assay in Vancouver. This is a movement in the right direction, and should a capable, disinterested man be appointed, will be an all-round boon.

The B. A. Corporation will undoubtedly be a great factor in the development of the Kootenay. We hope to see similar corporations organized to take hold of our mineral properties. Given conditions should produce results equally as good as are obtained in Africa or Australia.

We are pleased to note the way that enterprising corporation, the Canadian Pacific Railway has assisted the tide of business westward, and that they are still preparing most satisfactorily to cope with the coming expansion. We are proud of the C. P. R., and Vancouver's interests are that of the transcontinental line.

The present Government, whether they ultimately prove to be a Semlin or a Turner administration, will have to prove their oneness in defining a policy which shall advance our mineral interests. British Columbia stands or falls on her merits as a huge mineral camp. Roads are requisite and we must have them. Money spent in this direction should be a big asset in favor of B. C.

Mr. P. A. O'Farrel has written a most interesting article on Kootenay prospects and developments, which appeared in the Toronto Globe. The following extract will show that the benefit has up till recently accrued to aliens:

"There is hardly a gulch, a creek, a canyon or glen in the most of these noble mountains where the American prospector and the American miner is not delving away for a living, a competency or a fortune. I know hundreds of elegant villas and noble mansions that have risen on the banks of the Spokane, built by men who found the treasures of the Slo-can.

You will find magnificent homes among the orange groves of California which have been purchased by adventurous prospectors who chanced to hunt for fortune in the Slo-can mountains. I have seen the wealth of this wonderful country making smooth the way to the United States Senate. I have seen it used to purchase grand estates in old Virginia, and yet there are Canadians who doubt it!"

THE RISK OF MINING.

Gold is where you find it. Valuable mining properties have been walked over time and again by practical mining men, which are now paying mines. Experts have also too carefully turned down properties which, on development, have proved their judgment at fault. So much has been said as to the risk of mining, that a few words will not be out of place. When one puts money into a mine now-a-days, he knows there, or thereabouts, what ore there is in sight, and its approximate value per ton. The risk is not nearly so great as that connected with the mercantile business. Merchants ship their goods, on credit, thousands of miles distant. Comparing the returns of a paying mine, the risk is out of all proportions to the returns. It has been very justly stated that: "In any well managed mine, the risk is out of all proportion to the returns, for where it may cost \$20,000 to open and develop a mine, so that it pay expenses and finally dividends, the returns frequently run as high as \$100,000 in a single year. There is no other legitimate business that pays such profits."