

The Colonist.

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THE ROYAL VISIT.

The visit of Her Royal Highnesses,
the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and
York, derives special interest from the
fact that it is undertaken by the express
command of the King. The Australian
tour was planned by Her Late Ma-
jesty, the Queen, but it will be recalled
that the King announced that the carrying
out of the original plan and the in-
clusion of Canada in it was his own
suggestion. This invests the visit to
the Dominion with a character that no
other royal tour in this country has pos-
sessed since that of His Majesty when
Prince of Wales. It is also to be borne
in mind that the Duke is the heir ap-
parent. His coming is consequently the
most exalted official function possible
within these realms, except a visit from
the King himself.

It must also be remembered by the
citizens of Victoria, that the stay of the
royal party in this city is a very im-
portant feature of the tour. The
Dominion. They will have crossed the
continent, traversing thousands of miles
of plain and mountain, and when they
arrive here will be at the most westerly
city in the Empire as well as in the
Dominion. It is an event of itself to
stand here on the threshold of the Pa-
cific after crossing a continent, to
leave the ramparts of Quebec on the
east and not turn face homeward until
one has gazed out from the fortifica-
tions of Esquimaux. There is a senti-
ment about this, which can hardly fail
to impress our distinguished visitors
and those who accompany them.

These considerations ought to impress
the citizens of Victoria with the very
important responsibility resting upon
them to make their reception to the
Duke and Duchess in keeping with the
exceptional character of the visitors and
the place visited. We cannot hope, nor
would any one expect that we would
try to vie with what the people of such
great cities as the Australian capitals
have done. We cannot afford it. But
we ought to be able to devise a pro-
gramme that will create a favorable im-
pression. The effort should be to do
that is done characteristic of the coun-
try. Let us be careful to avoid any-
thing which is trumpery in its char-
acter. Whatever we may decide to do,
let us resolve that it shall be well done.
Let the effort be to make the recep-
tion as broadly popular in its nature as
possible.

MONEY WANTED.

The City Council has decided that
\$208,500 must be borrowed for public
improvements. With this it is proposed
to build a house for the accommodation
of the High School. Some people seem
to be under the impression that the pro-
posal is to establish a High school, but
such is not the case. We have the
school now, but as the accommodation
within the city for pupils is not suf-
ficient for the requirements of the grow-
ing population, and therefore a new
structure of some kind must be put up,
the decision arrived at is to design the
new structure for a High school. It is
also proposed to build a permanent
bridge at Point Ellice. This is some-
thing which must be done. There is no
use in saying that we can put it off,
for we cannot. The bridge must be
erected. It is also proposed to fill in
the James Bay flats, and erect a canal-
way instead of a bridge. This cannot be
postponed. The James Bay bridge has
outlived its term of life, and it must be
replaced. Sanitary and other con-
siderations also make the proposed im-
provement imperative.

Under these circumstances we should
suppose that the by-laws will pass.
Those who think otherwise ought to
show the reasons for their opinion. A
prominent ratepayer said to the Col-
onist a day or two ago, that he would
vote for the bridges, because they were
necessary, but he was not going to vote
for a High school. He perhaps repre-
sents a class of ratepayers. But if he
or they will take the trouble to look
into the facts of the case, he will see
that the erection of the school house is
as much a necessity as the other im-
provements of which he approves. We
shall have more to say about this mat-
ter, but for the present will only ex-
press the hope that the ratepayers will
show due regard to the public interest.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Tenth Article.)

We have described the North Central
Mainland as lying between the 54th and
56th parallels, and west of the Rocky
Mountains. Its length, from north to
south therefore is in round numbers 140
miles; its breadth from east to west is
about 350 miles. The southern half of
its western border is on the ocean; the
northern half is shut off from the sea
by Southeastern Alaska, according to
the contention of the United States. The
surface is broken, but on the whole is
lower in altitude than the Central
Mainland, and this difference in altitude
more than compensates for the differ-
ence in latitude.

Its rivers are the Skeena and the
Naas, which flow into the Pacific Ocean,
the Parsnip, which is the chief tribu-
tary of the Peace River, numerous tri-
butaries of the Fraser and minor
streams. It contains numerous lakes,
some of them of considerable size.
Babine lake is nearly if not quite 100
miles long, with an average width of
perhaps 5 miles. Stuart lake is about 50
miles long and 4 or 5 miles wide. Fran-
cois lake and North Tatla lake are each
about 50 miles long, but are narrower
than the others. Besides these there
are numerous smaller bodies of water.
The whole district is splendidly watered.

This great district has been by no
means fully explored, but what is
known of it justifies the claim that it
will become one of the richest portions
of the province. It possesses mines of
gold, copper, iron and coal, some of them
being opened up. The placers of the
Omineca are situated in this district.
They have yielded considerable
gold, but at present the output is not
great, that of last year having been
only \$12,527, but extensive hydraulic
plants are being installed and in the
course of a year a very much larger
showing may be confidently looked for.
The area available for hydraulic opera-
tions is large, but they are so remote
from railway or steam navigation that
the installation of plants is accompanied
with great delay and expense. The
same reason prevents the known de-
posits of copper and silver ores from
receiving any attention whatever, and
has made it useless for prospectors to
seek for anything except placer ground,
the discovery of which is in so many
cases accidental. The part of the Omine-
ca Mining Division in which these de-
posits have been carried on, lies on the
west side of the Rocky Mountains more
than 250 miles in a direct line from the
nearest railway, and more than 200
miles from the sea. The difficulty of
exploiting a country so situated will
readily be understood. In that portion
of this district, which lies near the coast
several good placer deposits have been
worked, and one or more hydraulic
plants are being installed. There have
also been opened several valuable de-
posits of ore carrying gold and copper
in paying quantities. Very excellent coal
has been found in apparently large
quantity not far south of the Skeena
river, and within easy reach of the sea.

There is a large area of good agri-
cultural land in this district. The
Bulkley valley, which extends south-
ward from the Skeena, and the Bulkley
valley, which extends southward from
the Bulkley, contains fully 600 square miles of good
farming land, and another valley ex-
tending to the north has fully half as
large an area. The land is very fertile.
It produces hay in great luxuriance and
a considerable quantity is cut every
season. The grass stands as high as a
man's head. There are places where
wild barley grows, and it is as tall as
the grass. The winters are colder than
on the coast, but there is no wind worth
mentioning. The Skeena freezes up in
January, and spring opens about May
1, that is, planting begins then. This
gives a long season, and as there is
plenty of sunlight and moisture, vegeta-
tion flourishes.

Dr. Dawson describes the climate
of this region as much like that of the
neighborhood of Quebec or Montreal,
with the exception that the winters are
shorter. Speaking of the acreage of
land around the Babine and Stuart
lakes, which is available for cultivation,
the same authority describes it as large.
That in sight from the lakes aggregates,
he thinks, fully 500 square miles. The
soil is described as fertile. The growth
of grass and pea-vine he says is luxuriant,
and in fact the only open question
as to its adaptability to agriculture is
the climate, and this can only be deter-
mined by experiment. Such little farm-
ing as had been done in this section
at the time of Dr. Dawson's visit in-
dicated that potatoes and other vege-
tables and barley would be successful
crops with a possibility of wheat pro-
ving profitable in some places. We quote
from his report:

"In the valley of the Babine and
Stuart lakes the summer season seems
to be sufficiently long and the absolute
amount of heat great enough to bring
all ordinary crops, including wheat, to
maturity, but the question remains to
be determined as to what extent the
ability to summer crops may interfere
with the cultivation of some plants, more
especially wheat. Though this valley
may be regarded as a continuation of
the Lower Nechaco, its vicinity to moun-
tains appears to render it somewhat in-
ferior to that district in climate, and
places it in that regard in the same
position with the country bordering of
Francois lake." Of the Lower Ne-
chaco valley he estimates its area at
1,000 square miles, and says the soil
is uniformly fertile. He says it will
support a considerable population, and
that all the crops usually grown in the
North Temperate Zone can be grown in
it, with the exception of wheat, and in
fact, the country is well adapted to
farming. It is useless to approxi-
mate its extent, because it lies in de-
tached areas, but it must be a great deal
more than a million acres. In addi-
tion there are very extensive tracts that
afford exceptionally good pasturage.
There will undoubtedly be a prosperous
agricultural and stock-raising country
here, when the country is opened
up by railway, because the development
of the mines will provide a market for
the products of the land, and the land
will be cultivated by the people who
will be attracted to it.

Speaking generally of the central por-
tion of the Central Mainland, which is
a district having an area of approxi-
mately 30,000 square miles, it may be
described as being suited to cattle and
sheep raising, and also to agriculture.
The agricultural land includes the low
benches of the Fraser valley, where ir-
rigation is often necessary, but all the
products of the North Temperate Zone
can be grown in great luxuriance, the
valleys of the smaller rivers where mixed
farming can be successfully carried
on, although sometimes irrigation is ne-
cessary, and generally all portions of
the country where the elevation is less
than 2,500 feet. With the data at pre-
sent available it is impossible to approxi-
mate the extent of this cultivable land.
Mr. Bell says that there are opportuni-
ties for carrying out irrigation schemes
on a much larger scale than any that
have hitherto been attempted in this
province. It is evident that the obser-
vations made by engineers in traversing
so vast an area must necessarily fall
short of covering the whole of it. Ex-
perience elsewhere shows that when once
a country begins to be settled, the area
of tillable land is found to be much
greater than appears at the outset. On
the whole, it is a region, which, when
opened by modern means of communica-
tion will be attractive to the farmer
and the sheep and cattle raiser, while
the mines in and around it will afford
an ample market for everything that
will be produced.

UNTOLD AGONY FROM SALT RHEUM.

Mr. Chas. F. McLean, Palmerston, Ont.,
says: "I suffered untold agony and misery
for years with salt rheum in my foot. I
tried almost every remedy I could find,
but was told by the best physicians I could
induced to try Dr. Chase's Ointment. After
using only two applications I received great re-
lief, and when I had used only two boxes
it was completely cured. At all dealers, 50
cents a box.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Ninth Article.)

The undoubted resources of the Cen-
tral Mainland of British Columbia are
such that the problem of providing ade-
quate transportation facilities has at-
tracted a great deal of consideration.
Several surveys for lines of railway
have been made across it, the most im-
portant of which was that of Mr. Mar-
cus Smith, who reported favorably on
the route from Yellow Head Pass, in
the Rocky Mountains, to Bute Inlet,
on the coast, as the best one available
for the Canadian Pacific. There is no
doubt as to the excellence of the route
and the magnitude of the business
which could be built up along it. The
C. P. R. having been located by its pre-
sent route, what was known as the Cana-
dian Western, or British Pacific, rail-
way was proposed to follow Mr. Smith's
line. This enterprise fell through by
reason of the great depression which
set in about a decade or so ago, and
when the time came when capitalists
were quite ready to carry it out the
charter had expired and could not be re-
newed owing to the attitude of the leg-
islature at that time in regard to land
subsidies to railway companies. The Cana-
dian Northern Railway Company now
contemplates the construction of a line
across this district from the Rockies to
the coast, although the line to be fol-
lowed has not yet been determined. A
proposal has also been made for a pre-
liminary shape for the building of a line from
Asberott, on the C. P. R., northward to
point in Cariboo. It is also pro-
posed to build a line from Kitimat har-
bor, near the northwestern corner of
the district east and north towards the
Yukon and Omineca. This would be
the most part in the North Central
Mainland.

In 1895 Mr. H. P. Bell, C.E., by
direction of the provincial government,
made what is called the Northwest Col-
onization Survey, and his report is to
be found in the Sessional papers of 1896.
It contains a great deal of very valuable
matter, some of it being derived from
original exploration by Mr. Bell, and
the rest being taken from the reports of
other explorers. Mr. Bell laid down on
the map accompanying his report what
he calls a "colonization base line or
route of the proposed railway." It be-
gins at Frederick Arm, an inlet a lit-
tle north of Bute Inlet. Here Mr. Bell
contemplated a connection with the
Canadian Pacific, which would have been
the line then extended to Bute Inlet,
and thence in the most direct route
towards available to Queen's, on the Fraser
river, whence it continued easterly after
crossing the Fraser, reaching the
valley of that river again after going
about 130 miles across country, and
thence follows the Fraser to Yellow Head
Pass. It takes generally a more direct
Smith's line, except where it diverges
from it on the 130 miles east of Que-
nel. The distance from Frederick Arm
to Yellow Head Pass is 477 miles.

Beginning at the head of Bute Inlet,
Mr. Bell describes the land in the val-
ley of the Homathco river as good but
not as yet been explored. They ought not
to be, that is in the Southern Mainland
district, diverted attention from it. It
has been a source of great wealth to
the province and contributed no inconsider-
able sum to the aggregate wealth of
the Dominion. Its output of placer gold
exceeds \$500,000. The "diggings" of
Cariboo were in their day the most
famous in the world. It is known to
contain many deposits of ores of vari-
ous kinds, and towards the south some-
thing has been done in the way of de-
veloping them. There is scarcely room
for doubt that the same formations
which have proved so productive south
of the Skeena will be found to be so
productive in the Pacific extend to the
north of it, and the western slopes of
the Rocky Mountains, and such pros-
pecting as has been done warrants the
belief that along the eastern slope of
the Coast Range valuable deposits of
gold and copper ore will be found. Some
valuable finds have been made along the
coast and some of them are being de-
veloped. In several localities ex-
cellent coal has been found. Placer min-
ing is yet carried on to some extent,
but there have been no recent discoveries
of an extensive nature. Large hydraulic
operations are prosecuted, and others are
planned. The mineral output of the
whole district last year was about \$750,000.

Very large areas remain to be thor-
oughly explored and prospecting has
not as yet been all exhaustive. The
district unquestionably contains the ele-
ments of great industrial activity
among them agriculture and stock rais-
ing will assume an important place. The
lack of exhaustive surveys makes it im-
possible to form any definite conclusion
as to the extent of the farming land,
which is necessarily confined to the lower
levels, which are more accessible to the
river valleys. These are numerous, and
some of them are quite extensive. A
very much greater area is available for
stock raising. It will doubtless be
found, as the country is opened up by
roads and trails and mining makes farm-
ing profitable, that very much land is
suitable for crops, which is not now
known. This is the experience else-
where in the Pacific Northwest. It was
especially true of the State of Wash-
ington, where as settlement has pro-
gressed the area of arable land has
been found to be very much greater
than was originally supposed. The valley
of the Nechaco, a tributary of the Fra-
ser, flowing into it from the west, has
been described as containing a large
area of very good farming land, flanked
by excellent grazing areas. The eleva-
tion is not great, and the region feels
the beneficial effects of the warm winds
from the Pacific Ocean, which shorten
the winters. The Nechaco rises in the
lake country lying south of the 54th
parallel, and its valley is certain to be
the home of a large population.

There are no large towns anywhere
in this district, the C. P. R. towns being
for the purposes of these articles con-
sidered as in the Southern Mainland.
Settlement is widely scattered, and in
no place is at all dense. In the matter
of means of communication, the district
is very poorly supplied. The Cariboo
road extends from the Canadian Pacific
northward through the centre and
through the settled portions there are
roads and trails. There are no rail-
ways. It is only the lack of such means
of communication that prevents the dis-
tributing of carrying rapidly in popula-
tion and wealth. In the next article
something will be said on this point.

It is said that the Boers want the
fighting to stop. Then why do they not
stop it? Our forces will never fire on
another shot if the Boers will only let
the example. It is altogether likely
that the mission of Mrs. Botha will
prove a success, and that the advice of
her ladyship will prevail over the
crankiness of Kruger. The surround-
ing of Botha will not necessarily prevent
any further bloodshed, for many of the
Boers may continue to carry on guerilla
tactics, and the foreign mercenaries may
be unwilling to abandon their present
line of action for one which will leave
them high and dry.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Eighth Article.)

We have described the Central Main-
land as that part of British Columbia
lying between the Canadian Pacific rail-
way and the 54th parallel north of lat-
itude, but in speaking of the Southern
Mainland we have already referred to a
portion of the district, and therefore
in what is now said no particulars will
be given of that portion of the New
Westminster Mining Division, which lies
north of the Fraser. This leaves to be
considered an area about 230 miles in
length from north to south, and 400 miles
in breadth from east to west. A por-
tion of it was formerly known as New
Caledonia, and has also been described
as the Great Central Plateau. It is
mountainous in its eastern and western
borders, and along the south there are
many high elevations, but on the whole
it is much less broken and elevated than
the Southern Mainland. It embraces
many extensive areas over which the dif-
ferences of altitude are not great. It
contains by far the greater portion of the
Fraser river, with its many tribu-
taries. The Columbia springs through
its southeasterly section in a great bend,
which is one of the geographical phenom-
ena of the world. Its coast line is
indented by many deep channels, into
which flow rivers from the interior. It
contains numerous lakes, some of them
of considerable magnitude. Chilco is
probably the largest of them. It is
situated in the southwest and has a
water service of upwards of 300 square
miles. Other lakes are only a little
smaller. In many places it is magnifi-
cently timbered with Douglas fir, spruce
and cedar. Its river valleys contains
fine farming land, although in some sec-
tions towards the south irrigation is
necessary. There are very extensive cat-
tle ranges. The climate varies with the
altitude, and the position as regards the
coast, but the snow may be said as a
rule to lie in all parts of it during the
winter, but the amount of precipitation
is not large. The summers are warmer
and the winters colder than in the South-
ern Mainland. Climatic conditions may
be described as highly favorable with
local variations.

This is the portion of British Colum-
bia truly what is called the "great things
were anticipated before the discoveries in
Kootenay, that is in the Southern Mainland
district, diverted attention from it. It
has been a source of great wealth to
the province and contributed no inconsider-
able sum to the aggregate wealth of
the Dominion. Its output of placer gold
exceeds \$500,000. The "diggings" of
Cariboo were in their day the most
famous in the world. It is known to
contain many deposits of ores of vari-
ous kinds, and towards the south some-
thing has been done in the way of de-
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for doubt that the same formations
which have proved so productive south
of the Skeena will be found to be so
productive in the Pacific extend to the
north of it, and the western slopes of
the Rocky Mountains, and such pros-
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belief that along the eastern slope of
the Coast Range valuable deposits of
gold and copper ore will be found. Some
valuable finds have been made along the
coast and some of them are being de-
veloped. In several localities ex-
cellent coal has been found. Placer min-
ing is yet carried on to some extent,
but there have been no recent discoveries
of an extensive nature. Large hydraulic
operations are prosecuted, and others are
planned. The mineral output of the
whole district last year was about \$750,000.

The fact of the matter is that the
people of the United States are begin-
ning to feel crowded. They ought not
to be, for as compared with European
countries, the republic is not thickly
populated. But in land, as in every-
thing else, our neighbors are most ex-
travagant. They are exceedingly
wasteful. They require more acres of
land per head of the population than
any other people in the world. It is the
same in respect to everything else, and
now having reached the limit of what
at one time seemed limitless possibi-
lities of expansion, they are turning their
eyes northward to discover new fields
for investment and enterprise. They
have been, as we have said, slow to
recognize the possibilities of Canada,
but the American people, when once
they admit anything, never stop half
way. They are altogether likely to be-
come ardent advocates of what they
formerly condemned, and now that
they have begun to realize what Cana-
da is like, they will be just as likely
as not to exceed Canadians themselves
in advocating the claims of the country
as a field of enterprise. An immense
amount of capital has been accumulated
in the United States during recent
years, and it is seeking an outlet. There
is a very good prospect that Canada in-
vestments may become as popular in
New York as West African mining
locks are at present in London, and as
Kaffirs were and will be again. Cana-
dian capitalists in the United States under-
stand better than those of Great Britain the

BRITISH EMPIRE POSTAGE.

In the ordinary course of events the
time cannot be far distant when the pre-
sent issue of postage stamps of Great
Britain and her colonies and dependen-
cies will be replaced by new ones, bear-
ing the portraits of King Edward VII.
and his Royal Consort, Queen Alexandra.
Such being the case, it has oc-
curred to the Colonist that an excellent
opportunity is afforded to the British
people throughout the world to signalize
the event by adopting a uniform "Em-
pire" stamp, which shall be used uni-
versally wherever the Union Jack flies.
This might be done without sacrific-
ing the identity of any of the countries in-
terested and still be made very effec-
tive. Thus, Canada could have her
stamps in any design desired, but with
the distinctive words "British Empire"
printed on them, and so with the other
colonies.

Some of our readers may look upon this
as a small matter, but we submit, that
the adoption of such a system would do
a great deal of good in conveying an
idea of the solidarity of the British Em-
pire to everyone who posted a letter
within its limits, and that it would be
an excellent lesson in geography to many
who have vague notions concerning the
extent and importance of the great
world power to which they bear allegi-
ance.

LOOKING TO CANADA.

The interesting article from the Ore-
gonian, which we printed a few days
ago, describing in a general way the re-
sources of Canada, and expressing a
warm appreciation of the future great-
ness of the Dominion, is only one of
many similar articles which have lately
appeared in the United States press.
Our neighbors have recently been pay-
ing a very great deal of attention to
our country. This is a new departure
on their part. When about fifteen
years ago Brastus Winna published his
notable articles, entitled, "The
Greater Half of the Continent," in
which some of the facts bearing upon
the vast resources of Canada were set
out, the statements were accepted with
a very great deal of reserve. About the
year 1889 the present writer, at the re-
quest of the Century Magazine, prepared
a paper treating in a general way
with the same subject, and especially
with the commercial importance to the
United States of Canadian future busi-
ness, and the editor of the Magazine
submitted the paper to the chief of the
United States Bureau of Statistics. The
latter declined to endorse it, saying that
he would not like to say "it was greatly
exaggerated, but such was his impres-
sion. As a matter of fact, the article
was an extremely moderate statement
of the case, and would be regarded now,
in the light of what has more recently
been learned about the Dominion, as
exceedingly meagre. How great the
change has been since then, and how
much the Century Magazine, prepared
as that of the Oregonian eloquent-
ly testifies, for it is far stronger in its
favor of Canada than that which the
editor of the Century Magazine published
with hesitation a dozen or more years
ago.

The days of the wild-cat are passed,
or nearly so. What we all now want
to see is money forthcoming for the legiti-
mate development of mines—not mil-
lions of dollars, but simply thousands.
There are men who have worked pa-
tiently at their discoveries until they
are almost, and in many cases, quite,
at the end of their resources. Can any
one devise a plan whereby money can
be secured to take hold of promising
properties of this description? There
are many of them. They are not mines
yet, but there is every prospect of their
becoming mines. A few cases can be
cited where the owners of a prospect
have stood by it until it became a mine,
but in nine cases out of ten, to do this
costs a good deal of money, very much
more than the average discoverer of a
mine can get together. Can any one
suggest a plan whereby the prospector
of small means, but a good showing
of mineral, can be brought in touch with
men who are able and willing to put a
little financial risk against what he has
risked? Doubtless there are many such
people, just as there are many prospects
which they could take hold of. Doubt-
less also there is risk attending such ex-
penditures, but that is true of every
line of business.

The British Columbia government
will doubtless see that fair play is ac-
corded those who staked mines in the
Mount Baker district, believing that
they were in the United States.

You Are Not Sick

But Feel Miserable.

Nearly everybody seems to complain more or less at this season
of the year. You feel the need of some tonic to put new strength
and energy into the system. You don't sleep well, and suffer more
or less from headache and dyspepsia. It may be you are depressed
and discouraged, and feel the affairs of every-day life a burden.

Little things worry and irritate you. You are not sick, but lack the
vitality that is necessary for health and happiness.

There is one preparation which is doing wonders these days as
a restorative and nerve invigorator, and that is Dr. Chase's Nerve
Food. It is different from any medicine you ever used, for instead
of tearing down the tissues of the body it builds them up, and so
thoroughly fills the system with new life and vigor as to overcome
pains and aches, weaknesses and irregularities. It is surprising what
a host of people are using this great food cure. A few weeks' trial
will convince you of its singular merit.

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food

50 cents a box, 6 boxes for \$2.50, at all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co.,
Toronto.

Agents wanted for Dr. Chase's Last and Complete Receipt Book.

40 KANP, Victoria, B. C.

Telephone 701.

Official Administrator.

Dated the 23rd day of May, 1901.

WM. MONTGOMERY.

Official Administrator.

Official Administrator.

Official Administrator.

Official Administrator.

Official Administrator.

conditions under which money is invest-
ed in Canada. They are not greatly dif-
ferent to those with which they are ac-
customed in their own country. We are
much inclined to regard the great inter-
est which the press of the United
States is taking in Canada as the pre-
cursor of an equal interest in this
country on the part of the investing
public south of the 49th parallel.

MONEY FOR MINES.

Any newspaper man, known to take
an interest in mining matters, will have
several propositions brought to his at-
tention every week, which look as though
they would repay any one who would
take hold of them with a little capital.
Then he reads in the press of the vast
amount of capital seeking investment,
and he very naturally wonders why it
is that some of this capital cannot be
secured for the development of these
prospective mines. This is really one of
the urgent questions of the hour in
British Columbia. The amount of out-
side capital invested in this province has
not been large as compared with the enor-
mous sums that have gone elsewhere.
What is the reason? One gentleman
writes to the Colonist to lay a large
measure of the responsibility upon the
condition of our mining laws. Another
says it is because of the unwise manner
in which investments already made have
been managed. But there are many
people who know nothing about our
laws, and care little about the fate
that has befallen improvident manage-
ment. Eastern Canada and the United
States contain many such, who have
abundant means. What about them?
Why cannot they be attracted towards
British Columbia?

There is no doubt that much mischief
was done in the days when the wild-
cat was abroad in the land, and it was
a poor wretch that did not see a dozen mil-
lion-dollar companies put upon the mar-
ket. Just a word as to the promoters
of the wild-cats. Most of them were
acting in good faith. They believed
they were promoting legitimate invest-
ments. It is quite legitimate for a man
who thinks he has a good prospect, to
spend all his money in developing it, and
if he gets nothing, no one accuses him
of dishonesty. They may express doubts
as to his judgment, but that is as far
as they will go. It is equally legitimate
morally to persuade a number of people
to risk a little money in developing
a property. We are not disposed to re-
main awake at night to lament the mis-
fortunes of the man, who buys mining
stock at 5 cents on the chance of the
money being spent in work that will
make his 5 cents worth \$1. He stood
to make a 20 to 1 profit, instead of
which he made a loss. He ought to
have known that in the very nature of
things the chances were against him.
But the wild-cat hurt the province. The
men who gambled in them and lost tack-
led a great deal about it, and thus cre-
ated an unfavorable sentiment. Bad man-
agement doubtless has had a prejudi-
cial effect. In many cases the expendi-
ture has run ahead of any possible re-
sults in sight. Then instead of dis-
cussing there is a collapse, and once more
the country gets a black eye.

The days of the wild-cat are passed,
or nearly so. What we all now want
to see is money forthcoming for the legiti-
mate development of mines—not mil-
lions of dollars, but simply thousands.
There are men who have worked pa-
tiently at their discoveries until they
are almost, and in many cases, quite,
at the end of their resources. Can any
one devise a plan whereby money can
be secured to take hold of promising
properties of this description? There
are many of them. They are not mines
yet, but there is every prospect of their
becoming mines. A few cases can be
cited where the owners of a prospect
have stood by it until it became a mine,
but in nine cases out of ten, to do this
costs a good deal of money, very much
more than the average discoverer of a
mine can get together. Can any one
suggest a plan whereby the prospector
of small means, but a good showing
of mineral, can be brought in touch with
men who are able and willing to put a
little financial risk against what he has
risked? Doubtless there are many such
people, just as there are many prospects
which they could take hold of. Doubt-
less also there is risk attending such ex-<