

The Province AND MATTERS PROVINCIAL..

Minerals of Peace River

The extent, variety and value of the British Columbia Peace River country as a mining district is only now—with the prospect of early transportation facilities—obtaining public recognition. Describing the coal outcroppings on the Pine river, a report just received from Mr. J. F. Bledsoe, one of the pioneers of the Peace River country and the initiator of the Finlay River Development Company, shows that for a considerable distance along the Pine river there are indications of coal, and these are especially noticeable at Cariboo Mountain and Coal Brook. In a stream to the east of the Cariboo mountains a seam is exposed which is fully ten feet thick. This is a hard, lustrous coal, which on the surface looks like anthracite, but as no work has been done as yet, it is difficult to classify definitely. There can, however, be no doubt about its being of great value as a fuel. At Coal Brook there is also an immense showing of coal.

The value of this coal find is great. It is situated only a few miles from the Pine River Pass; through which the Pine Pass Railway Company and the Pacific and Hudson Bay Railway Company will come. The route of the

latter railroad will lie along the Pine river, following the very best possible zone of attack for the exposed coal seams. The coal will be required for the operation of the railroad, also the Pine Pass railroad, and possibly for a section of the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern Pacific railways. It will be used on the Peace river steamboats, and in the houses of quite a large farming district, and in various towns. In connection with the Pine River district it may be noticed that close to the Pine Pass some free gold ores have been found which may prove to be of considerable value when more work is done. Also in the North Pine river there are great deposits of arsenical iron ore which may also prove to be of value.

There is a fine seam of coal, too, at Fort McKay, and Mr. Bledsoe took out last season about twenty tons right on the river bank. This was a good quality of bituminous coal, which could be used for common blacksmithing, but not for welding. Where exposed and worked, this seam goes down about five or six feet, and it seems to be getting larger. Another fine seam of coal is found at Horse Creek, about a mile and a half south from Fort McMurray, on the east of the Athabasca river.

panion that he had spent the time that he had been away visiting at Long Beach, California.

He still continued his life of idleness after the unexpected return, and seemed to care even less for associates than before; furthermore, he moved further back into the solitude, where he told Westerfield he intended to live among the pines for his health. However, it seems that the trapper went to live with the hermit during the winter, as it was easier to gain access to his trapping district; it was at this time that Bennett disclosed his identity, telling Westerfield the reason of his self-imposed exile and fully detailing how it had been made possible for him to "make his getaway," through friends.

Six months ago Bennett unexpectedly left that portion of the country once more, and Westerfield asserts that the former banker did not tell him where he was going. From the description given it is more than probable that this is the person wanted for perpetration of the grand larceny, who made good his escape through unknown means six years previous. American secret service men, still working on the case, have heard of his having been in British Columbia, and are now on his trail with the view of recovering at least a part of the stolen bonds.

HOW "STEAMBOAT" WAS NAMED

In 1870 there was a short-lived gold excitement on Ruby creek—not the Ruby creek that flows into the Fraser about nine miles below Hope, but the Ruby creek in the Steamboat. In that year there came to Hope, James Corrigan, W. L. Flood and W. A. Starrett, all of whom still live in Hope, and, after William Yeats, are the pioneers of the district. All three went into the Steamboat district, Flood and Carrigan together. These two built a raft to float down to the Skagit river to Ruby creek, and the point at which they sailed they named "Steamboat Landing," their raft being honored with the title of "Steamboat." From this the locality became known as "Steamboat," and for want of a better appellation, the term was finally applied to the neighboring mountain; hence "Steamboat Mountain."

FORTY-NINE INCHES OF SNOW

While the press despatches daily bring word of sunstrokes, suffering and disarrangement of business through the excessive heat in the East, the snow still lies deep in Devil's Canyon, on the old Cariboo road, through which the stage has only just been able to make its way to Barkerville on wheels, arriving at the old district capital on the 19th with three weeks' accumulation of letters for the Barkerville folks. Near Hedley, which is not so very far away, forty-nine inches of snow fell at the Nickelplate Mine during the week ending Saturday, May 20. This made seven feet one inch on the level for the first three weeks of May—and eleven more days to increase the depth of the banks!

The average mineral production of British Columbia for the last twelve years was \$12,689,000; for the last five years, \$23,232,000—nearly double.

British Columbia contributed 75 per cent of Canada's mineral production in 1910.

HERMIT OF THE SIMILKAMEEN

Expounding what he regards as a strange and most extraordinary story of the existence of a long missing man, James Westerfield, a trapper from the Similkameen, recently unfolded accidentally in the vivid and picturesque language of the North, the exact whereabouts of Horace Bennett, who absconded six years ago from Chicago, with more than \$100,000 in U. S. bonds belonging to the Illinois Consolidated Trust Company. At that time he was one of the firm's most trusted employees, and had come to the banking house with the best recommendations as a competent and reliable young man, after having worked previously for several of the larger American banking institutions. Although the authorities in both this country and the United States exercised the strongest effort to secure the arrest of Bennett, he seemed to slip through their hands and completely vanish as no other criminal has done in late years. For two years the police searched in vain for the missing man, but they were absolutely unable to unearth anything that looked like a clue, and the search eventually was abandoned.

Westerfield asserts that Horace Bennett has lived but a short distance from him for the past five years, and during the number of years of his residence in that vicinity has made no attempt to form the acquaintance of any of the trappers or other residents. It was not until the last two years that this would-be hermit was forced to make the acquaintance of Westerfield, because the two men were obliged to use the same trail during the winters. It was in this way that a mild degree of friendship grew up, and the former confided in Westerfield to some extent. Bennett did not seem to be doing anything to earn a livelihood, which fact caused natural comment. Later Bennett suddenly left the Similkameen for parts unknown, says Westerfield, and was away for six months, returning in the autumn and telling his com-

Protecting B. C. Forests

The announcement that the staff of fire wardens in the Nelson district has this year been doubled, that the number of divisional wardens has been considerably augmented, and that a network of patrols will this summer protect the districts most liable to fire loss, has just been made through the Interior Press by Mr. M. A. Grainger, of the newly-created British Columbia Forestry Commission.

"Although the Government doubled the number of its wardens, hired regiments of men to fight forest fires, and spent \$187,000, the enormous damage done to the timber resources of the province last summer convinced the Government that still more vigorous action was necessary," said Commissioner Grainger. "Hence one of the first problems confronting Hon. W. R. Ross when he became Minister of Lands last winter was the reorganization of the fire-fighting, or rather fire-preventing, force.

"The law that gives its weak protection to the forests of this country was passed fifteen years ago. Although some valuable amendments have been made to it during the last few sessions, this Bush Fire Act is still, in its general scope, a relic from the times when forest protection was looked upon by the public and by legislators as impracticable and even unnecessary. The Western States and several of the provinces of Canada are in advance of British Columbia as far as legislation of this character is concerned. Soon after taking his portfolio, Mr. Ross proceeded, therefore, to draft a bill to supersede the present Bush Fire Act. "For two reasons, however, it was decided to postpone the passage of this bill until next

year's session. Firstly, any legislation on the subject must of necessity be drastic, and the House this year already had too much work to do to spare the great amount of time that the hammering out of such legislation requires. Secondly, the Government has in view the introduction of a general lumber-forestry bill next session and a new Bush Fire Act could best be considered then.

"No such delay was possible in the reorganization of the forest protection service, and during the winter and spring Mr. Ross was engaged upon plans for this. As a result the number of fire wardens has again been doubled; a network of patrols will protect the dangerous districts far more effectively than ever before; the number of divisional inspectors has been greatly increased so that the work of the wardens can be vigilantly supervised; and a commission of three has been appointed to take charge of the whole organization, under the direct control of the Minister of Lands.

"Unusual efforts will be made this season to bring to justice offenders against the law. A circular letter from the minister has directed attention to every Justice of the Peace in the province to the fact that the least penalty that can be imposed for any infringement of the Bush Fire Act is \$50. Departmental posters tacked to trees tell the public that the shameful wasting of our timber resources and our prosperity by fire must be stopped, and that in a most uncompromising way the Government is going to stop it. A special reward, ranging from \$45 to \$120, is now offered for evidence leading to any conviction, and fire wardens are to have legal assistance in every information that they lay."

NEW DENVER'S INVITATION

Before Mr. E. Jacobs, secretary of the Western Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute, left New Denver last week to attend the tenth general meeting of the Branch at Trail, Superintendent Vallance, of the Standard mine, discussed with him the desirability of the Branch holding its autumnal meeting in New Denver. As a result of the conversation, there being no time for delay on account of the nearness of the Trail meeting, Mr. Vallance requested Mr. Jacobs to take with him the following invitation, which was hastily written so as to be in time for presentation at the annual gathering: The Secretary, Western Branch Canadian Mining Institute.

Dear Sir—There being considerable interest taken in the mines of the Slocan Lake section, particularly in several important properties in what is known as Four-Mile camp—developments in connection with which properties are of so much importance as to be now attracting widespread attention—it is thought the district is one that the Western Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute may reasonably be expected to regard as worthy of its notice. I have, therefore, much pleasure, on behalf of those in the district interested in mining, and of others who also desire to see its mineral resources more generally recognized as valuable and as promising to soon add substantially to the mineral production of British Columbia, in inviting your Branch to hold its next general meeting at New Denver. This town is so situated as to be easy of access to the various mining camps of Slocan Lake, and also to those about Sandon, McGuigan, Whitewater and other parts of the Slocan district. Should the Branch council decide to hold a meeting here, in response to this invitation, I am confident so much interest would be taken in it by all concerned as to assure its success, and at the same time prove of service to the mining industry of the district.

"Hoping to have the pleasure of welcoming your Branch here, I am,

"Yours truly,
(Sd.) JOHN VALLANCE.

The invitation has been referred to the newly-elected council, and it is hoped it will be accepted shortly, so as to allow of there being ample time in which to make the necessary arrangements. The usual date for the autumn meeting of the branch is about the middle of September.

CLAIMS PLANTAGENET DESCENT

Another chapter has just been written in the curious case of Francis Anstey—while at present sojourning, not of his own free will, in the provincial jail at Kamloops, as a result of a transaction in square-face gin of which an Indian was the purchaser—is through near relatives pressing a claim for wealth and title which, if successful, will win for him recognition as one of the bluest-blooded aristocrats of ancient England. The active agent in the advocacy of the Anstey claim has just been in Vancouver, and in connection with his flying visit there, a local daily prints the following: "With the official proof of his blood-connection with the monarch of England of six centuries ago, contained in a ponderous volume, 'The Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal,' just published by Melville & Co., Lon-

A MUCH-INJURED MAN

B. Ferari of Prince Rupert is an injured man. He is not at all inclined to retain the exalted opinion of the justice of British law that was his when he came to this province six months or so ago. In fact he is inclined to agree with the crude philosopher who declared dogmatically that "the law is a h'ass." Ferari's troubles arose largely through the fact that he does not speak English as yet, and the police officers of the North have been rather too busy breaking up blind pigs and the sale of liquor to Indians to complete their studies in modern Italian. The result was a misunderstanding, which was only satisfactorily disposed of after Ferari had spent some time in jail and been brought before Judge Young for trial on the charge of stealing from a hopelessly crippled compatriot at Hazelton. This unfortunate, it is said, will never leave the hospital. He gave all his worldly possessions, amounting to \$300 or \$400, to Ferari, to take care of for his people. The latter, being afraid to carry so much money about with him in a construction camp, hastened to Prince Rupert to bank it. Meanwhile others come to the conclusion that Ferari had stolen the money and "skipped." He was arrested at Rupert, and the things that the papers printed about him as the meanest man unhung were enough to bring the blush of shame to the cheeks of a graven image.

CIVILIZATION IN CARIBOO ROAD

It is doubtful if the march of civilization is anywhere more curiously illustrated than along the historic old Cariboo road, itself an engineering achievement reflecting no small credit upon its designers and builders of the early days. This marvelous thoroughfare over which the gold-laden stage coaches of the '60s swung with rush and clatter, is now traversed on regular schedules by no fewer than eighteen passenger-carrying automobiles. Rural mail delivery is partially established. And in the majority of the homes along the highway to the mines of other days and the Fort George city of today, the telephone is found, virtually every rancher along the Cariboo road for upwards of 250 miles being connected with the Dominion Government's phone system, now an exceedingly profitable public utility and one of the very greatest conveniences to the district residents. And now airship communication is seriously talked of as a possibility of the coming decade! What changes since the days when the pioneers of the Cariboo—many of them still living to witness these modern marvels—trudged, blankets and pack on back, over the long, long mountain trail, the lure of gold leading on and ever on!

NO RESPECTERS OF CLAIMS

During the past few weeks confusion worse confounded has occurred in connection with division lines between various properties near Prince Rupert city, in the immediate vicinity of Hay's Cove. Purchasers of property would go out to examine their holdings and would be unable to find the stakes marking their boundaries and testifying to the legitimate performance of their duties by the surveyor employed. Enlightenment and a full explanation of the situation came about a week ago, when it was discovered that children living just beyond Hay's Cove had been in the habit of pulling up the surveyors' stakes, finding them just the thing desired for the building of playhouses. Re-surveys have been necessary in several cases and new stakes have been put down. The children will build no more playhouses out of the material heretofore so popular.

There are 250,000 square miles of mineral lands for prospecting still contained in the waste places of British Columbia.

Land Rich With Promise

Few people in British Columbia have any adequate conception of the extent or the enormous value to the province of that magnificent stretch of country which will be opened up by construction of the Canadian Northern Pacific between Kamloops and Edmonton. The valley of the North Thompson is undoubtedly one of the best districts in the province for a variety of agricultural purposes. It will prove an ideal mixed farming country, a first-class dairy district, and in places a good cattle country. There are miles of good range land above the Clearwater river, and it will be in the vicinity of these that cattle raising on an extensive scale will be taken up. Everywhere in the valley and in all the tributary vales fruit will become an important factor. All kinds will do well, and this section in the future will have to be considered from the fruit-growers' standpoint.

This is particularly the case for the reason that there are thousands of acres scattered in small blocks of from five to twenty-five acres, of bottom or bench-land in localities where it is impossible to secure large tracts. These are quite large enough for fruit-growing and too small for any other kind of farming. When the railway is completed every inch of this land will be taken up—in fact will be eagerly sought. In many cases a stream is convenient to these small blocks and can be used for irrigation, but in many more cases pumping will have to be resorted to. For small lots this will be a profitable undertaking, especially when it is considered that, planted with trees and with a very small pumping plant installed, every acre of this land is worth from four hundred to five hundred dollars.

Agriculture, however, will not be the sole industry of the valley. There is coal in quantity which will be developed when transportation is supplied. The mineral wealth of the valley is undoubted, although as yet only scratched in places here and there. There are square leagues of mineralized territory on which the foot of man has never been pressed, streams which have never been panned, veins which have never felt the ring of the drill, all waiting the advent of the prospector, the mine manager and the capitalist. With transportation facilities conveniently situated, these will soon follow, and the North Thompson valley will come into its own to the great and lasting benefit of Kamloops.

Timber will for years play an important part in the industrial life of this virgin territory. Saw mills, pulp mills and kindred works will spring up all along the river and provide work for many hundreds of men. As the forests are felled, the land will be given over to the plow and its permanency for agricultural purposes forever established. Above and beyond the value of the natural resources of the valley, its charm as a residential district is great and will become known to the outside world as soon as it is possible to reach the choicest parts by rail. Its climate varies in various sections, but is good in all, while the scenery everywhere is strikingly beautiful. Fish and game, furred and feathered, is abundant all along the North Thompson, so that the sportsman will find plenty to keep his rod, gun and rifle from rust.

don, George Roy Anstey is en route from California to join his brothers on their 320-acre ranch near Kamloops, where their grandfather, Francis Senior Anstey, one of the pioneers of that district, still resides. He is in his eighty-second year.

"For three generations our family has been ridiculed for laying claim to this distinction," said Mr. Anstey, "and those of us who are left are naturally gratified in having that claim finally and officially satisfied."

"Mr. Anstey, who is a printer by trade, and for many years a resident of Long Beach, Cal., is in his twenty-sixth year, the youngest of four sons of Charles Townsend Anstey, two of whom, Charles A. and Walter J., are managing the Kamloops ranch. The fourth son, James D., resides in Los Angeles, their father left Victoria in 1893 during the gold rush to South Africa, and died there a year later. The grandfather, who, although past eighty-one, contemplates another trip back to the Old Country, is the son of Rev. Charles Alleyne Anstey, M. A., master of England's famous Rugby school.

"A few years ago he received a letter from the Marquis of Ruvigny, stating that he had been instructed by the King to trace the exact line of descent of the House of Plantagenet, and as a descendant Anstey was asked to assist in tracing the family in America. A week ago, the grandson, George Roy Anstey, received a copy of this elaborate work. It contains his own name as the youngest son of Charles Townsend Anstey. On his way to Vancouver with the proofs he visited Portland, where his mother resides and where for years the claim of the family had been ridiculed."

NEEDS OF HOPE

The new town of Hope still presents numerous special opportunities in a business way. For example there are excellent openings for: A chemist and druggist, a furniture and carpet dealer, a millinery and dress goods establishment, a boot and shoe store, a tailor and gentleman's furnisher, a fish market, a fruit and produce store, a jeweler and glassware dealer, a painter and paperhanger, a soda water and ice cream stand, a laundry and dyeing establishment, a barrister, a physician, a dentist and a veterinarian.

SOME BALM

"Duke, I'm sorry," said the millionaire, "but my daughter can't marry you."
"Then I have loved in vain?"
"Not wholly, duke. Here's \$50 for you."

Brown—"Yes, I'm acquainted with your wife, old man. I knew her before you married her."
Smith—"Ah, that's where you had the advantage of me. I didn't."

One day a lady with a passion for house-decorating was careless enough to drink a glass of red ink, mistaking it for claret. A doctor was summoned.

"My dear madam," he remarked, when the facts had been placed before him, "there's such a thing as pushing this rage for decorated interiors too far!"