

Resources of British Columbia

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SALUTATORY.

In presenting this, the initial number of the *RESOURCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA*, to our readers, we feel that no prefatory apology is necessary, because we believe that the best interests of the Province, as well as those of intending emigrants, will be greatly subserved by the dissemination, far and wide, of reliable information regarding the great natural wealth of this country. British Columbia needs a large immigration for the development of its varied resources as much as the distant home-seeker desires to find the most profitable field for his labor or the investment of his capital. But, inasmuch as the necessary information, like any other commodity, can be obtained only from those who have it, and as this country is comparatively unknown abroad, it is therefore evident that in order to induce emigrants to come and settle in the country, they must first be made somewhat acquainted with the character and extent of its resources; otherwise they will go to such other places as, from their knowledge of them, may seem best suited to supply their wants. As the interests of British Columbia and those of the emigrant are measurably co-existent and mutual, the columns of this publication will be exclusively devoted to their advancement. Every considerable industry and resource of each district of the Province will, from time to time, receive special attention in the order of their importance; and we have no hesitation in assuring the public that the excellence of our paper will be commensurate with the patronage it may receive.

At our expense, one or more copies of each number will be regularly mailed free to the leading public libraries, newspapers and free reading rooms of Europe and America; especially to those of Great Britain and the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion of Canada. In addition to the large number which will likely be ordered and sent abroad by our leading business firms, capitalists, real estate owners and transportation companies, it is expected that each single subscriber after having perused it, will take the trouble to mail each copy to the address of some foreign friend or acquaintance and thereby aid in the dissemination of facts regarding our unrivalled resources.

Those writing for any particular information regarding the country or other cognate matter will be answered in our columns under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

A BRIEF SKETCH OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Its Early History, Present Condition and Brilliant Prospects.

William H. Seward, one of the most illustrious of American statesmen, has, in the terse and vigorous style which characterized the great secretary, left upon record the following sentences, which to-day, ring like an eloquent prophecy of Isaiah:

"The United States will one day regret of having treated Canada with such arrogance and pride. Canada is destined to become the seat of an immense empire, the Russia of North America, but a Russia with a more advanced civilization than the European Russia. All the political stars of the South may become faint, while those which light the North Pole increase in eclat and splendor."

The possible destiny of British North America as a country of fifty millions of freemen, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, living under the laws of Alfred and speaking the language of Shakespeare and Milton, is an august conception. But the foundation of that destiny has already been laid, and every breaker that foams and thunders across the historic entrance of the Strait of Fuca, and every ringing blow that drives a spike in the great trans-continental highway, now hastening hither, add proof to prophecy and swell the pean of its final accomplishment. The shadow on the dial of Canadian progress had hardly turned westward when that great advocate of territorial expansion gave utterance to the prophetic words above quoted; and now, sooner even than his swift imagination could have conceived, a young civilization, bold as the Roman and splendid as the Greek, has arisen here on the western verge of the continent, where the Orient meets the Occident, and the great oceans blend their eternal anthems under a sweeping arch of national advancement and renown.

These thoughts are inevitably suggested as we sit down to write a brief sketch, descriptive however feebly, of the resources of this fair Province; and, as the topic naturally includes a running *resumé* of the leading facts connected with its discovery and early settlement, a few remarks on these subjects will not be deemed inappropriate.

Although the bold mariners of Spain are usually accorded the honor of having been the first messengers of any civilized nation to this *terra incognita*, yet as their pretensions are misted with doubt in this respect, we may, without further comment, dismiss as mere "sailor yarns," the varying and absurd accounts of the alleged explorations of the mythical De Fuca, and claim for that bold English tar, Capt. Vancouver, the distinction of being the first to circumnavigate that fair Isle, the England of the Pacific, which has ever since borne his honored patronymic. In 1790, Captain Vancouver, formerly a lieutenant under Capt. Cook, was sent by the British Government to meet a Spanish commission at Nootka Sound, in order to adjust a dispute which menaced the peace of both powers. The dream of a Northwest passage