

Nelson—Queen City of the Kootenay

THESE are certain movements of population in evidence at different periods of the world's history. These cause the settlement and development of different portions of the earth's surface. These movements come from varying sources and from different causes. They are due to the great effort of the human race to find for the individual the fullest opportunity for expression. We see the evidence of this in the great movements of population westward from Ontario to the prairies in the first great boom of 1885. We see it again expressing itself in another way beginning in 1896, and continuing onward to the present day.

But with settlement conditions change, and the same forces which have influenced the movements of population in one direction at one time may exert themselves in a movement in an entirely different direction at another time. Some big outstanding feature seems to absorb the attention of the world for a few years; possibly it may be wheat, and for a time everyone talks of wheat and the possibility of wealth production from wheat. At another it is the growing of fruit, and whether it be oranges, grapes, apples or bananas, the thought of the world is turned to activity in that particular line, and the tide of settlement flows toward the fruit lands of the world.

In the last few years a new force has come into existence in directing the trend of settlement. Men are thinking today not alone of wealth production, for that always has been and always will be important, but they are thinking of something more, the possibility of developing a real home with real home conditions. There is embedded in the very soul of mankind a desire for home—with all the fulness which that word implies to Anglo Saxon minds; some place away from the crowded city, where climatic conditions, social environment and commercial possibilities lead to the accumulation, not of wealth alone, but to the development of manhood in Nature's best surroundings.

"British Columbia, because of its wonderful resources, is attracting the attention of the whole world."

These are a few of the reasons why on every hand the province of British Columbia is attracting the attention of the world today. This province is the largest in Canada; it forms an immense quadrangle, running 700 miles north from the International Boundary and reaching from the province of Alberta to the Pacific Ocean, a distance of approximately 400 miles. Within this vast area there are 252,800,000 acres. The population was only 392,480 in 1911, but this is increasing very rapidly, and British Columbia stood in the front rank among the provinces and states which made the greatest gains in population from 1901 to 1911, showing an increase of 120 per cent.

Within this vast area there is, of course, wide diversity of soil and climate. Broken as the country is by mountain ranges, with sheltered valleys between,

Page Seven