

out an acre of solid ore; but they don't mine, they quarry. In spite of big wage—12s. to 14s. a day—the ore is got out at a cost of 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. a ton, and they mine and smelt at a cost of only 8s. 4d. a ton."

These remarks apply to just one mining district, and there are millions of acres of mineral land in the Province yet untouched—a vast field for the capitalist to develop.

In addition to what are known as the metalliferous mines, there are great coal areas. At present the supply of coal is drawn from practically only two districts, the Crow's Nest Mine of Southern British Columbia, and the Nanaimo and Comox Mines of Vancouver Island. The Crow's Nest commenced work about three years ago, and already turns out some 2,000 tons of coal daily, and will shortly increase that output to 5,000 tons, and is expected to eventually go up to 15,000 tons daily. None of this coal or coke goes to the Coast, being all used in the district. This wonderful deposit consists of 10 seams, varying from 6 to 22 feet in thickness. The coal produces a very superior coke, such as is required in very large quantities in the copper mining districts, and owing to the proximity of the Crow's Nest to these mines, it has helped to give new life to the smelting and mining industry generally, as may be judged from the fact that coke a few years ago sold in that district for not less than \$16 per ton, and is now supplied at from \$8 to \$9 a ton.

A recent estimate made by mining engineers places the amount of coal at the Crow's Nest Mines at 22,595,000,000 tons. The Vancouver Island Coal Mines are the best known on the Pacific, as they, up to the present, produce the only good quality of coal found on the coast, and have for years been supplying the City of San Francisco and other foreign ports and the principal steamship lines on that ocean with the best steam coal. The output last year was 1,599,179 tons. Some of the Vancouver Island coal also makes good coke.

There are other deposits of coal known in the Province, at Similkameen, Nicola and Kamloops, and at the north, near Skeena River, and at Queen Charlotte Islands, not touched yet, but ready for development for the supply of the coming steam fleets that must be employed on the Pacific.

#### UNLIMITED WEALTH IN TIMBER AND FISH.

From coal we turn to another great resource of the Province, its forests of the finest and most useful kinds of timber. It is said by far the largest area of timber on the American Continent is that of British Columbia. Men of the highest experience report that there is more to the acre there than in any other part of America. Whilst in Eastern Canada a production of 20,000 feet to the acre is considered a good average, in British Columbia as much as 500,000 feet have been cut from an acre, and 100,000 to 200,000 is quite usual. At present a large part of the output of the timber mills is being exported to distant countries, but this business is only in its infancy, as the requirements of the world are rapidly increasing.

I find by the reports from some 48 of the cities and towns of Great Britain that have been sent to me, that though they are only partially using wood for paving at present, the average annual requirement of wood blocks is about twenty-two millions—equal, I estimate, to at least twenty-two million feet timber measure; and this is a demand that is certain to increase, as those now using will want more, and hundreds of other towns are certain eventually to adopt this excellent and economical form of paving. British Columbia at present supplies none of this, though its Douglas pine and its cedar are