

for his money without undue risk, enters the field, ready to pay a good price for what he requires. All stages of this progress may already be found in British Columbia alone, where there is ample room, and where opportunities of every kind will continue to occur for many years to come. It is devoutly to be hoped that the process of expansion, although certain to be rapid, will continue to be sound, and that the conditions of a "boom" may be avoided by the exercise of proper caution on the part of investors. It may be taken for granted that many undeveloped properties or worthless claims will be offered to the public as "investments." The purchaser cannot himself be familiar with the facts in most cases, but he should, at least, require the report of some reputable authority, made wholly in his interest.

Little need be said of the coal mines of British Columbia in the present connection, for these, in the region of the coast and where already open to commerce, have long passed the stage at which any difficulty was found in establishing confidence for their operation. They are in the hands of strong corporations, and their output is limited only by the dimensions of the profitable market, in which they compete, along the west coast, with the coals of Great Britain, New South Wales, and the State of Washington. The production now averages about a million tons annually. New fields, however, remain to be opened up when called for, even on the coast, particularly in the Queen Charlotte Islands. In the interior region, in the Crow's Nest Pass and the Nicola Valley, as well as in other districts still further from means of communication, important deposits of coal are known to exist. That of the Crow's Nest Pass has been shown by the Geological Survey to be an exceptionally valuable one, and about one hundred miles of railway only are required to connect it with the metalliferous mines of West Kootenay, where at present some considerable part of the fuel employed in smelting is Welsh coke, costing about fifteen dollars a ton. The coal mines on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, near Canmore, although politically included in the district of Alberta, also geographically belong to the Rocky Mountain region. They yield anthracite and steam-coal, of which the output is here again restricted only by the demand.

In writing thus first and at some length of British Columbia, I have placed in the front that region of Canada which affords now the greatest opportunities, and of which the product in metallic minerals may very probably for some time to come increase two-fold each year; but in doing so the resources of that part of the Dominion to the east of the Rocky Mountains must not be overlooked. The North-West Territory and Manitoba—speaking only of the southern moiety of that great interior region which has