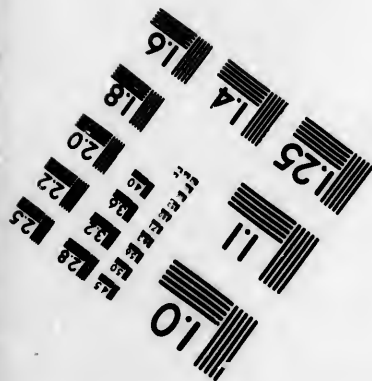
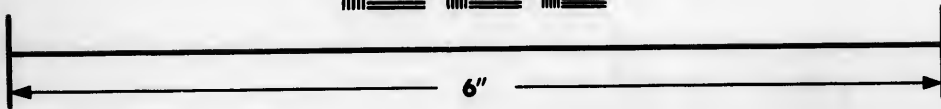
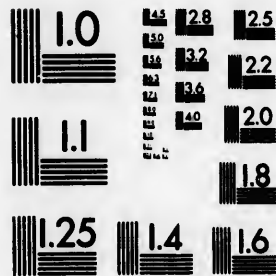


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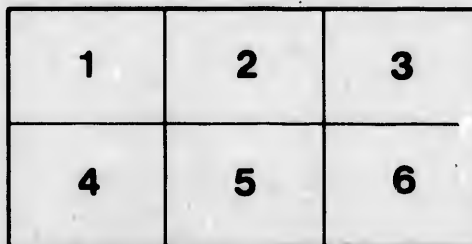
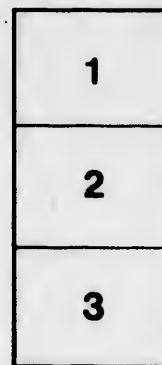
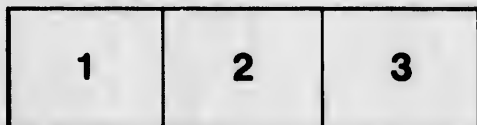
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THE ELDORADO OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

BY W. H. S. AUBREY, LL.D.

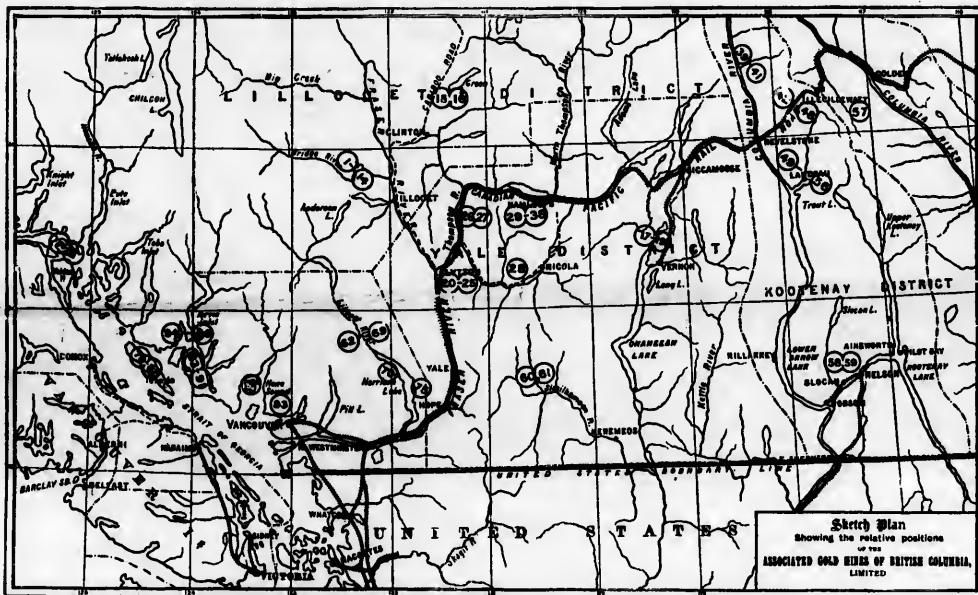
(Author of "The Rise and Growth of the English Nation.")

Public attention has been drawn of late to the vast auriferous wealth which has been brought to light in British Columbia. That province has an area of 385,300 square miles, or more than three times the size of the United Kingdom. It has lofty mountain ranges, immense forests, many fruitful valleys, large rivers, a seaboard of a thousand miles in extent, inexhaustible fisheries, and vast agricultural possibilities, besides mineral wealth, the extent of which it is almost impossible to overestimate. In the southern portion the climate is superior to that of Southern England or Central France. In this section snow seldom falls, and then it lies only a few hours or days. Dr. George M. Dawson, C.M.G., of the Dominion Government Geological Survey, and Mr. William Ogilvie, of the Land Survey Department, certify to the mineral resources of this great British dependency.

The Hon. James Baker, Minister of Mines, gives in his last report full particulars of the various districts. The mineral lands are open to location by any person having a free mining licence, which costs five dollars per annum, but only one claim of 1500 feet square, equal to fifty-two acres, can be staked off by one person, and he must conform to the regulations of the Mineral Acts. Possessory rights are secured by doing 100 dollars' worth of work on the claim in each year, or by

the early stages of development, when the vast area of hidden wealth is considered. Great strides, however, have already been made, and many of the camps are completely equipped for mining operations. In the Lardeau, Big Bend, and other parts of this rich region, mining is profitably carried on, and, as capital is acquired through the working of the mines, or is brought in, the output of ore will be immensely increased. Capitalists and practical miners have shown their unbounded confidence in West Kootenay by investing millions of dollars in developing claims, equipping mines, erecting smelters, building tramways, &c., and an eminent American authority speaks of it as "the coming mining empire of the North-West." In 1896 the population of West Kootenay was trebled, and the year witnessed the creation of a number of new mining-camps, which astonished the world with their phenomenal growth and prosperity. There are valuable timber limits in different parts of the country, and saw-mills are in operation. One of the desirable features of British Columbia for mining is the presence in all places of timber, and in most of water also.

Revelstoke is the gateway to the great West Kootenay mining-camps. It is situated on the Columbia River, which, twenty-eight miles below, expands into the Arrow Lakes, whence there is steamer communication to Nakusp. The opening of the Nakusp and Slocan Railway to Sandon, with the establishment of a steambot service on the Slocan and the Okanagan Lake, has done much to develop the district. Geologists and mining engineers of authority state that within a radius of twelve



PLAN OF THE ASSOCIATED GOLD MINES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.
(The Numbers refer to the Ninety-two Mines.)

paying that amount into the Treasury of the Province. When 500 dollars' worth of work has been done, the owner of the claim can secure a full title by means of the Crown grant of the land, after which no annual assessment is required.

Cariboo has been thus far the best known, because it has attracted numerous settlers, but there are immense treasure-fields lying to the south of it. Lillooet, for instance, is rapidly assuming importance as a gold-producer. The Golden Cliche and many other valuable mines are being operated, and quartz-bearing veins are being developed. In the districts of Yule and Kamloops placer-mining has been successfully carried on for years, and rich mineral discoveries have recently been made, carrying gold and copper.

Lillooet district lies directly south of Cariboo, and is bisected by the Fraser River. The country is as yet only sparsely peopled, the principal settlements being in the vicinity of the river, though there are others which, when the projected Cariboo Railway is built, will rapidly become of more importance. This district is rapidly coming to the front as a gold-producer. West Kootenay district lies east of Yule, and extends north and south from the Big Bend of the Columbia River to the international boundary, embracing, with East Kootenay (from which it is separated by the Purcell range of mountains), an area of 16,500,000 acres. West Kootenay is chiefly remarkable for its great mineral wealth. Marvellously rich deposits have been discovered in different sections, and new finds are almost daily made. There is still a large area not yet prospected, which will doubtless yield even more phenomenal returns of precious ores. It is a country of illimitable possibilities, but is only passing

miles of Rossland Nature has deposited more golden store than in any similar area on the globe. Rossland is the site of such famous mines as the War Eagle, Iron Mask, Nickle Plate, Le Roi, and others, the value of the ore from which ranges from twenty-five to two hundred dollars per ton. Le Roi mine, in particular, may be ranked among the great gold-mines of the world. It was opened up four or five years ago by men of limited means. It is now paying £10,000 per month in dividends. Rossland has risen since the first year of its existence from a camp of three hundred miners to a city of between five and six thousand people, whose numbers are rapidly increasing.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has completed its extension from Revelstoke to Arrow Head, adjacent to which is the Lardeau district, rich in galena ore and gold quartz, and placer claims on which active work is being done. From this point to Trout Lake a good road has been built by the Provincial Government. Where the first spur lines will be built from the Crow's Nest Pass Railway to the North Star and Sullivan group of mines, Nature has provided two passes through the mountains, either of which can be selected, and the grade will be comparatively easy. The Crow's Nest Pass Railway will stimulate activity, for there is no doubt but that the rich mineral lands abutting will be thoroughly explored as the means of egress and ingress improve. One hundred miles of that railway are already built, and one hundred and fifty more are expected to be finished by the end of the present year. Wagon-roads have been made from various central railway points into the different mining districts, and many others are about to be built. Large fields of coal and oil are being discovered.

For the purpose of acquiring and developing ninety-six of what are believed to be the most valuable and promising mining properties in the Province, and also to acquire from time to time, as opportunities offer, similar properties, the Associated Gold Mines of British Columbia,



WAGON-ROAD, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Limited, was incorporated on Jan. 14, 1898, with a capital of half-a-million. It is also intended to carry on the gainful business of transport and trading in machinery, tools, mining implements, food, clothing, and all the necessaries of life and industry, the profits of which are likely to be enormous. The properties which have been acquired promise, in the judgment of competent authorities, to yield extraordinary results. The most valuable claims have been selected, after a thorough inquiry and investigation by experts, spread over a lengthened period. The circled numbers on the sketch-plan show the approximate locations. One important and promising feature is their proximity to mines like those mentioned below, which have yielded and are continuing to yield enormous wealth. Another is the abundance of wood and water, for lack of which so many mines have failed. A third feature is that the ninety-six mines are spread over a considerable area, and that each district has its own special recommendations. The districts comprise Lillooet, Yale, Kamloops, Lardeau, Kootenay, and the islands and inlets on the Pacific Coast above Vancouver. Many of the latter being close to navigable waters, the ores can be transported to the smelters at slight cost. Quartz developments are being made on claims situate on Texada Island, and from one of these shipments have gone on for several months. All these ores carry gold, and some of it is free milling.

One important and promising feature is the proximity of the Associated Mines to those which have yielded, and are continuing to yield, enormous wealth. Two of the mines, for instance, adjoin the exceedingly valuable Tangier mine, brought out by the Goldfields of British Columbia, Limited, and are contiguous to the Waverley, another rich mine promoted by the same company. The Tangier was brought to such a state of development by the parent concern that at the statutory meeting on Feb. 17, 1898, an announcement was made of a shipment of fifteen tons of ore, valued at about £350. It was also stated that numerous assays show that the vein, of fifteen feet in width, carries six



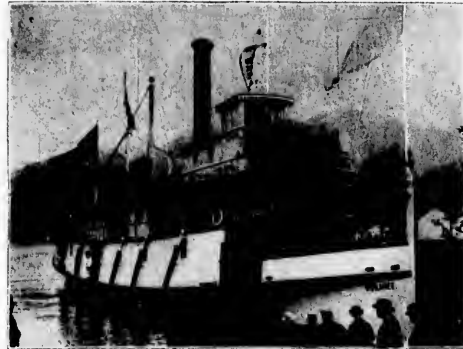
SANDON, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

pounds' worth of gold per ton and over one hundred ounces of silver. The strong presumption is that this rich vein runs through the adjacent land owned by the Associated Gold Mines of British Columbia.

Another group of three are close to the famous Silver Cup, which is said to be yielding £10,000 monthly. Two others adjoin Morning

Glory, the assay of which is £200 per ton. Two more are contiguous to the successful Iron Mask. The Summit Group of five properties adjoin the Grant Govan, and also the Waverley. Another, the Trahadrah, in Cayoosh Creek, is next the Golden Stripe and the Excelsior, and the gold in that creek is said by Dr. G. M. Dawson to be worth eighteen dollars an ounce. Two others are near the Lucky Strike, and seem destined to become famous in the annals of mining, for the "leads" have been traced 3000 feet, and are workable all the year. One more mine adjoins the well-known Raven and the Van Anda, and, indeed, all the ninety-six belonging to the Associated are in the immediate proximity of other proved mines, and are located on or near to the Canadian Pacific Railroad, or in the vicinity of lakes and rivers, so that transport facilities are great.

It is intended with all speed to bring out a series of subsidiary companies, to which single mines or small groups of mines will be sold, for the purpose of fully developing and working them. Within about a month, for example, it is expected that this will be done with the Robert E. Burns mine, as the necessary arrangements are in a forward state. That property is situated in the Selkirk Mountains, near Golden, on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Several veins outcrop on the claim, and one of them is from four to eight feet thick. Thirty assays made from ore on the ground showed an average of fifty dollars per ton in gold, and exceedingly favourable reports have been made on the property by three eminent mining engineers. Besides the above, upwards of twenty of the Associated Mines have been so far developed as to prove beyond all question their permanent dividend-earning capacity. All these properties are so advanced in various stages and so practically workable that clean, good ore can be shipped in almost any quantity immediately, with what the responsible agents and experts in British Columbia state will prove to be large and satisfactory results. Of course, the profits on the resale of these mines and of the others to follow will accrue to the shareholders in the parent company.



A LAKE STEAMER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 67, King William Street, E.C., has courteously supplied most of the particulars and the illustrations given in this article. The company have also done much to diffuse authentic information throughout the United Kingdom on the climate, the products, the mineral resources, the trade, fisheries, and the general development of the Province, with particulars as to the acquisition of land, the location of towns, travelling and banking facilities, and other matters of interest to settlers.

Free schools exist throughout the Province. The means of elementary instruction keep pace with the growth of the population. Nor are the more sparsely-peopled districts neglected. Wherever a minimum daily attendance of at least ten pupils can be secured, the Government supplies a certificated teacher, so that there is scarcely a settlement in the country too small or too scattered for the advantages of a common-school education to be afforded. Last year's return gives over two hundred public schools throughout the Province, educating about sixteen thousand children. About one-fifth of the total revenue is thus disbursed, besides large annual grants from the Department of Lands and Mines for the erection of school-buildings. The salaries of teachers in cities are defrayed out of municipal rates, which also support high schools.

In the early days, during the first mining "boom," and prior to the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the cost of living was high. Growing competition and increased facilities for transportation by land and water have lowered the prices of the necessaries of life, which cost no more at the present time than in the adjacent United States territory. They can be purchased at a moderate advance upon the prices ruling in the markets of Ontario and Eastern Canada. Already large numbers are on their way to these inviting fields for enterprise, and it is expected that the advent of Spring will witness a vast immigration into the country. In the judgment of mining and Stock Exchange authorities there is every likelihood of a busy time in the market for British Columbia mining shares.

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