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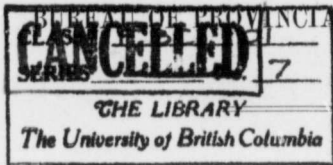
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FIELD FOR EMIGRATION.

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1902.

## WHAT BRITISH COLUMBIA OFFERS.

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Report of Lecture delivered by the Hon. J. H. Turner, Agent-General, at  
the London Institute, Finsbury Circus, London,  
27th. November, 1902.

—:—

I have had the honour to be invited to read to-night a paper on the Province which I represent in Great Britain. It gives me great pleasure to do so, but if you expect a literary treat, such as you are accustomed to in this Institute, there will, I fear, be disappointment. My paper is more a plain talk and statement of facts about that western section of the Dominion of Canada.

Having now resided in England (my original home) for over twelve months, after having lived in British Columbia nearly forty years, I am impressed more and more, daily, by the unequal, I had almost said unfair, distribution of population in the world. Here, within an area of a few miles, you have crowded together, shoulder to shoulder, some five or six millions of human beings; the greater part of the vast number having apparently to worry and fret, toil and elbow one another for a living. One feels sometimes as if there is not room to breathe, that there cannot be air enough for the multitude, and if you go to the country you find large cities and towns everywhere showing similar conditions; whilst over there in the shining west lies the great Province that has so long been my home, with its vast spreading plains, grand mountain ranges, its beautiful lakes, rivers and fiords. A country over 600 miles long by 500 miles broad, with an area of 260,000,000 acres, yet with less than 200,000 inhabitants, whilst here in Greater London, with an area of about 440,000 acres, you have six and a half millions. There a country far larger than England, Wales and Scotland, and here one city with over thirty times as many people as there are in the whole of that land, which is greater than many kingdoms of old.

In Europe there is the difficulty of life on account of excess of inhabitants, whilst over there the country is suffering for the want of them. No doubt here, as well as everywhere else, people desire to improve their condition, to get on in the world. That being the fact, it is worth careful consideration whether it would not greatly add to the chances of improved conditions for many if they struck out for life in a new country—not a foreign country, not a country with a different language, or religion, or climate, except, perhaps, that the climate is better. I feel confident in my own mind that any young man with health, intelligence, ability and determination to work has a much better prospect before him in such a country than he has here, and with my knowledge of British Columbia I can truly say that I believe it is a highly desirable country for such men. At the same time, I do not advise anyone to emigrate without most careful consideration. It must not be forgotten that hard work is necessary in a new country, that disappointment and difficulties are there as well as here, yet I would not hesitate, if I were young and knew the conditions as I do, to try and build up a home there. I don't think that any part of the earth is fairer or better adapted for Britons.

It may be thought that I am prejudiced in this respect by my connection with, and my long residence in, that Province. Perhaps I am, and so would anyone be who knows it as well as I do, and it is remarkable that those who pay only a passing visit speak just as highly of it.

#### IMPRESSIONS OF A VISITING JOURNALIST.

The correspondent of the "Morning Post," who accompanied the royal party of the Prince and Princess of Wales on its memorable journey, writes thus of British Columbia:—

"The wild vegetation had the luxuriance, not of the tropics, but of the tender north. It is the combination of rich wild country and old-fashioned English homes that makes the surroundings so wholly delightful. They tell me, and I can quite believe it, that he who has stayed here a while is so conquered by the charm of the country that if he leaves it he is compelled to return to it. Then how magnificent are the landscapes, on which the possessors of these pleasantest of homes look out. Embracing broad waters, sinuous straits, timbered islands and capes and, behind all, the mighty ranges with their summits of eternal snow, the most conspicuous being Mount Baker, which, though a hundred miles away, is generally clearly visible. When I saw this fine mountain it looked like a huge ball of delicate white, suspended in mid air, for only its snowy dome gleaming in the sunlight was distinguishable, its lower slopes being invisible in the distance and blending with the blue of the sky."

Of the mountain scenery of the Mainland Mr. Whymper says that "it is as extensive as fifty Switzerlands," and I may add that it is, too, practically as easy of access. That wonderful railway company, the Canadian Pacific, has established numerous excellent hotels in the very heart of the mountains. At several of them there are expert Swiss guides who conduct the tourist over what were considered, a short time ago, to be inaccessible points. Quite recently another mountain valley has been opened up, of surpassing grandeur. At its head are the "Takakkaw Falls," where an enormous body of water leaps a sheer 2,000 feet from a glacier-bound tarn.

The reason that travellers are so favourably impressed by the country is probably largely due to its magnificent scenery and its delightful and healthful climate. These are good reasons, too, and of the utmost importance to the intending settler; but beyond these there are much greater ones why people should make that Province their home. To sum them up in two words, they are its location and its resources.

If you look at a map of the world you will see that British Columbia juts out into the North Pacific. Carry your eyes across the Pacific to the west and southward and you see Japan, China, India, Australia, New Zealand and all the islands of that ocean, in addition to the western shores of the great American Continent, which stretches for some thousands of miles to the south. Most of these countries are populous and a large amount of business is already done with them, but the course of trade is rapidly changing. Forty years ago there was hardly a steamer on the Pacific; you could almost count them all on your fingers. I have, in fact, a walking stick made from the wood taken from the old "Beaver," the first steamer that navigated the Pacific. She was wrecked some years since, near Vancouver. To-day there are several lines of fine steamers crossing that ocean, trading with all the countries still further west and south and connecting with lines of railway that traverse the American Continent to the Atlantic. Telegraphic communication has long been in existence from Europe to the

far western shore of America, and it now extends through Canada up to Alaska and the Yukon, and only a week or two ago we had the glad news that an all-British cable had been successfully laid from the western shores of Vancouver Island, right across the mighty Pacific to Australia.

#### POSSIBILITIES OF ORIENTAL TRADE.

The completion of this all-British line of telegraph was heartily celebrated at Victoria on 31st October last, by a meeting at the theatre in that city, Mayor Hayward in the chair, with the Lieutenant-Governor Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, the Bishops and other notabilities present. The Mayor, in his speech, pointed out that, starting from Victoria, the cable makes the longest unbroken stretch in the world, landing at Fanning Island, a distance of 3,458 miles; then on by Suva, Fiji and Norfolk Island to Australia, a length of 7,346 miles and around the world to Victoria again by cable 21,000 miles, and land lines 10,000 miles; in all, 31,000 miles. Messages were sent from the theatre that evening to many points on the line, and replies received from several during the meeting, including one from Fiji.

These steamers, railways and telegraphs are going to revolutionise the Pacific. Consider the enormous increase of trade that must arise from the development of the Western American Continent and the vast Empire of China alone.

American writers have taken up this question. They point out that to a certain extent the trade of the Atlantic countries is practically a fixture; it is as large, or nearly so, as it is likely to be, and the greatest expansion of the world's commerce must take place on the Pacific. And these American writers claim that the United States will indisputably capture the whole or, at any rate, the largest part of it. It seems to me, however, that in the awakening of Britain and her Colonies that they, together, are likely to hold this trade. The position of Canada with its great Western Province jutting out, as I have already said, into the Pacific Ocean, possessing practically all the good harbours of the Pacific Slope, except those of San Francisco and Puget Sound, and being considerably nearer to Japan and China than the American ports, and by some hundreds of miles also by the Canadian railways nearer to Britain, possesses such advantages that, if energy and intelligence are applied, it will be hard for any other country to wrest this trade from the Mistress of the Seas.

Now, British Columbia is the part of Canada that lies so near the Orient. This Province possesses all the natural resources required to build up a great country; it is the Britain of the Pacific, with its inexhaustible stores of coal, iron, copper, lead, silver and gold; with the largest area of the finest merchantable timber probably of any country in the world, and with splendid water-power to assist in developing all these resources.

The importance of the position of the Province was clearly shown during the late trouble with China, and was taken advantage of by the Imperial Government in the transportation of troops rapidly from the Atlantic across the railway of the Canadian Pacific. This demonstrates forcibly the great value of the naval harbour and forts of Esquimalt. With these resources and advantages, British Columbia must steadily rise to be one of the most important parts of the Empire, and, therefore, it is the right sort of place for those who are ambitious and desirous of carving out a future for themselves, with greater freedom and with less conventionality or rigid following of the old complicated methods necessary in Europe.

## MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE PROVINCE.

I think I have now, in a few words, explained why the position of British Columbia, with its natural resources, makes it a desirable country. Referring more particularly to these resources, probably at the head of the list I should place its minerals. What they are may be judged by the fact that already, after only a few years' development, its mineral production in 1901, apart from coal, was some \$14,669,000, whilst in 1898 it was only \$7,313,256; and the report of the output for the present year shows that up to 1st October it was then in excess of the total output of 1901; and yet one may say that only the edge of the mineral belt is touched up to the present, as it extends the whole length of the Province on the Mainland, and on Vancouver Island, where perhaps some of the richest portions of it are now turning out many, many hundreds of tons daily of high class ore. I cannot attempt to estimate the number of millions of acres of mineral lands yet undeveloped in the Province. There is certainly abundance for explorers for many years to come.

Disparaging remarks are occasionally heard in London about the mines of British Columbia, and I have no doubt that very great and serious mistakes have been made here in connection with the working of some of them, and perhaps still greater mistakes in connection with the manipulation of the finances and in the promotion of the mining companies, probably but a small part of the capital raised having gone into the mines. But this is a condition that exists also in the other great mining districts of the world, and in spite of these mistakes and errors, mining development is steadily increasing in our Province, and as improved methods are invented they will be introduced by the up-to-date companies; in fact, to-day, probably, the British Columbia mines and smelters are in some cases working on as perfect a system as any in the world.

Mr. W. H. Nicholls, President of the Nicholls Chemical Company of New York, who is a great authority in the States on metallurgical matters, and to whose company nearly all the matte produced in British Columbia is consigned, has recently visited the Province, and he says:—

“The trip has proved a perfect revelation. British Columbia is so new that my first big surprise was in regard to the wonderful way in which the very latest mining inventions are being applied to local needs and conditions, and it is remarkable that one should come so far west to see the art of smelting so far advanced. I have examined a good many smelters in the East and West, at various times, but have no hesitation in stating that the plant here is the most modern I ever saw.” Of the mines he says:—  
“I traversed a considerable portion of the three miles of underground workings in the mines at Phoenix, and while not unprepared for surprises, the magnitude of the ore bodies far surpassed my expectations; they are the largest ore bodies I ever inspected, and I have had occasion to visit a great many mines, including my own in Mexico.”

Another authority, writing concerning some of the Boundary District mines, says:—  
“I visited three of the principal mines. One of these, the Knob Hill and Ironsides, is owned by Canadians; the Snowshoe is owned by a British company; the third, the Mother Lode, is an American undertaking. The Knob Hill is a most remarkable mine. I question if there is anything quite like it in the world, not even the Rio Tinto. Here is a mine that in three years can develop 70,000,000 tons of ore. The ore body is 400 feet wide, and in the three years it has been opened by some 10 miles of underground and surface workings. The Manager showed me where, in one place, they had blocked

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

eminently adapted for such use, the former being one of the strongest timbers known, where put down in the cities in the Province it has proved highly satisfactory. Then the vast quantity of wood required for making paper-pulp must in a few years' time at any rate come from the north-western coast of the Pacific, as the forests of other countries are rapidly being depleted.

Travellers in British Columbia are always impressed by the grandeur of the forest trees, the Douglas pine attaining a height of 300 feet and a circumference of 30 to 50 feet. One sees in England at Kew Gardens a flagstaff brought from Vancouver Island. It is only a piece of one of our trees, but it towers far above all the other noble trees in this beautiful garden. Tourists, too, if in British Columbia in summer, are astounded by the great shoals of salmon at the mouths of the rivers. It is not many years ago that these fish were left practically undisturbed, except by the Indians, but now they are caught by millions to be packed in tins for shipment abroad. This business is an important one; it employs in the season several thousand men. The pack of last year, 1901, was 1,190,000 cases of 48 lbs. each, or 67,120,000 lbs. of salmon—nearly a pound and three-quarters each for every man, woman and child in Great Britain. If this were all shipped home by long sea voyage, as most of it is, it would require about 25 ships, of 1,200 to 1,400 tons capacity each, to transport this nearly 30,000 tons weight of salmon. In addition to the salmon, the sea abounds with cod and halibut, and a great variety of other good fish, but comparatively little has been done at present to utilise the produce of the great sea farm.

#### FRUIT GROWING AND DAIRYING.

As to the agricultural capabilities of the Province, a very erroneous opinion for a long time existed that British Columbia could grow nothing of importance. It used to be said years ago that it might some day be a good mining country, but certainly would never be anything else. Of recent years, however, a great change has come about. It is found that the land and climate is eminently adapted for fruit growing and mixed farming, and there is a good market close at hand in the North-West Territories and Manitoba, and at home in towns and mining districts, for all that can be produced. How important the fruit industry is likely to become may be realised from the fact that though it was only practically commenced for business purposes about seven or eight years since, already considerable exports are being made. Up to the middle of October this year, some 125 carloads of splendid fruit had been shipped to the North-West and Manitoba and sold at excellent prices. I am not fully informed as to the quantity of fruit that can be packed in a Canadian railway freight car; I do know, however, that each car carries 20,000 to 30,000 lbs. weight of ordinary merchandise, but, no doubt, on account of packing and comparative light weight in proportion to bulk, considerably less of fruit. In addition to the fruit exported, a very large quantity is used in the Province.

I am informed that from Lord Aberdeen's fruit ranch in the Okanagan District fifty carloads were sold for export this year. Up to the present none has been shipped to Great Britain, for the very good reason that the supply is not yet up to the demand at home and in the adjoining Provinces. Of this I feel sure, however, that the time will come soon when British Columbia fruit will be imported into this country, and then you will know what really good fruit is. For such kinds as apples, pears, plums, and probably peaches, Californian productions cannot compare with ours. It amazes me to see the quantity of Californian apples that are sold in London. I think that they would

never be used at all but for their beautiful appearance, as they are certainly not equal to apples grown further north, and very much better apples than Californian can be grown in England if properly attended to.

Dairy farmers and poultry raisers have a great future in the Province. At the present time a very large quantity of butter, cheese and condensed milk, eggs and poultry are imported; in fact, until within the last three or four years, the whole of the requirements of British Columbia for these products came from abroad; yet very few countries are better adapted for this branch of agriculture, and, as in the case of fruit, the market is at hand and the prices good. Since legislation was passed for the encouragement of creameries, the manufacture of butter has largely increased. A number of these establishments are being worked and are very successful and proving a great help to the farmers, but still too much comes from abroad. Last year the value of butter, cheese, condensed milk, eggs and poultry imported was some £280,000—a very large sum for the population, and the whole could well be produced in the Province. Then, too, British Columbia imports bacon, hams, pork, lard, to the amount of £180,000, all of which the Province can well raise for itself.

#### A TOURISTS' RESORT.

I have somewhat briefly referred to some few of the resources that are awaiting development and are open for good workers. They are worth the consideration of those who contemplate emigrating, and no one should undertake to go off to a far country without the fullest and most careful thought and investigation. But for those who decide to make such a change, British Columbia possesses, I think, great advantages, as not only has it vast undeveloped resources, but, combined with these, it has an excellent climate, invigorating and health-giving, and is undoubtedly a delightful country to live in. And for the tourist it is a new field, providing altogether different features to the travelled lands of the old world. Its mountains, rivers and lakes are a perpetual delight. From the time the traveller enters the Province at the Rockies until he reaches the coast, some 500 miles further west, he passes a succession of gigantic mountains and glaciers, roaring water-falls, great rivers, lovely lakes and beautiful, placid streams; at one hour on dizzy precipices, and the next rushing through great forests of cedar and pine, whose grand trunks soar aloft for hundreds of feet. Then at the coast he can steam for hundreds of miles in smooth waters among a labyrinth of beautiful islands almost without number.

In a recent number of the "Field and Country Gentleman" appears the following, from the pen of its correspondent who made the tour of Canada with a party of newspaper correspondents:—

"It would be impossible to imagine a more glorious paradise for a yachtsman than these western fjords of British Columbia. Added to the wonderful scenery would be the delights of cruising in practically unknown waters, amidst islands of all sizes, in a climate similar to the west of Scotland, with but a fraction of the same amount of rain. To the naturalist the new phases of flora and fauna must lend continual excitement, and to the sportsman it is enough to say that the waters teem with fish and the hills with game. There are spots where you can shoot white mountain goats from the boat, and higher up, a short distance from the coast, you can get into touch with big-horn. Up at Yukataw Rapids we counted no less than sixty magnificent white-headed eagles on the wing at the same moment."



How is it that with this glorious country, easy of access, possessing such charms of scenery and climate, so few of the rich people of the motherland have seen it? It is a part of their own empire; it wants population and capital. Travellers assist in bringing these, and from patriotic and sentimental motives, if from no other, the British people should try to visit and acquire a knowledge of their own possessions.

I have alluded to the great water-power that exists in the Province, and which will one day be harnessed to do a large part of the heavy work. At Bonnington Falls, on the Kootenay River, a British company has erected works for the production of electric power, and is supplying it for mining, lighting and railways to the surrounding district. The falls at this point are capable of producing 267,000 horse-power; but this is only one of the many great rivers and streams that exist all over this country, provided right on the spot to do the development work of the future.

I am unable, in the time allotted to me, to speak more fully of the advantages the Province possesses for the capitalist, the mining man, the farmer, and the workman and mechanic. I may add to what I have already said, that the laws of the country are good and well administered, that there are fine hospitals and benevolent institutions, and that there is free education for all; and though I had an experience of some eighteen years in the Provincial Parliament, I never knew a serious difficulty with the Education Bill—excepting the fact that it called for very large expenditure.

I am certain that British Columbia is going to give a good account of itself. A Province with an export trade of over \$21,000,000 annually, though its population is less than 200,000, must, as capital and population come in, be no mean factor in the progress of the British Empire, and is not a country that the business men of the world can afford to overlook or neglect.

In order to impress on you more vividly the account that I have been giving of this beautiful portion of our possessions, some photographs of scenery, mines, agricultural lands, water-power, towns and homes of the Province will now be shown on the screen.

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