

are pursuing a most liberal policy in the encouragement of railroad construction, and aid all enterprises of a legitimate character with grants of land and special privileges, seeking to provide the province with transportation lines as speedily as possible. Several important enterprises of this nature are on foot, and some of them are in actual course of construction. In a very short time railroads will penetrate most of the leading agricultural districts and open the way to market for their products. The land laws are very liberal and are framed for the encouragement of home seekers.

In its mineral deposits British Columbia finds one of its chief sources of wealth, and though mining is not, nor ever has been, carried on there on the extensive scale in which it is pursued in the country across the international line, the mineral product has been very large for the past thirty years. Placer mining has been the form this industry has assumed in the main, though considerable work has been done on quartz ledges in various localities, and always with the most encouraging results. It is well known that the rich ledges of gold, silver and copper ore that are now being worked in such numbers and producing millions of dollars of bullion in California, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana, have their counterparts in the region to the north. It can not be supposed that nature was guided in her geological formations by any political boundary lines. That she was not, the rich ledges now being developed in the Similkameen, Kootenay, Columbia river, Nicola, Cariboo and other districts are ample evidence. All that is needed is the introduction of capital for the development of mines as rich and numerous as are to be found on any other portion of the Pacific slope. One reason why capital has been slow to interest itself in these mines is the same that has interfered with the progress of the country generally—the lack of railroads by which necessary machinery and supplies could be taken into the mining regions and ores brought out. As has been shown, this obstacle is now being rapidly removed. All the indications point to British Columbia as the scene of great mining developments during the next decade. It is surprising that the capitalists of England do not give this most promising portion of Her Majesty's realm the preference over the United States when investing their money in mining enterprises, and they undoubtedly will when they become better educated on the subject.

Another great source of wealth is the fisheries.

At present the salmon industry receives the most attention, but deep sea fishing is beginning to take its place among the industries of the province. All the streams of the coast and larger islands swarm with salmon from early in the spring till late in the fall, and on many of them large canneries are in operation. Fraser and Skeena rivers are the scene of the greatest industry, and on those streams was packed the bulk of the one hundred and fifty thousand cases put up in the province last year. The waters of the ocean adjacent to the coast swarm with halibut, cod, and a fish unknown in Atlantic waters which bears the name of black cod, and which is far superior to the true cod as a market fish. It will soon become known in all the markets of the continent, as preparations are being made to catch and cure large quantities for market this season. The experimental efforts made last season by several skillful fishermen, and the most careful investigations of the United States vessel, the *Albatross*, have determined the fact that the coast waters from Puget sound to Alaska are superior as fishing grounds to the famous ones of the Atlantic slope, over which the governments of Canada and the United States are having so much controversy. The winters are mild and ice does not float across the fishing grounds as off the coast of Newfoundland, the storms are less frequent and less severe and the seasons are longer. These advantages, taken in connection with the fact that the fishing grounds are nearer ports for shipment, would seem to indicate that the deep sea fishing industry on the Pacific coast of Canada will in a few years far exceed in magnitude that of the Atlantic. Let the hardy fishermen of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland take note of this, and come out to this country, to ply their avocation under conditions more favorable than they ever have, or ever can, at home.

What a glorious future lies before British Columbia it is impossible fully to realize. With her vast area, her wealth of minerals, timber, fish and arable land, she is destined to be the most wealthy and populous province in the dominion. The great movement westward now going on in the region south of the line will soon find its counterpart farther north, where also exist in equal measure all the attractions which are drawing that moving throng. Thousands are pouring into Oregon and Washington monthly, and thousands will pour into British Columbia as soon as they learn of her great stores of natural wealth simply waiting for the hands of industry and capital to grasp them.