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BRITISH COLUMBIA NOTES.

The recent discoveries of large areas of coal land on Queen Charlott's islands by W. A. Robertson will likely enlist English capital in a scheme to open up the mines. The discoverer claims to have a seam thirty-two feet in width of anthracite of a superior quality, and an inexhaustible supply of both bituminous and anthracite is supposed to exist in the fifteen thousand acres taken up by Mr. Robertson and associates. At present Capt. Freeman of Los Angeles, who was interested in the steamer Southern California, and Dr. Powell of Victoria, are in England endeavoring to form a company to open up the property. It is claimed that the mines would be easier of access than the Wellington and Nanaimo collieries, the outside passage of Vancouver island being taken, and no towing necessary, and this is looked upon as quite an important item. As for the quality of the coal, it is stated that tests have demonstrated it to be without an equal.

One of the oldest prospectors in British Columbia claims to have struck a very rich quartz lode on Toby creek in the Selkirk mountains, about ten miles from the Columbia river. The mother vein is a mammoth ledge ten feet wide. This has been traced about ten thousand feet, until it loses itself in the mountain. A fissure vein still richer leads into this at an acute angle. At the foot of the mountain is a spring from which boils a large volume of water possessing peculiar mineral properties. It is found to act as a substitute for yeast in bread making. The road to that country leads through a section of land admirable for farming and grazing and settlers are already being attracted thither.

A party of Victoria hunters who recently returned from a trip in the Spallumcheen country, where they secured some specimens of cariboo for the provincial museum, report finding in that isolated region one of the finest agricultural tracts in the province. Such of the land as was cultivated bore surprising growths of many kinds of crops and the soil all appears to be of the greatest fertility, from the lowest to the highest land. An effort is being made to secure a railway for that country.

Thomas Earle has been elected member of the dominion parliament from Victoria in place of Mr. Baker who resigned because the government would not move to suit him in reference to the Behring sea seizures.

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