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Bookcases, Wardrobes,

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VITURE

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well-known house is 2 the last thing aimed at, re to be found in the old

& Son.

f McGill street.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLVES.

At stock-taking time, whenever that may be, the merchant invariably ponder long and deeply over the events of the business year-if fairly successful he should understand what has contributed to that success in order to gain an increase of prosperity; if there have been losses, he must trace the cause to be able to stop the leak.

We have just finished the work of taking stock, and the result of our cogitations over the past season's business will bear fruit during the new year We have reason to be deeply thankful to our many patrons for the vety large trade enjoyed and our gratitude is sincere.

As to our resolves for the next year entered upon: They are in a sense business secrets, and cannot be divulged. It will suffice our many patrons to know that no effort will be spared to give them better service, the highest grade of goods, and wherever possible educe the price to the lowest living figure. Our guiding principle in the past has always been "Small profits and rapid turnover of Stock," and it stays—it has worked to the satisfaction of our customers.

We invite families who have not tried us for their wants in our line to give us a trial, satisfied that we can do better than others by a good many dollars in a year's trading.

Make this resolve—it will be a good start for the new year.

A. CAMPBELL.

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CANADA'S EL DORADO.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AS SEEN BY IN-TELLIGENT AMERICAN EYES.

Vast Size of the Pacific Province-A Hunter's Paradise-The Gold Mining Industry -The Indians, with Some Curious Specu-

lations Regarding Their Origin.

British Columbia is of immense size. It is as extensive as the combination of New England, the Middle States and Maryland, the Virginias, the Carolinas, and Georgia, leaving Delaware out. It is larger than Texas, Colorado, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire joined together. Yet it has been all but overlooked by man, and may be said to be an empire with only one wagon road, and that is but a blind artery halting in the middle of the country. But whoever follows this necessarily incomplete survey of what man has found that region to be, and of what his yet puny hands have drawn from it, will dismiss the popular and natural suspicion that it is a wilderness worthy of its present fate. Until the whole globe is banded with steel rails and yields to the plough, continue to regard whatever region lies beyond our doors as wasteland, and to fancy that every line of latitude has its own unvarying climatic characteristics. There is an opulent civilization in what we once were taught was "the Great American Desert," and far up at Edmonton, on the Peace River, farming flourishes despite the fact that it is where our school-books located a zone of perpetual snow. Farther along we shall study a country crossed by the same parallel of lattitude that dissect inhospitable Labrador, and we shall discover that as great a difference exists between the two shores of the continent on that zone as that which distinguishes California and Massachusetts. Upon the coast of this neglected corner of the world we shall see that a climate like that of England is produced, as England's is, by a warm current in the sea; in the southern half of the interior we shall discover valleys as inviting as those in our New England; and far north, at Port Simpson, just below the down-reaching claw of our Alaska, we shall find such a

climate as Halifax enjoys.

British Columbia has a length of eight hundred miles, and averages four hundred miles in width. To whoever crosses the country it seems the scene of a vast earthdisturbance, over which mountains are scattered without system. In fact, how-ever, the Cordillera belt is there divided into four ranges, the Rockies forming the eastern boundary, then the Gold Range, then the Coast Range, and, last of all, that partially submerged chain whose upraised The Aetna Fire Insurance Co, of Hartford, Conn., incorporated 1819, losses paid parts form Vancouver and the other mounin 71 years about \$65,000,000, assets over \$10,000,000, absolutely the strongest Ameritainous islands near the mainland in the Pacific. A vast valley flanks the south-The North British and Mercantile incor- western side of the Rocky Mountains, acporated 1809, paid up capital abt, \$3,500,000 | companying them from where they leave total assets \$50,376,064. The N B & M is our Northwestern States in a wide straight the largest and strongest Co, in existence. furrow for a distance of seven hundred

A HUNTER'S PABADISE.

We also represent other Fire Companies of high standing, and can give safest selumbia is most alluring to those who are fond of the sport. Caribou, deer, bear, prairie-chicken, and partridges abound in year was 2,775, and the average earnings them. In all probability there is no similar per man per year were \$622. extent of country that equals the valley of The Confederation Life Association, of the Columbia, from which, in the winter of Toronto, issues Policies Incontestable after three years. Free from all restrictions The New Annuity Endownment Policy affords absolute protection against contingency of early death, provides an INCOME Rate 15 to 20 per cent lower than ordinand still harder to get, is abundant yet.

The "big-horn," or mountain-sheep, is not ed and drifting junks in the Eastern Pa-actly like the thread of a screw. Indeed,

creature in fact. Pheasants (imported), grouse, quail, and water-fowl are among the feathered game, and the river and lake fishing is such as is not approached in any other part of the Dominion. The province is a sportsman's Eden, but the hunting of big game there is not a venture to Represent the Beaver Line of Steamships plying between Montreal and Liverpool, be lightly undertaken. It is not alone the distance or the cost that gives one pause, for, after the province is reached, the Represent the Norwich & London Acci- mountain-climbing is a task that no amount of wealth will lighten. And these are genuine mountains, by-the-way, wearing eternal caps of snow, and equally eternal deceit as to their distances, their heights, and as to all else concerning which a rarefied atmosphere can hocus-pocus a stranger. There is one animal, king of all the beasts, which the most unaspiring hunter may chance upon as well as the bravest, and that animal carries a perpetual chip upon its shoulder, and seldom turns from an encounter. It is the grizzly-bear. It is his presence that gives you either zest or pause, as you may decide, in hunting all the others that Apollos of strength roam the mountains. Yet, in that hunter's

and form, but all dreamland it is the grizzly that attracts many sportsmen every year. may have robust From the headquarters of the Hudson Bay Company in Victoria I obtained the list of animals in whose skins that company nerves and clear trades at that station. It makes a formidminds. Our treat- able catalogue of zoological products, and is as follows: Bears (brown, black, grizzly), ment makes such beaver, badger, foxes (silver, cross, and red), fishers, martens, minks, lynxes, musk-rat, otter (sea or land), panther, racare our own exclusively, and where | coon, wolves (black, gray, and coyote), black-tailed deer, stags (a true stag, growing to the size of an ox, and found on the hills of Vancouver Island), caribou or reinmountain-sheep), moose (near the Rockies), restored. Weakness, Nervousness, wood-buffalo (found in the north, not great-

GOLD MINING.

bor, on the west coast of the Queen Char- them in Metlakahtla-especially in housing explanations and proofs mailed lotte Islands, by an Indian woman, in 1851. the families separately—has not been ar-A part of it, weighing four or five ounces, rived at even in the reservation at Vicwas taken by the Indians to Fort Simpson toria, where one may still see one of the and sold. The Hudson Bay Company, huge low shed-like houses they prefer, or which has done a little in every line of namented with totem poles, and arranged BUFFALO, N.Y. business in its day, sent a brigantine to the for eight families, and consequently for a

spot, and found a quartz vem traceable eighty feet, and yielding a high percentage of gold. Blasting was begun, and the vestor of gold. Blasting was begun, and the vestor of gold. sel was loaded with ore; but she was lost on the return voyage. An American vessel, ashore at Esquimault, near Victoria, was purchased, re-named the Recovery, and sent to Gold Harbor with thirty miners, who worked the vein until the vessel was loaded and sent to England. News of the mine travelled, and in another year a small fleet of vessels came up from San Francisco; but the sup ly was seen to be very limited,

and after \$20,000 in ali had been taken out the field was abandoned.

In 1855 gold was found by a Hudson Bay

Company's employe at Fort Colville. now in Washington State, near the boundary. Some Thompson River (B.C.) Indians who went to Waila Walla spread a report there that gold, like that discovered at Colville, was to be found in the valley of the Thompson. A party of Canadians and half-breeds went to the region referred to, and found placers nine miles above the mouth of the river. By 1858 the news and the authentication of it stirred the miners of California, and an astonishing invasion of the virgin province began. It is said that in the spring of 1858 more than 20,000 persons reached Victoria from San Francisco by City. It is stated that there is a natural sea, distending the little fur-trading post of telephone line between two mountains in a few hundred inhabitants into what would even now be called a considerable city; a valley twelve miles in width stand two high city of canvas, however. Simultaneously a peaks, which tower above the other mounthird as many miners made their way to tains, and have long been known as landthe new province on land. But the land marks. These mountains are several thouwas covered with mountains and dense sand feet high, and only on rare occasions forests, the only route to its interior for have they been scaled, so but little is them was the violent, almost boiling, known of their topography. Fraser River, and there was nothing on which the lives of this horde of men could | cided to make the ascent. They divided be sustained. By the end of the year out of nearly 30,000 adventurers only a tenth part remained. Those who did stay worked the river bars of the lower Fraser until The ascent was made, and, so the story in five months they had shipped from Vic- goes, while the members of one party were toria more than half a million dollars' preparing to signal to those of the other, worth of gold. From a historical point of one of the party on the north mountain was view it is a peculiar coincidence that in surprised to hear voices which apparently thus first attracted to this new country, and the sound was no longer heard. By expired, and the territory passed from its covered that at a certain spot of the mouncontrol to become like any other crown col- tain he could hear the voices, and it was

source of the "flour" gold they found in tain. such abundance in the bed of the river, pur- He called the attention of the others to sued their search into the heart and almost | the phenomenon, and when the attention the center of that unforbidden and unbroken of the opposite party had been attracted it territory. The Quesnel River became the was found that an ordinary conversation in seat of their operations. Two years later an ordinary tone of voice was plainly heard came another extraordinary immigration. from one mountain top to the other. There This was not surprising, for 1,500 miners was only one place on the mountain where had in one year (1861) taken out \$2,000,000 | it could be heard, and this appeared to form in gold-dust from certain creeks in what is a natural telephone. No shouting was neccalled the Cariboo District, and one can essary, and the words were perfectly disimagine (if one does not remember) what tinct. Assuming this story to be true, an fabulous tales were based upon this fact. explanation may be sought in the form of The second stampede was of persons from the mountains, which might serve as ellipall over the world, but chiefly from Eng- tical reflectors of sound, (the speakers placland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. ing themselves in the foci at each end of the After that there were new "finds" almost ellipse), and in the low density of the atevery year, and the miners worked gradually mosphere at the altitude at which the phenorthward until, about 1874, they had nomenon was observed. average number of miners employed each end.-Electricity.

THE INDIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. are not as abundant as they once were, the wax in the sand near the vestiges of a the pipes and proves a serious hindrance to rest of the game is most plentiful. On the wreck, and it is said that one wreck of a the free passage of the current of oil. Rockies and on the Coast Range the moun- junk was met with, and 12,000 pounds of The device that is used to remedy this tain-goat, most difficult of beasts to hunt, this wax was found on her. Whalers are evil is a knife about two feet in length, We have a large list of valuable Build ing Lots, Brick and Frame dwelling houses, so common, but the hunting thereof is Farm properties, and choice lots on Stur- usually successful if good guides are ob- remnants of a junk with three Japanese less screw more than anything else; it is geon Lake, which can be had cheap for tained. The cougar, the grizzly, and the and a cargo of pottery were found on the always slightly smaller in diameter than cash, or mortgage at a low rate of interest, lynx are all plentiful, and black and brown coast south of Cape Flattery. Nothing less the pipe it passes through. When the bears are very numerous. Elk are going the than all this should excuse even a rudder- thickness of the crust of parafine renway of the "big-horn"—are preceding that less ethnologist for so cruel a reflection up- ders a cleansing necessary this instruon the Japanese, for these Indians are so ment is inserted in the first link of the huge far from pretty that all who see them iron chain far off in the oil fields. It reagree with Captain Butler, the traveller, ceives its motive power from the stream of who wrote that "if they are of the Mon- petroleum, which it accompanies all the way change their type the better."

The coast Indians are splendid sailors, clean from every particle of paraffine. and their dugouts do not always come off It turns and twists and cleanses in this second best in racing with the boats of manner throughout its whole long journey, white men. With a primitive yet in finally drooping from the pipes in the geniously made tool, like an adze, in the midst of the vast stream of petroleum that construction of which a blade is tied fast to empties continuously into the receiving a bent handle of bone, these natives labor tanks at Philadelphia. Its edges, to be iously pick out the heart of a great cedar sure, are duller than when it set out upon log, and shape its outer sides into the form its expedition, but otherwise its condition of a boat. When the log is properly hole is perfect. It is immediately shipped back lowed, they fill it with water, and then drop to the fields, when it is sharpened again in stones which they have heated in a fire. and laid away until future paraffine ac-Thus they steam the boat so that they may cumulations require once more its valuable spread the sides and fit in the cross- services. bars which keep it strong and preserve its shape. These dugouts are sometimes sixty feet long, and are used for whaling and long voyages in rough seas. They are whose parents live in northern Michigan, becapable of carrying tons of the salmon or ing missed one afternoon, her parents trackwho live as their lathers did, catch suffi- forty rods from the house, at which point cient in a few days for their maintenance the child's tracks disappeared and those of throughout a whole year. One gets an a large bear were found leading into the idea of the swarms of fish that infest those waters by the knowledge that before nets were used the herring and the oolachan, or candle-fish, were swept into these boats by an implement formed by studding a tenfoot pole with spikes or nails. This was swept among the fish in the water, and the boats were speedily filled with the creatures that were impaled upon the spikes. Salmon, sea-otter, otter, beaver, marten, bear, and deer (or caribou or moose) were and still are the chief resources of most of the stretching over a pond. The bear, the child deer, hares, mountain-goat, big-horn (or | indians. Once they sold the fish and the peitry to the Hudson Bay Company, and had just jumped into the water and swum ate what parts or surplus they did not sell. away. The bear had not hurt the child in Now they work in the canneries or fish for the least, but had been caressing in its manthem in summer, and hunt, trap, or loaf the ner and had lain down at night with its rest of the time. However, while they arms around the little one as if to shield still fish and sell furs, and while some are her from harm. The bear had just lost It may almost be said that the history of yet as their fathers were, nearly all the her cub and seemed to wish to adopt the gold-mining there is the history of British coast Indians are semi-civilized. They child in its place. Columbia. Victoria, the capital, was a have at least the white man's clothes and strength development, and tone giv- Hudson Bay post established in 1843, and hymns and vices. They have churches; Vancouver, Queen Charlotte's, and the they live in houses; they work in canneries. other islands, as well as the mainland, were | What little there was that was picturesque body. Simple, natural methods. Im- of interest to only a few white men as parts about them has vanished only a few mediate improvement seen. Failure of a great fur-trading field with a small degrees faster than their own extinction as a pure race, and they are now a lot of lindian population. The first nugget of gold lindian population. was found at what is now called Gold Har- long-shoremen. What Mr. Duncan did for

kindly to the rudiments of civilization, to work, and to co-operation with the whites as the plais Indian does to tea, tobacco, and whiskey. They are physically but not mentally inferior to the plainsman. Taey carve bowls and spoons of stone and bone, and their heraldic totem poles are clever'y shapen, however grotesque they may be. They still make them, but they oftener carve livit ones for white people, just as they mare more silver bracelets for sale than for wear. They are clever at weaving rushes and cedar bark into mats, baskets, floor-carths, and cargo covers. In a word, they were more prone to work at the outset than most Indians, so that the present longshore career of most of them is not greatly to be wondered at.—From "Can-ada's El Dorado," by Julian Ralph, in Harper's Magazine for January.

A GRAND WHISPERING GALLERY,

Words Heard Across a Rocky Mountain Valley Twelve Miles Wide,

A marvelous tale comes from Dakota of a discovery which has been accidentally made in the mountains northwest of Rapid

Some weeks ago a party of tourists de-1859, when the attention of the world was came out of the air. He moved his position the charter of the Hudson Bay Company changing his position several times he disnot long before he discovered that they pro-In 1860 the gold-miners, seeking the ceeded from the party on the other moun-

travelled through the province, in at one | The Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City, end and out at the other, and were working which is of enormous dimensions, is built the tributaries of the Yukon River in the in the form of a true ellipse, and a person north, beyond the 60th parallel. Mr. Daw- standing in the focus at one end can carry The shooting in the valleys of British Co- son estimates that the total yield of gold on a conversation in a whisper with another between 1858 and 1888 was \$54,108,804; the who places himself in the focus at the other

* An Odd Knife's Long Trip.

To cleanse one of the long pipes that car-You will find that seven in ten among ries crude petroleum from the wells of 1888, between six and eight tons of deer the more intelligent British Columbians western Pennsylvania to the refineries in this skins were shipped by local traders, the re- conclude these Indians to be of Japanese city, an odd appearing instrument has just sult of legitimate hunting. But the forests origin. The Japanese current is neighborly concluded its long journey hither underand mountains are as they were when the to the province, and it has drifted Japan- ground, says the Philadelphia Record. As white man first saw them, and though the ese junks to these shores. When the first the oil flows through these underground beaver and sea-otter, the marten, and those traders visited the neighborhood of the conduits the paraffine in thefluid is separatfoxes whose furs are coveted by the rich, mouth of the Columbia, they found bees- ed, and this residuum incrusts the sides of

golian type, the sooner the Mongolians to Philadelphia, revolving rapidly as it hurries along, and scraping the channels

Kidnaped by a Bear. A little three-year-old, named Fleming,

ed her to some bushes, in the field about woods. The horrified father, aided by neighbors, followed up the bear, which had carried off the child, as fast as possible; but night set in, and they were obliged to wait till morning, when the pursuit was re-In a short time, as the pursuers were

passing a swampy spot, they heard the child's voice crying aloud. They rushed forward, heard a splash in the water and soon saw the child standing on a log said, was carrying her across the log and

Ruskin on Railroads.

Mr. Ruskin mourns in his characteristic fashion over what the world is coming to. "We shall put it," he says, "into a chain armor of railroad, and then everybody will go everywhere every day; and then, when they are tired of changing stations and police, they will congregate in knots in great cities, which will consist of club houses, coffee houses and newspaper offices; the churches will be turned into assembly rooms; and people will eat, sleep and gamble to their graves."-London Ilius.



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