

**GREATER CANADA: THE
PAST, PRESENT,
AND FUTURE OF THE
CANADIAN NORTHWEST**

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Greater Canada: The Past, Present, and Future of the Canadian Northwest by E. B. Osborn

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E. B. OSBORN

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GREATER CANADA

PREFACE

IN so far as the following pages touch upon the present prospects of the "Great North-West," the writer has attempted to hit the truthful mean between the pessimism of the unsuccessful settler and the optimism of the migration agent. Having resided for nearly five years in the West, he may claim to write with some little authority.

E. B. O.

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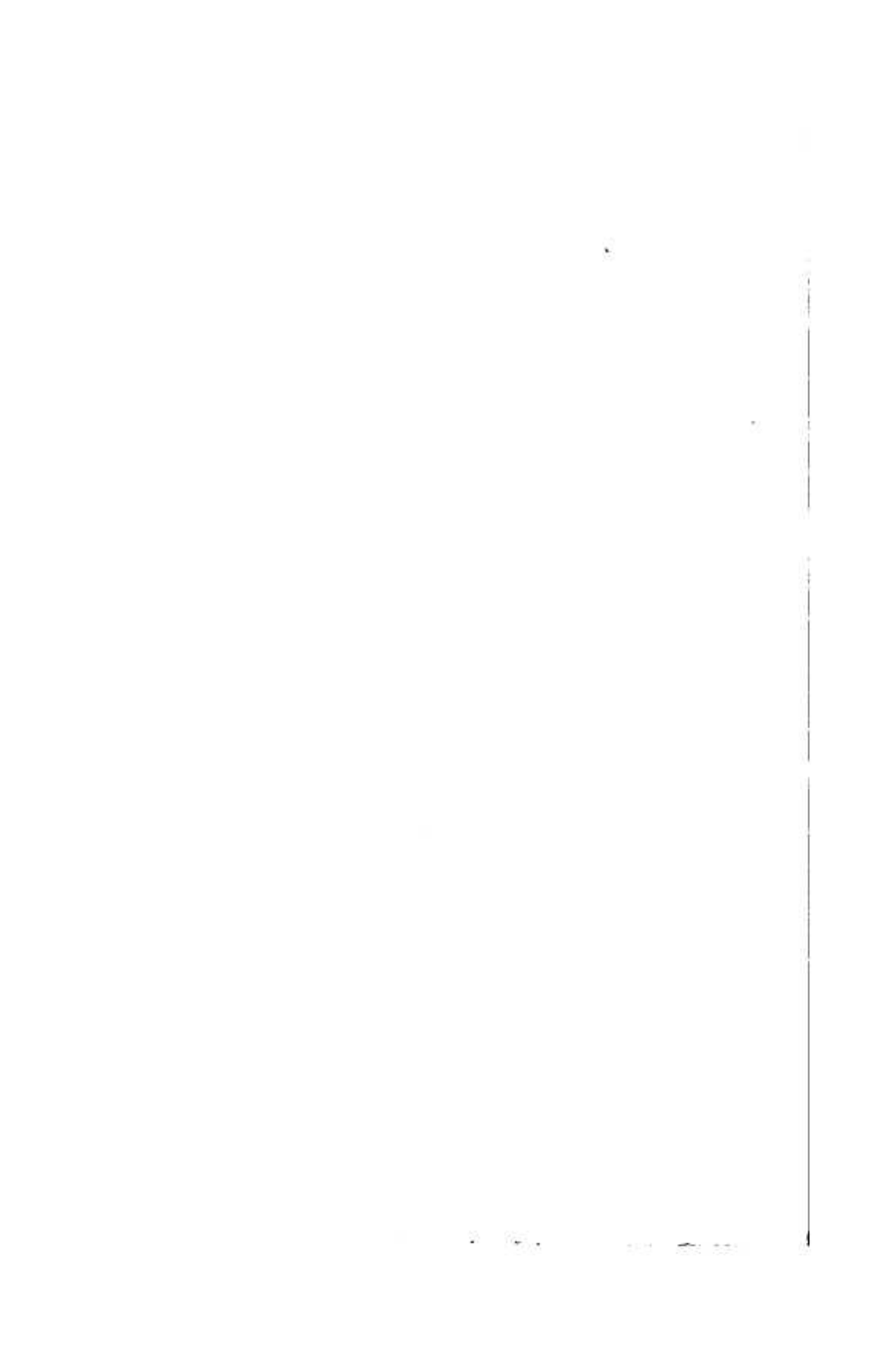
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GREATER CANADA

CHAPTER I

THE YUKON DISCOVERIES

THE discovery, three years ago, of phenomenally rich placer-diggings in the Yukon basin caused more excitement and has been more written about than any similar event since 1849 and 1851—years that saw the epoch-making discoveries of gold in California and Australia; so that the writer, who aims at giving an account of the North-West (that was, that is, and that may be), is naturally tempted to begin with the Klondike. To yield to that particular temptation, however, involves no loss of historical perspective; for it is already obvious that the discovery of the Klondike placers, occurring as it did immediately after the establishment of the Kootenay as one of the chief mining districts of the empire, is by far the most important fact in the history of the North-West. Even if

Klondike is not destined to play as indispensable a part in the development of "Greater Canada" as the Rand has played in the development of South Africa, or the Comstock Lode in the development of Nevada and the neighbouring States, it is certain that it has drawn the attention of the world to the North-West and its many probabilities and possibilities, much as did the discovery of '49 and '51 to the advantages of the "Far West" of the United States and our own Australia. Placer-diggings do not, as a rule, last for more than a decade, and, unless valuable quartz-mines are discovered on the Yukon, we cannot hope to see really permanent "mining camps" in that cold and sterile region. Nevertheless, the Klondike discoveries, rich and romantic and utterly unexpected as they were, have given the North-West a world-wide advertisement of inestimable value. And this is an age of advertisement.

Public opinion about such discoveries always passes through two stages—a period of universal credulity, followed by a period of universal incredulity. After the first news of preliminary "pannings" on Eldorado and Bonanza Creeks was brought to Canada by Mr. Ogilvie (a gentleman who has done more hard travelling in the Far North than any two living Arctic explorers,