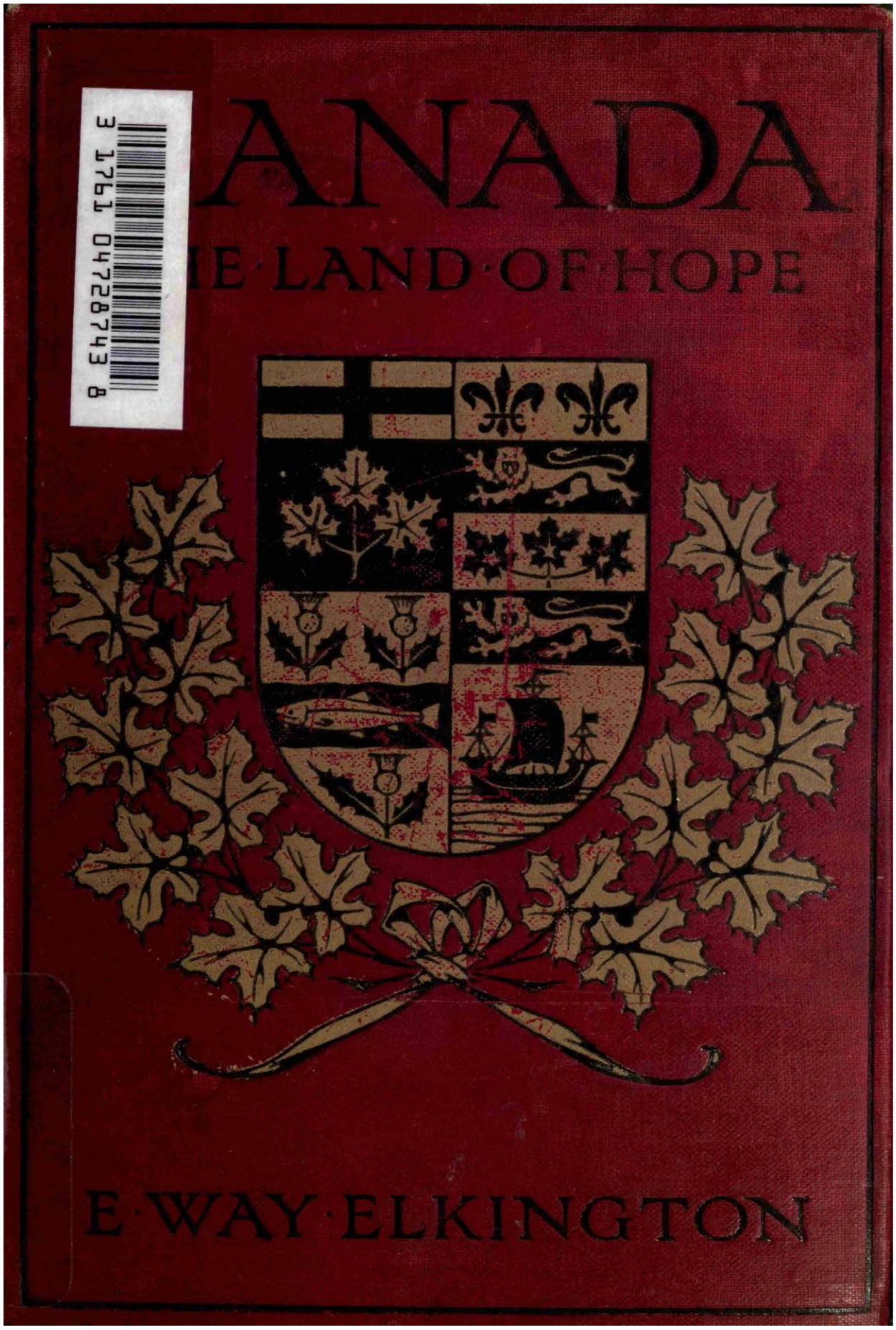
Canada, the land of hope 1910



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smelter is situated at Ladysmith, and though it is only at present equipped with one two-hundred-and-fifty-ton furnace, enlargements are being made and as soon as more ore can be obtained from surrounding mines a greater capacity will be given it. The Tyee Copper mine for which it was erected has petered out, and the ore treated by it chiefly comes from the Japanese Mine, the Ikeda on Texada Island. The ore from this mine is exceptionally good and I saw some going through the smelter.

A good story was told me relative to this same famous mine. I cannot vouch for the truth of it, but it is an illustration of the sharpness of the Japanese, and the bad results of over-pricing properties.

Ikeda arrived in British Columbia and there became interested in the mines, so interested, indeed, that he went to Texada Island to investigate a " prospect " which had been offered to him at a very high figure.

Not knowing much about mines he took with him a mining engineer and the two were accompanied by the vendor.

On looking at the pile of rocks and glancing around at the rough country which constituted the claim, Ikeda is credited with having looked surprised and told the vendor that in Japan he could buy ground just as rough and as rocky for a third of the price.

Then a fit of inquisitiveness is said to have come over Ikeda and he asked the vendor to explain how he became possessed of this rocky land.

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The vendor told him that, after the prospector had pronounced it good, the vendor had had it pegged out and registered in his name in the usual way—he even went so far as to explain how a mineral claim was "pegged out." Ikeda listened intently and then his gaze wandered and he caught sight of other land rougher and more rocky not far from where he stood. "Does that land belong to you?" he asked.

"No," replied the innocent vendor, "that belongs to no one."

"I see," said Ikeda, and had he known more of the Canadian dialect he might have said, "I catch on," or "I tumble." "Then," he continued, "if I 'peg out' that land according to the method you have explained, it will be mine."

The vendor was still unsuspicious and answered: "Yep," "Yes," or "Yar," I know not which.

Ikeda then turned to his engineer and said: "Peg out that land for me, it will be cheaper than buying this man's land."

The vendor's innocence ceased—what he said or did has not been reported, but the land Ikeda chose is the largest producing copper- and gold-mine in British Columbia to-day, and is owned and run by Japanese.

I believe the real story of the finding of this mine is very different and not so amusing. Some Japanese fishermen were blown into this unknown bay by a storm, and as it lasted some days they began prospecting, and on discovering the mine they went to Japan for capital.