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COLONIZATION

OF

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR BURRUP AND SON, 12, ROYAL EXCHANGE,

BY E. COUCHMAN, 10, THROGMORTON STREET.

1849.

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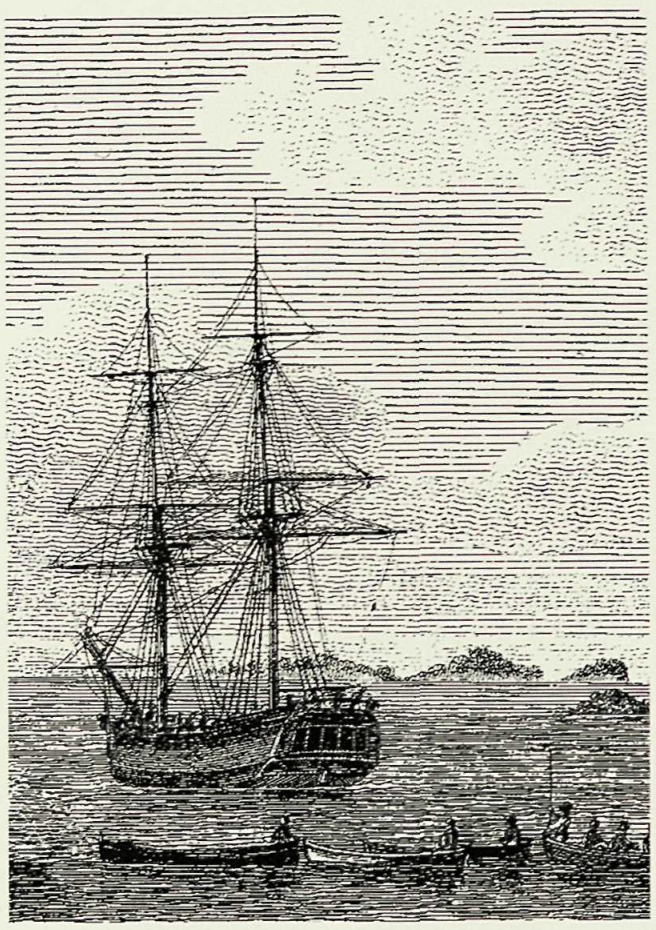

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Among the various quarters to which the eye of the Intending Emigrant is now directed, Vancouver's Island holds a conspicuous place.

Forming a part of the seaboard of N. W. America, and extending from 48 deg. 17 min. to 50 deg. 55 min. north latitude, and from 123 deg. 10 min. to 128 deg. 30 min. west longitude, it occupies a highly important position both with respect to the coasts and islands of the Pacific. It is only a few days' sail from California, a country rapidly increasing in population, and in want of its staple productions; and it is not much farther from the Sandwich Islands, with which it already carries on a thriving trade.

With these advantages of situation are combined others derived from the natural capabilities and resources of the island, which are of no ordinary kind. It possesses a variety of excellent harbours; its rivers abound with salmon; and the seas around it with other fish of various sorts, as cod, herrings, halibut, &c. Whales, also, in vast numbers, frequent the neighbouring seas. Coal, of superior quality, is found in the greatest abundance, and also limestone; and there is plenty of the finest timber of different kinds, oak, ash, beech, pine, cedar, &c.

The climate resembles that of England, but is milder; and the soil, as far as cultivation has hitherto extended, has been proved to be well adapted to the production of wheat and other crops grown in this country. The potato arrives at unusual perfection, and is cultivated to a considerable extent by the natives, who, it may be added, have been found very useful as labourers. Stock of all kinds is easily reared, and thrives well.

The Hudson's Bay Company having obtained from the Crown a Grant of the Island, are ready to make Sub Grants of Land to any emigrants from Great Britain or Ireland, or from any other part of Her Majesty's dominions, who may be desirous of settling on the said island, on the following conditions :—

1st,—That no grant of land shall contain less than twenty acres.

2nd,—That purchasers of land shall pay to the Hudson's Bay Company, at their House in London, the sum of One Pound per acre for the land sold to them, to be held in free and common soccage.

3rd,—That purchasers of land shall provide a passage to Vancouver's Island for themselves and their families, if they have any ; or be provided with a passage (if they prefer it) on paying for the same at a reasonable rate.

4th,—That purchasers of larger quantities of land shall pay the same price per acre, namely, One Pound, and shall take out with them five single men, or three married couples, for every hundred acres.

5th,—That all minerals, wherever found, shall belong to the Company, who shall have the right of digging for the same, compensation being made to the owner of the soil for any injury done to the surface; but that the said owner shall have the privilege of working for his own benefit any coal mine that may be on his land, on payment of a royalty of two shillings and sixpence per ton.

6th,—That, the right of fishing proposed to be given to the Hudson's Bay Company in the grant as printed in the Parliamentary Papers relative to Vancouver's Island having been relinquished, every freeholder shall enjoy the right of fishing all sorts of fish in the seas, bays, and inlets of, or surrounding, the said Island; and that all the ports and harbours shall be open and free to them, and to all nations, either trading or seeking shelter therein.

As it is essential to the well-being of society that the means of religious instruction should be within the reach of every member of the community, provision will be made for the establishment of

places of public worship, and for the maintenance of ministers of religion, according to a plan of which the following is an outline :—

1st,—The island is to be divided into districts of from five to ten square miles where it is practicable.

2nd,—A portion of land, equal to one-eighth of the quantity sold, to be set aside for the minister of religion. Thus, in a district of ten square-miles containing 6,400 acres, supposing 5,120 acres sold, the minister would be entitled to 640 acres, and the remaining 640 acres would be available for roads, site for church and churchyard, schools, or other public purposes; the land so reserved, or its proceeds, to be appropriated for these purposes in such manner as may appear advisable.

3rd,—With the view of enabling the ministers to bring their lands into cultivation a free passage to be granted to such a number of persons as a settler having an equal quantity of land would be required to take out, the cost to be paid out of the fund held in trust for the benefit of the colony.

4th,—The several apportionments for purposes of religion to be conveyed to, and to be held by, the Governor and Council, in trust for the parties appointed to perform the clerical duties of the respective districts.

The most material provisions of the commission and instructions to the Governor for the government of the colony are as follows :—

The Governor is appointed by the Crown, with a Council of seven members, likewise so appointed.

The Governor is authorised to call Assemblies, to be elected by the inhabitants holding twenty acres of freehold land.

For this purpose, it is left to the discretion of the Governor to fix the number of representatives; and to divide the island into electoral districts if he shall think such division necessary.

The Governor has the usual powers of proroguing, or dissolving such Assembly.

Laws will be passed by the Governor, Council, and Assembly.

The Legislature, thus constituted, will have full power to impose

taxes and to regulate the affairs of the island, and to modify its institutions, subject to the usual control of the Crown.

The Crown has already power, under the 1st and 2nd Geo. IV., c. 66, to appoint Courts of Justice and Justices of the Peace in the Indian territories, of which Vancouver's Island forms a part; but as the jurisdiction of such Courts was, by the 12th section of that Act, limited in civil cases to causes not involving more than £200 in value, and in criminal cases to such as are not capital or transportable (all of which were to be tried in Canada), an Act was passed in the last Session of Parliament by which those restrictions were entirely removed.

Richard Blanshard, Esq., has been appointed Governor.

CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT.

Now know ye, that We, being moved by the reasons beforementioned, do by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, give, grant, and confirm unto the said Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, and their successors, all that the said island called Vancouver's Island, together with all royalties of the seas upon the coasts within the limits aforesaid, and all mines royal thereto belonging:

And further we do, by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, make, create, and constitute, the said Governor and Company for the time being, and their successors, the true and absolute lords and proprietors of the same territories, limits, and places, and of all other the premises (saving always the faith, allegiance, and sovereign dominion due to us, our heirs and successors for the same), to have, hold, and possess and enjoy the said territory, limits, and places, and all and singular other the premises hereby granted as aforesaid, with their and every of their rights, members, royalties, and appurtenances whatsoever, to them, the said Governor and Company, and their successors for ever, to be holden of us, our heirs, and successors, in free and common soccage, at the yearly rent of 7s., payable to us and our successors for ever, on the 1st day of January in every year:

Provided always, and we declare, That this present grant is made to the intent that the said Governor and Company shall establish upon the said island a settlement or settlements of resident

colonists, emigrants from our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or from other our dominions, and shall dispose of the land there as may be necessary for the purposes of colonization, and to the intent that the said Company shall, with a view to the aforesaid purposes, dispose of all lands hereby granted to them at a reasonable price, except so much thereof as may be required for public purposes: and that all monies which shall be received by the said Company for the purchase of such land, and also from all payments which may be made to them for or in respect of the coal or other minerals to be obtained in the said island, or the right of searching for and getting the same shall (after deduction of such sums by way of profit as shall not exceed a deduction of ten per cent. from the gross amount received by the said Company from the sale of such land, and in respect of such coal or other minerals as aforesaid) be applied towards the colonization and improvement of the island: and that the Company shall reserve for the use of us, our heirs, and successors, all such land as may be required for the formation of naval establishments, we, our heirs, and successors paying a reasonable price for the same, and that the said Company shall, once in every two years at the least, certify under the seal of the said Governor and Company, to one of our Principal Secretaries of State, what colonists shall have been from time to time settled in the said island, and what land shall be disposed of as aforesaid:

And we further declare, that this present grant is made upon this condition, that if the said Governor and Company shall not, within the term of five years from the date of these presents, have established upon the said island a settlement of resident colonists, emigrants from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or from other our dominions, and it shall, at any time, after the expiration of such term of five years, be certified to us, our heirs, or successors, by any person who shall be appointed by us, our heirs, or successors, to inquire into the condition of such island, that such settlement has not been established according to the intent of this our grant, or that the provisions hereinbefore mentioned respecting the disposal of land, and the price of lands and minerals have not been respectively fulfilled, it shall be lawful for us, our heirs, and successors, to revoke this present grant, and to enter upon and resume the said island and premises hereby granted, without prejudice, nevertheless, to such dispositions as may have been made in the mean time by the said Governor and Company of any land

in the said island for the actual purpose of colonization and settlement, and as shall have been certified as aforesaid to one of our principal Secretaries of State :

And we hereby declare that this present grant is and shall be deemed and taken to be made upon this further condition, that we, our heirs and successors, shall have, and we accordingly reserve unto us and them, full power, at the expiration of the said Governor and Company's grant or license of or for the exclusive privilege of trading with the Indians, to re-purchase and take of and from the said Governor and Company the said Vancouver's Island and premises hereby granted, in consideration of payment being made by us, our heirs, and successors, to the said Governor and Company of the sum or sums of money theretofore laid out and expended by them in and upon the said island and premises, and of the value of their establishments, property, and effects then being thereon.

In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness Ourselves, at Westminster, the thirteenth day of January, 1849, in the Twelfth year of our reign.

Applications for Land, or for further information, may be addressed to A. Barclay, Esq., Secretary to the Hudson's Bay Company, 4, *Fenchurch Street, London.*

With the view of supplying persons intending to emigrate with information respecting Vancouver's Island, the following extracts are collected from Papers laid before Parliament, Speeches in the Houses of Lords and Commons, Public Journals, &c. :—

From the Settler's New Home, by Sidney Smith.

"From Texas to Oregon the emigrant would find a fall analogous to that of "out of the frying-pan into the fire." The climate and soil are unobjectionable, but everything else is. Vancouver's Island, under the protection and dominion of the Hudson's Bay Company, seems to offer greater advantages to the adventurous*** The government of the Hudson's Bay Company enforces good order and good faith, affords encouragement, assistance, and protection to all settlers, and manages its commerce so judiciously as to surround settlers with many of the advantages of civilisation."

From the Parliamentary Papers.

"At Camosack there is a pleasant and convenient site for the establishment, within fifty yards of the anchorage, on the border of a large tract of clear land which extends eastward to Point Gonzalo at the south-east extremity of the island, and about six miles interiorly; being the most picturesque and decidedly the most valuable part of the island that we had the good fortune to discover.

"The accompanying ground plan shows pretty correctly the distribution of wood, water, and prairie upon the surface, and to it I beg to refer you for information upon such points.

"More than two-thirds of this section consist of prairie land, and may be converted either to purposes of tillage or pasture, for which I have seen no part of the Indian country better adapted; the rest of it, with the exceptions of the ponds of water, is covered with valuable oak and pine timber.

"I observed, generally speaking, but two marked varieties of soil on these prairies, that of the best land is a dark vegetable mould, varying from nine to fourteen inches in depth, overlaying a substrate of greyish clayey loam, which produces the rankest growth of native plants that I have seen in America. The other variety is of inferior value, and to judge from the less vigorous appearance of the vegetation upon it, naturally more unproductive.

"Both kinds, however, produce abundance of grass, and several varieties of red clover grow on the rich moist bottoms. In two places particularly we saw several acres of clover growing with a luxuriance and compactness more resembling the close sward of a well-managed lea than the produce of an uncultivated waste.

"Being pretty well assured of the capabilities of the soil, as respects the purposes of agriculture, the climate being also mild and pleasant, we ought to be able to grow every kind of grain raised in England. On this point, however, we cannot speak confidently until we have tried the experiment and tested the climate, as there may exist local influences destructive of the husbandman's hopes, which cannot be discovered by other means. As, for instance, it is well-known that the damp fogs which daily spread over the shores of Upper California blight the crops and greatly deteriorate the wheat grown near the sea-coast in that country.

"I am not aware that any such effect is ever felt in the temperate climate of Britain nearly corresponding in its insular situation and

geographical position with Vancouver's Island; and I hope the latter will also enjoy an exemption from an evil at once disastrous and irremediable. We are certain that potatoes thrive and grow to a large size, as the Indians have many small fields in cultivation, which appear to repay the labour bestowed upon them, and I hope that other crops will do as well.

"The canal of Camosack is nearly six miles long, and its banks are well wooded throughout its whole length; so that it will supply the establishment with wood for many years to come, which can be conveyed in large rafts, with very little trouble, from one extreme of the canal to the other."—*Extract from Mr. Douglas's Report, July* 12, 1842.

(*Parliamentary Papers,* 10 *August,* 1848.)

"About three miles distant, and nearly connected by a small inlet, is the Squimal Harbour, which is very commodious, and accessible at all times, offering a much better position, and having also the advantage of a supply of water in the vicinity.

"This is the best built of the Company's forts; it requires loopholing, and a platform or gallery, to enable men to fire over the pickets; a ditch might be cut around it; but the rock appears on the surface in many places.

"There is plenty of timber of every description on Vancouver's Island; as also limestone, which could be transported to Mignally, or other places in the territory where it may be hereafter deemed necessary to form permanent works, barracks," &c.—*Lieutenant Vavasour to Colonel Holloway,* 1*st March,* 1846.

(*Parliamentary Papers,* 7*th March,* 1849.)

Copy of a Despatch from Commander Gordon to Captain J. A. Duntze.

Her Majesty's Steam Sloop, "Cormorant,"
Nisqually, 7th October, 1846.

SIR,

WITH reference to that part of your letter of the 15th September last, wherein you direct me to ascertain whether the coals, which are said to abound on the northern part of Vancouver's

Island, can be collected in sufficient quantity to afford a supply for steam fuel, I have the honor to inform you that, having arrived at M'Neil's harbour for that purpose, I made known to the natives, through Mr. Sangster, my wish to obtain a supply; and the next day several canoes came laden with coal, and they continued to increase in number until our departure.

At the advice of Mr. Sangster, I slung a tub, holding about six cwt., from the fore-yard which was lowered into a canoe, and quickly filled; in this manner we received 62 tons from the 24th to the 26th paying for each tub as it came up, by articles of trifling value, which I procured, at your suggestion, from the officer in charge of Fort Victoria. The whole of the expenses incurred, including a few presents necessarily made to the chiefs, will make the coals average not more than 4s. per ton.

During our stay, I proceeded on shore, accompanied by Mr. Sangster and the first and second engineers. I found the north-west part of M'Neil's Harbour to be a peninsula, and, in honour of the first Lord of the Admiralty, I called it Ellenborough. We found a seam of coal just below high-water-mark, which appeared to descend at an angle of about 30° towards the land; we then ascended the hill, and very near the top, at about 60 feet above the level of the sea, in the bed of a stream, we found a layer of freestone at about five feet six inches below a surface of peat, and below that a seam of coal, much resembling in appearance the English Newcastle coal; this seam was 10 inches thick, with freestone below; having bored through, and blasted this, we came to another seam 18 inches in thickness, both seams appearing to run parallel to each other, descending at an angle of 20° in a north-west direction.

Being confident from these two trials that the seams thicken lower down, I did not make any further experiments here, but proceeded the next day to a small sheltered bay, about eight miles further down the coast to the north west, which we called Baillie Hamilton Bay, after Captain Baillie Hamilton, Secretary of the Admiralty; here we observed another rich seam, extending along the beach below high-water mark, and which we traced a quarter of a mile in an inland direction. The seams we found were similar in appearance and thickness to those on Ellenborough Peninsula, which confirms me in an opinion I had formed that they were connected.

On trial, we found the coal of good quality; they flare much in the furnaces, and do not appear to have any of the injurious effects on either the fire-bars or furnaces that Welsh coal has. The proportionate expense for four hours, as compared with Scotch and Welsh, is as follows; viz.:—

	Tons.	Cwt.
Welsh	2	18
Scotch	2	14
Ellenborough and Hamilton	2	18

This difference may appear considerable in proportion, but the coal, having been procured from the surface, where it has been exposed to the action of the atmosphere, and much of it to the injurious effects of salt water, will weigh considerably in favor of the Ellenborough and Hamilton coal; had it been procured at several feet from the surface, I have no hesitation in saying that the result would be at least equal to the best Scotch coal. We have also tried it at the forge, and welded several bars of 1¼ and 1½ inch, and the heats were as clean as if taken with the best English coal. It is my belief that the field does not extend further to the westward than the eastern shore of Beaver Harbour, and to the eastward than the Minkish river, marked in the accompanying plan by a dotted line; indeed, the feature of the country from Beaver Harbour to Shucharte is quite different, being covered with hard blue whin rock, without any appearance of freestone whatever. It is impossible to form any opinion of the extent of the field in an inland direction; but, from the appearance of the country, I am of opinion that it is very considerable.

On first going on shore, the natives appeared tenacious of our examining the coals, and accused us of coming to steal them; but having made a few presents to some of the chiefs, they entered into our views, and became very active, and I am only surprised that, with the rude implements they have for digging, viz., hatchets and wooden wedges, they were able to procure so large a quantity in so short a time; and I am pursuaded that, with the means we have, assisted by the natives, we could fill our coal bunkers in from ten to fourteen days.

The natives are a fine race of men, and appear industrious and friendly, but much addicted to thieving.

In conclusion, I beg leave to remark that the coal district is, in my opinion, admirably situated, possessing as it does excellent

anchorage in its neighbourhood, and being so far north that vessels of almost any burthen can approach it by way of Cape Scott, thus avoiding the difficult and dangerous navigation of Sir George Seymour's Narrows and Johnston's Straits.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. J. GORDON,
Commander.

John A. Duntze, Esq.,
Captain of H. M. Ship, "Fisgard,"
and Senior Officer.

(Parliamentary Papers, 7th March, 1849.*)*

FROM THE TIMES.

"We will not insist upon any of those vague rumours of extraordinary richness and fertility which are reported of all unexplored lands, but will confine ourselves to points about which no doubt is entertained. If there is any locality in the whole world which would appear in the eyes of a philosophical speculator destined for mighty purposes in future years, it is the west coast of the North American continent. Hitherto it has been unknown and unoccupied; but it is now secured by one of the most enterprising nations upon earth, at a price and by exertions which clearly show their appreciation of its value. California is now the territory of the United States, and the President's message indicates that it will not lie long useless in the hands of its new possessors. All the conclusions of probability suggest that the commerce of the Pacific and of the opposite Asiatic Continent will find its way to this coast, with which, too, in all likelihood, will be commenced the first intercourse of Japan. Now, along the whole length of this coast there are but two or three practicable ports for shipping, and the struggle which even the passive Mexicans made for San Francisco proves how preciously such resorts are valued by those best acquainted with their use. Vancouver's Island, from its situation and its harbours, is unquestionably the site which will command the commerce of the coast; and if ever the North Pacific is indeed to become a Mediterranean, here will be its Tyre. As if to qualify

it for its part, its chief ascertained production is precisely that which will be most needed; and this island, eighteen days' steaming only from the ports of China, is full of admirable coal."—*Times, August* 21*st*, 1848.

"In noticing yesterday the terms offered by the Hudson's Bay Company in relation to the settlement of Vancouver's Island, we mentioned that very little topographical or other knowledge is possessed regarding that country. Sufficient, however, has been ascertained to warrant an expectation that it may eventually attract a considerable number of settlers, and present a prosperous field not only for mining, but for agricultural, commercial, and maritime enterprise. The principal details at present available are contained in some dispatches from Mr. Douglas, chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, written between 1842 and 1846; and these, in so far as they bear upon the eligibility of the island for colonization, are decidedly favorable. His survey, however, extended only over the southern portion of the coast, and was undertaken simply with the view of finding a desirable depôt for the Company, in the event of it becoming expedient for them to remove their station from the Columbia river. The point he fixed upon, and which has since been adopted, was a port called Camosack; and it is to this place, therefore, that emigration, at all events, in the first instance, would be likely to be exclusively conducted. As a harbour it is equally safe and accessible, and is calculated to become a desirable port of refuge and refreshment for any vessels frequenting those seas. It has abundance of valuable oak and pine timber; and there is a canal six miles long, through which the tide rushes out and in with a degree of force capable of driving the most powerful machinery. Unlike other parts of the coast, there is a range of plains nearly six miles square, containing a great extent of valuable tillage and pasture land, equally well adapted for the plough, or for feeding stock. The soil of the best land is a dark vegetable mould about twelve inches in depth, overlaying a substrate of greyish clayey loam, producing abundance of grass and several luxuriant varieties of red clover.

"The climate is mild, pleasant, and salubrious, and apparently such as to favor the growth of every kind of grain raised in England, the results of the farming at the Hudson's Bay Company's

station, Fort Victoria, having hitherto realized the most sanguine expectations. In Upper California the fogs blight and deteriorate the crops near the sea coast, but at Vancouver's Island no destructive local influences have yet been ascertained. Potatoes flourish and grow to a large size, and the Indians have many fields in cultivation. Fish (especially salmon and sturgeon) and venison abound, and domestic cattle also thrive. The natives are peaceable and well disposed.

"The Port of Camosack is much nearer the fishing grounds than either California or the Sandwich Islands, and it is therefore calculated that an advantageous business might be carried on by supplying whale ships with clothing, stores, and refreshments. 'Nothing,' it is observed by Commodore Wilkes, 'can exceed the beauty of these waters and their safety. Not a shoal exists that can in any way interrupt their navigation by a 74 gun ship.'

"All the other parts of the south coast of the island appeared to Mr. Douglas inferior to Camosack, the shores being generally high, steep, and rocky, and covered with wood. The entire length of the island is 290 miles, with an average width of fifty-five miles. The coal district extends over all the north-eastern part, and the experiments as to its quality show it to be at least equal to the best Scotch coal. It can be obtained from the surface with the greatest ease, and is readily supplied by the natives, the steam sloop *Cormorant* having on one occasion obtained sixty-two tons in less than three days, at an expense of not more than 4s. per ton. Specimens of very fine lead have been found in the mountains on the coast; and there is also a supply of limestone.

"Under these circumstances, it will be seen that the island can scarcely fail to grow into importance. During the present impulsive rush to California, of course its settlement will be attended with great difficulties; but it is out of this very excitement that its prosperity seems destined most rapidly to arise; the Californian immigration having already insured the success and permanency of steam navigation on the northern coasts of the Pacific. This immigration, moreover, is sure to continue, until at length, however vast may be the ultimate yield of gold, it will be more profitable to settle in other places, with a view to trading with the population thus created.

"Hence at intervals the various points of the coast will become peopled, and not only will the local importance of coal and timber

be increased, but the period will be accelerated when their value will be incalculably raised by the consummation of the western route (with the Sandwich Islands as a depôt) to India, China, and Japan."—*Times, January* 30*th*, 1849.

"We understand it to be the intention of the Hudson's Bay Company to despatch a vessel with stores and emigrants to Vancouver's Island some time about the month of June, before which period the Company expect to be in possession of further particulars regarding the Colony, and probably also of partial surveys. The contract recently completed with the American Pacific Mail Steam Packet Company furnishes a strong indication of the profits which may ultimately accrue from the coal mines. The quantity purchased was 1,000 tons for one year's consumption, 'to be delivered at a safe and secure anchorage near the mines;' but to be shipped by the American Company at their own expense—300 tons by the 1st May, 1849, and the remainder before the 1st May, 1850. The coal being on the surface, and the trouble and risk of shipment being avoided, the contract could scarcely fail to yield a profit even at a low price; but the rate fixed is not less than 50s. per ton. Two years back the steam sloop, *Cormorant*, obtained 62 tons in two days, at a cost of only 4s. per ton, the Indians, who are numerous and active, being by no means averse to the labour. It will be remembered that in the terms issued by the Hudson's Bay Company the privilege of working these mines is accorded to any settlers by whom the land may be purchased, on payment of a royalty of half-a-crown per ton. The price charged in the present instance to the American steamers may be attributed simply to their not being able to supply themselves at a less price at any intermediate point, coupled with the circumstance of the arrangement being made by the Hudson's Bay Company out of their regular course for the convenience of these parties, instead of, as would be the case with regular settlers, as a matter of ordinary business.

"On the 30th January we gave a summary of all that was known regarding the climate, productions, and general character of the island, and these details were so limited, although fully establishing on the whole a very favorable impression, that further accounts will be looked for with interest. Meanwhile some particulars have

been sent in letters from an officer in Her Majesty's ship, *Constant*, dated July and September last, from which the following graphic extracts may be presented:—

"July 30th.—Esquimault Harbour, Vancouver's Island.—Moored in a beautiful little basin. Since the 18th we have had fine weather and smooth water. We made Cape Flattery on the 23rd. Lots of canoes came off with fish, which the natives bartered for iron, fish-hooks, tobacco, shirts, &c. Ran up the Straits next day at the rate of from ten to eleven knots. Nothing but forests of tall pine. At one part ten miles of them were on fire. On the south side there was a range of high hills, the tops covered with snow. We rounded the S.E. part of the island about 5 p.m. and came to anchor close in shore of Esquimault Bay, between 6 and 7. The captain and master went to sound the harbour, as the Moderate and Herald are the only two ships that have been in here. We ran in with a light air the next morning, and moored a little more than our own length from the shore on each side. The harbour, which is completely land-locked, extends a mile or two each way; the wood close down touching the water, which is as smooth as a mill pond, and, where we are, about nine fathoms deep. No such thing as rain seen or heard of during three months; the thermometer standing at 61. The sun seems as though you were looking at it through a dark red glass, for the forest is on fire, but whereabouts we do not know; the air full of smoke, and lots of wood ashes falling on the deck. The Hudson's Bay Company's factory, Fort Victoria, is about four miles off. The officer in charge of it seems a very sensible, proper person. The only people we see here are native fishermen, and, therefore, not good specimens of the race. They have muskets in every canoe. Some of the canoes contain whole families, about twelve in each. Cats in numbers, mats, skins, salmon, children, slaves, and dirt, and all well mixed up together. They paint their faces black, with red stripes, and abundance of ear-rings. In bartering they have no idea of our good faith, for they never let go their goods until they have hold of yours; and it is necessary to be just as careful with them, else they will shove off and pull away with whatever they can. The price of a canoe and paddles is between one and two blankets. For a shirt we ought to get eight salmon at this season, and about fifteen in a month's time. We also get bows and arrows, and bear, otter, and deer skins, &c. A little round looking-glass will buy a great

deal, and a small axe is invaluable. A sea otter's skin is worth eight blankets here, and sells for about £30 in England. The bear and beaver skins have hardly any value now. The Company, however, buy everything that the Indians bring.

"August 16th.—Still lying in Esquimault Bay. Fine weather and everything smooth. The Pandora, a surveying brigantine, arrived a few days ago. She is going on with a survey of these Straits until the Herald comes down again from Behring's Straits. They have had hard work in the boats surveying on the Coast of Panama. There are also two of the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels at Fort Victoria, where we are too large to get in. The fort is an oblong stockade, sunk four feet in the ground, and eighteen feet above it, with a blockhouse at the opposite corners, with a few guns in each. There is a house for the head man, one for the two next in rank, three for the men; three storehouses, all large and well-built with wood. They have cleared a quantity of ground and have some acres of wheat, besides vegetables. There are also some exterior storehouses and two wharfs, the leading one of which has eighteen feet water alongside—on the whole, a pretty fair amount of work to have been executed by thirty men. The people are now kept up late, as it is harvest time, and they dare not carry the wheat away in the day, it being so dry that all the grain falls out, so they wait till a little dew has fallen and then go on working until past 12 at night.

"September.—We are having a regular refit, yards and masts all down, holds cleared out, and a better place could hardly be found for it. The sportsmen as yet have met with little to shoot at—a few ducks and partridges early in the morning. They say that at this dry season all the game move inland. We have amused ourselves building a hut and have covered the floor with a fine dry moss, which makes a most comfortable bed. A few days back a party of us went to Cedar Hill, the highest eminence near. The view was very fine; the Straits full of islands; and the mountains covered with snow on the mainland, one of which, Baker's mountain, was extremely striking—a huge white dome standing up high above the rest. Below us we saw little clear ground, most of it being covered with fir, yew, cedar, and laurel. The oaks are upon the open spaces. Wherever these grew it was clear from underwood, and we had grass and fern to gallop along. On our way we saw a few cranes, humming-birds, and squirrels. Miles of the

ground were burnt and smoking, and miles were still burning. The Indians burn the country in order to find more easily the roots which they eat. The fire runs along the grass at a great pace, and it is the custom here if you are caught to gallop right through it; the grass being short, the flame is very little, and you are through in a second. All the horses and cattle feeding know it well, and make straight for the fire immediately.

"September 8th.—We sailed from Esquimault on the 4th at daylight. Had a light and foul wind, and passed rather a rainy night in the Straits. There is barely an anchorage to be found, so we remained under way. Worked out well clear of Cape Flattery by sunset the next day, and expect to be at San Francisco in a week."—*Times, May 4th,* 1849.

From the Morning Chronicle.

"The fact is that, considering the trade already existing and rapidly increasing between North-Western America and North-Eastern Asia, and the probability of an entirely new and most important line of communication being opened forthwith between the Atlantic and the Pacific, Vancouver's Island has advantages, which not one of the countries we have alluded to had when first colonized. Far from being in an inferior position as regards export trade, it is absolutely the only one which begins with an export trade ready-made—we allude to that of coal, which it alone is known to possess in the whole region of the Pacific, and which, as we have before stated, is now procured in England for the steam service lately established by the Americans between Panama and Oregon. Besides this, there is sufficient reason for believing that copper is to be found in the island (large quantities being found in the possession of the natives), it is needless to point out the peculiar advantage derivable from the co-existence of that mineral in the same locality with the coal required for smelting it. In short, we have no doubt that the same steps which created an export trade in wool from Sydney, in cotton from Charleston, and in copper from Adelaide, will, if taken in earnest, lead to similar results in a country of, at least, equal promise."—*Morning Chronicle, September* 21, 1848.

"Abounding in excellent coal, and timber fitted for naval purposes, Vancouver's Island presents now, almost for the first time, a cheerful prospect to the free emigrant. Settlements are so rapidly increasing about the Columbia river, as to induce the American government to establish a line of first class steamers between that river and Panama, which, it is believed, have already begun to ply, and a considerable trade will doubtless spring up in those regions. From the excellence of its harbours and its geographical position, aided by the dangerous character of the bar at the mouth of the Columbia, Vancouver's Island could form the key of the whole coast, and become a ready depôt for refitting and supplying ships employed in the whale fisheries; whilst the important fisheries in and about the island itself, its mines and other produce, hold out a promise of considerable export, not only to the nearer coasts, but also to the Sandwich Islands and other more distant countries."—*Morning Chronicle, October* 30, 1848.

"Not only must the course which events are taking in the Pacific render inevitable the early formation of a ship canal across the Isthmus of Panama—which will abridge, by nearly two months, the passage to the mouth of the Columbia—but the immediate vicinity of a large mining and commercial population in California will give an incalculable stimulus to production of all kinds in Vancouver's Island.

"Nobody can now doubt that the western coast of North America is about to become the theatre of vast commercial and political transactions; and it is impossible to estimate adequately the value which may soon accrue to every harbour, coal mine, forest, and plain, in that quarter of the world."—*Morning Chronicle, February* 15*th*, 1849.

From the Sun.

"Let it be remembered that Vancouver's Island is situated, as it were, within sight of the golden vallies of the Sacramento—that it constitutes one of the most felicitously placed coaling stations in the western hemisphere—that it immediately confronts the western shores of North America, being partially imbedded in a scoop of

that continent—and that it occupies, in regard to the Pacific ocean, the position occupied by England in regard to the Atlantic ocean. Let it be remembered also, that it commands the whole of that magnificent Archipelago, which is teeming with the most precious productions of nature and art, spices and carved ivory, crape and indigo, china and japan,—that the decoying influence of the mineral wealth of California will attract, and is now attracting to that hitherto neglected quarter of the globe, a swarm of colonists, the number of which it is calculated will amount, before twelve months have expired, to upwards of 100,000 human beings,—that projects are already on foot for the purpose of cutting through the Isthmus of Panama (a distance of only twenty-three miles), and of thus shortening by a period of two months the voyage to the Columbia river by means of a ship canal between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans."—*Sun, February* 15th, 1849.

From the Daily News.

Vancouver's Island, and the harbours around it, will in time be one of the most important possessions of the globe.—*Daily News, August* 21*st*, 1848.

From the Edinburgh Weekly Register.

"Under the present circumstances of this country, when so many young men of the professional and mercantile classes are unable to push their way at home, it may not be amiss to direct their attention to Vancouver's Island. Most people are aware from the discussions in Parliament that it is situated on the west coast of North America, and has been granted by charter to the Hudson's Bay Company for the purposes of colonisation. But there may be many totally in the dark in respect to the prospects it holds out to emigrants.

"The exact position of the island is between 48 deg. 17 min., and 50 deg. 55 min. north latitude, and 120 deg. 10 min., and 128 deg. 30 min. west longitude. It is 299 miles long, and on the average 55 broad. It possesses the germs of an illimitable

commerce in its many harbours, and its position. By the waters of the Pacific, which wash its coast, it can trade with Sitka and the Russian settlements, Oregon, California distant only three days' sail, the Sandwich Islands about the same distance, China, and the entire west coast of America. Let any one take up a good map, and glance over the vast sweep of continent north of the 49th parallel of latitude. Over the whole dreary extent of the Hudson Bay Company's dominions, more than three millions of miles square, he will observe numberless dots. These are trading forts, cast down amid swamps, rocks, and marshes, unable to grow even a single potato to feed their inmates. The provisions necessary for their very existence must come from the direction of Vancouver's Island.

"Its waters all round and round will float a 74-gun ship. The climate is like that of England, but milder. The soil is excellent. It has been amply tested at Fort Victoria at the Port of Camosack. There is in that locality a wide sweep of land, six miles square, two-thirds of which is rich tillage and pasture land, with abundance of timber, and plenty of water power. The best soil is a dark vegetable mould, from nine to fourteen inches deep, lying over greyish clay loam, and covered with the rankest and most luxuriant vegetation. Both on this and the inferior variety of soil, clover may be seen springing spontaneously 'like the close sward of a well managed lea.' This is a specimen of the island.

"Coal appears to extend over the whole north-east. At M'Neill's Harbour, the washing of the waves have laid bare a seam, three feet thick, for nearly a mile. In a short space of time, the natives with their paltry hatchets and wooden tools can dig out many tons. The seam thickens lower down. Commander Gordon, of the steam-sloop *Cormorant*, states that if taken a few feet from the surface, it will equal the best Scotch. He tried it at the forge, welding several bars of $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and the heats were as clean as if taken with the best English coal. This mineral may be worked by the settlers on payment of a small royalty.

"Lieutenants Farre and Vavasour, of the Royal Engineers, complete the picture, in a Report dated in October, 1845. "The specimens of lead found in the mountains on the coast are apparently very fine. The fisheries, salmon and sturgeon, are inexhaustible, and game of all descriptions is said to abound.

"The timber is extremely luxuriant and increases in value as you reach a more northern latitude, that in 50 deg. to 54 deg. being

considered the best. Pine, spruce, red and white oak, ash, cedar, arbutus, poplar, maple, willow, and yew, grow in this section of country, north of the Columbia river. The cedar and pine become of an immense size."

"It is an additional advantage that an organised and powerful association have already occupied the spot. For centuries they have hunted the adjoining continent. Every inch is to their able functionaries and hardy servants familiar ground, and their compact and iron organization is a ready engine of protection and defence. They have so ordered their arrangements that every district will have its schools, churches, roads, and public institutions, all supported from reserved lands, and the edifice will be crowned by a legislative assembly, chosen by the suffrage of the whole freeholders.

"We are the more particular in noting these advantages that the most audacious attempts have been made to damage the company. They are charged with having prevented colonisation before, from which it is argued they cannot cordially promote it now. There are some minds formed to criticise, and the doers of this world are sorely beset by the mere critics. It is easy to sit in the easy chair at home and review the policy of this association, ruling the most lawless bands in existence, and pushing commerce through the region of tomahawks. Fortunately we have the most trustworthy evidence to refute these charges. The Bishop of Montreal, the Church and Wesleyan Missionaries, Commodore Wilkes of the American Navy, no very prejudiced witness, Mr. Robert Greenhow, translator and librarian of the United States' Government, and others, all worthy of credence, and some hostile to the Company, give personal testimony to their energetic and upright policy in the midst of the most trying difficulties.

"Indeed, in the part of the continent over which they had territorial right, colonisation to any extent was impossible. The whole looks, it is said, "like the fag end of the world," swamps, rocks, treeless wastes, lakes, and ponds mixed up in interminable confusion. At York Factory the ice does not break up till July, and the soil is never thawed more than six inches down. The hottest fire does not prevent the room being coated with ice three inches thick; the wind raises the cheek into blisters; and long icicles depend from the eyelashes. But at Red River, near the southern boundary, the company long ago founded a settlement, with streets, churches,

missionaries, and every requisite of civilisation. In 1843 there were 5,143 inhabitants; 2,267 cows; 1,976 pigs; 3,569 sheep; with multitudes of calves and other stock. The soil is good, and every encouragement is held out to immigrants, yet even here success is doubtful, and the crops once failed three seasons in succession.

"Again, in the mild regions to the west, such as Vancouver's Island and vicinity, the Company never had territorial rights till now, and consequently could not colonise.

"But wherever they found it convenient, they formed farms, and settled down in comfort their retired servants and clerks. Fort Vancouver is one of these, on the Columbia. Their farm is nine miles square. They have two dairies and milk upwards of 100 cows. They have also two other dairies in the neighbourhood, where, from the milk of 150 cows, they make butter and cheese for the Russian settlements. The stock consists of 3,000 head of cattle; 2,500 sheep; and about 300 brood mares. There are grist and saw mills, shops, offices, and establishments of every description.

"One undoubted fact is that the Company have absolutely prohibited the sale of spirits to the Indians. The reports of the Wesleyan Missionary Society evince their zeal in introducing religion and a sense of duty among the natives, and the Episcopal clergy speak of them in the highest terms.

"An excellent summary of the existing information on the Hudson's Bay Company will be found in a little volume by Mr. R. M. Martin. A perusal of it will show with what reckless audacity calumnious charges can be made against any body whose doings are at a distance, and to the great majority comparatively obscure.

"For our part, we can safely advise any active young man, married or unmarried, possessed of a small capital, and some acquaintance with agriculture, to pick up four or five labourers, even if he should have to go to Solas for them, and carry them out with him to till his freehold in Vancouver's Island. If he knows his business, he cannot fail, even at the worst, to revel in rustic abundance."—*Edinburgh Weekly Register, September* 5, 1849.

From Speeches in Parliament.

"Those of their Lordships' who had taken an interest in the negotiations between this country and the United States of America

previous to the completion of what was called the Oregon treaty, must be familiar with the localities as well as the importance of Vancouver's Island. Between Russia on the north, and the United States on the south, was this portion of Her Majesty's dominions, at this moment a place of great importance, and which might become of enormous importance hereafter. The climate of the island was fine; the soil fertile; its harbours were excellent; and the place was in all respects most favorable for emigration and colonisation; and it contained moreover extensive mines of coal, invaluable to us in the future improvement of steam navigation. From the possessions of Russia to Panama there was no other place near the coast with which he was acquainted capable of supplying coal. When a communication should be made, either by railroad or by a canal across the Isthmus of Panama, that would become the highway of maritime nations to China and other parts of the eastern world, and then the possession of Vancouver's Island would become a matter of vast importance. With respect to the value attached to this island by foreigners, he need only refer to the high authority of Malte Brun, who stated that, in the hands of an intelligent nation, it might become a place of the highest importance."—*Lord Monteagle's speech in the House of Lords, August 24th,* 1848.

"From the first discovery of the island—from the accounts of Vancouver himself, and all impartial observers since—it has been established that the island is extremely fertile; that it is rich in mines of coal and other minerals; that its timber is fine; that its ports are good; and that its climate is, in many respects, superior to that of England, and singularly suited to the constitution of those who go out from this country. These great facts, I think, have been made out; and, so far as the official reports now before us go, they corroborate all these statements. I have in my hand, also, a copy of a portion of a letter from a gentleman in Her Majesty's service, who visited that island, giving an account of its physical and political importance:—

"Vancouver, from its climate, soil, timber, harbours, fisheries, game, and, above all, its position, is one of the most valuable islands belonging to Britain; and it is only necessary to glance your eye over the map of the north-west coast of America to be convinced that it is so.

"In a military point of view, it is to Oregon and California what Bermuda is to the eastern seaboard of the United States, its splendid harbours and fine timber affording shelter and supplies for fifty fleets; while, in a commercial point of view, it ought to be the great depôt for supplying Oregon and California with British manufactures; not to mention the Russian settlements, from which it is only ten days' sail, and China and Japan, from which it is not more than eighteen or twenty days."

"I believe, if there is a spot in the world which, so far as we can read its future destinies, is intended for mighty purposes, that spot is the western coast of America. Everything that has been going on there for some time past indicates that it will be an enormous civilised portion of the world—the southern part of this coast being secured to the United States; the northern to us. From the mouth of the Columbia river down to California the whole country belongs to the United States; and I think it of the greatest importance, looking to the circumstances which are likely to arise, that a free and independent colony should be established in Vancouver's Island. I think it no vain dream to anticipate that the day will come when not only the whole commerce of the Pacific, but of the coast of Asia, will, in all probability, flow into the ports of that island. South of Vancouver's Island, till you come to San Francisco, there is not a single available spot where a ship can take shelter. Under these circumstances, I must say it is no answer to tell us of the distance of Vancouver's Island from Great Britain. The efforts which are now making for the colonisation of neighbouring districts make it certain that some means of overland communication will before long be discovered."—*Lord Lincoln's Speech, House of Commons,* 19*th June,* 1849.

"Probably there was no spot on the face of the globe more advantageous for the promotion of commerce and trade than this island. The natives, with their wooden implements alone, could now produce coals at 4s. per ton; and, therefore, there could be no doubt that, with the necessary improvements, coals could be obtained for 2s. a ton."—*Mr. Hume's Speech, House of Commons,* 19*th June,* 1849.

"He had always considered the island as one of the greatest importance, and one well worthy of the special attention of the Government. He had more reason than most of their lordships for being of that opinion, for during the whole period of his official life it had occasioned him greater uneasiness than any other subject with respect to the peace of the country.

"The Government of the United States had always contended that the boundary line within the 49th deg. had not stopped on the continent, but extended through Vancouver's Island to the ocean, by which the most valuable portion of the island would be lost to this country; and the Government of this country had, therefore, contended that the boundary line did not extend to the island, but stopped with the continent. The negotiations, as their lordships knew, were carried on under the most alarming circumstances, and it was thought of the greatest importance to secure the whole of the island. Upon a careful consideration of the subject, he was satisfied with the manner in which the noble Earl had conducted the transfer."—*Earl of Aberdeen's Speech in House of Lords, 30th June*, 1849.

"In the present case, the land was confided to the Hudson's Bay Company merely as trustees for the sale of it to individuals who wished to settle. They were compelled to sell the land to any one who chose to pay the established price, and comply with the regulations. And with only a very small deduction to repay their outlay and costs of establishments, the Company were to lay out the entire proceeds in aid of the colonisation, and for the benefit of the colonists in the island. He believed his noble friend was mistaken in thinking that colonists would be tempted to go to other places where land was to be had for nothing. He believed that colonists would find it very much cheaper to pay 20s. per acre for land in a colony where they were sure the price would be expended upon the land, than to go where they could get land for nothing, and be obliged to get on as they best could without any assistance. In Western Australia the experiment was tried. The people got the land for nothing, and it was a ruinous bargain. In South Australia they had to pay £1 an acre, and they were well pleased with their bargain. He thought it would be the same with Vancouver's Island, unless, indeed, as his noble friend suggested,

the gold mines of California might for a time prevent colonists from going further north. The Hudson's Bay Company, some time ago, sent out a company of coal miners to the island; they would shortly send out another similar expedition; but, whatever might be the consequence, he thought the public were deeply indepted to the Hudson's Bay Company for taking upon themselves the whole risk and charge of settling the island, which, if they had not undertaken, would have remained a mere waste."—*Earl Grey's Speech in House of Lords, July 29th*, 1849.

END.

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MAP OF
VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND THE ADJACENT COASTS.
1849.
CONTINENT OF AMERICA.
VANCOUVER ISLAND
QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND
JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT
GULF OF GEORGIA
Nootka Sound
Port Brooks
Barclay Sound
Esquimalt Harbour
Royal Bay
Sooke Inlet
Saturna
Fraser R.
Mt Baker
Mt Stephens
Cape Scott
Scott Is
Nootka I.
CLAYOQUOT
NITINAT
Upquasta
Tasis
Tusis or Consuma Reux
Good Hope Canal & Port.
Woody Point
Malaspina Canal
Malaspina Strait
Sangster I.
Birch Bay
Olumma or Kilburnah R.
Burrup Son & Co Lithog. London.