PROPOSED SITE OF DOMINION IMMIGRATION BUILDINGS.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the 9th November, 1885.

The Committee of the Executive Council have had under consideration the fitness of the site for the Dominion Immigration Buildings proposed to be erected upon the Songish Indian Reservation, on the western shore of Victoria Harbour.

It may be taken for granted that it is the poorer class of immigrants who will, for the most part, use these buildings, and that large numbers of both sexes, and all ages, will from time to time avail themselves of the free accommodation thus provided.

It is, therefore, of primary importance that the Immigration Buildings in question should be so situated as to be convenient of access to steamboat landings, to the business portion of the city, and to the public offices, where immigrants must obtain necessary information and transact business.

In each and all of these respects the site above referred to is extremely inconvenient.

In passing to and from the wharves, the city and public offices, immigrants would be compelled to cross the harbour at considerable inconvenience and expense, and not without risk to life and property.

Nor do considerations of convenience and utility constitute the sole ground of objection.

Immigrants housed in these buildings would not only find themselves isolated from the city and the public offices, but they would be precipitated into the midst of an encampment of degraded and degrading semi-savages, who would regard them as unwelcome intruders, with whose language and habits they would necessarily be unacquainted, and, being beyond the pale of the corporation and the surveillance of the police, serious misunderstandings would inevitably arise, and demoralization and crime would be promoted, and thus would, most certainly, be superinduced a condition of affairs between the two races alike prejudicial to the best interests of both, and subversive of the public peace and good order.

With a view to bringing about the selection of a more eligible site for these buildings, the Committee recommend that this Minute be approved, and that copies thereof be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State and to the Right Honourable the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.

Certified,

(Signed) JNO. ROBSON,
Clerk Executive Council.

Receipt of the above was acknowledged by the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada in a despatch to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, dated 25th November, 1885.