

ment with Her Majesty's Government as aforesaid. It provides for the settlement of 1,250 families of "Colonists" from the United Kingdom on the coast of British Columbia, subject to abandonment at any time, if the measure of success attending the scheme has not been adequate, and the borrowing of £150,000 from the Imperial Treasury, in three instalments of £50,000 each, at 3 per cent. interest. Repayment commences at the end of five years from the date of the first advance, and extends over twenty-five years, in equal annual instalments. The second Act is entitled "An Act to encourage the Deep Sea Fisheries of British Columbia," and deals with the commercial aspect of the enterprise. It authorizes a company having a capital stock of not less than £1,000,000, which is to provide all the facilities for carrying on the work, and for a grant to the said company of 500,000 acres of land on the West Coast of British Columbia, to be selected from a reserve of 1,300,000 acres for that purpose, subject, of course, to its carrying out all the requirements of the Act in question, said company to deposit \$100,000 as security for their bona fides, until it has expended \$100,000 in permanent improvements, buildings, machinery, plant, etc., when the same is to be refunded by the Government; but such improvements, buildings, etc., are to remain as security to the Government for all obligations entered into on behalf of the company. The lands in question are to be exempt from taxes for ten years, and the personal property of the company for two years. The Imperial Act simply authorizes the advance of £150,000 from the Imperial Treasury to the Government of British Columbia, on certain conditions, the only difference existing in the terms of the Act of the respective governments is that the Imperial Act refers specifically to selections from Crofter parishes, while in the Provincial Acts the term "Colonists from the United Kingdom" is

used, which does not limit the selection to Scottish Crofters at all. That is, if suitable fishermen cannot be found among the Crofters it permits of selections being made from any other part of Great Britain and Ireland. This was regarded as a wise precaution on the part of the Provincial Government, but herein lies a possible bone of contention, but, if so, ought not to be a serious matter to arrange between the two governments. It may be added here that the details of the agreement, whereby the interests of the various parties interested are to be safeguarded are settled by the Governor-in-Council with the concurrence of the syndicate. This agreement, though made, is not yet public. One feature of the scheme which does not appear in the acts relating to it, is that the colonists repay to the Provincial Government the advances made to them in easy instalments covering a term of years, so that the Province, while recouping the Imperial Treasury, is recouped in return by the colonists. Having thus briefly outlined the statutory conditions, I wish to dwell particularly on the commercial aspects of the scheme; but before doing so an interesting, though mournful subject, with permission, may be introduced. So far as the Provincial Government was associated with the carrying out of the project, the latter had as a prime mover and a warm advocate the late Hon. John Robson, Premier of British Columbia. The deceased gentleman was one of the most distinguished of the pioneers of the Province and its most illustrious statesman. It is to be related here that he died in London, Eng., while in the consummation of this great enterprise, having had conferred on him an honor never before accorded to a Premier of a Province in Canada, being summoned by the Imperial authorities to arrange with them the details of a final settlement. It was while steeped in this public business that he was suddenly carried away, and if nothing more should ever come of it, this episode will render the