

British Columbia and Vancouver's Island.

the favour of your kindly giving me your written opinion as to whether the book in question (published by Messrs. Longman & Co., a copy of which I send to you) contains truth or exaggerated statements.

It can hardly be doubted that the sentiments of a gentleman so eminently qualified as you are to give an opinion on a subject of such moment to the emigrating population of this country will be received by the public with favour and thankfulness.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
D. G. F. MACDONALD, C.E.

Late of the Government Survey Staff of British Columbia.

E. E. Langford, Esq., J.P., &c.

London, Nov. 4, 1862.

Dear Sir—I feel that I cannot well refuse to answer your letter of the 23rd ult., to which I would have replied earlier had I not wished, before doing so, to have perused your work on British Columbia and Vancouver's Island with care and attention.

I have now read your book from end to end, and I can state very frankly, from my personal knowledge of British Columbia, as well as from deductions formed from accounts communicated to me by many persons who have traversed the country since 1858, that I give full confirmation to all you have said respecting the climate, soil, and physical aspect of the colony.

As true as there is an extensive auriferous tract in British Columbia, equally true is it that that territory can never become either agriculturally or pastorally a rich and great province.

It is nothing short of reckless assertion to say that 'prairies' exist in these dependencies, from which winter provender might be easily procured. It is a matter of notoriety on the Pacific coast that the very pack-trains to the Columbian mines have to carry Californian barley at an enormous cost, to keep skin and bone of horse and mule together.

You are correct in stating that British Columbia wants fine land, prairie, and genial climate, and that the country is neither adapted for cattle nor suited to cereals. This is, indeed, the only conclusion that an experienced agriculturist could possibly arrive at.

You have very justly drawn a more favourable picture of Vancouver's Island, which possesses natural advantages not common to the sister colony. In climate and soil—particularly the former—Vancouver's Island is much superior. But its agricultural and pastoral capabilities have also been very greatly exaggerated by interested newspaper correspondents and other writers. There is, indeed, every reason to fear that many of the emigrants of this country, who have been misled by flattering accounts, and who have arrived on those distant shores with slender means at this inclement season will be exposed to severe privation and possibly to actual want.

I would venture to draw your attention to what I presume is a typographical error in your book, where you allude to the climate of Vancouver's Island. It should be 27° below freezing point, not zero. This is the only error which I have observed in its many pages. I am quite aware, however, that the cold is very much more severe in British Columbia.

You are welcome to make any use you please of this communication. It may probably assist in dispelling the many erroneous impressions which prevail in England as to the nature of the country, climate, and resources of these colonies, and in supporting what you have so clearly and forcibly expressed in your most valuable work.

I am, dear sir, faithfully yours,

EDWARD E. LANGFORD,
A Resident for nearly Ten Years.

D. G. F. Macdonald, Esq., C.E., &c.

London: LONGMAN, GREEN, & CO. 14 Ludgate Hill.