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In the Appendix (No. 9.) will be found a description of the manufacture of coiled wrought iron tubes for Palliser guns.

Before quitting the subject of ordnance, I beg again to refer to a suggestion submitted in December 1875 shortly after my return from Vancouver Island, viz. : for the construction of an earthwork battery upon a promontory called McAulay's Point, commanding the entrance to the harbours of Victoria and the Naval Station of Esquimalt.

I had plans and estimates of this work prepared by Lieut.-Col. Blair, Royal Artillery, and he estimates the expense, exclusive of magazines, at about six hundred dollars. The number of men requisite for this battery would probably be about 100 and I have no doubt that the loyal people of Victoria would readily raise a small brigade of Volunteer Artillery for the purpose. Booms and torpedoes would of course be an additional protection, but this battery is really a necessity, because, in the absence of a man of war from the anchorage in Esquimalt harbour, which sometimes happens, there is no kind of protection for the valuable naval stores in the dockyard, nor for the city of Victoria. Any piratical cruiser or privateer entering the Straits of Fuca could blow up and destroy both places with perfect impunity at present. On visiting the dockyard of Esquimalt, at the request of Vice-Admiral the Hon. Arthur Cochrane, I found two 7-inch and four 40-pounder breech-loading rifled guns obsolete for naval service, and about to be sent to England. I requested that they might be detained with their shell and equipments, pending my proposition to have them handed over to the Dominion Government. I submitted this scheme in Dec. 1875. I now find no steps have been taken to procure the transfer of the guns and I earnestly hope this may be done.

It might be considered that the protection of Esquimalt is an Imperial, rather than a Dominion liability, but it intimately concerns the honor of both and the supremacy of British naval power in that region. It is necessary for our security on the Pacific that it should be well guarded. Our fleets must keep that sea and they cannot do so without coal. Nature has provided this in ample stock and finest quality at Nanaimo, and British instinct of a former age, ignorant of its value, or even of the existence of this all powerful element, secured to us the place of its abode, Vancouver's Island.

The British navy is scattered over the whole Pacific; there are no works of defence raised by Imperial hands at Vancouver when a Crown colony; no forts for the protection of our coal; nothing but prestige and the companies of Militia at Victoria and Nanaimo. I trust that whether by Imperial or Dominion hands, we may not be much longer without a powerful battery to protect these harbours:—I have dwelt upon the subject to endeavour to show it is an Imperial as well as a Dominion question, for what affects one must affect both, and so there ought to be no difficulty