

# Canadian Pacific Railway Company's System Extended to Victoria.

The Company Acquires Land Grant of Million and Half Acres on  
Vancouver Island.—Plans for Its Settlement.

Address of Mr. J. S. Dennis to Council Victoria Board of Trade.

(Reproduced from the Victoria "Times" of July 7th, 1905.)

An announcement of the plans prepared by the C. P. R. for the development of their newly-acquired holdings on Vancouver Island was made to the council of the Board of Trade this morning by J. S. Dennis, the company's land commissioner and assistant to the second vice-president. While Mr. Dennis did not indulge in any pyrotechnics nor manipulate the hot air valve, he said enough to arouse the most buoyant optimism in the people of Victoria. He outlined fairly exhaustively what course the company would pursue to render productive that practically *terra incognita* known as the E. & N. land grant, and plainly demonstrated that although the big transcontinental corporation have had possession of land and road a trifle more than a month they will not let a solitary blade of grass peep above the surface beneath their feet before starting their ponderous machinery in motion.

The announcement of the company's plans came in the form of an address by Mr. Dennis to the Board of Trade council. President S. J. Pitts was in the chair and of the council members there were present, Jas. Forman, John Nelson, E. E. Billingham, Capt. J. G. Cox, Steve Jones, T. M. Henderson, W. T. Oliver, R. B. McMicking, T. W. Patterson, D. R. Ker, R. E. Gosnell, and Secretary Elworthy. The chairman explained that the meeting was called to hear from Mr. Dennis what plans the C. P. R. had in view relative to the

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAND  
and in what particulars the Board could

lend assistance in the prosecution of this enterprise.

Mr. Dennis, who was accorded the deepest attention during his remarks, said that in accepting the invitation of the president, his particular object was to explain the plan the C. P. R. had in view for the development of their interests on Vancouver Island. At the same time he advised that the people should not expect much from the company at once. Although the C. P. R., as all were aware, had recently acquired the E. & N. railroad and the land grant they did not desire the latter. They already had six million acres in the province, and their experience had been that they paid out more on it than they had received. However, they hoped for a change of conditions in this respect, and no doubt it would come.

One of the reasons that prompted the C. P. R. to acquire the land grant was the possibility of a large measure of colonization. Were the conditions on Vancouver Island similar to those in Prince Edward Island it would soon be the garden of America. But this was not the case. The land in question was broken and heavily timbered and it would require time and thought to know how to

INDUCE PEOPLE TO COME HERE  
and settle. In this connection he had taken the position that Victoria's situation with relation to the land grant was analogous to that of Calgary. A large tract of land lay to the east of the latter city. The soil was good but the land was not considered desirable. The com-