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PREFACE.

Placing before the public the present edition of the *British Columbia Directory*, it is satisfactory to note that after continuing the publication of the same for fourteen years, and commencing with a book scarcely thicker than the covers of the present work, we have, in this issue, not only a gratifying evidence of its rapid increase in size and volume, but also a remarkable indication of the wonderful growth of this province. Of the four principal towns, three of them, within that short period, have grown from small villages into thriving, prosperous, well-built cities, while, in one instance, that of Vancouver — which twenty years ago was unknown and in the height of, has since that time sprung into existence, and joined her sister cities and mutual rivals in a way that bids fair for her becoming soon the principal commercial centre on the Pacific Coast.

British Columbia, a Province contains 357,000 square miles, and equals the area of France, Italy, Belgium and Holland all put together, while Vancouver Island alone has an area of 18,000 square miles, and is larger than the combined area of the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Delaware, which contain a population of three millions.

The simple inference to be drawn from this fact is, that Vancouver Island, equally as productive and with a better climate than the states of the Union named, is equalled and will, in time, surpass them within its borders a vast and wealthy population. With such a vast area, and so favorable a climate, who can estimate the possibilities of the future growth of this rich and prosperous country. It is a province rich in its support, coal, fish, timber and everything that can make a country prosperous.

The climate of this excellent Province is described by one of England's most celebrated statesmen, — "No words," he says, "can be too strong to express the great beauty and healthfulness of the climate, better, and more completely than the sun and the wind caresses at all times of the year, the falling waters of the mountains, the richness of the woods around you."

With every thing so perfect and so fertile awaiting both this province and the British Columbia Directory, the publisher with much to refer to, the letter that should have been sent to meet with the liberal patronage which the present issue has received, and with a view to increasing its usefulness, and securing a better quality in its composition, his intention is to have the text set in printed type imported expressly for the purpose of sufficient quantity and quality to keep the work in type all the year round, an undertaking which will not only involve considerable outlay, but also the importing of the largest quantity of type ever imported into the Province before at one time.

We desire to tender our thanks to the Local Government, the Mayors and Councils of the four cities, and various persons throughout the Province, for having kindly placed at our disposal everything that would aid in making this work a success.

28 BROAD STREET, JANUARY 1st, 1892

Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two, by J. L. WILLIAMS, in the office of the Minister of Agriculture, at Ottawa.

Speech of the Minister of Home Affairs, 1892

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