

The Weekly British Colonist

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All that is already being improved, with the exception of one or two additions, to compensate the possible consequences of the absence of a proper supply in the immediate future.

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With Federal aid, the capital could be got at 5 per cent, which would involve a very trifling charge upon the community in the form of water rates.

It is not clear that any circumstances, however essential, under any circumstances, becomes still more urgent in view of a considerable influx of population, and assuming that the work would be in progress next year, the very demand thus created for labor would probably be the means of retaining in the country hundreds of persons who might otherwise leave it.

There can really be no doubt as to the willingness of the Dominion Government to lend its credit for so small an amount, and we shall, in all probability, never have a more favorable opportunity of accomplishing a great public necessity.

The question of harbor improvements is one falling more legitimately within the scope of Federal duty, and it would appear to be no more than proper that there should be some stipulation for the improvement of Victoria harbor.

The increased importance which Confederation cannot fail to attach to this place affords an additional argument for harbor improvements, adequate provision for which ought to be made in the schedule of conditions.

There is another point which, although very recently presented in these columns, we venture to repeat to-day, and that is the importance of a geological survey.

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Under that provision a portion of the country west of Lake Superior was surveyed last year, and more of it will probably be surveyed during the present year.

There is probably no part of British North America presenting such geological interest as British Columbia, and there is certainly no part in respect of which a survey may be presumed to be of equal importance.

Beyond the range in which the great mineral wealth of the country may truly be said to lie undisturbed, and this condition may, in a great measure, be attributed to the absence of any mining like a general knowledge of the formations, and of the laws governing mineral deposits.

It would be to ask the whole of the months from the time of the admission of this colony into the Dominion of Canada, such a survey should be commenced, and assuming that work will be done during the present year, it would be a most opportune time to inaugurate a geological survey of the colony when it is reasonable to expect that thousands of fresh population will be pouring in, attracted by this year's expenditure in the Omineca and Peace rivers.

An early geological survey of a portion of the colony may, therefore, be justly urged as one of the considerations of Confederation.

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We are going to prefer a repetition of the Red River rebellion here, but it is presumable that in any attempt to withhold the right of self-government, the people of British Columbia would not be found more submissive than the half-breeds of that country.

There is to be said respecting our Indian population, however, that they will quickly become aware of what they may regard as the interference of their country from Imperial to Canadian sovereignty, and although we scarcely think they are imbued with any narrow prejudices against Canada, still it is by no means impossible that they may conceive themselves slighted or wronged in the transaction.

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