

building the Pacific Railway, especially the British Columbian portion of it, the construction of which Canada is advised to leave to a future generation. The Customs' revenue from British Columbia for the last financial year, was \$492,000. Of this, \$92,000 may be apportioned, in part to the Indian population, a large portion of whom are but small consumers of imported goods, and in part to the extra consumption produced by the railway survey, leaving \$400,000 as the revenue derived from the white population. As that does not exceed 12,000, it would appear that each white man, woman, and child in British Columbia contributes annually \$33 to the Dominion revenue, or about five times as much per head as is contributed by the population of Eastern Canada. It would appear, therefore, that an immigrant in British Columbia is worth five immigrant: in the east, and that any considerable increase of the population of this Province would have a very marked effect on the revenue of the Dominion.

Of all the colonies of Great Britain, British Columbia is the most unfortunately situated in regard to obtaining immigrants. By sea she is the furthest from Europe, so far in fact, that it would be hopeless to expect many emigrants to face the six months' voyage round Cape Horn, involving a double crossing of the Equator. To travel across the north-west is out of the question, and the only feasible mode is either by way of the Isthmus of Panama, or by the Central Pacific Railway, both of which involve passing through California. That State is one of the finest countries in the world as regards both soil and climate; it contains vast mineral wealth and other resources; and the rate of wages is very high. It is not surprising then that a large proportion of emigrants are intercepted on their way to British Columbia, and go no further. In fact, it is hopeless to expect any great increase of the population of British Columbia so long as the immigration to it is sifted through California. When the emigrant from Europe can land at a Canadian port and pass by railway through the Dominion, then, but not before, may we expect a large and constant stream of immigration into what is one of the finest Provinces of the Dominion.

British Columbia has in it sufficient resources and natural wealth to justify this assertion, apart from the well known tendency

of emigration to go west. When Confederation with British Columbia was discussed in the House of Commons, the party then in opposition did their best to prove that the country was utterly worthless. It was even asserted by one eminent politician, that corn would not ripen in the Province. This is equivalent to stating that an apple would not ripen in Ontario, the fact being that the Pacific Province has unquestionably the finest climate in the Dominion, and one that will ripen to perfection not only corn, but peaches, grapes, and other fruits which can only be grown in a portion of the eastern Provinces. The summer temperature of the south and centre of British Columbia is often over 90° in the shade for a considerable period, but a wonderful elasticity in the air makes this heat much less felt than it would be in the East. The winter temperature, however, is that which gives to British Columbia its pre-eminence over the East. At the south-east end of Vancouver Island the winters are similar to those of the south of England, and such plants as verbenas and petunias sometimes survive the winter, out-of-doors, without protection, while over the grazing districts of the mainland so little snow falls that cattle are out all the winter, and often are in fine condition in the early spring. The writer recently saw in New Westminster a herd of cattle, which although they had lost a good deal of weight from the long journey they had had, were still very fat, averaging 750 lbs each. These oxen were 5 and 6 years old, and had never in the course of their lives tasted hay or roots until put on board the steamer on their way to market. As this climate operates upon a soil of wonderful fertility, it is not surprising that the productions of British Columbia surpass those of any other portion of the Dominion. One of the first grain brokers of New York, when shown an ordinary sample of wheat from this Province, declared it superior to any grown on the Atlantic slope. Roots are of immense size, and every variety of fruit grows in proportion. It is possible that at some future time the banks of the Fraser above Lytton, which strongly resemble those of the Rhine, with its volcanic soil, will possess numerous vineyards and produce an excellent quality of wine.

As, however, its agricultural land is small in proportion to its general area, British