

In the second place, to dump down a lot of Crofters, with their families, on a bleak, uninhabited coast, even with a few hundred dollars of good British money in their pockets to start with, would be regarded as an act of positive cruelty and disregard for human rights. At first sight, that was a plausible presentation of the case, and although the newspapers occasionally made reference to it, little was thought about it.

However, a gentleman with wonderfully clear head and practical genius, Major Clarke, of Winnipeg, had incubated a scheme, which not only anticipated all possible objections but provided apparently for all possible contingencies. The general scheme may not have been all his, but the details were. Himself a Scotchman, with the most ardent patriotism, he was not likely to mislead his countrymen. With Major Clark were associated several other gentlemen with shrewd, practical, Scotch brains, who, likewise, would neither encourage nor engage in a wild-cat enterprise, nor permit of a deception in carrying out a colonization scheme affecting, more particularly, the interests of Scotchmen. The public did not know what was in contemplation, and therefore the public was not to blame if it rushed to conclusions unfavorable to the project. With characteristic reticence the promoters did not wish to disclose all they had in view until they were quite ready, but they steadily developed their scheme, first at home and then in British Columbia, until a perfectly formed plan, sanctioned by both Imperial and Provincial Parliaments, and state-aided, was evolved. Men of the very highest standing in Great Britain gave it their influence and support. As may be seen by the prospectus, and as is provided for by Acts of Parliament, the interests of the colonists are well looked after, inasmuch as they are to be migrated to British Columbia, given lands to settle upon, housed, provided with fishing boats and appliances, and every other

necessity of living that human foresight could suggest. In other words, when the colonists arrive they will find their land cleared and their houses ready, the beds made and the dinner cooking. More than that, it is contemplated to have their fishing boats moored at the wharf ready for the fishermen to go out the following morning, as at home, and fish, and upon returning again at night to find a buyer for their day's catch—conditions made for them such as they, after years of hardship, might have evolved for themselves. Such, in the rough, is what is to be done for the Crofters in British Columbia.

On the whole, the project is one of the most colossal, far-reaching, unique and important that has been undertaken in the material interests of Canada since that of building a Canadian transcontinental railway was consummated. The mechanism of the scheme, from industrial, commercial and colonization points of view, as I shall endeavor to show, is wonderfully complete and practical. It means making the Pacific Coast equal in wealth and population to the Atlantic seaboard. But first, I must review the steps taken in the formation and development of the great plan, and in doing so I shall speak by the book as to the facts.

I have said that while the Crofter scheme, as applied to British Columbia, was part of the general colonization idea, it was still quite distinct in its objects and *modus operandi* compared, for instance, with what was accomplished in the North-west. By an Order-in-Council in 1888 the British Columbia Government appointed a commissioner to submit a proposal to the Imperial Government, offering in consideration of a loan of £150,000 being granted for that purpose, to transfer 1,250 families of Crofter fishermen from the Scottish coasts and settle them on the West Coast of British Columbia. A select committee of the House of Commons was appointed to enquire into the various