

Company had sold for the purpose of settlement; and it has been by virtue of this arrangement that *the Colonial Government* has since been enabled to sell the Crown Lands or allow them to be preempted.

IX. The Title to the Crown Lands so called, with the exception of the lands sold by the Company to Colonists for settlement, has remained vested in the Hudson Bay Company since January 13th, 1849, and is still held by the Company up to the date of this Report, according to the best information in possession of your Committee.

X. Therefore before the Crown lands can really become Crown Lands at the absolute and sole disposal of the Crown, they will have to be conveyed in legal form by the Hudson Bay Company to the Crown; and except such conveyance be made, it will be impossible for the Crown to transfer to the Legislature of the Colony, the control of the Crown Lands in return for the payment of any such Civil List as has been proposed to the Colonial Government by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, in his Despatch of June, 1863.

XI. The following is a statement of the average of the Crown Lands unsold, sold, reserved, and pre-empted in this Colony up to December 31st, 1863.

1. The total number of acres of land in the Colony including every kind and quality of land with the small Islands and the lands sold or reserved is estimated at 7,598,215 acres, or 11.872 square miles.

2. The number of acres of land sold in the 18 Surveyed Districts is 74,193 acres, (vide statement A in appendix No. 1.)

3. The number of acres of land pre-empted in the Surveyed and unsurveyed Districts is 88,509 acres (vide statement B in appendix No. 1.)

4. The number of acres unreserved, unsold and unpre-empted in all of the Surveyed districts is 92, 264 acres, (vide statement C in appendix No. 1.)

5. The total average of the surveyed Districts is 212,151 acres, (vide statement D in appendix No. 1.)

6. The quantity of land pre-empted in the unsurveyed Districts in 1861 was 6,210 acres; in 1862, 19,000 acres; in 1863, 6,650 acres; Total 31,860 acres (vide statement E in appendix No. 1.)

7. There are 39 public Reserves in the surveyed and settled Districts, other than Victoria City, containing 14,170 acres; besides which there are in the said districts several small Islands the average of which is not estimated. There is also one Town Lot in Nanaimo. For particulars as to size and object of the Reserves (vide statement F in the appendix No. 1.)

8. The total number of acres of Crown Lands sold and pre-empted in the Colony is 162,505 acres.

9. From the foregoing statistics it appears that the total quantity of Crown Lands unsold, including Public Reserves, which the Imperial Government proposes that the Colonial Legislature should accept in return for the payment by the latter of the Civil List proposed by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, is 7,435,710 acres.

XII. The general character of Crown Lands which are not in surveyed or settled Districts which are not open for pre-emption or for sale is as follows:

1. The whole of the Crown Lands are densely clothed with forests, chiefly of pine. Cedar is here and there interspersed amongst the pines but the pine is the prevailing wood.

2. The quantity of prairie land, so far as it is known to exist outside of the surveyed and settled districts, is extremely limited; but on a thorough exploration