

thing they could do, for the possession of the extreme north and south doubles their power on the coast, and gives them political and commercial advantages they never before possessed. Let those advantages extend to the utmost, if you please, as the great tide of nation floats along your shores; and how you can avoid participating in the establishment and continuance of that nation, when you cut them off in their necessity from their own people? Do you think any Sitka shipmaster would go to San Francisco in preference to Victoria for such things as may be required immediately, simply because you are English? It would not pay, and the Americans look to that point I assure you. But the possession of Sitka by the Americans tends to your advantage in another way hitherto not seen, in connexion with the Japan trade recently opened with San Francisco. You all know how that trade has increased during the first year, beyond the expectation of those who inaugurated it. Now, it is a fact, that the route from San Francisco to Japan, by going through the Aleutian Isles, on the west coast of Sitka, can be shortened *eleven hundred and sixty miles*, instead of going by the Sandwich Isles, as they do now. There is nothing for the large steamers running on this line to go to Honolulu for, except to keep up an established communication and connexion; it cannot possibly pay, financially; and, therefore, when Sitka becomes of more importance, by being filled by American people, and by extending American interests, I do not see how the Japan line can avoid taking the other route; when, in the first place, they save thereby such an immense distance, and by coaling here, in the next place, save such an immense expense. Such are the natural advantages of this place, in a commercial light, that I cannot understand any progress on the Pacific coast and Victoria not sharing in it largely; and the proof of this is, that to-day, she is doing more, and holding her own better, than any portion of the coast from Washington Territory to San Francisco, except Portland, and she is no great thing to boast about.

But the most important feature of this country in relation to its future progress, is its geographical position. Without mines, without any extent of agricultural lands, this alone would make it prosperous in course of time. If the English nation desires to maintain its footing and extend its influence on the Pacific, it must foster and encourage British Columbia. An abandonment of this territory, is an abandonment of the entire Pacific, for there is not now another spot on it where we can get a foothold. The more this truth is impressed upon the English people, in order to induce their assistance in various ways required at present, the better for them and for yourselves, for a greater Colonial calamity could not be experienced than its loss. That position gains additional importance from the configuration of the country inland, in connexion with a waggon-road to Canada. My own impression is, that no power on earth can prevent