

the Crofters, and the general development of industries growing out of their settlement. This syndicate appointed two commissioners, Major Clarke, before referred to, and Col. Engledue, to visit British Columbia, negotiate with the Local Government, and report on the commercial prospects. Upon the report of these gentlemen, the basis of a full-fledged scheme was arranged. At the next following session of the British Columbia Legislature two acts were passed dealing with the offer of the Imperial Treasury and the proposals of the syndicate, the nominal share capital of which was £1,000,000, powers being given to the Governor-in-Council of the Province to formulate the details of the agreements, which were to be ratified with Her Majesty's Government and the syndicate respectively. Lord Salisbury's Government, just before the recent dissolution, passed an Act giving effect to the offer provisionally made. The next purpose of the syndicate, in whose hands the success or failure of the enterprise lay, was to form a commercial company to co-operate with the Government in carrying out all the arrangements for which the scheme provided. At the time of writing, that was the state of progress to which the project had reached, and the promoters were simply waiting for a more favorable turn of the British money market to launch it.

There are three Acts dealing with the Crofter Scheme, two passed by the British Columbia Legislature, and one by the Imperial Parliament. The first is an Act to authorize an agreement with Her Majesty's Government as aforesaid. It provides for the settlement of 1,250 families of "Colonists" from the United Kingdom on the coast of British Columbia, subject to the abandonment at any time, if the measure of success attending the scheme has not been adequate, and the borrowing of £150,000 from the Imperial Treasury, in three instalments of £50,000 each, at 3 per cent. interest. Repayment commences at the end of five years from the date of the first advance, and extends over twenty-five years, in equal annual instalments. The second Act is entitled "An Act to encourage the Deep Sea Fisheries of British Columbia," and deals with the commercial aspect of the enterprise. It authorizes a company having a capital stock of not less than £1,000,000, which is to provide all the facilities for carrying on the work, and for a grant to the said company for 500,000 acres on the West Coast of British Columbia, to be selected from a reserve of 1,300,000 acres for that purpose, subject, of course, to its carrying out all the requirements of the Act in question, said company to deposit \$100,000 as security for their bona fides, until it has expended \$100,000 in permanent improvements, buildings, machinery, plant, etc., when the same is to be refunded by the Government; but such improvements, buildings, etc., are to remain as security to the Government for obligations entered into or behalf of the company. The lands in question are to be exempt from taxes for ten years, and the personal property of the company for two years. The Imperial Act simply authorizes the advance of £150,000 from the Imperial Treasury to the Government of British Columbia, on certain conditions, the only difference existing in the terms of the Act of the respective governments is that the Imperial Act refers specifically to selections from Crofter parishes, while in the Provincial Acts the term "Colonists from the United Kingdom" is used, which does not limit the selection of Scottish Crofters at all. That is, if suitable fisherman cannot be found among the Crofters it permits of selections being made from any other part of

Great Britain and Ireland. This was regarded as a wise precaution on the part of the Provincial Government, but herein lies a possible bone of contention, but, if so, ought not to be a serious matter to arrange between the two governments. It may be added here that the details of the agreement, whereby the interests of the various parties interested are to be safeguarded, are settled by the Governor-in-Council with the concurrence of the syndicate. This agreement, though made, is not yet public. One feature of the scheme which does not appear in the acts relating to it, is that the colonists repay to the Provincial Government the advances made to them in easy instalments covering a term of years, so that the Province, while recouping the Imperial Treasury, is recouped in return by the colonists. Having thus briefly outlined the statutory conditions, I wish to dwell particularly on the commercial aspects of the scheme; but before doing so an interesting, though mournful subject, with permission may be introduced. So far as the Provincial Government was associated with the carrying out of the project, the latter had as prime mover and a warm advocate the late Hon. John Robson, Premier of British Columbia. The deceased gentleman was one of the most distinguished of the pioneers of the Province and its most illustrious statesmen. It is to be related here that he died in London, Eng., while on the consummation of this great enterprise, having had conferred on him an honor never before accorded to a Premier of a Province in Canada, being summoned by the Imperial authorities to arrange with them the details of a final settlement. It was while steeped in this public business that he was suddenly carried away, and if nothing more should ever come of it, this episode will render the Crofter colonization scheme a memorable one.

A glance at the map reveals the fact that the land reserves from which the selections of the 500,000 acres are to be made, are located along the west and around the north and northwest coasts of Vancouver Island, on Queen Charlotte Islands, and at the mouth of Gardner Inlet on the mainland of British Columbia. The principal object of the company will be the development of the deep sea fisheries; but other industries will naturally enter into the project, owing to the nature and resources of the coast and the lands reserved. The company announces the scope of its operations to include fresh fish, fish curing, extraction of oils, manufacture of fish products, seal and sea otter fishing, sawing and conversion of timber, clearing and opening up of lands for town sites and agricultural purposes, prospecting for coal and other minerals, and trading within the settlements.

First let me say that it is the intention of the company when formed to bring out only a few families at first and reinforce them as the success of the operations would seem to justify, so that neither the company nor the Province will have a burden on their hands if failure should ensue. In other words, the risk is minimized to the lowest possible degree. If fifty families succeed then fifty more will be sent for, and so on until the whole 1,250 families have been landed. As explained previously, the colonist on landing finds his land cleared and prepared, his house built and furnished, and everything ready to put his hands to. The settlers will be located in villages, so as not to be isolated, and free schools, churches, etc., will be provided; conditions, only much improved, will be as nearly as possible like those at home. Truly, from a sociological point of view, a well devised plan of colonization.

Now, then, as to the commercial and industrial motus