

making in the direction of Dean's Canal? The cost of the work will be small as compared with that to be done in the interior, and I feel that

VICTORIA, B. C. May 6, 1876.

the Government will be amply repaid for the outlay.

I have the honor to remain,  
Your obedient servant,

EDGAR DEWDNEY

## R E P O R T

*Of a Public Meeting held at New Westminster, B. C., May 10th, 1876*

(Reprinted from the DOMINION PACIFIC (HERALD).)

The meeting called for the purpose of expressing the thanks of the people of New Westminster to Mr. Dewdney for his able advocacy of the Fraser route, took place in the Hyack Hall on Wednesday evening.

His Worship Mayor McInnes occupied the Chair, and Mr J. S. Clute was chosen Secretary.

The Chairman read the requisition in obedience to which the meeting had been called. It was signed by over '00 residents. He was glad to see such a very large number present. It showed that they had not abandoned the hope that the railway would come down the Fraser Valley—a hope in which he heartily shared.

Mr. J. A. R. Homer said the resolution he was about to move was one of thanks to Edgar Dewdney, Esq., member for Yale Kootenay in the Commons of Canada. By his long residence in, and familiar knowledge of, the country, and by his skill as an engineer, Mr Dewdney was enabled to form a very correct idea of the advantages of the various routes; and he had demonstrated that the Fraser was shorter and easier than any other. The speaker entered into particulars, showing that, if it was to compete with American lines; the Canadian Pacific must terminate at Burrard Inlet. Hudson Bay as an Eastern terminus would be a fair parallel for Dean's Canal as a Western terminus; and we could easily imagine how the people of the East would regard such a selection. Mr. Homer also spoke of the large extent of fertile country which would be opened by the line, if it came by the southern route, while no such advantage would be secured by any possible northern line. He believed that the able manner in which Mr. Dewdney, with the assistance of Mr. Cunningham, brought and kept this matter under the attention of the Government, would have the best results. He was thoroughly convinced that the Fraser route was the best, not only for a portion of the Province, but for the whole Province and the whole Dominion. Even Victoria herself, he believed, would

study her own best interests by advocating the Fraser route. He had much pleasure in moving:

That his worship the Mayor be requested to present to E. Dewdney, Esq., M. P. the thanks of the citizens of New Westminster for the ability, energy, and clearness with which he has brought the advantages possessed by the Fraser valley and Burrard Inlet, as the route and terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, under the notice of the Government, Parliament, and people of Canada.

Mr. James Cunningham, M. P., seconded the resolution, with grateful feelings towards Mr. Dewdney. While his association with that gentleman had been pleasant personally, he had ever found him a staunch friend of the Mainland and of the Province. They had often conferred together on questions pertaining to the welfare of this country, and they had worked in harmony. It was uphill work to advocate the Fraser route. They had the surveyors' reports against them, and also the statements made by the Premier in the House, which were based on these reports. The expense of this route was dwelt upon; and, especially in a time of such commercial depression as the present, the argument of expense was a very strong one. They also had the people of another part of this Province against them. All these things made it necessary for one who advocated the southern route to possess considerable moral courage. Yet when we think of the advantages which must accrue to the Dominion from the adoption of this route, it seems astonishing that the Government should need to be prompted as to the duty of thoroughly examining it. He hoped that the Government would survey the canons, and if they did be expected that the route would be adopted.

The Chairman then presented the thanks of the citizens to Mr. Dewdney in the following terms:

*To Edgar Dewdney, Esq., M. P.*

The citizens of New Westminster have requested me, by a resolution passed this day, to express to you their thanks for the able and energetic manner in which you have, during the past session of Parliament, advocated the merits of the Fraser River as the