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LAND AND SEA

In this issue of THE RESOURCES, we present the first portion of the valuable evidence of Dr. G. W. Dawson, F. R. G. S., before the Immigration and Colonization Committee of the Dominion House of Commons, 1883.

Dr. Dawson's most useful representations were, as he stated, on many subjects, necessarily of a very general nature. The reported acreage, for instance, of the agricultural land in the Province must still be but a vague estimate, and the experience of our kindred and neighbors in the United States—the people of Washington and Oregon clearly shows that similar early computations, in these rapidly peopling countries, fell far short of reality. Still, in both these lands, timbered and other available spaces for the plough are now and again being discovered and utilized.

Here, the commencement of the Island Railway and consequent unlocking of the Island Railway belt—of great value agriculturally and otherwise—have so changed matters that the real earnest quest for farming land, saw-mill sites, good fishing sites, etc., is just commencing.

For convenience of present and future reference we shall now term "Southern Islands" those in the Gulf of Georgia, extending from Cowichan Bay to Chatham Point, V. I., in about N. Lat. 50.20.

* "Middle Islands" we suggest as a title for those commencing with Thurlow Island, near Chatham Point, forming an archipelago up nearly to N. Lat. 51, and ending with the single islands Galiano and Hope at Queen Charlotte Sound, near to Vancouver's northern end.

The name of "Northern Islands" will distinguish the long chain of large and small islands commencing north of Fitzhugh Sound on the Mainland, about N. Lat. 51.20, and ending in Dixon Entrance close to the boundary water of the Province at N. Lat. 54.40.

Besides these numerous islands there are several large peninsulas on our inland seas. The first of these in the south is that of Soehelt, in the parallel of iron and copper producing Texada, and the fine agricultural district of Comox, rich also in coal and other minerals. The last in the North, terminating

close to the water boundary line, is the Tshimsean Peninsula, on which there are several tracts of good land, as well as the fine harbor and thriving village of Port Simpson. That potatoes and other esculents thrive well at Port Simpson has been abundantly proved.

The climate of these northern islands and peninsulas is generally drier, summer and winter, than that on the numerous firths or deep salt water inlets shown on the map as reaching far into the coast mountain range. Winter snow disappears sooner from the islands. Very little is yet known of the agricultural capabilities of the Middle and Northern islands, except that Malcolm Island, in the Middle division, N. L. 50 30, although mostly timbered, is said to have good land enough for the use of a hundred families; and this by an intelligent man who ought to know as he has lived in the immediate vicinity for many years. As far as climate goes the Middle islands are much favored.

That fishing, lumbering and mining will be profitable and the most general occupations of the future inhabitants of the sea coast and islands of British Columbia seems manifest. To what extent these can be carried on is a problem yet to be solved; but that the two former will be largely engaged in is beyond doubt.

On the Gulf of Georgia, as soon as the railway reaches Port Moody, a demand will arise for the *rail-ing* eastwards of fish of various kinds, fresh and cheaply snow-frozen in winter, and in summer canned or packed in ice when it will pay. Preserving, in vinegar or brine, of the choicest parts of prime halibut, is an industry of Eastern America. From our Province can the great North-West be most cheaply supplied with fish in all conditions—fresh, in ice, pickled or dried—and merchandise thence can come to us by railroad. Interdependence between countries far apart is in the divine order of thing, or, in other words, natural. "Nature," says Addison, "seems to have taken a peculiar care to disseminate the blessings among the different regions of the world, with an eye to mutual intercourse and traffic among mankind; that the natives of the several parts of the globe might have a kind of dependence on one another and be united together by this common interest. Almost every degree produces something peculiar to it." And Cowper says:

"Each climate needs what other climes produce,
And offers something to the general use;
No land but listens to the common call,
And in return receives supply from all."

It is a truism that interchange of home products is the most beneficial of all commerce.

We cannot better conclude this article than by giving some statistics presented at the late great Fisheries Exhibition. Norway, on the north-west of Europe, corresponds with British Columbia, holding the same