

be offered to emigrants in Alberta or Saskatchewan, there is a good deal still to be had, and the delta of the Fraser only wants good dykes to make it a closely peopled country. On account of its beauty and the many charms afforded by its society, sport, and natural advantages, Victoria is sure to become the favourite residence of men wishing to possess a home in one of the most attractive spots on the American continent.

There are now five railway lines traversing the continent. Not long ago there was but one. No one expected that the British road would be completed so soon. I remember that in 1882 I told the people of Victoria, on Vancouver Island, that they might expect to see rails laid to the harbour of Port Moody, on their mainland coast, by the year 1887, and then the statement was scarcely believed. The news seemed to be too good to be true. And the great task, in 1887, was already accomplished. One of the men who were first connected with the enterprise, namely, the distinguished engineer and man of science, Mr. Sanford Fleming, was lately enabled to telegraph "First through train from Montreal arrived at Vancouver; most successful journey; average speed, including stoppages, twenty-four miles per hour. Before long possible to travel from Liverpool to Pacific by Canadian National Line in ten days. Physical difficulties have been overcome by gigantic works skilfully executed with marvellous rapidity." Then came the official announcement, "This completes the company's main system, covering a distance of 3,053 miles."

Few would have believed, ten years ago, that such an announcement would be made during the present century. The work stands as the unrivalled national effort of a people only four and a half millions in numerical strength. That these should not only have deemed it possible, but should have persuaded others to think so also, is a success altogether unknown in history. There is nothing to equal the undertaking so gallantly conceived and executed. When we remember the enormous difficulties, political and physical, which had to be faced and overcome, we may congratulate the Canadians that above all nations they have shown a political stability and energy which alone stamps them as a community capable of great things.

It became evident that vast wheat-fields, affording far more space and scope than any heretofore occupied, had been hidden away in that dim green northland. The old provinces of