

to which Chinese immigration might be directed and encouraged by Government with great advantage, but to many tropical colonies in other parts of the world—where there is an enormous capacity of production coupled with an utter inadequacy of means. We must be careful of judging of the results of Chinese immigration by the experiences of California, Australia, or any other Colony where peculiar conditions resulting from gold discoveries exist, and where the climate admits of competition by whites. It is as undesirable that such a competition should be established in those countries adapted for European out door labor, as that others should be deprived of the benefit of any such labor at all because the climate is fatal to the white man."

This sounds the key-note of the question. Oliphant's work was published in 1859, we have therefore the additional experience of 25 years.

On both points submitted in the heading of this chapter, what does that experience prove in relation to British Columbia and Canada? In the first place as to British Columbia, we have a Province "*where there is an enormous capacity of production coupled with an utter inadequacy of means.*" It covers a habitable square or parallelogram, more than 1,200 miles in one direction by 500 in another from South to North, from West to East, larger than Great Britain and Ireland, larger than France, equal in extent to the German Empire, or coming nearer home, twice and a half as large as Ontario and closely doubling on Quebec. It has an assumed a population of 60,000 inhabitants located in a few towns and scattered along the margins of the rivers and the forests. It contains in round numbers—219,000,000 acres,\* which would give a pre-emption lot of 160 acres—to 1,368,759 people—or at its present assumed rate of population of 60,000—3,650 acres for every man, woman and child in town and country—including Indians, Chinese and all other Nationalities. Its great internal area capable of unlimited development is almost unutilized, save for the roaming of wild cattle, or the natural growth of the timber. What is wanted is population—tillers of the soil, manufacturers, settlers, traders, laborers, mental and manual, merchants, capitalists, who will make its rich resources conducive to the comforts of life. The returns of the Collector of Customs for British Columbia show that with all the known natural resources of coal mines, gold mines, fisheries, lumber, as well as railway works and other inducements, there only came into the Province, including passengers, men, women and children business and private, public and official during the four most attractive years from the construction of great public works, 27,256 white persons, and during eight years, including the same period, 18,000 Chinamen. How many of these returned or left the Province is not shown. At that rate, which would give a yearly average of 5,657 immigrants, it would take over 240 years to reach a population of 1,368,750—allowing the births, death rates and outgoers to neutralize each other; but an immigration to that extent cannot be reasonably expected, when the demand for labor by the completion of the railway will, to a large extent, have ceased. With all the great Northwest from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains open to settlement and cultivation—with all the immense Territories of the United States bidding for the comers from Europe and the British Isles, British Columbia need not fear being over-run for many a day. The question therefore is, shall the development which is attainable be rejected because it cannot be by the particular means most desired?

Extent of British Columbia.

Its interest unutilized.

\* The British Columbia pamphlet, "Information for Immigrants, 1883, gives the area of the Province at 350,000 square miles, which multiplied by 640 acres to the square mile would be 224,000,000 acres.