

Report, 1857—continued.

VANCOUVER'S ISLAND—continued.

12. Suitableness generally of the Island, &c.—continued.

—Some of the land is mountainous, and not cultivable, *Cooper* 3968-3970—Nature of the communication with San Francisco; probability of settlement from that quarter, *ib.* 3991-3994.

Witness considers that in soil, climate, minerals, &c., the island possesses everything essential for the formation of a great colony, *Miles* 4654-4662—The soil is very good and rich, *ib.* 4654. 4667—Fitness of the island for an English settlement, *Blanshard* 5105—A large portion of the soil is very fertile, *ib.* 5105. 5303, 5304—The eastern part of the island is very well adapted for cultivation, *ib.* 5105—There is a great deal of timber, principally pine; this, as regards colonisation, would be an advantage rather than an obstruction, *ib.* 5106-5110. 5291-5302—The neighbourhood of Esquimault Harbour seemed to witness the best place for a colony, *ib.* 5288.

The island is a most valuable possession, and peculiarly well suited for an English settlement, *Right Hon. E. Ellice* 5856-5858—There is an excellent harbour, fine timber, an abundance of fish, and a good climate, *ib.* 5858.

13. Climate:

Suitableness of the climate of the island for settlement by Englishmen, *Hon. C. W. W. Fitzwilliam* 2249—The climate is superior to that of England, *Cooper* 3572; *Miles* 4654—The climate is very good and temperate, and is not subject to such extremes as that of England, *Blanshard* 5105. 5277-5283.

14. Coal Mines:

Available supply of coals in the island, *Kernaghan* 2111-2114—Particulars relative to the coal mines at Nanimo, about 80 miles to the north of Fort Victoria, on the east coast, *Hon. C. W. W. Fitzwilliam* 2250-2252. 2300-2310. 2319-2322. 2340. 2374. 2375—The Company claimed a royalty on the coal mines, *ib.* 2358—Excellent and abundant supply of coal in the island; obstacles to its export, *Cooper* 3583-3588—Further reference to the large and excellent coal mines in the island; the monopoly of the Company and the heavy American duty are a bar to their development, *ib.* 3753-3761—The coal mine worked by the Company lies close to the shore, *ib.* 3831-3834.

Witness did not visit the coal mines, but believes they are very valuable, *Miles* 4657—Coal had been discovered only in small quantities whilst witness was there, *Blanshard* 5121.

15. Fisheries:

The fisheries along the coast are singularly productive, the fish being traded by the Indians with the Hudson's Bay Company, *Hon. C. W. W. Fitzwilliam* 2259, 2260. 2366-2369—Extensive fisheries in and around the island, *Cooper* 3589, 3590—Export by the colonists of fish to the Sandwich Islands, *ib.* 3896-3901—Obstacles but for which whalers would resort to the island, *ib.* 3942-3946. 3986-3990—The fisheries will in time be very productive, *Miles* 4658.

16. Unprofitable Outlay by the Company:

Non-advantage of the island to the Company, *Cooper* 3816, 3817. 3829—The Company made a great mistake in accepting the grant of Vancouver's Island; they have spent very large sums there for which there has been no return in any way, *Right Hon. E. Ellice* 5850, 5851. 5856. 5875-5880—There has already been an outlay of some 80,000*l.* by the Company, *ib.* 5856.

17. Recommended re-possession by the Crown:

The sooner the island is re-possessed by the Crown the better, *Right Hon. E. Ellice* 5856, 5857.

The committee recommend the termination of the connexion of the Hudson's Bay Company with Vancouver's Island as the best means of favouring the development of the great natural resources of that important colony, *Rep. p. iv.*

18. Recommended Extension of the Colony so as to comprise the Land west of the Rocky Mountains:

Vancouver's Island and the mainland west of the Rocky Mountains should form a separate colony and government, *Isbister* 2447, 2448. 2526—The legislature at Vancouver's Island should govern the adjacent country up to the Rocky Mountains, *Right Hon. E. Ellice* 5859-5862.

Means should be provided for the ultimate extension of the colony over any portion of the adjoining Continent, to the west of the Rocky Mountains, on which permanent settlement may be found practicable, *Rep. p. iv.*