

I am glad to perceive that both Colonel Moody and yourself agree in opinion that the locality you have described is the one best adapted for the purpose. It appears to have been judiciously selected, and I have to approve the steps you have taken to survey and subdivide the site into building lots for sale.

I communicated your Despatch to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and the Secretary of State for War, and I transmit to you, for your information, the copies of the letters which I have received from those departments in answer. I have to call your attention to the remarks offered by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty with regard to the necessity for stationing a pilot vessel at the entrance of the river, and to the selection of a port in the northern portion of the Colony.

Governor Douglas, C.B.  
&c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CARNARVON.  
(In the absence of the Secretary of State.)

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA.

Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 2.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

Enclosure 1 in  
No. 29.

SIR,

Admiralty, May 10, 1859.

HAVING laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 26th January last, with its enclosures from the Governor of British Columbia on the subject of the establishment of a seaport town for that Colony, on which Secretary Sir Edward Lytton wished to receive any observations which my Lords might have to offer on this important matter, I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of Sir E. Lytton, that if Vancouver's Island be included, there is no doubt but that Esquimalt is the best harbour in the vicinity of the Colony of British Columbia, and that on its shores would be the site for a seaport town. The harbour is easy of access, it has sufficient depth of water for the largest ships, ample space, good shelter, fresh water, a large supply of timber fit for ships' masts and shipbuilding, and every requisite for a harbour, either naval or mercantile, and from its natural advantages must be eventually one of the great seaports of this part of the coast.

Vancouver's Island, however, is not at present within the limits of the Colony of British Columbia; and if a site for a seaport town within those limits is required, my Lords are not aware (until a more extended survey is made) that a better can be found, in the southern part of the Colony, than on the Fraser River, at the spot pointed out by Governor Douglas, just above Annacis Island of the charts, on the north bank of the stream, at about 14 nautical miles within the sand heads, and 10 miles below Fort Langley. It is here that the rising ground begins; the river is 400 yards broad, or wider and deeper than the Thames at London Bridge; the shore is bold, suitable for wharves and quays for vessels to lie alongside, and ships with a fair wind might reach so far without difficulty under sail. The site is well placed, locally, in a military point of view, and it has the river between it and the boundary line. It is, however, not far from the frontier.

The channel into the river, as far as is yet known, is rather tortuous; it is reported to have a depth of 18 feet at low water, with a six feet rise of tide, and it is not exposed to any very heavy sea. When Captain Richards, in Her Majesty's ship "Plumper," can find time to examine the bar and buoy off the channel, it may prove to be better.

Should this site be adopted, it would be absolutely necessary to station a pilot vessel at the entrance of the river, which should also be fitted to serve as a light-ship by night, and should sound a gong or ring a bell in foggy weather.

With respect to a site for a seaport town in the more northern portion of the Colony, it would be better that this question be postponed until Captain Richards has had an opportunity of examining the coast. There are numerous inlets, but at present the information is so limited that it would be unwise to hazard a conjecture as to the next best site.

Herman Merivale, Esq., C.B.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

SIR,

War Office, April 30, 1859.

Enclosure 2 in  
No. 29.

I AM directed by Secretary Major-General Peel to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, covering the copy of a Despatch and of its enclosure from the Governor of British Columbia respecting a site for the seat of government in that Colony, and I am to observe that it is to be regretted Lieutenant-Governor Moody's report is unaccompanied by any plan or sketch, which if only sufficient to mark the locality in a very slight degree, would have afforded a more perfect understanding of the particulars adverted to; but so far, however, as can be judged from a written description, the conclusions in the report seem very sensible and well-judged.

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) B. HAWES.