

the facilities afforded to actual settlers for acquiring land, will be of the fullest description, and that every encouragement will be given to promote the introduction of settlers really adapted to the requirements and character of the country." The difficulty regarding the Crown Lands, referred to in this letter, was one that was not easy of solution. Had it resulted in vesting the control of the lands in the Legislature, subject to the payment of certain Governmental expenses out of the proceeds of sales, it would probably have led to so high a valuation of the lands, for purposes of revenue, as to unfit them for the purpose of any general scheme of colonization.

Since that time Vancouver Island has, by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, been annexed to British Columbia, which will no doubt lead to an adjustment of the question in dispute. In the mean time, however, I found it advisable to limit my operations, for the present, to British Columbia, where a more favorable prospect of success was afforded. I submitted my plans to His Excellency Governor Seymour, on the eve of his departure from the colony, and subsequently to the Hon. Arthur N. Birch, Administrator of the Government. His answer (through the Colonial Secretary) was extremely favorable, and referred me to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who alone could authorize the free grant of lands which I had solicited in furtherance of my scheme. This correspondence will be found appended hereto. (*Marked No. 1.*)

It has been asserted that the amount of land in British Columbia that is fit for cultivation is not great when compared with the gross area of the colony. This is undoubtedly true in the mining districts; nevertheless, there is an abundance of agricultural land in the country, suitable for every branch of rural economy and husbandry. In support of this statement, I need only refer to a work published in 1865, intitled "Vancouver Island and British Columbia, their history, resources and prospects," by Matthew Macfie, F.R.G.S. (London, Longmans,) the latest and best work on the Pacific Colonies, containing a fund of information and statistics, acquired from personal observation and reliable official data. This writer, speaking in reference to the agricultural and other capabilities of British Columbia, says: "It is no libel on the farming