

having to go round by San Francisco and New York. No doubt the information will be interesting to you, and it will be a guide to lay before you and the capitalists I have spoken about, and the general British public, the advantages of the province for settlement, and the field it offers for the profitable employment of capital in opening out its great riches. I will endeavour to show how this capital can be profitably employed. But this is a work of some difficulty, as I have to overcome certain prejudices that have arisen in consequence of the accounts given in works written by casual visitors, who came out at various times, stayed a few weeks or months with us, and, as they were the wrong men to succeed as colonists, returned home and wrote against the province. By that means they made it a dead letter so far as Great Britain was concerned, and virtually handed over our mines to California, the miners from which place have taken out most of our gold. Indeed, the produce of our goldfields has actually been included in their returns; and until we had confederation with Canada, our lands had a small settlement upon them from the same source. We have wanted a white population to settle on our lands, and do so still; and we want white labour on our railway works. Great advantages are offered to both, as well as to capital for our mining industry.

I may state with some diffidence (as I do not like to speak of myself, but it seems to be necessary, in order to show that an account can be given which is trustworthy), that I am able to give a correct and true account of things, after a residence of 21 years in the province, having been engaged in commerce during the whole period. I have also filled many public offices, and after confederation with Canada formed part of the first Government—the McCreight Ministry—which inaugurated responsible Government, and assimilated the laws from those of a Crown colony to those applicable to our changed state under a confederation. I was chosen as the first Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, with full charge of the public lands and mines, and was at the close of that administration President of the Executive Council. Before that, (and, indeed, for many years after), I was a member of the Provincial Parliament when we were a Crown colony, and assisted and voted in the scheme of confederation as one of that body. I mention these matters, as beforesaid, to show that I am in a position to give correct information, so far as I have been able to learn, and I now wish to give the fruits of my experience and to state results, instead of writing theories or casual impressions. My desire is to do good to the colony I have lived so long in; and I think I can safely say that British Columbia, so far as the Mainland is concerned, is one of the richest colonies of Great Britain; that it offers great advantages for settlement; and has unbounded riches in gold, silver, copper, and coal mines. This, too, with a climate the same as the south of England, so far as regards the Frazer Valley, which is very like Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Its chief town was named by Her Majesty New Westminster, which we call the Royal City.

Now, in order to prove the mildness of our climate, I give the readings of the barometer and thermometer, with the rainfall for 1875 and 1876, taken at the Government Observatory, Esquimault:—