

of the Dominion were equally gratifying. Accustomed in their several Provinces, before that event to deal only with local subjects comparatively small and unimposing, they perhaps required the education the larger arena of this Parliament afforded to enable them to deal hopefully and fearlessly with a subject of the magnitude of that under consideration. He believed this question would now be approached in no timid or narrow spirit. He thought that no time should be lost—that no exertions should be spared, to secure the admission into the Union of British Columbia on the one side, and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland on the other. Under these circumstances, and at a most auspicious time, the application of British Columbia to become part of the Dominion of Canada was submitted to this Parliament. In considering that application, he would trespass on the patience of the House to take a rapid glance at the country, its value and resources, they were about to secure by the proposed arrangement. British Columbia, including Vancouver's Island, as they were all well aware, was the most western dependency of England on this continent. It comprised a territory of about 290,000 square miles, situated, with the exception of a small portion of Vancouver's Island, above the parallel of 40° N. Lat. It possessed a sea coast of about 500 miles, as settled by the Treaty of Washington in 1846, and a breadth of between 300 and 400 miles. The country, although in many parts broken and uneven, contained much valuable agricultural land, equal to the support of a large population. The climate is admitted to be one of the most desirable in the world for natives of the temperate zones, and they would all admit the importance of climate in inducing immigration. "A dry, warm summer; a bright, beautiful autumn; an open, wet winter and spring"—is said to be a true description of the weather in Vancouver's Island, and all along the sea coast of British Columbia. Only an imperfect

estimate can be formed of its population, as no census has ever yet been taken, but from the best sources of information available the population, consisting of Whites, Indians, and Chinese, may be put down at 60,000. A few years after the Treaty of Washington, Vancouver's Island was granted by the Crown to the Hudson's Bay Company under conditions of settlement which were never complied with, the object of that Corporation being there as elsewhere to retard colonization wherever their monopoly existed. These causes, coupled with its recent settlement, will account for its small population. But its great resources, and unrivalled maritime advantages, must before long make it one of the most thriving and important communities on the Pacific. These resources were very numerous. There was its timber, especially its pine, universally, conceded to be the best in the world, and as exhaustless as it was superior. Markets for this commodity on both sides of the Pacific were abundant, and writers well acquainted with the subject contend that the investment of capital and labour in that branch of industry alone would soon make the country populous and wealthy. The prosecution of this business on a large scale would soon call into existence a large mercantile marine, for timber being a bulky commodity required a large tonnage for transportation. It was this industry alone that had made New Brunswick second only to Nova Scotia in the tonnage it possessed (hear, hear.) British Columbia is known to contain coal formations of immense extent. They need not be told of the value of coal as a source of national wealth: it was one of the first requisites of manufacturing success, and one of the chief elements of general commercial prosperity. Its coal alone would make British Columbia a valuable acquisition even to a country not requiring a Pacific seaboard. The demand for coal in the North Pacific was said to be very great, and the full development of that rich