

Place, London, and having for its object the exploration of the West Coast of British Columbia, to ascertain its suitability for the settlement of Crofter fishermen, the resources of the seaboard and the prospects of markets for the disposal of the catches of the fishermen, with whom a large Commercial Company, hereafter to be formed, would deal and co-operate generally with the British Columbia Government in carrying out the scheme of colonization. The Syndicate appointed as their Commissioners, Colonel W. J. Engledue, of the Royal Engineers, an officer of large and varied practical engineering experience, and Major William Clark, of the Canadian Militia, who has an intimate knowledge of the resources of Canada, and who has acted as a representative of the Dominion, under Sir Charles Tupper at the various international exhibitions held in recent years in Great Britain. These gentlemen visited Canada in July, 1891, and through the courtesy of the Dominion and Local Governments, were enabled to thoroughly explore all the most favorable harbors, both on the coast of Vancouver Island, Queen Charlotte Islands and on the Northern Mainland of British Columbia. They had the advantage of the Government steamer and had ample opportunities of exploration and enquiry, extending until November, 1891, the result being that it was conclusively demonstrated that a vast field exists for the profitable investment of capital in the catching and marketing of fresh fish, and of the cured products, in the manufacture of fish oils and guano, from refuse; in the lumber business, in the mineral resources of the islands, especially coal, and in attracting the better class of immigrants to cultivate the soil.

A careful estimate has been made, based on the existing trade in fish and other products to be derived from the fishing industry, and also from the lumber business, and it is considered that within a short time of the start of the Company's operations a large profit may be expected.

The resources of the sea are so enormous on these coasts, and the demand for fresh fish so great in the United States and inland towns of America and Canada, that the success of the enterprise, when backed up by the Government emigration of the fishermen, is practically assured. Exhaustive enquiries as to the fresh fish trade were made at the Puget Sound ports, at Portland and San Francisco, and it was decided that the dry air system of refrigeration was the best to adopt so as to secure a perfectly fresh, marketable article, and the low rate of transportation which can be made, even for the longest haul to New York and Boston, renders it possible to supply fresh fish at a cost much lower than that of butcher's meat. It was found that when a continuous and regular supply of all kinds of fish, properly assorted and in prime condition, could be depended upon from a Company with capital enough to carry out its plans, the market demands would increase much beyond its present large proportions.

The concession of 500,000 acres of selected lands on the seaboard, including some of the finest harbors on the Pacific Coast, valuable timber limits and coal lands, must form a very substantial guarantee to investors. The present rate of