

some degree merited your confidence, and that any errors I may have committed will be attributed to head and not to heart.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

ROBERT BROWN,

Commander and Government Agent of the Vancouver Island
Exploring Expedition.

Vancouver Island Exploration Committee.

The Report has afforded the Committee much gratification, and they are persuaded that its publication, which has kindly been undertaken by the Government, will do much to stimulate future enterprise, to attract capital to the Colony, and to promote its settlement. The gold fields of Sooke and Leech Rivers, now being successfully worked, furnish broad grounds for the belief that in the interior there exist deposits which will give remunerative employment to great numbers of industrious men, and supply the means of fostering extensive commercial, manufacturing and agricultural interests.

The Commander, and the Officers and men under his direction have prosecuted the arduous task assigned to them in a highly praiseworthy manner; and the Committee trust that it will be in the power of the Executive of the Colony to confer upon them some appropriate manifestation of appreciation of the zeal and perseverance by which difficulties of no ordinary magnitude, inseparable from such an undertaking, have been met and surmounted.

The assistance from time to time rendered by the Admirals and other Officers of Her Majesty's Navy has been of great advantage to the Expedition. It has been the means of economizing the funds placed at the disposal of the Committee, and entitles the gentlemen connected with that branch of the service to the warm thanks of the inhabitants of the Colony.

In conclusion, the Committee contemplate with satisfaction and encouragement the successful results of the researches of the Expedition in the limited section of the Island to which they were confined by the shortness of the season. They hope that His Excellency and the inhabitants of the Colony will deem it advisable to resume the work of exploration at the early opening of the spring and to extend it over the entire Island, with the warranted expectation that its mineral and other valuable resources will fully reach the warmest anticipations of the friends of progress.

Subjoined will be found an abstract of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Committee, all which is respectfully submitted.

SELIM FRANKLIN,

Chairman of the Vancouver Island Exploration Committee.
Victoria, Vancouver Island, April 3rd, 1865.