

had formed a hand-book in the earlier surveys in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The objects for which the Imperial Government sent out an expedition, were to obtain information relative to a route favourable for emigration; for this and other purposes, to ascertain the nature of the country westward of Red River and the elbow of the Saskatchewan; to find a pass or passes across the Rocky Mountains, north of the boundary line and south of a point not far from the Boat Encampment.

On the 23rd July, 1858, they arrived at 8 o'clock a.m. at the Nick Hills, where they obtained their first view of the Rocky Mountain Chain, which, to the north, appeared on the horizon like a blue line, while to the south they rose more distinct, higher, and more massive, "their summits clad in snow, which glittered at intervals like silver crowns." On the 18th of August, 1858, with a party of four men and nine horses, they made their journey through the Kananaskis Pass. Later in the same month Dr. Hector passed through Kicking Horse Pass. Captain Palliser, as Mr. S. J. Dawson at a later period pointed out, was favourably impressed with the British Kootanie Pass. Dr. Hector explored Howse Pass, which, having crossed, he found himself in the Valley of the Columbia, with a rocky mountainous country on either side.

With the formation of British Columbia into a colony a yet stronger impulse was given to the forces tending towards a railway across British North America, and several able pamphlets from the pens of persons interested in British Columbia appeared.

The most striking of these was a handbook on British Columbia, published anonymously in 1858, in the concluding portions of which were given extracts from leading English statesmen. The following occurs in an extract from a speech of Mr. Roebuck :—

"Plans had been laid before the Right Hon. Baronet, the Secretary for the Colonies (Sir E. B. Lytton), for carrying a railway completely across the continent, so that a direct communication would be established between England and Vancouver's Island by way of Halifax. This was a magnificent scheme; and he would tell the Right Hon. Baronet that if he succeeded in carrying out the scheme he would achieve a renown that would hand his name down to posterity as a great Colonial Minister."

Mr. Roebuck, on the occasion on which the speech was made, from which the above is an extract, was followed by Viscount Bury, Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Mr. Gladstone and Lord John Russell, all of whom heartily approved of his views.