

Crofter Colonization in British Columbia.

BILLS SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR
THE FURTHERANCE OF THE
SCHEME.

Two bills have been submitted to Legislature of British Columbia, dealing with Crofter Colonization scheme. The first of these is entitled "Colonization Act, 1892." Its provisions are :

1. It shall be lawful for the Lieut.-Governor in Council to make such arrangements with Her Majesty's Government as may be deemed advisable for bringing families of colonists from the United Kingdom to British Columbia, not to exceed 1,250 families, and for the settling of such colonists upon lands of the Province, subject always to a condition for termination at any time, should it appear to Her Majesty's Government or to the Government of British Columbia that the measure of success attending the scheme has not been adequate, and that it is therefore desirable to abandon the further carrying out of the same.

2. It shall be lawful for the Lieut.-Governor in Council to accept from Her Majesty's Government a loan of £150,000 in three instalments, each of £50,000, the first instalment being payable upon the concluding of the terms of the said agreement; the second instalment to be payable when the first instalment has been expended in settling such number of families as it will provide for, and the third instalment to be advanced when the second instalment has been so expended.

3. It shall be lawful for the Lieut.-Governor in Council to pledge the credit of the Province by issuing debentures, or in such other manner as may be agreed between the contracting parties, and to provide by Order in Council for the repayment of the sums to be advanced under the authority of this Act, together with interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum. Provided that the time for the repayment of each instalment of the loan shall commence at the termination of five years from the date of the advance, and that the interest accruing during such five years shall be added in each year to the principal of the loan, which, with the interest so accruing during the said period of five years, shall be repayable by equal instalments extending over a period of 25 years from the date at which in each case repayment begins; and it shall further be lawful for the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council to provide for the repayment to Her Majesty's Government of any unexpended balance in the hands of the Province of British Columbia, should it at any time be decided to be desirable to abandon the further carrying out of the scheme of settlement, together with accrued interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum upon any such unexpended balance.

4. That it shall be lawful for the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council to enter into such arrangements as to make such engagements with Her Majesty's Government for the purpose of carrying out the scheme and object of this Act as may from time to time be determined by Order-in-Council; and it shall also be lawful for the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council from time to time

hereafter to make and pass all such Orders-in-Council and regulations as may be deemed to be necessary for the carrying into effect of the provisions of this act, and of any agreement to be made hereunder.

The second bill is styled the "Deep Sea Fisheries Act," and supplements the previous bill by authorizing the conclusion of an agreement with the company promoted by Col. Engledue and Major Clark, with the object of employing the crofters in the development of the deep sea fisheries of the province. The provisions are as follows.

1. It shall be lawful for the Lieut.-Governor in Council to enter into an agreement with the "Vancouver Island Development Syndicate, Limited," under which the said syndicate shall undertake the formation of a company of such character and with such corporate objects as are requisite in a company which would completely carry out the purposes and attain the end of this act, in consideration of which undertaking the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council may engage to enter into an agreement with such company when formed, for the carrying out of the provisions and intent of this act.

2. Upon the formation under the "Companies Act, 1862," and amending acts, of a company in England with a capital of not less than one million pounds sterling (hereinafter called "the company"), whose corporate objects shall include co-operation with the Government of this province in settling the colonists upon the coast of this province, furnishing suitable employment for such colonists, providing them with boats, tackle, and appliances for fishing purposes, and providing facilities for the marketing of the product of the labors of the colonists, and for the adoption of such measures as will further the development of the deep sea fisheries of British Columbia and the establishment of contingent industries therein, and subject to the company depositing to the credit of the Government of British Columbia the sum of one hundred thousand dollars in the Bank of British Columbia, or in some other chartered bank in the Province to be named by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council for the bringing of colonists to the Province and settling them on the sea coasts and islands thereof, suitably to the provisions of the "Colonization Act, 1892," and for enabling the colonists to commence and prosecute fishing industries in the Province, the establishing of trading stations and settlements, and the general well-being of the colonists, it shall be lawful for the Lieut.-Governor in Council to enter into an agreement with the company to carry into effect the purposes for which such guarantee shall be given, and for the permanent establishment of fishing and other industries in the Province, and for the grant to the company of public lands, not exceeding five hundred thousand acres, to be granted to the company from time to time upon such terms and conditions as will secure the appropriation thereof of suitable locations for the colonists and the carrying out of this Act.

3. So soon as the company shall satisfy the Lieut.-Governor in Council that they have expended in the Province a sum of not less than one hundred thousand dollars in permanent improvements, and in buildings, machinery, plan

and other things needful for enabling colonists to commence and prosecute fishing industries in the Province, and upon the company furnishing to the satisfaction of the Lieut.-Governor in Council such other security as may be provided by an agreement to be made under sections 1 and 2 of this Act for the further carrying out of the terms of any such agreement, then the said deposit of one hundred thousand dollars, with any accrued interest thereon, shall be forthwith refunded to the company.

The succeeding sections provide that the Government may grant to the company, on the conditions specified, 500,000 acres of the public lands, to be selected from those described in the schedule attached to the bill. Authority is given to the Government to reserve these lands until the company's selection has been made; The surveys are to be made at the expense of the company, subject to the approval of the Chief Commissioner, and are to be completed within three years from the date of formation of the company, which is to be not later than the last day of this year. The selections must be made within six months after survey.

Section 10 reads: The lands to be granted the company shall not be subject to taxation until the expiration of 10 years from the date of their selection by the company, or until alienated, whichever event may soonest happen; and the personal property of the company shall not be subject to taxation for the period of two years from the date of the formation of the company.

British Columbia Commerce.

A very full report on the commerce and products of British Columbia has been made public by Consul Levi P. Myers, at Victoria, says *Bradstreet's* of March 12th. The population of British Columbia is not large, about 92,000, the chief occupations being coal, gold and silver mining, production of lumber, salmon and seal fishing. The foreign trade of British Columbia is naturally centered with Great Britain and the United States, and up to 1888 the value of imports exceeded that of exports by one-third to one-fourth. But in that year exports exceeded the imports, as has been the case annually ever since. The values of exports and imports for the fiscal years ended June 30, were as follows :

| Fiscal Year. | Imports. | Exports. |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1886 | \$4,011,726 | \$2,953,616 |
| 1887 | 3,626,139 | 3,473,270 |
| 1888 | 3,401,209 | 3,923,077 |
| 1889 | 3,809,789 | 4,334,306 |
| 1890 | 4,387,486 | 5,638,725 |

This reversal of trade statistics is said to have been brought about by the development of the coal and mining and lumber industries and the enlargement of the salmon and seal fisheries.

British Columbia imports nearly all its breadstuffs from the United States, and a large proportion of its cured meats; the latter from Chicago, Ill., and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Breadstuffs are obtained principally from the states of Washington and Oregon, and fruits from Oregon and California. Cattle, swine and sheep are imported from Washington and Oregon in large numbers, and furnish nearly all the fresh meats for Victoria and Vancouver