

To the Right Honorable Sir John Alexander Macdonald, K. C. B.; D. C. L.; L. L. D.;

Q. C.; P. C.; Member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, Premier of Canada:

On behalf of the Citizens we have very great pleasure in tendering to Lady Macdonald and yourself a most cordial welcome to Nanaimo.

Your arrival in this City we deem a fitting occasion to heartily congratulate you on the successful completion and operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and upon your having made the trip, over that great transcontinental line, from East to West entirely through our own Territory.

To you, and your administration, we owe the rapid construction of Canada's overland Railway, which not only affords the means of speedy communication between the different parts of the Dominion, and with the outer world, but will conduce greatly to the interests of the Empire by forming an highly important alternate route between England and her Asiatic possessions.

The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, over which we anticipate you have had a delightful run, is now very nearly completed, and we feel it our duty to draw your attention to the great benefits that would accrue to us from the establishment and maintenance of ferry communication between the Mainland Terminus and Nanaimo so as to make the Island Railway a branch of the Transcontinental Line and Esquimalt the Ocean Terminus.

Emboldened by the keen and active interest you have always manifested in the progress of all parts of the Dominion, we take the liberty of briefly referring to the principal natural resources of Nanaimo and vicinity. Our coal is remarkable for its superiority over that found in the adjacent States, and our coal mines are prepared for a largely increased demand. For many years the import duty of 75 cents per ton, chargeable upon foreign coal entering California and Portland, has been a great hindrance to our prosperity, and we look forward to the time when, by mutual concessions, a Reciprocity Treaty will be adopted between the United States and Canada to the lasting advantage of both.

Within a few miles of this City there exist iron ore of a high grade, and limestone in great abundance. At our doors we have quarries of first class building stone, while we are surrounded with a plentiful supply of valuable timber.

The Harbors of Nanaimo and Departure Bay are capacious, easy of access, and afford, as you will observe, secure accommodation for many thousand tons of shipping.

That you may long be spared to occupy the proud position of Premier of Canada, and be permitted to render to our country a continuance of your eminent services, is our most heartfelt wish.

We sincerely trust that your visit to British Columbia will be beneficial to yourself and Lady Macdonald, and we hope your return to Ottawa will be pleasant and safe.

We have the Honour, to be,

Your Obedient Servants,

R. O. M. Baker
R. G. Home *John Hilbert*
Charles Wilson *James Knight*
Walter Wilson *Geo. Bevilacqua*
W. E. Webb