

to Red Bluff California and thence by railway to the East - We have had, for some time past, mail communication with Portland, thrice weekly.

Rankin told me of George's intention to spend some days in geologising on the N.E. shore of Vancouver's where thin coal ^{seams} ~~veins~~ show on the surface - I have since heard that George's schooner was passed in Seymour narrows - He may be here by steamer tomorrow, but may not come till ~~Friday~~ ^{Saturday}, or even until next week, as after some twenty days of unusually broken weather for the season, a cloudless sky again appears - George may be giving a day or two to the coal mine at Comox - He will I hope find letters here announcing Rankin's safe arrival home.

A great change as to the future policy of our adopted country as regards tariff will I hope signalize Sir John's return to power.

I also hope that in the adjustments impending, the ^{commercial} interests of the mother country will have the fullest consideration, next to those of the Dominion - Remember in 1858 or 59 when in charge of British interests living under the American flag how pleased I was to notice that Sir A. G. Otter then advocated Canada's reciprocation.

America's own commercial policy. The compli-
ment will now be paid ^{to a certain extent} the U. S. of imitating her course
as to Protection - Would that Canada could rival
her neighbor, and her sisters of Australasia
in the competition for immigrants - Why should
she not with her wealth of fertile land and
other attractions in the West, rival the U. S. in
their palmyest days.

The U. Kingdomers still
lament so much the sad outcome to shareholders
of the Grandtrunk R.R. that I sometimes think
it would be wise of Sir John, if he could be sup-
ported in the move, to guarantee on the part of the Do-
minion a small interest to these unfortunates, seeing
that the line in question has been of such vast
benefit to the country - Buying the line for
govt. would be another alternative. The cost
I have often been told was originally much increased by
the blundering of the English projectors and managers.
Have you seen the pamphlets of Captain Colomb
on Imperial Defences abroad and the progress of
Russia in Asia on the Northern Pacific pub-
lished last year? Colomb thinks the U. K. should
take an active part in getting our transconti-
nental railway built, but she can only be moved
thereto by persistent effort on the part of Dominion
men - Only by prolonged struggle did our country
men of Glasgow in the first half of the 18th Century
win commercial justice from fellow country-
men of the Tweed.

J. Downe

no property in British Columbia, and had
no interest whatever on the American continent
I would still be of opinion that Alex. Macken-
zie's pet line of railway via the lower Fraser
valley and Burrard Inlet to the ocean would
simply be a line fostering and feeding one or
more great cities on seas south of the Cana-
dian border. -

Until the line from North-
cote to Fort George via Pine or Peace river
passes, has been properly examined,
no fair comparison can be made as to the
sense relatively of rival routes - Cheapness
is one consideration - extent of future way
traffic is another and greater one - Shorter
also has to be thought of - but 150 or 200 ^{miles} by rail
night or day, can the year through be sooner and
more certainly be done by rail up the east shore
of Vancouver and on to Bute Inlet, than can
90 miles of intricate inland navigation from
Esquimaux road to B. I. in fog, storm, or
dark nights - Sanford Fleming in his last report
alludes to difficulties of navigation in getting to
Liverpool Glasgow and Leith, but he leaves out of
view that fact that near the ports named are no su-
perior harbors owned ^{and navigable access to} by a foreign and commercially
hostile nation, not nice as to taking every available
advantage of rivals - Unless at Victoria Esquimaux
there will never be a first rate city on our shores
Excuse prolixity in allusion. With best regards and most respectful
yours W. J.

Courdale by Dr Folmer
Victoria B.C. 15 October 1878.

My dear Dr. Dawson

Yester evening I received your postal card, mentioning that you had had intimation of the arrival of "your voyageurs" at Metlakatla, and making inquiry about your son Rankin. I sincerely trust that the dear young fellow reported himself to you, safe and sound, not many hours after your card to me was posted. —

Living some two miles out in the country, I was much pleased to meet Rankin in town the afternoon of his arrival from the north. He gave me some account of Georgie's doings in the Haidah (2.C.F.) Islands, and of his own great desire to reach Montreal so as not to lose a day of the course of medical studies he was to enter on. He looked uncommonly well and cheerful, and I was sorry that his stay in Victoria had necessarily to be so short, as he said he was to leave early next morning to take the ocean steamer at Portland. — Your Metlakatla letters went probably overland from Portland Oregon