

It was selected by the Company on account of its natural advantages as a harbour with safe and easy access to the ocean through Dixon entrance, a wide channel between Prince of Wales island and the Queen Charlotte islands. A terminus at this point would also, it is claimed, facilitate the opening up of a new and undeveloped portion of British Columbia, and afford the shortest possible distance to the Orient.

A further step in Imperial penny postage was taken last year when an arrangement was concluded between the British Government and the Government of Australia, under which the Commonwealth Postal Administration will admit without surcharge letters posted in the United Kingdom or any British colony or possession, postage on which has been prepaid at the rate of one penny per half ounce. This reduction however will not at present apply to letters from Australia, postage on which will be at the rate of two pence per half ounce.

In view of the difficulty experienced in establishing the nationality of claimants when British claims came up for examination before the Venezuelan Claims Commission, the Imperial Government has decided to encourage as much as possible the practice of registration at British consulates abroad, especially in the case of British subjects in Central and South America. Under the new regulation (March 18, 1905) every British subject is entitled, should he so desire, to register himself at a British consulate upon establishing his claim to the satisfaction of the consular officer, and to obtain a certificate of registration; and an applicant of European descent who claims nationality on the ground of birth within British dominions, and produces satisfactory evidence of his identity and British nationality, is also entitled to registration and the protection which it affords. A British subject possessed of double nationality is entitled to registration in his country of origin, even though he may not be entitled to protection.

There were fewer industrial disputes in Canada during the year 1905 than in any of the previous years of the decade, the total number being 87 as compared with 104 in 1901, 123 in 1902, 160 in 1903 and 103 in 1904. The most serious and important industrial dispute during the year was the strike of coal miners in the employ of the Western Fuel Company at Nanaimo,