

Victoria B.C. Dec 5. 1875

Dear Father

I have just returned from a rather
profitless trip to Burrard Inlet, for though
I accomplished my main object in
arranging for specimens of timber, I was
unable to do anything else on account of
the weather. It rained or snowed almost
without intermission the whole time I was
there, & the ground was covered with slush,
& the whole country like a great sponge & with
water streaming off it in all directions to the
sea. One can't form an idea of what wet
weather really is till one gets to this country.
Yesterday it cleared off & there were a few
watery blinks of sunshine though not enough to
dry anything. Today it is hard at it again,
blowing & raining. There is no snow now
about Victoria & the grass is green & growing, but
the snow may come back again any day & it
is still deep enough in the woods away from the
immediate influence of the sea.

(3) 9. M.D. Dec/78

Island railway scheme. What it will end in I do not know but all the P.C. members will no doubt now be strongly against McKeuzie & his government. Of course the Island Railway is quite useless & superfluous unless intended as a portion of the trans-continental one, & united to it by the bridging of the narrows. Why however the Govt. should ship out steel rails & land them here after the bill for the railway was disallowed by the Senate, & then disallow it themselves is what no one can see. Probably after a little more blundering the McKeuzie party will go out. It seems as though the present commercial depression had unbalanced all their ideas & carried them away in a panic. Sir A. S. Galt's speech excited much unfavourable comment here, & is certainly very unfair in its main supposition viz that the railway through B.C. is a gift to the people of this province, & not as it is a necessity as a part of the Canadian