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 Nainaimo.

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 en-
tirely through our own Territory.

To you, and your administration, we owe the rapid construction of Canada's over-
land 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 Nainaimo 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 Nainaimo 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 prin-
cipal natural resources of Nainaimo and vicinity. Our coal is remarkable for its superi-
ority 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, charge-
able 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 Reci-
procity 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 Nainaimo 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 your-
self and Lady Macdonald, and we hope your return to Ottawa will be pleasant and
safe.

We have the Honour, to be,

Your Obedient Servants,

[Signature]

[Names of Signatories]