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38, King William Street.

London, 20 April 1864

Sir,
At the present time English Capitalists
are most desirous of investing their ~~own~~ money
in financial companies connected with countries
where the rate of interest is much higher than
in England, and consequently British
Capital ^{now being} sent to Mexico & other foreign
countries, rather than to the British
Dominions.

It has occurred to me and my
friends in the City, that according to
present reports, there is no country in the
British Dominions that offers such
great advantages for the employment
of Capital as British Columbia.

The Mineral Wealth of this Country

2/
is very great, the climate is most suitable
to Europeans and the land is of the richest
agricultural quality

The object of this letter is to ask you
whether the Government would grant a
Colonial charter to a ^{commercial} financial company
with a Capital of one million, as an
inducement & encouragement for such
company sending out a million of
money for the benefit of this Colony?

If you should think favourably of this
proposal, I should be obliged if you would
kindly grant me an interview

I have the honor to be

Your most Obedt Servt

John Bethell

Protector of the Land Chancery

~~Private North American Property.~~

~~Charles Bethell Esq.~~

38. King William Street.

London E.C. 21 April 1864

Sir

In my letter of yesterday's date respecting British Columbia I did not sufficiently explain the reason why it is desirable that a charter should be obtained -

It is this - If a company was formed in England under the Joint Stock Act, this company would not be at all respected in the colony because all the acts of the company would be registered in the office in England, to which parties in the colony could not have access to, & therefore they could not ascertain if such company could be trusted, but * it would be very

different if a Charter was granted
by the Crown

I however propose that such
Charter should be promised, but
not actually granted until proof
is given that the whole Capital
has been subscribed for by bona
fide Shareholders in this Country

I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedt Servant

John Bethell