

quarters, are necessarily invested with duties of great variety and importance. The representative of the Government, the sole referee or judge in mining disputes, gold commissioner, bankruptcy commissioner, county court judge, the magistrate is constantly before the public. The smallness of the police force which we can allow to carry out his decisions, and to preserve tranquillity, compels him to rely much upon his personal influence. It gives me great satisfaction to say that under these circumstances a body of public officers has been trained, equally respected by the people and the Government. The miner looks upon the departure of the magistrate for his legislative duties with fully as much of happy confidence as he does on that of the men he has assisted in returning to the House.

28. I would propose in the new constitution to increase the number of these valuable legislators from five to nine. I would submit that the present discretionary power resident in the Governor of making his selection from the centres of population, for the time being, be not interfered with; nor would I withdraw the liberty granted to him by the Duke of Newcastle to appoint, should he see fit, unpaid in the place of paid magistrates. I venture to submit a plan for a distribution, in the first instance, of the nine seats:—

1. Victoria, V. I.
2. New Westminster, B.C.
3. Cariboo, B.C.
4. Kootenay or Columbia, B.C.
5. Douglas and Lillooet, B.C.
6. Osoyoos and Southern Frontier, B.C.
7. Nanaimo, V.I.
8. Yale and Lytton, B.C.
9. Comox or Cowitchien, V.I.

It will be said that this is not a fair distribution; six magistrates for British Columbia, three for Vancouver Island. I reply that the former Colony now supports nine paid justices of the peace, the latter only two. My plan would entail the exclusion of three Columbian magistrates and the creation of one, for legislative purposes, upon the island.

29. The Duke of Newcastle directed the Governor to consult the wishes of the people in the appointment of one-third of the Legislative Councillors. My predecessor divided the Colony into five electoral districts:

1. New Westminster.
2. Cariboo East.
3. Cariboo West.
4. Yale and Lytton.
5. Douglas and Lillooet.

The mode of ascertaining the popular desire is as follows:—A letter is written by command of the Governor to the paid magistrate of the district, directing him to call a meeting of the inhabitants to select a person for a seat in the Council. Due notice of the meeting is given in the Gazette, and locally by the magistrate. Seats in the Legislative Council are eagerly contended for. Electioneering addresses issue from the rival candidates, and sometimes very considerable expense is incurred. Great discretion is left with the magistrate and people of the district as to the votes which shall be accepted and reported to the Governor. In New Westminster, I believe, in consequence of a feeling to that effect, aliens have abstained from voting; but in Cariboo, and I think other inland districts, every man who comes forward may record a vote, unless he be an Indian or a Chinaman. Indeed, I believe there are cases where some Chinese have been allowed to vote. It meets with my approval that so long as a strong English Government exists in New Westminster, no disqualification on account of nationality should exist at the gold mines. I hold it as extremely desirable that we should know the real interests and feelings of our many alien immigrants. That we should attach them to our institutions, and that, as we govern by moral force alone, not costing the mother country a soldier or a shilling, we should have among our Legislators men responsible to alien as well as English constituents. I like to hear any grievance which the American miner may imagine he suffers from in Cariboo disposed of, as now, by the remark, "Wait for the next election." In the agricultural districts likewise I wish aliens to take part in the elections. Lytton, probably, does not contain a dozen English unofficial inhabitants. The farmers on the Thompson and Upper Fraser are many of them French. The hotel keepers throughout the Colony mostly belong to that nation or to the Italian. The time has not yet arrived for me to consider whether the Chinaman or Indian should be