

PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

THE PROPOSED UNION

OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

No. 1.

No. 1

COPY of a DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G., to Governor
Sir JAMES DOUGLAS, K.C.B.

(Separate.)

SIR,

Downing Street, May 26, 1863.

As the Act for the Government of British Columbia will expire at the end of the present session of Parliament I think it necessary to inform you of the course which it is my intention to pursue with respect to the future administration of that Colony.

I shall, in the first place, propose to Parliament a Bill continuing the present Act for another year, and annexing to British Columbia what is at present the Stecken territory.

I shall also submit to Her Majesty an Order in Council, constituting a Legislative Council in British Columbia, in pursuance of the 3rd section of the Act of 22 Vict. cap. 99. The power of nominating the members of this Council will, in the first instance, be vested in the Governor, but I wish it to be so exercised as to constitute a partially representative body, capable of making the wishes of the community felt, and calculated to pave the way for a more formal, if not a larger introduction of the representative element. I shall of course make you more fully acquainted with my views in this respect hereafter; but I think it best to communicate to you confidentially the draft of an Order in Council, which I have caused to be prepared, but which may possibly be altered in some of its details before it is finally passed.

I have, &c.

Governor Sir J. Douglas, K.C.B.
&c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE, K.G., to Governor
Sir JAMES DOUGLAS, K.C.B.

(Separate.)

SIR,

Downing Street, June 15, 1863.

I HAVE long had under my consideration the various questions which have arisen respecting the form of Government which should be adopted in British Columbia and Vancouver Island; and I have now to communicate to you the decision at which I have arrived.

I should have much desired, if it had been possible, that these two Colonies should have formed one Government. I feel confident that economy and efficiency would be promoted, that commerce would be facilitated, that political capacity would be developed, that the strength of the Colonies would be consolidated, and generally that their well-being would be greatly advanced by such an union; and I hope that moderate and far-seeing men in both communities will be convinced of this, and will bear in mind the expediency of avoiding or removing all that is likely to impede, and favouring all that is