

VANCOUVER
ISLAND.

Third.—In view of the above facts the House is of opinion that nothing short of immediate union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia under a Constitution apportioning the representations according to population, and giving to the people's representatives control over the mode and amount of taxation and expenditure, can stay the rapid decline of both countries and restore the confidence of the public.

Fourth.—The House, on transmitting the above to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, feeling deeply the injury which both Vancouver Island and British Columbia are sustaining from the present state of uncertainty and suspense on the question of union, would respectfully ask for a reply by telegraph as to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the matter during the present session of the Imperial Parliament.

Fifth.—By unanimous resolution Mr. Speaker is ordered to forward the foregoing Resolutions because the Governor declines telegraphing them unless approved by the Legislative Council, five eights ($\frac{5}{8}$) of whom are officials.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

No. 3.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR KENNEDY, C.B., to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 43.)

Government House, Victoria, June 16, 1866.

(Received, August 8, 1866.)

(Answered, No. 7, August 22, 1866, p. 45.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the copy of a Memorial from the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island forwarded to me for transmission.

The evil complained of is one of the evils springing from a separate policy and supposed separate interests existing between these Colonies.

I am of opinion that the measure thus brought under your consideration has a prejudicial effect upon both Colonies, and does not benefit either.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor.

Encl. in No 3

Enclosure in No. 3.

RESOLUTIONS reported from Committee of the Whole House, 15th June 1866. Confirmed by the House, 15th June, 1866.

MEMORIAL.

To the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c. &c. &c.

Your memorialists, the loyal subjects of Her Majesty, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island in Parliament assembled, humbly beg to draw the attention of Her Majesty's Government to an Ordinance passed by the Governor and Legislative Council of British Columbia on the 15th day of February 1865, entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Duties of Customs."

Your memorialists would show that by the construction placed on that Ordinance in British Columbia it has been decided that goods shipped from Vancouver Island are chargeable with higher duties than the same goods shipped from any other country; and this practice has been enforced, since the passage of the Ordinance above referred to, to an extent almost amounting to a prohibition of trade with Vancouver Island. For example, a shipment of goods arriving in British Columbia direct (say) from France, invoiced at the net cost of one thousand pounds (1,000*l.*), or in other words the actual first cost of the goods where purchased, is entered for duties at the net cost aforesaid of 1,000*l.*, and is charged with (say) 20 per cent. duty, as provided for by the Customs regulations.

The whole charge for duties, say 20 per cent. on 1,000*l.*, will therefore be 200*l.* Now, if these same goods, or an invoice exactly similar in price and quality, be shipped from Vancouver Island, and landed in British Columbia, the process for assessing the duties would be as follows:

To the net cost of invoice in France (say) 1,000*l.* is added 50 per cent. or 500*l.*, making the goods of the value of 1500*l.* on which amount the duty of 20 per cent. is charged, making the duty payable 300*l.*

Thus, while the shipment from France would be chargeable with duties amounting to 200*l.*, the shipment from Vancouver Island would be chargeable with 300*l.* or an increase of 50 per cent. on the amount of duties payable on precisely the same or similar invoices of goods.

Your memorialists, the representatives of Vancouver Island, smarting under this mischievous enactment, appeal against a practice which will inevitably overthrow the large and important British interests vested in this Colony.

The 14th paragraph of the Royal Instructions to the Governor of British Columbia expressly forbids the making of any law imposing differential duties; yet, despite these instructions, the Ordinance referred to imposes really and virtually, though perhaps not nominally, a most onerous differential duty, which is rigorously enforced by severe penalties, to the great injury of Vancouver Island, and