

# A FURTHER DESPATCH

RELATIVE TO

## THE PROPOSED UNION

OF

# BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

(In continuation of Papers presented 31st May 1866.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 41.)

SIR,

New Westminster, British Columbia, April 28, 1866.

(Received June 14, 1866.)

I HAVE the honour to forward a memorial presented to me this day for transmission. The Municipal Council request me to forward their memorial by the mail steamer leaving within a few hours. I am consequently unable to comment on the several subjects brought forward. Mr. Seymour's presence in England will render this of little importance.

Memorial from Municipal Council of New Westminster, 26th April 1866, in original.

2. Rumours are continually reaching this Colony of secret sessions of the Assembly of Vancouver Island on the subject of union of these Colonies, and of resolutions and representations being constantly forwarded to Her Majesty's Government adverse to the interests of British Columbia. The Municipal Council of this city consider the silence of British Columbia may be taken as apathy, hence the origin of the memorial.

3. I cannot agree with the memorialists that the union of Vancouver Island with British Columbia will be "contrary to the well-understood wishes of the people."

I have already stated my conviction that the majority of the inhabitants in the upper country care little whether there is union of the Colonies or continued separation.

Despatch to Secretary of State, No. 16, of 3rd March 1866. Vide Papers presented 31st May 1866, Page 42.

All classes are, however, united in the opinion, that the present uncertainty as regards the future of these Colonies is seriously interfering with the progress of both.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

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

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 41.

COPY of a Resolution in relation to a Memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting union with the Colony of Vancouver Island, adopted by the Municipal Council of the city of New Westminster, April 26th, 1866.

Resolved,—

That the report of the committee be adopted, and that a copy be prepared by the clerk, to be signed by the president and clerk of this Council, and to have the corporate seal attached thereto, and that the president appoint a special committee to wait upon his Honour the Administrator of the Government with the request that the contents of the memorial be sent home by telegraph; at the same time asking his Excellency to explain to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that, had time permitted, the memorial would have been signed by the colonists generally.

THOMAS McMICKING,  
Clerk.