

## THE PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The question of confederation with the Dominion became a living issue in the colony in 1867. It was first brought to the front by the leading men on the Mainland, who were unanimously in favor of it, and it also found many advocates in Victoria. During the session of 1867 it was brought up in the Legislative Council, when a resolution was unanimously adopted requesting Governor Seymour "to take measures without delay to secure the admission of British Columbia into the confederation on fair and equitable terms." No action in conformity with the expressed wish of the Council, however, was taken by the executive, and in consequence, when the House met in the following year, the question was in the same condition that it had been the session previous. The opinion of the members of the Government had during the twelvemonth entirely changed, and when the matter was again brought forward it met with overwhelming opposition. In consequence of this action of the Executive Council and its supporters, agitation outside the Legislature was resorted to, and the people of the country were called upon to express their views on the question. On the 21st of May, 1868, a large meeting was held in Smith's hall in the city of Victoria and an organization known as the Confederation League was formed for the purpose of furthering confederation. James Trimble, Mayor of Victoria, was made President, and Captain E. Stamp, Dr. I. W. Powell and J. F. McCreight, first, second and third Vice-Presidents; Robert Beaven, Recording Secretary; J. G. Norris, Financial Secretary, and George Pearkes, R. Wallace, C. Gowan, M. W. Gibbs, Amor DeCosmos and George Fox, the Executive Committee. The League began with a membership of one hundred in Victoria, and branches were organized at many places on the Mainland and at several places on the Island. The work of the active members of the organization brought out the arguments and energy of the opposition element, and quite a heated discussion took place through the newspapers. Dr. Helmcken was recognized as the champion of the anti-confederationists, and he wrote many telling articles on the question,