

reduced to pay our legislators, or fall into the hands of the professional politicians, of whom the neighbouring States furnish to us the model. *Thirdly*, because the uncertain nature of gold mining allows of a "rush" here and a "rush" there, as rich leads are discovered, or old claims "cave in." Away goes the population from the "played out" town. Magistrate and constables follow, and the surveyor and his road-gang have to bring the new diggings into connexion with the markets of the Colony. The Governor must act at once on his own responsibility, and be able to rely with confidence on the passing of a supplementary Appropriation Act, to give a legal sanction to the unforeseen expenditure. *Fourthly*, because our population of Indians is in a proportion of about ten to one of ourselves. They will now obey the great white chief. They understand no division of authority. *Lastly*, because every one in British Columbia, Americans, even more than English, see the necessity of, and wishes for a strong government. All like the power to be mainly vested in one man, responsible to public opinion, and are averse to the professional politician. For the Colonies, if united, I would recommend an adherence to the principles of the legislative constitution of British Columbia, rather than to those of that conferred on Vancouver Island. I would, however, have a much larger proportionate infusion of the popular element than we at present possess.

24. Her Majesty has by Order in Council created a body authorized to make laws for British Columbia. It consists of 15 members, exclusive of the Governor, with whom it is optional to take his seat as a member of the Board, or to keep aloof, and by so doing constitute himself an entirely separate branch of the Legislature. One-third of the Council is composed of the under-mentioned public officers, who are, by a separate instrument, constituted likewise the Governor's Executive Council:—

1. The Colonial Secretary,
2. The Attorney General,
3. The Treasurer,
4. The Surveyor General,
5. The Collector of Customs.

The remaining two-thirds are selected by the Governor, but I believe that a Despatch from the Duke of Newcastle directs that five of the ten shall be chosen from the magistracy of the Colony, and that in the appointment of the other five the Governor shall endeavour to be guided by the wishes of the people as signified in five distinct districts. Under this constitution the Government can command a majority of votes, but the power has been rarely exercised by me, save in cases where demands were made upon the Colony by the Imperial Treasury, which the Legislature, if not coerced, would have rejected.

25. I would wish to make some observations upon the three divisions of the present Council. The five executive members are in such close communication with the Governor, that it is but rarely that one of them has an opportunity of asserting his independence by a vote against a measure introduced by the Government. Hence, however useful as men of business in the House, they do not, with the public, possess the same character for independence as the other two classes. I would recommend that in the new Legislature for the united Colonies the strictly official element be not increased.

26. Probably in British Columbia the section of the Legislature which possesses most the confidence of the people is that of the magistrates. It is the right of the Governor to change the stations of the paid justices of the peace whenever he shall see occasion for doing so, therefore, the best men are always selected for the most important trusts. As the winter closes most of the miners' operations, several of the magistrates can be spared to attend the meetings of the Legislative Council in New Westminster.

The under-mentioned districts are represented in this manner:—

1. New Westminster.
2. The Kootenay Gold Mines in the Rocky Mountains.
3. The Gold Mines of Cariboo, nearly 500 miles north-east of New Westminster.
4. The agricultural, and now mining district of Lillooet.
5. The pastoral and mining country intersected by the Columbia, bounded on the south by the American frontier.

27. The country magistrates, whose salaries are not sufficient to enable them to enjoy any of the luxuries of life in the expensive districts in which they are stationed, live in the manly state of freedom of intercourse with all classes, characteristic of British Columbian society. The magistrates at the mines, hundreds of miles from head-