

agitation in connexion with the gold export duty may have to a certain extent impeded her progress. If, in the violent competition on the Pacific to make the mines in the Colony or the States superior to each other in attraction, it be found that the British export duty on gold acts unfavourably to us, I can only say that the tax will be at once repealed. Our great public works are done, and if the export duty, though just, is impolitic, we will not suffer our miners to be over weighted by it in the great struggle.

20. In the face of the reluctance of the Colony over which I preside, to be drawn into any union with Vancouver Island, some explanation is necessary of the motives which induce me to entertain the question at all, instead of confining myself to backing the prayer of my Legislative Council that the existing separation may continue unimpaired. I consider, however, my duty to require of me, that I should not confine my attention exclusively to the internal affairs of the tract of country under my Government, but that I should likewise see to the strengthening of British authority, British influence, and British power in the Pacific, and I at once admit that the existing division weakens all three. The dissensions between the two Colonies are looked upon in the neighbouring States, as rather a scandalous, but novel and amusing feature in English colonization. I am practically aware that it is extremely inconvenient for the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific squadron to be in communication with two Governors of nominally equal position, close to each other, but many thousands of miles from head-quarters. I see that the Indian population of our north-west coast, wherever the schooner or canoe of the Victoria smuggler can reach, are withering and disappearing under the disastrous effects of the whisky traffic. I must remember that both British Columbia and Vancouver Island have occasionally questions to discuss with their American and Russian neighbours, and that, as things now are, there is nothing to secure uniformity of action or expression in the English representatives. The one may be on the most friendly terms with adjacent powers; the other, in a state of reserve, pending a reference to Europe. I find myself, under these circumstances, compelled to state that, in my opinion, England ought to be represented by one civil authority only beyond the Rocky Mountains. Her Majesty's prerogative could of course effect this, without the aid of Parliament, but if a Lieutenant-Governor be appointed to the smaller and poorer Colony, the change, though an undoubted improvement, would still leave Vancouver Island with a staff of public officers beyond her present ability to support. I fear that the bickerings would not cease, nor Victoria refrain from interference with the affairs of the neighbouring Colony.

21. Without any specific recommendation, I proceed to consider the terms upon which union could be carried out with moderate satisfaction to the one Colony and the least distaste to the other. The Imperial Act 21 & 22 Vict. c. 99. (which has been repealed) provided that, on the petition of the two Legislative Houses of Vancouver Island, Her Majesty might declare that Island to be an integral part of the Colony of British Columbia. This appears to me to be the principle upon which union should be carried out. But British Columbia has since then been favoured with a Legislative Constitution, by an Order in Council, and I am of opinion that no union should take place without the consent of the Legislative Body created under it. This, I think, might be obtained should Her Majesty's Government desire it and equitable terms be proposed. But I would here venture to state that if a return to the old state of things be sought to be imposed on British Columbia the outcry to which the Duke of Newcastle yielded but two years ago, will be renewed with increased volume.

22. An Act of Parliament somewhat similar to that above referred to having been obtained, the consent of the Legislature of British Columbia formally recorded, the Governor's proclamation of incorporation issued, the laws of the main land would at once be extended over the Island. An early revision of these laws would, however, be required. This would hardly be effected, with a due regard to the interests of the newly acquired territory by the present Legislative Council of British Columbia. That body should be dissolved and a new Legislature, with representatives from Vancouver Island, called into existence. Then arises the important question, what shall be the Legislative Constitution of the one great English Colony on the North Pacific?

23. The Legislature of Vancouver Island, of which the extinct provision of the Act, already quoted, contemplated the disappearance, consists of a Governor, a nominated Council, and an elected Assembly. Theoretically, perhaps, the best form of government. It is not for me to inquire how it has worked in Vancouver Island; I content myself with saying that British Columbia is not ripe for such institutions. I found my opinion upon the following grounds:—*First*, on account of the vast number of aliens resident in the Colony, who would, I presume, be excluded from the suffrage were a symmetrical constitution to be established. *Secondly*, because there are but few persons who could devote their time and attention to the public service. We should soon be