

Hon. Joseph W. Trutch was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the new Province, and under the new constitution the first election for members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia took place in October, 1871. To that Assembly the following members were returned: Cariboo—Hon. George A. Walkem, Joseph Hunter, Cornelius Booth; Comox—John Ash, M.D.; Cowichan—Wm. Smithe, John Paton Booth; Esquimalt—A. Rocke Robertson Henry Cogan; Kootenay—John Andrew Mara, Charles Todd; Lillooet—Andrew I. Jamieson, T. B. Humphreys; Nanaimo—John Robson; New Westminster City—Henry Holbrook; New Westminster District—Joseph Charles Hughes, Wm. Armstrong; Victoria City—Robert Beaven, John Foster McCreight, Simeon Duck, James Trimble, M.D.; Victoria District—Amor DeCosmos, Arthur Bunster; Yale—Robert Smith, James Robinson, Charles A. Semlin. The Assembly met on the 15th of February, 1872, and Mr. J. F. McCreight was called upon to form a Cabinet. He accepted the task and his Ministry consisted of A. Rocke Robertson, Provincial Secretary; Henry Holbrook, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and Geo. A. Walkem, Minister of Finance, the Premier himself taking office as Attorney-General. During the existence of this Government the permanent civil list, created by the last Council of the colony, and amounting to \$78,346.25, was abolished, and for the future it was decided that bills should be brought in yearly for defraying this expense. The Canadian Tariff was adopted by the Assembly, and the system of education altered and placed on a better footing. Early next session the Government was defeated on a want of confidence motion, and Mr. DeCosmos formed a coalition Cabinet, composed of Messrs. Walkem, Beaven, Ash and Armstrong. This Government continued till the 13th of February, 1872, when, in consequence of the abolition of dual representation, Mr. DeCosmos resigned his seat in the Assembly and retained that in the House of Commons. Mr. Walkem then took the Premiership, the members of the DeCosmos Ministry still retaining office. In 1873 the Pacific Railway question began to give trouble, and continued until 1880 to occupy the closest attention of each succeeding Government. Immediately after the ratification of the terms of union the work of exploration and survey began, but at the expiration of the time for the commencement of construction, namely, on the 1st of July, 1873, only such exploratory surveys had been made in