

coast region to the drier climate of the table-land of the interior, and the more bracing temperature of the mountain districts, but everywhere salubrious and favorable to the settlement of the country, and forming one of its main attractions. I have pointed out to you sufficient material resources and advantages to show that apart from its political value to Canada, this is a country worth having. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) And I know no reason why this country, now separated and isolated, should not become a source of great wealth to this Dominion. (Hear, hear.)

WHY BRITISH COLUMBIA HAS NOT PROSPERED.

But it has been asked why is it that you have so small a population in this country? You have not far to seek for the answer. To my mind the reasons are very plain and very simple. British Columbia is a most isolated country, cut off from Great Britain by a sea voyage of 150 days, and walled in to the east by the Rocky Mountains, preventing all communication with this country, and still more shut off on the south by the United States, through which all immigrants to British Columbia have to pass. We know what is done in San Francisco to prevent those immigrants from coming to us,—how our country, government, and institutions are misrepresented. Another difficulty is its inaccessibility. Good roads have, to be sure, been made to some parts of the country, but even along the main road the cost of carrying freight from the sea coast to Cariboo is fifteen cents a pound. Six dollars a day is considered poor man's digging there, and wages are mainly from this cause proportionately high. There is another reason which I think has operated almost as largely against our obtaining any increase of population. Up to this year British Columbia has been a Crown colony, with a government, so to speak, despotic, there being no popular representative body. Such a form of government is supremely distasteful to any Anglo-Saxon community, and especially so to one situated as that of British Columbia is, in close juxtaposition to the republican territory south of us. The government has, I know, been honestly carried on with the best interests of the country in view, but we have been aware that the form of government has deterred immigration. But how is this community open to the accusations which I have heard urged against it, as being a worthless vagrant population. I stand here prepared to state that the population of British Columbia will compare favorably man for man with any on this continent. And I adduce to you as a proof of what I have said what has already been done in that colony still in its cradle. Only ten years ago it was established as a colony, and now look at the towns, farming settlements and roads we have constructed. I see nothing in this eastern portion of this continent to compare with our coach roads; and all this we have

done with our own money, not a penny have we ever had from England. The road which we have built from the head of the navigation on the Lower Fraser, to Cariboo cost us a million and a half dollars. It is wrong to say that any portion of the population is nomadic. Such is not the case. There are some two thousand miners who work steadily in the mining district the year round—they cannot be called nomadic, and the rest of the population are farmers for the most part or traders, or professional men, and small as the community is, it is, I believe as intelligent, hardworking and loyal to the British flag as any in Canada. (Cheers.)

THE UNION QUESTION IN THE COLONY.

Permit me now to trace the history of Confederation in British Columbia, and to review the position of the question there at the present time. In March 1867, while your delegates were in London, completing the negotiations which resulted in the present British North America Act, our Legislative Council, then composed of fourteen official and nine selected members, but all appointed by the Governor, being in session, passed an unanimous resolution praying that they might be allowed the opportunity of entering the Confederation at some future day on terms fair and equitable. And that sentiment exists to-day and to an increased degree. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) This resolution was telegraphed by our Governor to the Secretary of State. I know not whether this resolution was instrumental in causing the 146th section to be inserted in the British North America Act, but shortly after our message was sent a reply was received informing us that provision had been made for our admittance into the Confederation. In 1868, resolutions were inopportunistically introduced into our legislature praying for immediate confederation with Canada; but in view of the fact that the great North-West was still unconnected with the Dominion, this movement was voted premature and impracticable. In 1869 a similar resolution favouring immediate confederation was again proposed in the Council by some enthusiastic friends of Confederation, but again rejected on the same ground as in the year before. But in 1870 the North-West, having been acquired by you, and her Majesty's Representative in British Columbia having been informed of the policy of the Imperial Government, it was resolved to take up the question of our Union with Canada and to bring it before the country. The Governor therefore in Executive Council formed a scheme and that scheme was passed through the Legislative Council as a government measure, it being however distinctly promised that the people of British Columbia should have an opportunity of concurring in or rejecting the terms of Union in a Legislative Council in which there should be a majority of representative members. These assurances have been strictly fulfilled. The terms of Union agreed upon between the