

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
AND
VANCOUVER
ISLAND.

On this subject I am desirous of having the benefit of your views as soon as you shall have acquired on the spot sufficient experience and knowledge to enable you to form your opinion, and to supply reliable information for the assistance and guidance of Her Majesty's Government in considering the question. I shall in like manner ask Governor Seymour, to whom I shall communicate a copy of this Despatch, to furnish his views on the same matter, and I need scarcely say that it will not only be unobjectionable but highly desirable, that you and he should consult freely on the subject, although it will be the most convenient course that, ultimately, each should report to me independently, the conclusions which he may form on the subject.

Governor Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor KENNEDY, C.B., to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 14. Separate.)

SIR,

Victoria, March 21, 1865.

(Received May 15, 1865.)

27th Jan. 1865.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of Resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island on the subject of union with British Columbia, and in doing so I will shortly trace their history.

They were introduced by Mr. De Cosmos, one of the members for Victoria, and passed on the 27th January 1865, after a warm debate, by a majority of 8 to 4.

It was thereupon alleged by the minority that the majority did not fairly represent public opinion, and to test this fact, Mr. De Cosmos, who proposed, and Mr. C. B. Young, who opposed the resolutions (being two members for the city of Victoria), agreed to resign their seats, and went before their constituents for re-election, which resulted in the return of Mr. De Cosmos and Mr. McClure, both advocates of union and a tariff, by a large majority.

The majority of the House of Assembly in favour of *unconditional* union with British Columbia is now, I believe, 11 to 4, and I have no doubt that a dissolution of the House would undoubtedly increase that majority by two more.

I submitted these resolutions to the Legislative Council for their information, and the majority present being *ex officio* members, resolved that it was inexpedient for the Council to express any opinion on the subject; but two dissenting members, Messrs. Finlayson and Rhodes, recorded their views in the protest herewith.

I am in a position to know that the majority if not *all* the *ex officio* members are in favour of union, with some small differences of opinion on matters of detail, and that they refrained from a public expression of their opinion from a desire to avoid possible complication, and with a view to giving their untrammelled support to such measures as Her Majesty's Government may deem most fitting, on a future occasion.

The local Legislature of Vancouver Island have thus, I think, adopted the only course by which the union of these Colonies can be satisfactorily effected, namely, leaving conditions and details, even to the form of government, to your decision.

I enclose newspaper copies of the debates on the subject, and will reserve my further observations for another Despatch of this date, in reply to yours dated 30th April 1864,* No. 2.

Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

Enclosure.

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VANCOUVER ISLAND.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, 25th January 1865; CONFIRMED BY HOUSE,
27th January 1865.

Resolved,

That this House, after having taken into consideration the present state of the Colony, is firmly convinced that it is expedient at the present time to observe the strictest economy in the public expenditure compatible with the efficiency of the public service. And that the immediate union