

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

[Specially Reported for the British Colonist.]

## Friday's Sitting.

The Council met at 10 A. M. Present: hon. Pemberton, Southgate, Holmcken, DeGosmos, McDonald, Birch, (presiding) Wood, Robson, Trutch, Stamp, Cox, Franklin, Ball, Cress, Walkem, Barnard, O'Reilly, Young, Brew, Smith, Sanders.

## DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Hon. Holmcken.—In taking on himself to bring up the question, would express his honest conviction that the seat of Government ought to be at Victoria. He knew that injury would be done to some by the removal, and that it would benefit others; but it must be regarded from another point of view, and in his opinion, to fix the seat of government at Victoria would give the most general satisfaction to the people of the country. He might say it ought to be the capital because it was the largest city, and contained a population of 4,000 inhabitants. It was the seat of commerce and the residence of the largest number of people. The beautiful meadows and charming scenery endeared it to all who had ever resided there, and when they were obliged to leave themselves away they had always a desire to return. But it was not only from love that it should be selected as the capital; pounds, shillings and pence entered largely into the consideration. He wished to make no invidious distinction, and it was with no ill-feeling that he said New Westminster did not possess those attractions, but on the contrary, its gloomy aspect afforded a contrary effect. There was no back country where people could reside, as the vicinity for many miles was densely wooded. In Victoria the spring was earlier and the winter later; Victoria was more accessible—he took Victoria and Esquimalt together. The Fraser was inaccessible to shipping during a portion of the year, so that Victoria was really the head of navigation for sail vessels. No mail steamers came to New Westminster; they go to Victoria, because it is the seat of commerce. The capital should be placed where the greatest good will result to the greatest number. It would be more economical that the seat of government should be where the most people reside, and consequently where the greatest number of people resort from the other parts of the country. There would be no concentration of population best adapted for a Legislative Assembly. Being the chief commercial city of the colony, all the enterprise that has made this country what it is, emanated from there. Victoria has been the mother of the country. In former days it was the seat of the government, and it still retained the position. Victoria has great claims to the selection; she is now called upon to pay the debt she never contracted—to bear half the debt of British Columbia. This may only be a result of Union, but at the same time it gave her claim to be chosen as the capital. She has a claim also for her laudable efforts to develop the mineral resources of British Columbia; it was from Victoria that all the capital came for this purpose. Her merchants supplied British Columbia, not for cash, but on credit, and this has resulted to her loss. The miners of British Columbia and the people of Victoria are but one—the most southern and the most northern parts of the country, they are but the same. The intimate connection has led to mutual love. She has another claim to be chosen as the seat of government; she is already provided with all the buildings necessary for the Legislature, inclusive of the Governor's residence. He would not go into the message from His Excellency the Governor. He would only touch upon the outside and particular claims that Victoria had to be selected for the capital. She had suffered considerably, particularly her merchants, from the change of policy, and she had great reason to put forward her claims at the present time. It was absolutely necessary that one decent city should be created and supported instead of allowing two to ruin each other. By making one city attractive we should retain the miners amongst us during the winter months. One large city would also preserve the commerce of the Sound to us, which in the present unsettled state of affairs there was great risk of losing. If the seat of government was not fixed at Victoria, all confidence would cease, and it would be detrimental to the country at large. The people would leave the country for foreign shores. The great question involved was the salvation of the country. The present unsatisfactory state of things caused the present stagnation. Had they not already determined to fix the Custom House, Post Office, Supreme Court, Land Office, &c. there? Government would be more economically administered. He would not detain them by further enlarging on the many advantages Victoria possessed over any other place as the capital, but he conceived it involved the welfare of the entire colony, that the capital should be fixed there; he begged they would remember that the prosperity or ruin of this great colony was in their hands, and he trusted they would defend the right. He moved the following preamble and resolutions:

"The Council having taken into consideration His Excellency the Governor's message (No. 39) relating to the seat of Government, as well as the numerous and numerously signed petitions from all parts of the country, praying that Victoria may be made the seat of Government;

Resolved, That were the seat of Government placed in Victoria it would be consonant with the desire of the public, advantageous to the administration, conducive to the best interests of the country, and diminish the cost of Government;

That without wishing to embarrass the executive in any way, the Council would urge that such steps should be taken as may to His Excellency seem best towards carrying out the desire of the petitioners;

That His Excellency the Governor be humbly solicited to cause the next session of the Legislature to be held in Victoria.

Hon. McDonald seconded the resolution. He feared that the people of the island were not sufficiently well acquainted with the Governor nor be with them. It would be folly to judge of public feeling on the island from what appeared in the daily papers. The Governor was fully aware that a large town could not be built on the site of New Westminster, in fact, Victoria was the only place in the colony possessed of the requisite natural advantages; the removal of the capital to Victoria would arrest the waning of the colony. He thought the Executive would get what was best for the colony, hence the resolution was perfectly expressed and generally met his approval.

Hon. Wood, Solicitor General.—In approaching the subject before us, I trust I am not wrong in considering it not only the question of the day but the question of the session, and, I may add, the question for generation

yet to come. I approach it with a full sense of the responsibility which rests upon me, as a member of this Council, convinced that an error in legislative action now, in the infancy of the Colony, when we may be said to be moulding its destiny, and in some sort shaping the pages of its history, would be an error, not only deeply affecting ourselves but an error which, if committed, future generations may find an increased difficulty in repairing. For myself, sir, I stand before you in a threefold capacity, as a law officer of the Crown, as an individual having a deep interest in the subject matter, and as a Legislative Councillor. As a law officer of the Crown, I am bound, so long as I enjoy the emoluments and fill the office that I do, to uphold the prerogative of the Crown, and I must say that in a Colony like this, constituted afresh from the Union of two Colonies, it is a mistake to suppose the privilege and prerogative of the Crown to select the seat of Government, to direct this choice there is but one method of approach—petition and address—and we are assured, from the mouth of His Excellency, that the Crown of Great Britain is never indifferent to the acknowledged wishes of its people. Nor can I understand that if the welfare of the colony is concerned, the Crown can have any desire other than to contribute to that welfare, that welfare well established; the action of the Crown necessarily follows. I am also, as a person holding office, generally bound, as I think, to obey the requirements of the Government in such questions which are not questions of conscience, guarded, however, against the charge of inconsistency of conduct, by the unmistakably expressed wish of the Governor; short of this, I am not free to act but bound to act as an independent member of this honorable House. As a private individual, it would be absurd for me to deny what everybody must know, that important ties, social, domestic, pecuniary, territorial, professional, bind me to Victoria and not to New Westminster, and that my views in life are materially at stake in this matter; yet I have this to say, I am not here to defend, like an advocate, Victoria at any price, but I am here to justify my judgment. I am not a representative of interests which have been thrust upon me by the accidental discovery of a gold bearing region, but I have formed my ties and embarked my means on mature consideration and solid judgment, and the same views and reasoning which made me select Victoria as my home, will for the most part reappear to-day in my advocacy of Victoria as the seat of Government of the colony. As a Legislative Councillor, I hope I am not indifferent to my oath of allegiance, and as I interpret that, I am bound to advise the Council for the good of the colony, without fear or favor to myself or to others, and it is to my infinite relief that I find that in the three several relations of law officer, private citizen and Legislative Councillor, I find nothing conflicting or contradictory. The conclusions to which I arrive are the result of reasoning and observation; you will judge of their accuracy and soundness, and I ask you at least to give me credit for sincerity of conviction, and I trust that in which I say you may find that I express myself soundly and fairly, as may best become a member of this honorable body, and I may add, in a manner not unworthy a politician and a statesman. In approaching this subject, believe me, I do it with feelings of deep concern. It is impossible to traverse the length of the site of this town without being sensibly affected with the results which must follow the removal of the capital from New Westminster. Official life is its only hope. For eight years it has received no attention of importance as a town, but has struggled in vain. Enormous sums have been lavished upon it; houses, wharves, plankways erected, for no practical end, and almost at every step we meet something which shows the sad results of misapplied energy, the grave of great expectations, the monuments of departed hope. It is impossible not to be touched with the view from the land, the magnificent Fraser, and its general salubrity. For the mere spectator I confess I have but little sympathy; for the spectator who has carried too many eggs in one basket, and has with open eyes backed his judgment on the march of events, I care but little, but my feelings of concern and anxiety for those who have done their duty as colonists and settlers, and have built up their homes and sunk their little savings in the premeditated discharge of a sacred and a patriotic duty. For these I have a sincere sympathy, and for them and for their losses; I would yield freely where the compensation is in my power. The site is indeed beautiful; but to say this is to say little more but that the earth which we inhabit is beautiful to the eye, and though I confess it affects me with a feeling of monotony and depression, there is beauty in the snowy mountains, in the broad waters, the ample valleys and the pine clad slopes of the lower Fraser. There are natural beauties in New Westminster; but what can be said of New Westminster, the land of our adoption, "our own romantic home;" but I confess, sir, that after four years residence among romantic scenery, I have got to be familiar and fatigued with the solitude of woods and rocks, and as a colonist and a settler, having an eye to the advancement and comfort of my fellow-men, bearing in view the happiness of my species in this corner of the globe, I would sooner see 10 acres of land well cultivated, occupied by a settler and his wife, thronged with happy and healthy children with the rocky point of nature fresh upon their faces, than all the magnificent scenery of the habitable globe. The removal of New Westminster will cause loss to many, but we are here with duties to perform; we are not here to indulge in the luxury of feeling, we are here as surgeons called in a case of life and death to brace our nerves for a difficult operation. Let us first ask what are the natural results of the settlement of the capital in one certain spot. First, the residence of the Governor, to whom all pay their tribute of honor and respect, dispensing a noble hospitality; he commands and carries with him the society of the place. With him come the heads of departments; the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, the Treasurer, the Surveyor General. The Supreme Court, some of whose sittings must almost of necessity take place in the capital. You have already disposed of the localities of many smaller branches of the Government, but still the last the last remains behind—the legislative body—a body composed, unless our constitution be an error and a deception, of all

that are most solid in substance and sound in judgment, a collection of the elite of the colony, taken from the pursuits of happiness and wealth, forced to reside in the capital, and now important state matters to form select committees to investigate facts, and to collect practical materials for resolutions and legislative enactments. Let us now see what follows in a capital which is a natural centre of civilization and commerce. Being easily accessible from the sea it is the centre of imported goods, the goods market, with all the advantages of abundance and choice; the point of departure of exported produce; the port of landing for passengers, in short, the labor market and the centre of immigration; the resort of ships of war; a port for military and naval defence; the money market; the site for banks; the resort of the capitalist and the mart for land; the origin and centre of commercial and combined enterprise; and last not least of the Press, or in other words, if well conducted which it will be where the tone of society is healthy, the emporium of useful information and in most cases of well sustained discussion and unfettered reasoning of the most useful things in life. Let us next see what our beau ideal of a city: 1. Ease of protection. 2. Accessibility from the ocean. 3. Central situation. 4. Climate and salubrity. 5. Soil and situation. 1st, Ease of protection. This hardly needs a remark, without a position easily protected the person of our governor might be insulted, our wealth plundered, our shores destroyed, and ourselves exposed to a desolability from the ocean. This hardly needs a remark. To a maritime and commercial people like ourselves, no subject has been more grievously or more willfully misunderstood than this. To understand the position of the centre, the circumference of the circle must be known, and what in the name of commerce is the centre of the circle to a community like ours. Is it the centre of the land? Is London in the centre of England? Dublin in the centre of Ireland? Edinburgh in the centre of Scotland? Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Cape Town, and a hundred others in the centre of their respective colonies? No, sir. We may be bounded by nature to the north and east by the Arctic Circle and the Rocky Mountains, to the south by the 47th Parallel, and by hostile tariffs and customs duties, but our circumference in all other directions is every port and place from and to which goods and produce can come and go to and from our shores. No error can be so gross, no fallacy so complete as to suppose you advance political or sound economy a single step by wadding up the capital in the heart of the province. The principle of divergence and conveyance is the true principle, conveyance of produce for importation from within, conveyance of all goods from without, 4. Climate and salubrity. This hardly requires notice. 5. Soil and situation in the same. With these I think you combine all the elements of practical and political economy. Let us now compare New Westminster and Victoria with a view to these qualifications. 1. Ease of protection. Can there be a doubt of this? To a maritime nation our safeguard is from the sea, land troops and fortifications in a colony are scarcely to be thought of. As long as England is respected on the sea, so long are we safe; with the decay of England as a naval power, decay also her entire colonial empire. Who can doubt that Victoria and Esquimalt are in fact, have every element of easy colonial protection. Can the same be said of New Westminster? We are familiar with the dreams of Colonel Moody, batteries here, batteries, forts everywhere, Redans, Mamelocks, redoubts, 1,000,000 of money and 100,000 men, impossibilities and theories. I am not competent to pass a judgment in any matter of military science, but I entertain a strong suspicion that in its present condition without costly fortifications, New Westminster might be laid in ashes in a dozen hours. 2. Accessibility from the ocean. Victoria is the limit of safe ocean traffic. To all intents and purposes Esquimalt and Victoria are one. To a city of many thousands of inhabitants as Victoria is situated, the north and Esquimalt are one. With a railway and dry goods are practically as near to the store of the merchant as at Esquimalt as at the harbor of Victoria. While the arm of Victoria capable of the simplest engineering improvement is an inland canal of untold advantage. Am I wrong in saying the site of Victoria is envied by the entire Pacific Coast? Is New Westminster safe? I confess I am not qualified to speak authoritatively on this point, but we know that a ship of Her Majesty's Navy (Tribune) came to grief, and that no vessel of large draft can enter here. The Fraser may be sealed by ice for three months in the winter. I look upon the site of New Westminster as situated practically some seventy miles inland, not to say river navigation, and that navigation intricate, doubtful and intermittent. In these several points of site and situation, soil and salubrity, the peculiar position of Victoria is a matter of considerable moment. Victoria has been, and probably always will be, a place much preferred for occupation among persons obliged to live in the colony. But there are a number of persons bound by no tie but the tie of simple preference. Among the number of persons brought here for the many reasons which cause persons to colonize, a percentage of mankind are found who, charmed by the climate and pleasantness of Vancouver Island, desire to settle there. They bring with them the refinements and the cultivated tastes of English gentlemen, and for the purpose alone of attracting and holding the population which might otherwise escape to other places that we ought to desire to make Victoria a place of social importance and give it all the advantages we can—such advantages as flow from its being the seat of Government. As regards the mining population, it is a matter of still greater importance. Victoria has been always a favorite place with miners. In earlier days Victoria was more a mining town than an ordinary city; it was the winter quarters of the miner; in it he spent his money or invested it in lots and land, and here he also left his family when he left for the comparatively short season of active mining. I have little hesitation in saying that in a well governed English colony a greater share of happiness can be got than in any other known place to the working man.

He has as good wages as in the United States, and is without the tyranny of the majority, the interference with freedom of opinion and the weight of taxation; and I believe that Vancouver Island will be a chosen place of abode for persons who have reason to shun the doubtful freedom and the political servitude of the American States. What, sir, are the reasons which can possibly prevail with members of this Council to urge them to induce Her Majesty's Government to fix the seat of Government at New Westminster rather than at Victoria? Is it because it is considered a point in political science and good government to follow the pusillanimous example of our friends in America, and fix the seat of Government intentionally at a distance from the seat of social and commercial enterprise as a safeguard against the turbulence of the masses and the tyranny of a democratic majority—a state of society not to be expected in our settled and loyal community? I cannot for a moment suppose that any man can really think that New Westminster can compete with Victoria in any other point than a supposed centrality of situation. Let us examine this further. What is New Westminster, what is British Columbia, what is Victoria, what is Vancouver Island? I am one, sir, who indignantly deny that in the self-denying Ordinance which Vancouver Island passed of her own free will, sacrificing as she did for the general good the freedom of her institutions and her entire commercial system, laying herself as she did at the feet of the imperial Government, she never felt she would have been so dealt with as to be regarded as a subordinate dependency. She relied on the fairness and judgment of the Crown, on the acknowledged and expressed desires of the people whose interests and whose judgments were bound to be considered, that Victoria would still remain, as she always has been and always will be practically the centre and metropolis of the United Colony, and be accepted by the Crown as the seat of Government in obedience to what some supposed to be the prevailing feeling of the mass of the two colonies. Am I mistaken in this last assertion that the wishes of the community are almost unanimous in favor of Victoria? Have we not the proof in the only form in which proofs can be presented in petitions signed by very many persons out of Westminster and out of the range of those influenced by prejudice and direct personal interest? There is hardly a soul who does not give his voice in favor of Victoria. It is asserted, in a spirit of rashness and levity, that signatures can be got to any petition. I trust this is not so. Signatures may easily enough be got to petitions for charitable purposes or for motives of general humanity—a criminal may be pardoned or a public officer retained. Such matters are easily granted at the instance of pressing friends; but it is untrue that in a matter of the position of the capital, emphatically the question of the day, men are to be found so callous or so flippant, so corrupt and so false as to sign their names without consideration and pledge themselves without reflection and without conscience. What other test is required? Ask and you shall have it. Would you have mass meetings in every town in British Columbia? You shall have them. Name any test, and it shall not be withheld. Much is said of Victoria politicians and the license of the Press. I declare solemnly that I cannot conceive a more law abiding—nay, more, a more tame population than the population of Victoria. A people eminently loyal, eminently quiet. In no place, in my judgment, could the representative of its sovereign be more respectfully received than in Victoria. Now, when the citizens think—I do not say justly—that they have been hardly dealt with, British Columbia is a mineral country, with land sufficiently good to raise its own produce for the mineral districts, and that is all. It is a gold region, with no settled or permanent inhabitants. What is New Westminster? Commercially, it is a wharf and landing place on the Fraser river; a Customhouse station and a seat of Government by Proclamation only. Should a sea coast road open to Cariboo, it is not even a wharf or a landing place, and it will be practically deserted. What is Vancouver Island? It is the only spot in the two colonies in which there has ever been a fixed or settled population, and that can raise its own agricultural produce ten times over. The climate is most favorable to agriculture, and the farmers only require encouragement to be prosperous. It contains wealth in minerals, in coal it is unsurpassed, and its future in opening out a field for mechanical industry, shipbuilding and the lower and simpler forms of manufacture are untold. Its fisheries may employ thousands of hands; its forests are an item, while its position for general trade is the envy of the Pacific coast. The beauty of its climate endears itself to all. Victoria is the most advantageously situated for commerce. At the head of safe ocean navigation it is, with Esquimalt, the best port in the Pacific. It commands four distinct branches of commerce. The home demand, Indian trade, the Fleet, and is and will be a most advantageous depot for the warehousing and redistribution of goods to all ports and places where English goods are in demand. The free port system is an ingredient of wealth not only to ourselves but to Great Britain itself. It is asserted that although Victoria is now the acknowledged centre of trade, yet times may alter, and then that Westminster, the possible, not the preferable, termination of ocean navigation, will be the best centre of distribution. I think, sir, this is most dangerous ground. If we are to legislate for the future—for the possibilities of the remote future—I think we are legislating in a rash and unwise manner. I think it far more likely that we shall find Bute Inlet and a railway across the continent will most effectually give the "go by" to New Westminster. Why not unite the seat of Government with the commercial and natural metropolis? Economy and general convenience oblige us to do it. There can be no doubt that without it annoyance, loss and waste will follow. No colonist can have speech of the Governor without a pilgrimage up the Fraser. The same with the heads of all departments. The Legislature cannot do its duty. Its committees cannot sit in practical matters without the impracticable task of summoning witnesses here, or the equally impracticable task of going to the metropolis to them. Can you expect to find men of business, or men of the world, to leave the metropolis where there is life, society and amusement, to pass dreary days in an abandoned town? No, sir; you will find none

but the professional politician ready to undertake so paltry a duty. Men in a busy community cannot spare the time, and instead of giving an inducement for the presence of the energetic and the spirited, you will have the Legislative Council sunk to the level of a Vestry, with all the dreary accessories of its concentrated self-interest, and the flatulent oratory of the parochial mind. In nothing more than this do I view degradation in the seat of the Government being placed at New Westminster, away from the commercial centre. The Legislative Council, our own body, is degraded, the country lowered, and its most important functions rendered nugatory and useless. The site of our port of Victoria is envied by the Pacific; there is no such place to be found on the coast; it is no easy matter to find a good site for commerce and general business, it is no easy matter to found and establish it. Such a site we have, such a site has been established and founded and has taken root and flourished. Shall we attempt to destroy it? Shall we attempt to undo it by dividing it into two cities, and draining away from it the natural support and the convenience and practical advantage it derives from having the seat of Government within it? Shall we so far do our best to drive our citizens from it and destroy a commerce for which we have competed, and competed not in vain. Unless I am mistaken, we may attempt it—we shall have the sad satisfaction of doing our best to destroy our own selves. Victoria, though we cannot ruin, we may seriously injure; New Westminster, I firmly believe we can never rise to the rank of a seaport town. Between two stools we shall fall. We shall disgust and ruin many, we shall succeed in throwing the country back, until, it may be, a new Executive with other views may make an alteration in our commercial policy, and we shall incur the additional indication of vacillation, nullification and uncertainty—until irritated by the malaria and flies—stung by remorse and mosquitoes—we shall try, when most of us are ruined and the country deserted, to attempt too late to retrieve our losses. What a ridiculous figure would this our capital cut among other capital cities. Beyond the range of official duties, what is official life but official ennui. After the graceful amenities of social intercourse are fairly complied with—amenities of which I am am deeply sensible—what is society but the society of persons moving in an official form, but out of our pale? What is there for this class of the pith and sinew of the place—the working man, but the monotony of the plank-road, the puerility of the ball court, or the bar of the saloon. This is no place for the man of active mind or energetic pursuits. In my judgment it requires the strenuous exertions of all classes to hold the colony together by uniting every effort for the public good. In conclusion, let me ask, am I wrong in looking upon the matter before us as one of grave importance. I believe it a most important element in the wealth and importance of a British Possession, that it should be possessed of a capital in which all these elements should be centralized, where centralization is good, Government, heads of departments, the money market, the goods market, the labor market, commercial enterprise, knowledge, discussion, movement, life. I think it most important that a colony should possess in its capital the elements of ease of defence, accessibility, salubrity of climate, central situation, with a view to commerce, soil. You have before you to decide between Victoria, the acknowledged choice of the colony, and New Westminster commercially nothing and inhabited only by the staff of government. After some further remarks the hon. gentleman sat down.

Hon. Robson complimented the hon. and learned Solicitor General on his great effort, in the diffuse oratory just concluded; but he thought the speech hardly repaid the amount of labor and time expended in its composition or in holding forth to an intelligent audience of stumps at the back of his (the hon. Solicitor's) house. He could not see what we had to do with the capital; it was the prerogative of the Government to fix on the site; this was done in the case of New Westminster, and could not be changed now; it was established by law, and until the population was very different from what it was there was no likelihood of its being removed. The idea that that Council constituted, as it was, could deal with the question, was mere waste of time. The hon. senior member for Victoria may enlarge on the magnificent scenery forming a background to Victoria; but his assertions in relation to New Westminster were incorrect; he (the hon. senior member) had never been there, and that can raise its own agricultural produce ten times over. The climate is most favorable to agriculture, and the farmers only require encouragement to be prosperous. It contains wealth in minerals, in coal it is unsurpassed, and its future in opening out a field for mechanical industry, shipbuilding and the lower and simpler forms of manufacture are untold. Its fisheries may employ thousands of hands; its forests are an item, while its position for general trade is the envy of the Pacific coast. The beauty of its climate endears itself to all. Victoria is the most advantageously situated for commerce. At the head of safe ocean navigation it is, with Esquimalt, the best port in the Pacific. It commands four distinct branches of commerce. The home demand, Indian trade, the Fleet, and is and will be a most advantageous depot for the warehousing and redistribution of goods to all ports and places where English goods are in demand. The free port system is an ingredient of wealth not only to ourselves but to Great Britain itself. It is asserted that although Victoria is now the acknowledged centre of trade, yet times may alter, and then that Westminster, the possible, not the preferable, termination of ocean navigation, will be the best centre of distribution. I think, sir, this is most dangerous ground. If we are to legislate for the future—for the possibilities of the remote future—I think we are legislating in a rash and unwise manner. I think it far more likely that we shall find Bute Inlet and a railway across the continent will most effectually give the "go by" to New Westminster. Why not unite the seat of Government with the commercial and natural metropolis? Economy and general convenience oblige us to do it. There can be no doubt that without it annoyance, loss and waste will follow. No colonist can have speech of the Governor without a pilgrimage up the Fraser. The same with the heads of all departments. The Legislature cannot do its duty. Its committees cannot sit in practical matters without the impracticable task of summoning witnesses here, or the equally impracticable task of going to the metropolis to them. Can you expect to find men of business, or men of the world, to leave the metropolis where there is life, society and amusement, to pass dreary days in an abandoned town? No, sir; you will find none

most moral community in stood far above Victoria in loyalty; the peaceful influence from Victoria were embodied and he had yet to learn that were the holy influences to be the rest of the colony. To understand how Victoria advantage of centrality, as man called it, when it is extreme edge of the colony thing but central, the General had referred to Dublin as the capitals of Now, Edinburgh had no more than the third city miles inland, far removed. Upon the same principle should be the capital of California Sacramento was the seat some hundreds of miles. American acuteness could arguments of the hon. gentleman asked if we treated petitions they are of very little more signed by men here tomorrow. The fact of a man the mining season did not voice in the seat of Government were operated upon by a individuals for interested motives plied them with whiskey and their good natured feelings rather than be pestered by Such was the character of that declared Victoria was government, three purported Victoria, and five from the latter he remarked that were in the same handwrote whole five only recommended be made the capital until the settled up that it could be located in the interior. If Go to pay any attention to a they might be required to locate on Williams Creek. It was petitions manufactured in hawked through the mainland could have any influence. Of common sense show the ad moving the seat of government few years to Victoria to back again to the mainland a large outlet, simply because no public buildings here. The his admirable sage, stated to no intention of going to such the present, hence the whole an expenditure for public buildings, as no such expenditure plied. The removal of the porarily to Victoria was more sure it than otherwise. The he was tried in Kingston, Canada, stantial buildings were erected flourished during two or three when the Capital was withdrawn were ruined and one-third of the shut up; the same effect would on Victoria with the same kind. Such agitation on the part of was indicative of narrow-minded idea of passing laws to suit self Victoria, was something that understand. New Westminster by a commission sent out by Government, and Col. Moody wisely and well in choosing the Sir James Douglas gave his qualified approval, although largely in a certain town, and decided opposition to his own interests; this to be the place where the O to be, and this was the opinion talented officers besides Gen. M. Solicitor General could not claim a judge of the navigation of They had the evidence of Capt that subject. New Westminster the terms of the overland rail certainly could not take the Victoria. All the large steamers to New Westminster and Burr which were our—like Victoria, malt. Our excellent Governor, in able speech, had shown the im sacrificing people who had purchased the faith of New Westminster Capital. He regretted to see Victoria and begging to be made the seat ment by a reluctant colony. Victoria suing for Union, stating that not carry on without it (cries) The petitioners were signed by the population of the territory; it was see Victorians adhering to such their determination to compass was brought about by Victoria sole request, and after persistent naimo and outlying districts did interfere with them Victorians, pretended they did not care Capital, were trying to attain their dishonest dodge—a side wind—both dishonest and dishonorable worthy of men in that Council, Government dare not hand over to Government to such a people. I reported that the Governor only outside agitation in the last clasp message. He (Hon. Robson) said and no vote they could pass in the would have any effect on the matter. Hon. Ball was told by the Hon. General that the country expected record their votes like men; the New Westminster came here year selected the place with the id making homes on the Fraser, on the of this being made the Capital of which it has been considered for ought to be for years and years to hoped the Government would faith with them, which would injury on a large and important colony. The Victorians united to us unconditionally, and it was to ask us to give up the Capital circumstances; we were asked to give them what they had voluntarily it would be unjust to those interested district. Such a course would drive away; to move the capital to Victoria hundreds of people, and as not would drive away the people, it is injudicious. Victoria had established as the capital of commerce, and very well without any other assistance to remove the capital from here we age the colony and have this place He trusted the Government would state the fully committed at Lang thus ruin two capitals to benefit