

persons, and this number added to that of British Columbia gives 13,000 as the united population of the two Colonies. If the ordinary revenue of each were added together, and the taxation allotted fairly amongst the inhabitants of both Colonies, it would so far equalize the weight of the present burdens, as to reduce the share of the miners of British Columbia by at least 10% a year.

There would be nothing unjust in such a redistribution of the burdens of the State, as the people of Vancouver Island partake of the prosperity of the miners of Cariboo quite as much as the inhabitants of British Columbia.

The union of the two Colonies would also reduce the civil lists, which are now bearing heavily on both countries. The staff of officials will be lessened, and only one central Government would be required.

The people of Vancouver Island have expressed their willingness to unite with the sister Colony, and when your petitioners consider the proximity of the two countries, and their mutual dependencies upon each other, they cannot but believe that protracted separation will militate against the best interests of both, and weaken British influence in this portion of the Empire.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your most Gracious Majesty may be pleased to take such steps as are necessary for an immediate reduction of the expenditure for this Colony, and for an early union of British Columbia and Vancouver Island under one government.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

Signed by 445 persons.

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No. 15.

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The MAGISTRATE, NEW WESTMINSTER, to HIS HONOUR A. N. BIRCH.

MY DEAR MR. BIRCH,

New Westminster, March 3, 1866.

I HAVE made many inquiries, but I find it almost impossible to ascertain with any approach to accuracy the proportion of exciseable articles used and consumed by the Indians in the Colony. There are I believe about 10,000 Indians on Fraser River, and all of them in greater or lesser quantities use and consume exciseable articles.

Many of the young men spend as much as \$300 a year. The Indians now use almost everything used by white men but the chief commodities which they purchase are blankets, flour, tea, coffee, sugar, molasses, biscuits, dried apples, gunpowder, shot, muskets, axes, simple agricultural implements, vermilion, toys, cheap ornaments, and male and female wearing apparel.

In the best shops in this town I am informed that the Indian women buy more dresses and finery than the white people of the place.

A great number of the Indians from the United States territory come here to procure their supplies.

I am very sorry that I cannot afford you more precise information on this subject: but of this you may feel assured, that a very large proportion of the taxation is paid by the Indian and Chinese population of the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BREW.

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