

# PAPERS

RELATIVE TO

## THE AFFAIRS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

### PART II.

#### Despatches from Governor Douglas.

No. 1.

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA.

No. 1.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor DOUGLAS to the Right Hon. Sir E. B. LYTTON,  
Bart.

(Private.)

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, October 4, 1858.

(Received December 10, 1858.)

(Answered, "Private," December 16, 1858, page 73.)

Sir,

1. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches, marked "confidential," of the 16th\* and 21st\* of July last, and I can hardly find words to express how grateful I am for your kind notice of my public-services, and I would also thank you for the cautions given in respect to my public acts while connected in business with the Hudson's Bay Company.

\* See pages 43  
and 44, Part I.

2. I observe the intention of Her Majesty's Government to appoint a Governor for Columbia, and that it was their desire to appoint me at once to that office on the usual terms of a Governor's appointment, namely, for six years at least, and that this Government was to be held for the present in conjunction with a separate Commission as Governor of Vancouver's Island; that offer being made subject to one condition, that I should give up, on receiving the appointment thus offered, all connexion with the Hudson's Bay Company, either as a servant or a shareholder, or in any other capacity, as well as relinquishing directly or indirectly all connexion with the Puget's Sound Company. I observe also that you made that proposal with the acquiescence of the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, who had seen your Despatch of the 16th of July.

3. On those conditions, and with the consent of the Hudson's Bay Company, I place my humble services unhesitatingly at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government, and I will take early measures for withdrawing from the Company's service, and disposing of my Puget's Sound stock, trusting that the allowances as to salary from Her Majesty's Government will be adequate to my support, in a manner worthy of the position I am thus called upon to fill.

The sum mentioned in your letter for British Columbia, admitting that a separate and larger allowance was made for Vancouver's Island, is manifestly insufficient for that purpose, in this very expensive country, where food, clothing, servants' wages, the price of labour, and in short, of every necessary of life, so far exceeds the standard of those values in England.

4. The sum of 5,000*l.* per annum, including the salaries for both Governments, would be no more than sufficient to cover the actual expenditure of that position; a suggestion made merely for your information, as I feel assured you wish me to maintain the dignity of the office; and my own fortune, impaired by the almost unrequited tenure of office in Vancouver's Island, cannot afford the outlay. Otherwise I should be independent in point of means, and in a measure indifferent about the emoluments of office, which I only wish to be equal to the respectable representation of Her Majesty's Government in this country.

5. I take the liberty of making those suggestions, with the more confidence, as I feel assured that the resources of the country can afford the expense of maintaining a respectable Government, and I shall do everything in my power to develop those resources, and to bring the Colony rapidly into a self-supporting condition.

I shall take immediate steps to inform the Hudson's Bay Company of my present decision. Awaiting your further instructions,

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, Bart.

(Signed)

JAMES DOUGLAS,

&c.

&c.

&c.

Governor.