

7. I believe that assent to the scheme submitted will be given cheerfully by a large majority of the community. The public generally have received it with much satisfaction. But it is doubtful whether any important modification would obtain acquiescence. I propose, however, that a delegation from the Council should proceed to Ottawa, after the termination of the session, for the purpose of discussing the subject with your Government, and it is not impossible that I may be able to confer with you personally, as I have asked for leave to go to New York in the early summer, on private affairs, and if it should be desirable I could visit Ottawa at that time.

8. I should add, that the Financial Statement which accompanied the Resolution has been made up from the actual figures of our estimates for the current year, for the purpose of illustrating the effect of the arrangement. With the exception of the terms relating to the Railway and Wagon Road, the agreement proposed does not involve so much pecuniary concession as has already been made to other Provinces.

9. In Lord Granville's Despatch, No. 84, of 14th August, which was communicated to Your Excellency, he mentioned the condition of the Indian tribes as among some questions upon which the constitution of British Columbia will oblige the Governor to enter personally. I have, purposely, omitted any reference to this subject in the terms proposed to the Legislative Council. Any arrangements which may be regarded as proper by Her Majesty's Government can, I think, best be settled by the Secretary of State, or by me, under his direction, with the Government of Canada. But "Indians," and "Lands reserved for Indians," form the twenty-fourth of the classes of subjects named in the 71st Section of the Union, which are expressly reserved to the Legislative authority of the Parliament of the Dominion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

A. MUSGRAVE.

His Excellency Sir John Young, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c.

Opening of the Legislative Council.

(Message No. 1.)

VICTORIA, B. C., February 15th, 1870.

A. MUSGRAVE.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :—

An untoward accident has deprived me of the pleasure which I had anticipated from meeting you in person, on the first occasion of your assembling since I entered upon the administration of this Government. I desired the opportunity to assure you of my keen sense of the important trust which devolves upon me under the form of Constitution now prevailing in the Colony, and my earnest desire to discharge it with diligence and fidelity to the Community. I cannot delegate to others the authority and the duties which are confided to me. Complicated questions, conflicting interests, and divergent political opinions all demand consideration, and practically upon them, in many respects, the decision must be mine. I assure you, Gentlemen, that the labor is not light, nor can I easily acquit myself of the obligations incumbent upon me. But I believe that I may rely with confidence upon your loyal assistance in the performance of my duty. I count upon your co-operation in laboring for the attainment of our common object—the promotion of the prosperity of the Community with the protection of whose interest we are charged.

Soon after my arrival I was able to visit some of the most distant parts of the Government, including the principal mining district. The observation of an impartial