

expedition in search of Sir John Franklin. He returned to the hospital in rugged health, spent another year, graduated at the college of physicians and surgeons, and then determined to enter the navy. Just when he was about to receive an appointment, he met Mr. Barclay, secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company, who advised him not to go into the navy where he must necessarily become a fixture, and who gave him a letter to Mr. Green, the large ship owner. Mr. Green appointed him surgeon on the ship Malacca, Captain Consett, en route to Bombay. After eighteen months of sojourning in the Indian seas, Dr. Helmcken returned to London and was offered an appointment on the Hudson's Bay Company's service on Vancouver Island. After finding where Vancouver Island was, the kind of climate it possessed and obtaining other information, he accepted the appointment. The ship Norman Morrison, Captain Wishart, was being sent with emigrants to Vancouver Island and Dr. Helmcken came out as physician in charge, intending to remain only five years. On the voyage smallpox broke out among the emigrants, but owing to the prompt action and skill of the surgeon only one death occurred. They reached Victoria in March, 1850, and were ordered into quarantine for a time. Dr. Helmcken was almost immediately transferred to Fort Rupert where the coal mines were being opened. It was during the first few months of his residence there that the trouble among the miners which is described in the introduction took place. The men wanted to get away to California to the gold mines and desired to break their agreement with the company. After six months at Fort Rupert Dr. Helmcken was called to Victoria to attend Governor Blanchard, who was ill. He continued from that time forth to reside at Victoria. In 1852 he married the daughter of Governor Douglas and in 1855 he was elected to the first legislative assembly of Vancouver Island to represent Esquimalt. He was appointed speaker of the assembly, and continued to occupy this position till confederation with the Dominion in 1871 when he abandoned politics. From 1864 till 1871 he was a member of the executive council of British Columbia. At that time a seat in the house did not bring any remuneration with it, and Dr. Helmcken labored during the best years of his life in the interests of the colony without desiring or obtaining any reward for it. During the agitation for confederation he was strongly opposed to the movement and was regarded as the fore front of the opposition. When terms most favorable to British Columbia, which he.