

electd Speaker. Little or no change occurred in the fortunes of the colony until the news of the discovery of gold on the Thompson and Fraser Rivers brought a rush of miners in 1858, which suddenly changed Victoria from an ordinary Hudson's Bay Company post with few inhabitants to a "city of tents." During this early period, coal had been discovered at Fort Rupert, and coal mining started by the Hudson's Bay Company. But as the quantity was not as great as expected, the machinery was moved to Fort Nanaimo, where coal in larger deposits was located. Farming, too, for a number of years, was carried on on a limited scale by the Hudson's Bay Company, and wheat, vegetables, sheep, etc., were shipped to Alaska, Russia and the Sandwich Islands.

With the inrush of population in 1858 the dominion of the Hudson's Bay Company on Vancouver Island came to an end. The Mainland of British Columbia and the Island of Vancouver were formed into separate Crown Colonies, with Sir James Douglas as joint Governor. New Westminster, on the Fraser, became the capital of British Columbia, and Victoria the capital of Vancouver Island. Among the officials sent out from England to the new colonies were Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie, for many years Chief Justice, and Lieut.-Col. Moody, Commander of the Royal Engineers, who with a corps of sappers and miners, were settled at New Westminster to open up roads. A mint was also opened

In the first rush to the Fraser River there came, principally through Victoria, about twenty thousand persons, but of these the great majority either did not reach the diggings at all or went away disappointed. Some of the more adventurous, however, pushed up through the canyons, and in 1859, 1860 and 1861 discovered very rich diggings in Cariboo. This occasioned a second big rush. For a few years business was very active. Millions of dollars worth of gold was taken from the creeks of that district, roads were built and other public improvements made. Gold, too, was found in the Similkameen River and Rock Creek in Yale, in the Big Bend Country, and Wild Horse Creek, Kootenay, causing a series of minor excitements. As the gold was found in the beds of rivers or creeks, or what is known as "placers," it was soon exhausted, and the excitements died out one after the other. The most of those who came to British Columbia to seek for gold by