

changed to Fort Victoria. Here the Company erected buildings and a fort, which formed the beginning of Victoria, the present capital of British Columbia. A few years later colonists began to settle on the island. For a short time the colony was under the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company. Then the British Government withdrew the Company's charter of the island and established a representative Government.

The Discovery of Gold in British Columbia, 1858.—The discovery of gold in large quantities along the Fraser River suddenly changed the aspect of affairs at Victoria as well as



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on the mainland. News of the discovery soon spread far and wide, and there followed a crowd of eager seekers for the precious metal. It was a mixed crowd, rude and lawless, and a strong ruling force was needed to maintain order.

British Columbia a Crown Colony, 1858.—The mainland was at once formed into a Crown Colony under the name of British Columbia. New Westminster on the Fraser River was chosen as capital, and James Douglas, a man of noted ability, was appointed Governor. Instead of being only an Indian hunting-ground, British Columbia was found to possess sources of immense wealth in its minerals, forests, fisheries, and soil.