

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
AND
VANCOUVER
ISLAND.

No. 10, Feb. 2,
1865

and enclosure.
No. 23, April
15, 1865.

"and all Despatches sent to Mr. Cardwell in reference to the Union Resolutions which passed the House in January last."

With the most earnest desire to meet the wishes of the Legislative Assembly, and afford the fullest information on these subjects, I regret that I am precluded from complying with the conditions of their address without the sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies previously obtained.

I now, upon my own responsibility, lay before the House extracts of Despatches transmitted by me on the subject of the Crown Lands of Vancouver Island, relating to the matters treated of in the Despatch of Her Majesty's Secretary of State recently laid before the House; but the production of Despatches addressed by me to Her Majesty's Secretary of State on the subject of the "Union Resolutions," either in whole or in part, before I had received replies thereto, would be a manifest breach of duty, and wholly without precedent.

The object of the Legislative Assembly in the present instance will be probably attained by my stating that in addressing Her Majesty's Secretary of State in March 1865, I expressed my deliberate conviction that the union of these Colonies would be conducive to the best interests of both, and my earnest desire that it should be consummated.

My subsequent experience having fortified that conviction and sentiment, I continue to be firmly of opinion that the Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island should be united, and that the union of them would be an important means of securing their substantial progress and prosperity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor.

No. 13.

No. 13.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P., to Governor KENNEDY, C.B.

(No. 6.)

SIR,

Downing Street, February 1, 1866.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 92,* of the 1st of December, enclosing a petition addressed to me by the merchants, traders, and other residents in Victoria, Vancouver Island.

I have to request that you will inform the memorialists that the interests to which they advert will not fail to receive careful consideration.

I have, &c.

Governor Kennedy, C.B.
&c.

(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SEYMOUR to the Right Hon. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

Rue de la Paix, Paris, February 17, 1866.

SIR,

(Received February 24, 1866.)

As you did me the honour of consulting me respecting the resolutions of the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island, praying that that Colony might be united to British Columbia, I would now venture to express in writing, I believe in accordance with your wish, my views upon the subject.

2. I think that the Assembly has faithfully represented the desire of the majority of the population. So great is the anxiety for union existing in Victoria, the political centre of the Island, that the conditions are left entirely for you to determine. Nanaimo, the second town, I believe, faintly wishes for the amalgamation of the two Colonies, but the people there are prosperous, contented, and the best feeling exists between them and the colonists of the mainland.

3. The question of the relations of the two Colonies is one of great difficulty. They were, until recently, united to the extent of having a Governor in common. But the dissatisfaction in British Columbia, at the state of things which then existed, was such that your predecessor effected the separation now found so irritating to Victoria.

4. Under the system which the Duke of Newcastle abolished, the government of British Columbia was carried on from the capital of another Colony. The Governor and principal public officers drew full pay from the main land and lived on the Island. The people of Victoria profited by the expenditure of the proceeds of taxation levied on another community, and were at the same time, by the freedom of the ports, relieved from the payment of the heavy import duties, which fell on those who made of British Columbia their home. Whether it was wise ever to make two Colonies of the territories lying west of the Rocky Mountains, it is useless now to inquire; but colonists having been invited to settle on the continent on the faith that they were to form an independent