

Meanwhile in strictly local politics changes had taken place. In the general election of 1875 the Province returned a majority against Mr. Walkem's Government, and Hon. A. C. Elliott formed an administration consisting of F. G. Vernon, T. B. Humphreys, E. Brown and A. E. B. Davie. When the Ministers returned to the country for re-election Mr. Davie was defeated. This Government existed for two and a half years. In 1878 it introduced a measure for a re-distribution of seats and an increase of the number of representatives to thirty-five. The Bill was thrown out, and an appeal was made to the country with the result that the Elliott party were defeated. Mr. Walkem was again called upon to form a Cabinet, and Messrs. Beaven, Hett and Humphreys joined him in the Government. It was during this administration that the Province took such a determined stand on the question of constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway without further delay, and there is no doubt that the resolute attitude of the Legislature at that time had a great deal to do with the subsequent energy displayed by the Dominion Government in this respect. During this Government's existence, also, the construction of the Dry Dock at Esquimalt was begun. In 1882 Mr. Walkem was elevated to the bench and Hon. Robert Beaven became premier. The opposition, however, carried a majority of the constituencies at the election which ensued a few months later, and Hon. Wm. Smithe formed a Cabinet composed of Hon. A. E. B. Davie, Hon. John Robson and M. W. T. Drake. In the first year of this administration the Settlement Act was passed, by which all questions between the Province and the Dominion were finally disposed of. By this Act a subsidy of \$750,000 was given by the Dominion Government for the construction of the Island Railway. This, together with a most liberal grant of land from the Provincial Government, was sufficient inducement to capitalists to undertake the project, and a Company, of which Mr. Robert Dunsmuir was the head, obtained the charter for the line, which was to extend from Esquimalt to Nanaimo. The work was begun at once and was completed before the time specified in the contract. It is possible that in the near future this Railway will be extended to the extreme north of the Island, and there is little doubt that had Hon. Robert Dunsmuir lived the work would have been begun during the present year. During this time work on the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway was being pushed forward with