

allowed to vote at the elections. I should be disposed to exclude both. Possibly an exception might be made in favour of those who took out their "free miner's certificates."

30. The election over, the magistrate reports to the Governor the number of votes each candidate has received. It is by no means incumbent on the Governor to appoint to the Council the elect of the people, but it would require very special circumstances, such as have not yet presented themselves, to justify his rejection of the man placed at the head of the poll. The Councillor must take the oath of allegiance before his seat. A purely English Legislature is thus secured.

31. Even if union is not to take place, I should wish to see the popular element increased in our Legislative Council. It is by gradual concessions, freely made by the Government, that the desire for institutions practically unsuited to British Columbia will be best kept under. It is in the gold mines that I should specially desire to see the representation increased. If the union of the Colonies should take place, I would suggest that about 12 members of the new Legislature should be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the people. If the Colonies remain separate I will address you at a future time respecting British Columbia. I must repeat the recommendation I ventured to make when treating of the magisterial element, that the discretionary power of the Governor, as to the districts to be represented, should remain unimpaired. I, however, submit a rough suggestion as to the first apportionment of seats.

Victoria, V. I.	-	-	-	2 members.
New Westminster, B. C.	-	-	1	"
Nanaimo, V. I.	-	-	1	"
Comox, V. I.	-	-	1	"
Cariboo, East, B. C.	-	-	1	"
Cariboo, West, B. C.	-	-	1	"
Kootenag, B. C.	-	-	1	"
Yale and Lytton, B. C.	-	-	1	"
Douglas and Lillooet, B. C.	-	-	1	"
Williams' Lake, B. C.	-	-	1	"
Osoyoos and Columbia, B. C.	-	-	1	"

As regards the electoral franchise, in the first instance, I would propose to leave the question as it now rests in the several districts. It might be dealt with hereafter by the Council. A property qualification and English nationality would, I believe, be required in the electors of Vancouver Island.

32. I think it would be desirable that the Governor should have the power of appointing two unofficial members of the Legislative Council to the Executive Council.

33. Should union take place in the manner contemplated by the Act of the 21 & 22 Vict., two important changes would take place in the condition of Vancouver Island. Its present legislative constitution would be abolished. The partial exemption from import duties would cease. The loss of the House of Assembly would not, I think, be much regretted. The freedom of the port of Victoria has already been much impaired, duties being now levied on many articles of consumption. There is a certain charm in the idea of a free English port on the Pacific destined to compete with San Francisco, and, perhaps, ultimately to establish a commercial pre-eminence for Great Britain on the western coast of America. But in reality few of the advantages expected from the free port system have been secured, and the people of Victoria, having the issue fairly placed before them at the last elections, have, by a large majority, determined that the system shall cease, and a tariff take its place. Victoria does not lie on any of the great highways of commerce, and I do not suppose that a vessel ever entered the port which was not specially bound for it on the commencement of the voyage. Besides, if the freedom of the ports had realized the expectations of the people of Victoria, would they now be in so gloomy a state, or ready to make any sacrifice to secure union with British Columbia? The last statistical returns show that of the imports to Vancouver Island only one-twelfth is exported to countries other than the neighbouring British Colony. It may be said that smuggling is carried on to a great extent. Possibly so, but I doubt whether this advantage, of somewhat questionable propriety, counterbalances the inconvenience of the restrictions placed on British commerce in the western states of America. The compulsion on every vessel to or from Puget's Sound to enter or clear at Port Angeles, 40 (?) miles to windward, is I know found a serious evil in British Columbia. The ships entering the Columbia or Golden Gate from Victoria are examined, I believe, with a minuteness and suspicion not exercised on other traders. The collector of customs of California informed me that the commercial transactions of the British and American territories on the Pacific will never be conducted on an entirely satisfactory condition so