

courtesy, have sought to impress me with the belief that if the Legislature of Canada is not compelled by some means or other, which however they do not specify, to make forthwith these 70 miles of railway, they will be strong enough, in the face of Mr. Mackenzie's offer of a money equivalent, to take British Columbia out of the Confederation. Well, they certainly won't be able to do that. I am now in a position to judge for myself as to what are the real sentiments of the community. I will even presume to say I know more about it than these gentlemen themselves. When once the main line of the Pacific Railway is under weigh, the whole population of the Mainland would be perfectly contented with the present situation of affairs, and will never dream of detaching their fortunes from those of Her Majesty's great Dominion. Nay, I don't believe that these gentlemen would be able to persuade their fellow citizens even of the Island of Vancouver to so violent a course; but granting for the moment that their influence should prevail,—what would be the result? British Columbia would be still part and parcel of Canada. The great work of Confederation would not be perceptibly affected. But the proposed line of the Pacific Railway might possibly be deflected south. New Westminster would certainly become the capital of the Province, the Dominion would naturally use its best endeavours to build it up into a flourishing and prosperous city. It would be the seat of Government, and the home of justice, as well as the chief social centre on the Pacific Coast. Burrard Inlet would become a great commercial port, and the miners of Cariboo with their stores of gold dust would spend their festive and open-handed winters there. Great Britain would of course retain Esquimalt as a naval station on this coast, as she has retained Halifax as a naval station on the other, and inasmuch as a constituency of some 1,500 persons would not be able to supply the material for a Parliamentary Government, Vancouver and its inhabitants, who are now influential by reason of their intelligence rather than their numbers, would be ruled as Jamaica, Malta, Gibraltar, Heligoland, and Ascension are ruled, through the instru-