

likely to facilitate such a result. But I am aware that the prevailing feeling is at present strongly adverse to such a measure, and in deference to that feeling I am prepared to take steps for placing them under different Governors, so soon as proper financial arrangements are made for the permanent support of the Government.

With regard to Vancouver Island I think that a permanent Act of the Legislature should be passed, securing to the principal officers of the Government salaries at the following rates, which the importance of the Colony and the prospects of its revenue appear to render no more than fitting:—

	£
Governor	3,000
Chief Justice	800—(to be 1,200/ when a lawyer is appointed.)
Colonial Secretary	600
Attorney General	300, with practice.
Treasurer	600
Surveyor General	500

The initiation of all money votes should also be secured to the Government.

When this is done I am prepared to hold the Crown revenue of Vancouver Island at the disposal of the Legislature of that Colony, retaining only such temporary power over the land as will enable Her Majesty's Government to close its transactions with the Hudson's Bay Company. When this is effected I shall be ready to transfer the management of the revenue to the Colonial Legislature.

With regard to British Columbia, adverting to the magnitude of the colonial interests and to the steady progression of the local revenue, I should wish you at once to proclaim a permanent law enabling Her Majesty to allot salaries to the Government officers of British Columbia at the following rates:—

	£
Governor	3,000, with a suitable residence.
Chief Justice	1,200
Colonial Secretary	800
Attorney General	500, with practice.
Treasurer	750
Commissioner of Lands and Surveyor General	800
Collector of Customs	650
Chief Inspector of Police	500
Registrar of Deeds	500

It will then follow to give effect to the enclosed Order in Council, which Her Majesty has been pleased to issue, in order to prepare the way for giving the inhabitants of the Colony a due influence in its government. I should have wished to establish there the same representative institutions which already exist in Vancouver Island; and it is not without reluctance that I have come to the conclusion that this is at present impossible.

It is, however, plain that the fixed population of British Columbia is not yet large enough to form a sufficient and sound basis of representation, while the migratory element far exceeds the fixed, and the Indian far outnumbers both together.

Gold is the only produce of the Colony, extracted in a great measure by an annual influx of foreigners. Of landed proprietors there are next to none, of tradesmen not very many, and these are occupied in their own pursuits at a distance from the centre of Government, and from each other. Under these circumstances I see no mode of establishing a purely representative Legislature, which would not be open to one of two objections. Either it must place the Government of the Colony under the exclusive control of a small circle of persons naturally occupied with their own local, personal, or class interests, or it must confide a large amount of political power to immigrant, or rather transient foreigners, who have no permanent interest in the prosperity of the Colony.

For these reasons I think it necessary that the Government should retain for the present a preponderating influence in the Legislature. From the best information I can obtain I am disposed to think it most advisable that about one-third of the Council should consist of the Colonial Secretary and other officers who generally compose the Executive Council; about one-third of magistrates from different parts of the Colony, and about one-third of persons elected by the residents of different electoral districts.