

of peace, and no man in the Empire was so well qualified by the arts and tongue of diplomacy to successfully perform such a mission. He had a splendid reception in Victoria, of which the celebrated separation arch was an incident. An arch had been erected by private citizens, independent of the general committee of arrangements, bearing the legend "Carnarvon Terms or Separation." Lord Dufferin, with ready wit, suggested the substitution of an 'R' for "S" in "Separation," but this was not agreed to, and His Excellency refused to pass under it.

On his tour through the Mainland, Lord Dufferin found a distinctly different state of feeling. There were no hints of separation, no disloyal arches erected and no dissatisfaction expressed as to the course of the Dominion. At the same time, it was evident that the people of the Mainland were really highly pleased on account of the defeat of the Carnarvon Terms and lost no occasion to assure His Excellency on that score. There had then begun what was known as the "Battle of the Routes." Cariboo was not really interested, as either route as then proposed would suit its interests, but the rest of the Mainland was afraid the Bute Inlet route would be chosen. Its ambition and efforts were in the direction of Burrard Inlet being selected. The great speech made by Dufferin at Victoria on his return from the Mainland was a masterpiece of eloquence. Regarding the threatened secession from the Union, he pointed out that if Vancouver Island took that step it would go out alone, and he painted a very gloomy picture of its future in isolation. Lord Dufferin's speech made a deep impression, and did much to stem a very dangerous tide of public opinion. It did not, however, bring the railway appreciably nearer, and again dissatisfaction was rife, and was so far reflected in the Legislature that on August 29, 1878, the Hon. Mr. Walkem, seconded by the Hon. Robert Beaven, moved a resolution, the conclusion of which ran thus: "Under these circumstances . . . Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to see fit, order and direct: That British Columbia shall thereafter have the right to exclusively