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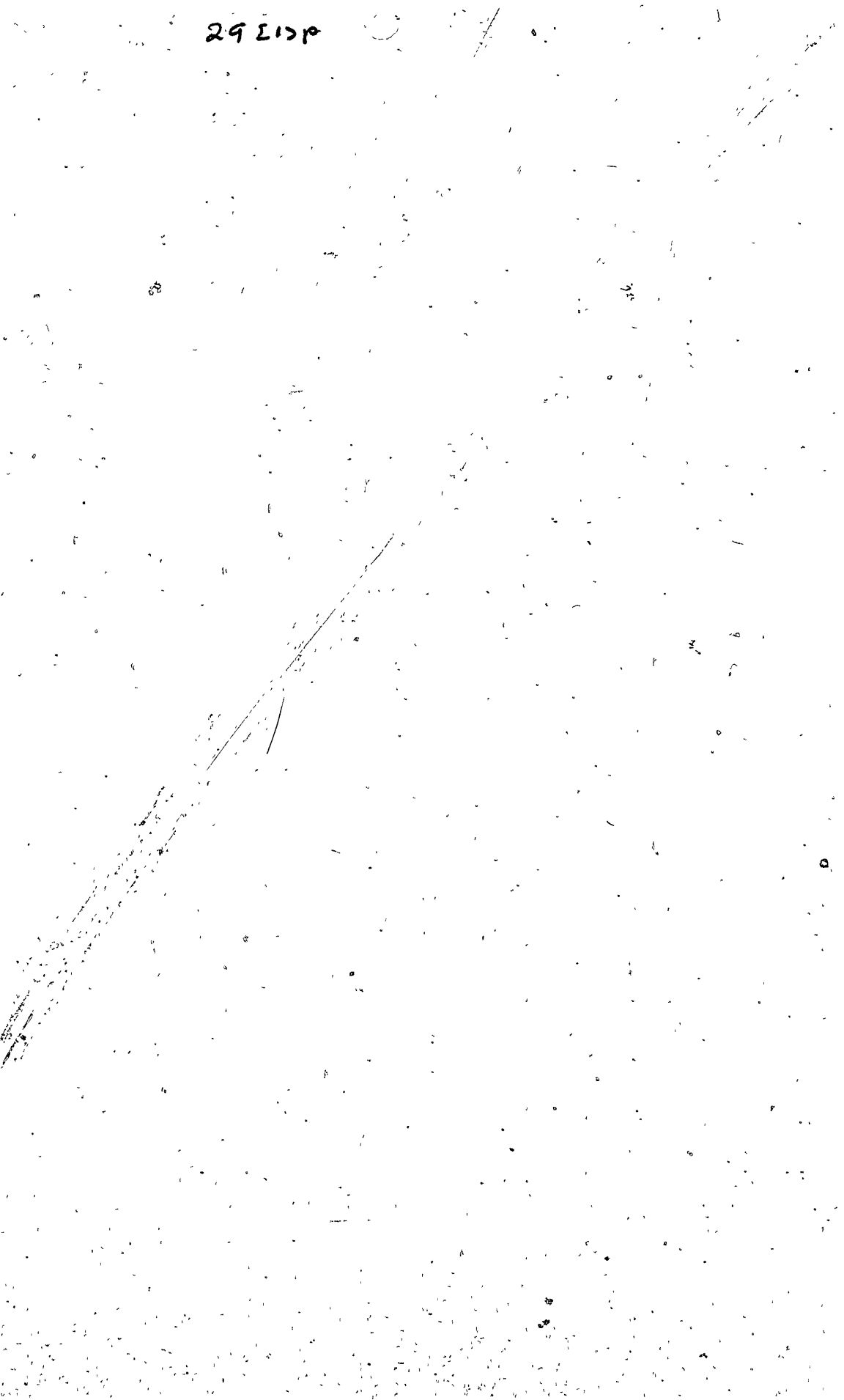
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MESSAGE.

LISGAR.

The Governor General transmits for the information of the House of Commons the accompanying papers relative to the proposed union of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OTTAWA, 27th February, 1871.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.

(Copy.—CANADA, No. 2.)

DOWNING STREET, 3rd January, 1870.

SIR,—Governor Musgrave informs me that he has forwarded to you a copy of his Despatch of the 30th October last, No. 19, in answer to mine of the 14th August, with reference to the union of British Columbia with the Dominion.

I enclose for your information, a copy of my reply to Mr. Musgrave.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

GRANVILLE.

Governor General, The Right Hon.
Sir John Young, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

Earl Granville to Governor Musgrave.

(Copy.—BRITISH COLUMBIA—No. 113.)

DOWNING STREET, 31st December, 1869.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 30th October last, No. 19, in answer to mine of the 14th of August, No. 84, with reference to the Union of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada a copy of which, for the reason you have stated, you thought it best at once to make public.

I approve of your having published my Despatch, and I should wish you to use your own judgment respecting the mode and time of bringing the question before your Council, and not to suppose yourself bound to bring forward any formal proposal unless you think that by so doing you will promote the acceptance of the union.

I have forwarded a copy of this Despatch to Sir John Young, for his information.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GRANVILLE.

Governor Musgrave, &c., &c., &c.

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Governor Musgrave to the Governor General.

(Copy—No. 11.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 20th February, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward to Your Excellency a copy of the Message with which I caused the Legislative Council to be opened on the 15th instant, and of a Resolution which the Government will introduce, embodying the terms on which it is recommended that this Colony should propose to join the Dominion of Canada.

2. The Resolution will be passed, as it will be pressed as a measure of the Government. This course is necessary to obtain a basis for negotiation, for without the aid of the official vote, opinion is so much divided among the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, that the result of any action on the subject would otherwise be very doubtful. The question of Union has never hitherto been brought before the community in definite form. The chief advocates are so much at variance among themselves, that I have found it desirable to reduce the proposition into some tangible shape, which exhibits the advantages which may be derived from Confederation.

3. The characteristics of this Colony are so unlike those of the Eastern Provinces, that it is necessary to adjust the proposed arrangements upon a basis different from that adopted in their cases.

The true number of the population is not known, and it includes a large number of Indians, who are to a great extent consumers. The white inhabitants are chiefly male adults of wasteful and expensive habits. The production of the Colony is very small, except of gold. The consequence is large importation of duty paying goods, yielding revenue from Customs far greater in proportion to our estimated population, than that obtained from Customs duties for the same number in any part of the Dominion.

4. It is proposed, therefore, that for the purposes of an arrangement with Canada, our population should be estimated from the amount of revenue contributed to the general fund of the Dominion, from the sources which would be transferred. On a moderate computation, the Customs and Excise Duties are estimated for this year at \$850,000. This sum is more than is raised from 120,000 of the population of Canada, the rate there being, as I am informed, \$2.75 per head. British Columbia claims accordingly to come into the Union with the privileges, as she relinquishes the revenue, of 120,000 of the population of the Dominion. This point being conceded, the rest of the financial arrangement proceeds upon the same principles which have been admitted and acted upon in the cases of the Eastern Provinces. And upon due consideration, I do not think the plan proposed will be found to be unfair.

5. The feature, to my mind, presenting the greatest difficulty in the terms, is contained in the 8th Article, relating to the construction of a railway and wagon road. But, whatever may be eventually agreed upon, or found impossible, with respect to these matters, so much importance is attached to the opening of communication, that it would not have been politic to omit this proposal in any terms now brought forward. Indeed, effective means of communication through British Territory must sooner or later be found to be essential to any real connection of this Province with the Dominion, and, perhaps, it is as well at once to confront this difficulty.

6. In some of the other terms proposed, this Colony may be thought by your Government to ask too much. But they must be prepared to be liberal, if they desire the Union.

Great local importance is attached to such a matter as the Graving Dock, at Esquimalt, which go far to obtain the suffrages of the commercial community of Victoria. The Imperial Government lately expressed readiness to aid in procuring the accomplishment of such a work. And the stipulations required, touching the Penitentiary, Marine Hospital, and Lunatic Asylum, will be regarded here as strong inducements. It will be necessary, if Union is to be real and entered upon cordially, that present visible advantage and local improvement should spring from the measure.

7. I believe that assent to the scheme submitted will be given cheerfully by a large majority of the community. The public generally have received it with much satisfaction. But it is doubtful whether any important modification would obtain acquiescence. I propose, however, that a delegation from the Council should proceed to Ottawa, after the termination of the session, for the purpose of discussing the subject with your Government, and it is not impossible that I may be able to confer with you personally, as I have asked for leave to go to New York in the early summer, on private affairs, and if it should be desirable I could visit Ottawa at that time.

8. I should add, that the Financial Statement which accompanied the Resolution has been made up from the actual figures of our estimates for the current year, for the purpose of illustrating the effect of the arrangement. With the exception of the terms relating to the Railway and Wagon Road, the agreement proposed does not involve so much pecuniary concession as has already been made to other Provinces.

9. In Lord Granville's Despatch, No. 84, of 14th August, which was communicated to Your Excellency, he mentioned the condition of the Indian tribes as among some questions upon which the constitution of British Columbia will oblige the Governor to enter personally. I have, purposely, omitted any reference to this subject in the terms proposed to the Legislative Council. Any arrangements which may be regarded as proper by Her Majesty's Government can, I think, best be settled by the Secretary of State, or by me, under his direction, with the Government of Canada. But "Indians," and "Lands reserved for Indians," form the twenty-fourth of the classes of subjects named in the 71st Section of the Union, which are expressly reserved to the Legislative authority of the Parliament of the Dominion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

A. MUSGRAVE.

His Excellency Sir John Young, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c.

Opening of the Legislative Council.

(Message No. 1.)

VICTORIA, B. C., February 15th, 1870.

A. MUSGRAVE.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :—

An untoward accident has deprived me of the pleasure which I had anticipated from meeting you in person, on the first occasion of your assembling since I entered upon the administration of this Government. I desired the opportunity to assure you of my keen sense of the important trust which devolves upon me under the form of Constitution now prevailing in the Colony, and my earnest desire to discharge it with diligence and fidelity to the Community. I cannot delegate to others the authority and the duties which are confided to me. Complicated questions, conflicting interests, and divergent political opinions all demand consideration, and practically upon them, in many respects, the decision must be mine. I assure you, Gentlemen, that the labor is not light, nor can I easily acquit myself of the obligations incumbent upon me. But I believe that I may rely with confidence upon your loyal assistance in the performance of my duty. I count upon your co-operation in laboring for the attainment of our common object—the promotion of the prosperity of the Community with the protection of whose interest we are charged.

Soon after my arrival I was able to visit some of the most distant parts of the Government, including the principal mining district. The observation of an impartial

stranger viewing scenes and objects new to him, is often of greater value than the careless notice of persons to whom they are more familiar. The impression which I received of the condition and prospects of the Colony was more favorable than I had been led to anticipate. To me the indications of certain progress and growth of prosperity seemed manifest. I saw with pleasure the application of science to the development of the gold mines of Cariboo. With equal satisfaction I witnessed the extending agriculture, and ascertained the success of stock raising within our own borders. Exportation of coal and lumber is increasing. While the information which I gathered went to show that the spirit of excitement and speculation, which is only too apt to be prevalent in gold producing countries, has gradually subsided, leaving in its place a healthier tone of feeling and sounder basis for commercial transactions.

Since my visit to the Mainland, recent discoveries of fresh gold fields have been reported, which, if they prove to be important, will tend to infuse new spirit into enterprise of all kinds, and will doubtless stimulate both trade and production. I have confidence in the future of British Columbia, if only her affairs are conducted with discretion; and at the base of all superstructure must lie the financial arrangements.

I shall lay before you at once the Estimates which have been prepared for the current year. The details will be explained by the officers of the Government to whose Departments the several heads of appropriation relate.

They contain few besides the usual provisions. The most important addition is a proposed subsidy of (\$4,500) Four thousand five hundred Dollars, to the Western Union Telegraph Company, to assist in the maintenance of telegraphic communication with Portland, and through Portland with the rest of the world. It was represented to me, upon evidence which I had no reason to doubt, that without this aid the communication would cease, and I have thought that under all the circumstances it may be with propriety afforded.

At the same time that application was made on this matter, the Telegraph Company offered to transfer to the Government their property in the line between Swinomish and Quesnelmouth as it stands, provided that the Government would undertake to repair, maintain, and work it. I caused careful enquiry to be made as to the probable cost to the Colony of such an undertaking, and found that it would amount to \$8,000 for this year, in excess of any receipts which can be expected. I have not thought myself justified in incurring this outlay, in view of our financial position, unless special provision can be made for it. I have not, therefore, placed it on the Estimates, but I will lay papers relating to the matter before you.

I have, however, included an appropriation of \$5,000 for the promotion of immigration, to provide for a continuation of the experiment which has been made to assist the introduction of female immigrants, and in the hope that we may be able to organize the commencement of some practical arrangement to aid the immigration of agricultural settlers. Interest is manifested in England on the subject of Emigration, and I will endeavor to use means for diffusing a knowledge of our resources.

The usual votes which you will be asked to grant are computed with strict regard to economy. They contemplate augmented expenditure for roads; but it has been found impossible to include provision for some matters, to which I would gladly give attention. I desire to avoid Supplementary Estimates so far as it is practicable to do so, and not to exceed the provision authorized by you unless forced by great emergency.

The year closed with a balance against the public at the Bank of British Columbia, amounting to \$27,000. I shall cause you to be furnished with Schedules of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December last, which show a floating debt of large amount, for the repayment of which no fitting provision has been made. Until satisfactory arrangements are adjusted in respect of these liabilities, it behoves us to be circumspect in sanctioning fresh disbursements.

I will submit to you a Bill, to give authority for the consolidation of this debt, by the issue of fresh Debentures, at six per cent., and to provide for its liquidation by a Sinking Fund.

I am aware that the complications arising from the existence of different Supreme Courts in the two sections of our United Colony, have been the cause of much protest and discussion, you will, therefore, be glad to know that the difficulty in the way of more convenient arrangements has been removed by the promotion of the Chief Justice of Vancouver Island to another appointment. By the operation of the Ordinance, passed by you during the last Session, to regulate the Supreme Courts—to which the Queen's assent has been given—a single jurisdiction is now established for the whole Colony, which will be administered by the Chief Justice of British Columbia, with the assistance of a Puisne Judge. I know that strong representations have been made as to the importance of providing a local Court of Appeal, by the appointment of a third judge, but I think it may be well first to note the working of the present alteration in the judicial arrangements before deciding to incur the increased expense which would be necessary for that purpose. In fact, this, as well as many other questions, is to some extent dependent upon the greater one of the expediency of Union with the Dominion of Canada which it is my duty to bring before you.

The Community is already acquainted with the Despatch which I have recently received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State on this subject; and the careful consideration of it cannot longer be deferred with courtesy to Her Majesty's Government, or advantage to the Colony. I commend it to your earnest thought. For my own part, I am convinced that on certain terms, which I believe it would not be difficult to arrange, this Colony may derive substantial benefit from such an Union. But the only manner in which it can be ascertained whether Canada will agree to such arrangements as will suit us, is to propose such as we would be ready to accept. With the assistance of my Council, I have prepared a scheme which I shall cause to be laid before you. Resolutions framed upon that basis will enable me to communicate with the Government of Canada, and ascertain whether they will be willing to accede to our propositions.

While the views of Her Majesty's Government have been clearly and forcibly expressed upon this question, I am sure there is no desire to urge the Union, except in accordance with its general acceptance by British subjects in the Colony. I do not, therefore, propose that any terms agreed upon by the Government of Canada should be finally accepted, until ratified by the general verdict of the Community, so far as that can be ascertained through another Council, of which the unofficial members shall have been re-elected.

The form of the local Constitution must be to some extent modified in Confederation with the other Provinces; and even in anticipation of that event, I think that an enlarged application of the principle of Representative Government to the composition of your Honorable House would be expedient. I have already, by Her Majesty's permission, re-constituted the Executive Council by the addition of two unofficial members, representing populous districts, from whose advice I receive valuable assistance. I shall go further in the same direction, and on the same principle. I shall ask for authority so to re-constitute the Legislative Council, as to allow the majority of its members to be formally returned for Electoral Districts. And to a Council so re-constructed, I should look for a final decision upon any terms to which the Government of Canada may express readiness to agree. Further than this, I frankly admit that I do not think it would be wise to go. I have had experience of several forms of Colonial Government, and I have no hesitation in stating my opinion that the form commonly called "Responsible Government," would not be found at present suited to a community so young and so constituted as this. It is not known in any of the neighbouring States or Territories. Experience has shown that the system is expensive in its results, and its operation is not successful except in more advanced communities, with population of more homogeneous character than ours. But it will, of course, after Union, be open to the Local Legislature, with the concurrence of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, to adopt what modification it shall choose of the existing Constitution. I have declared my opinion to you with candor. I think that you will appreciate my motive. I wish to aid only in what I believe will conduce to the welfare and prosperity of the Colony.

I am glad to communicate to you that I have been acquainted, by Lord Granville with the readiness of the Government of the United States to enter into a postal convention with British Columbia, which will be much more convenient to both parties concerned than the existing arrangements. It is proposed that the single rate of International postage on letters exchanged in either direction, shall be six cents, if paid in advance, and ten cents if unpaid, and that each office should retain all postage collected. This understanding will effect much simplification of the present Postal Regulations, and I have proposed that it shall come into operation at the beginning of the next Quarter of the year.

Nearly all the Ordinances assented to by my predecessor, during last Session, have received Her Majesty's sanction.

The Bill to incorporate the Members of St. Andrew's Church has, however, been disallowed, with the concurrence of the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, to whom the measure was referred by the Secretary of State. And I have not yet received Her Majesty's decision upon the School Ordinance.

I shall lay before you a Despatch, with its enclosures, from the Secretary of State, on the subject of the Drawbacks Ordinance of 1869. Pending your consideration of the information afforded by the Board of Trade and Commissioners of Customs, assent to this Bill is withheld. The operation of the Savings Bank Ordinance appears up to this time to be satisfactory. Some amendments may hereafter be required to facilitate the working of the law, but so little time has been afforded for observing its effect, that it seems unnecessary as yet to modify its provisions.

So many subjects of public interest are more or less affected by the larger question of the expediency of Union with the Dominion, that some can scarcely be dealt with advantageously until consideration has been afforded to that proposed measure. Among these is the propriety of altering the Tariff. My predecessor referred this question for the consideration of a Commission appointed for the purpose. The Members have not agreed in opinion as to the course to be pursued. Under such circumstances, I think that it would be undesirable to make any changes at present. It has been found from experience in other places of Commercial importance, that frequent alterations in the Tariff are injurious to trade.

Certain Bills will, however, be submitted to you, chiefly having for their object the consolidation and assimilation of the Laws now in force in the two sections of the Colony relating to land, and the registration of titles.

You have before you, Gentlemen, most important subjects for your deliberation, and I will not detain you longer from the discharge of your duties.

I fervently hope that the Blessing of the Almighty Ruler of events may attend our labors, and direct our efforts for the good of the people of this community, and crown them with results promoting peace, justice, and prosperity.

Government House, 15th February, 1870.

Proposed Terms of Confederation with the Dominion of Canada, arranged by the Governor of British Columbia in Council.

Resolved, That it is expedient that the Colony of British Columbia should be Confederated with Canada, on the following Terms and Conditions, that is to say:—

1. Canada shall be liable for the Debts and Liabilities of British Columbia existing at the time of Union.

2. The population of British Columbia shall for the purpose of financial arrangements be estimated at 120,000. British Columbia not having incurred debts equal to those of other Provinces now constituting the Dominion, shall be entitled to receive, by half-yearly payments in advance from the General Government, interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum on the difference between the actual amount of its indebtedness at the date

of Union and the proportion of the Public Debt of Canada for 120,000 of the population of Canada at the time of Union.

3. The following sums shall be annually paid by Canada to British Columbia for the support of the Local Government and Legislature, to wit:—

An Annual Grant of \$35,000, and a further sum equal to 80 cents a head per annum of the population; both payable half-yearly in advance, the population of British Columbia being estimated as aforesaid at 120,000. Such grant equal to 80 cents a head to be augmented in proportion to the increase of population, when such may be shewn, until the population amounts to 400,000, at which rate such grant shall thereafter remain.

4. The Dominion shall guarantee interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum on such sum, not exceeding £100,000, as may be required for the construction of a first class Graving Dock at Esquimault.

5. In addition to the other provisions of this resolution; Canada shall assume and defray the charges of the following Services:—

a. Salary and Allowances of the Lieutenant Governor;

b. Salaries and allowances of the Judges and Officers of the Supreme Court and of County Courts;

c. The charges in respect of the Department of Customs;

d. The Postal Department;

e. Lighthouses, Buoys, Beacons, and Lightship, and such further charges as may be incident to and connected with the Services which by "The British North America Act, 1867," appertain to the General Government, and as are or may be allowed to the other Provinces.

6. Suitable pensions, such as shall be approved of by Her Majesty's Government, shall be provided by the Government of the Dominion for those of Her Majesty's servants in the Colony, whose position and emoluments derived therefrom would be affected by political changes on the admission of this Colony into the Dominion of Canada.

7. The Dominion Government shall supply an efficient and regularly fortnightly Steam Communication between Victoria and San Francisco by steamers adapted and giving facilities for the conveyance of passengers and cargo.

8. Inasmuch as no real Union can subsist between this Colony and Canada without the speedy establishment of communication across the Rocky Mountains by Coach Road and Railway, the Dominion shall within three years from the date of Union, construct and open for traffic such Coach Road from some point on the line of the Main Trunk Road of this Colony to Fort Garry, of similar character to the said Main Trunk Road; and shall further engage to use all means in her power to complete such Railway communication at the earliest practicable date, and that Surveys to determine the proper line for such Railway shall be at once commenced; and that a sum of not less than One Million Dollars shall be expended in every year, from and after three years from the date of Union, in actually constructing the initial sections of such Railway from the Seaboard of British Columbia, to connect with the Railway system of Canada.

9. The Dominion shall erect and maintain, at Victoria, a Marine Hospital, and a Lunatic Asylum, either attached to the Hospital or separate, as may be considered most convenient.

The Dominion shall also erect and maintain a Penitentiary, or other Principal Prison, at such place in the Colony as she may consider most suitable for that purpose.

10. Efficient Coast Mail Steam Service, in connection with the Port Office, shall be established and maintained by the Government of the Dominion, between Victoria and New Westminster, Nanaimo, and such other places as may require such Services.

11. Whatever encouragement, advantages, and protection are afforded by the Dominion Government to the Fisheries of any of its Provinces, shall be extended in similar proportion to British Columbia, according to its requirements for the time being.

12. British Columbia shall participate, in fair proportion, in any measures which may be adopted, and Funds which may be appropriated by the Dominion for the encouragement of Immigration.

13. British Columbia shall be entitled to be represented in the Senate by Four Members, and by Eight Members in the House of Commons, until the year 18 , and thereafter the Representation in the Senate and the House of Commons shall be increased, subject to the provisions of "The British North America Act," 1867.

14. The Union shall take effect on such day as Her Majesty by Order in Council (on an Address to that effect, in terms of the 146th Section of "The British North America Act, 1867,") may direct; and British Columbia may, in such Address, specify the Districts, Counties, or Divisions, if any, for which any of the Four Senators to whom the Colony shall be entitled shall be named—the Electoral Districts for which—and the time within which the first Election of Members to serve in the House of Commons shall take place.

15. The Constitution of the Executive authority and of the Legislature of British Columbia shall, subject to the provisions of "The British North America Act, 1867," continue as existing at the time of Union, until altered under the authority of the said Act.

16. The Provisions in "The British North America Act, 1867," shall (except those parts thereof which are in terms made, or by reasonable intendment may be held to be specially applicable to and only affect one and not the whole of the Provinces now comprising the Dominion, and except so far as the same may be varied by this Resolution) be applicable to British Columbia in the same way and to the like extent as they apply to the other Provinces of the Dominion, and as if the Colony of British Columbia had been one of the Provinces originally united by the said Act.

With reference to Defences:—

a. That it shall be an understanding with the Dominion, that their influence will be used to the fullest extent to procure the continued maintenance of the Naval Station at Esquimalt.

b. Encouragement to be given to develop the efficiency and organization of the Volunteer Force in British Columbia.

What the Local Government provide for.

	\$	cts.
Legislative Council.....	900	00
Colonial Secretary.....	12,104	00
Treasurer.....	4,712	00
Lands and Works.....	11,178	00
Registrar.....	4,850	00
Attorney General.....	3,433	00
Keep of Prisoners, &c.....	31,528	50
Magistrates.....	33,678	00
Pensions.....	606	25
Charitable Allowances.....	10,500	00
Education.....	10,000	00
Rent.....	1,000	00
Works and Buildings.....	9,000	00
Roads, &c.....	59,300	00
Miscellaneous.....	13,220	00
Immigration.....	5,000	00

What Local Government has to pay for..... \$212,009 75

Charges of which the Dominion relieves us.

	\$	cts.	
Governor.....	23,952	00	- 19.400
Customs.....	19,722	50	- less.
Auditor.....	4,127	00	-
Judicial.....	22,217	00	-
High Sheriff.....	1,500	00	- not allowed.
Postal.....	38,800	00	= 349.200
Light Houses.....	10,270	00	-
Sinking Fund.....	50,197	50	X Paid off by the
Interest on Debt.....	103,440	00	↳ borrowing for Capital
Government Vessels.....	19,750	00	& also interest
Miscellaneous.....	7,750	00	
Total.....	301,726	00	

301.726.
less 153.637.50
= \$ 148.089.50

Revenue the Dominion will take.

Customs, Port and Harbor Dues.....	350,000	00
Excise Duties.....	3,500	00
Postage.....	13,000	00
Fees of Supreme Court.....	1,000	00
Reimbursement in aid of the Douglas.....	19,200	00
Dominion takes.....	386,700	00
Local Revenue for B. C., for 1870.....	537,750	00
Local Revenue left.....	151,050	00

Subsidies by the Dominion Government.

80 cents per head on 120,000 inhabitants.....	96,000	00
Subsidy.....	35,000	00
Interest on difference of debt, at 5 per cent.....	82,000	00
	213,000	00
British Columbia Revenue left us by Dominion.....	151,050	00
Subsidies by Dominion.....	213,000	00
Total Revenue.....	364,050	00
B. C. Government has only to provide at present.....	212,009	75
Balance in favor of British Columbia for Local Improvements.....	152,040	25

Recapitulation:

	\$	cts.
Revenue of British Columbia for 1870	537,750	00
Canada takes of B. C. Revenue	386,700	00
British Columbia Revenue left	151,050	00
Subsides given by Canada	213,000	00
British Columbia Revenue now stands.....	364,050	00
Expenses of Local Government	212,009	75
Balance.....	152,040	25

PHILIP J. HANKIN,
Colonial Secretary.

The Governor of British Columbia to the Governor General.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 12th April, 1870.

SIR,—Referring to my Despatch, No. 11, of 20th February, I have the honor to forward to your Excellency the Resolution passed by the Legislative Council of this Colony on the subject of union with Canada, with certain proposed amendments in the terms, and some supplementary recommendations from the Council in respect of matters which they deem to require consideration in the special circumstances of this Colony. I also enclose printed reports of the debate upon the introduction of the resolution.

2. I propose to send a delegation to Ottawa by the next monthly mail steamer which leaves this place for San Francisco, in order that they may discuss these proposals with your government, and explain the principles upon which they are framed. The delegation will be composed of one official and two non-official members of the Council, and may be expected to arrive at Ottawa before the end of May.

I have, &c.,

(Signed),

A. MUSGRAVE.

Governor General, The Right Honorable
Sir John Young, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G. &c., &c.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 1st July, 1870.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a Despatch dated the 7th May, 1870, from the Governor of British Columbia, together with certain resolutions submitted by the Government of that colony to the Legislative Council thereof—both hereunto annexed—on the subject of the proposed union of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada; and after several interviews between them and the Honorable Messrs. Trutch, Helmcken, and Carrall, the Delegates from British Columbia, and full discussion with them of the various questions connected with that important subject, the committee now respectfully submit for your Excellency's approval the following terms and conditions to form the basis of a political union between British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada.

1. Canada shall be liable for the debts and liabilities of British Columbia existing at the time of the union.

2. British Columbia not having incurred debts equal to those of the other provinces now constituting the Dominion, shall be entitled to receive by half-yearly payments in advance from the General Government, interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, on the difference between the actual amount of its indebtedness at the date of the union, and the indebtedness per head of the population of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (\$27.77), the population of British Columbia being taken at 60,000.

3. The following sums shall be paid by Canada to British Columbia for the support of its Government and legislature, to wit, an annual subsidy of \$35,000, and an annual grant equal to 80 cents per head of the said population of 60,000, both half-yearly in advance, such grant of 80 cents per head to be augmented in proportion to the increase of population, as may be shown by each subsequent decennial census, until the population amounts to 400,000, at which rate such grant shall thereafter remain, it being understood that the first census shall be taken in the year 1881.

4. The Dominion will provide an efficient mail service fortnightly by steam communication between Victoria and San Francisco, and twice a week between Victoria and Olympia, the vessels to be adapted for the conveyance of freight and passengers.

5. Canada will assume and defray the charges for the following services:—

A. Salary of the Lieutenant Governor.

B. Salaries and allowances of the judges of the superior courts and the county or district courts.

C. The charges in respect to the Department of Customs.

D. The postal and telegraphic services.

E. Protection and encouragement of fisheries.

F. Provision for militia.

G. Lighthouses, buoys and beacons, shipwrecked crews, quarantine and marine hospitals, including a marine hospital at Victoria.

H. The geological survey.

I. The Penitentiary.

And such further charges as may be incident to and connected with the services which by the British North America Act of 1867 appertain to the general government, and as are or may be allowed to the other provinces.

6. Suitable pensions, such as shall be approved of by Her Majesty's Government, shall be provided by the Government of the Dominion for those of Her Majesty's servants in the colony whose position and emoluments derived therefrom would be affected by political changes on the admission of British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada.

7. It is agreed that the existing customs, tariff, and excise duties, shall continue in force in British Columbia until the railway from the Pacific Coast and the system of railways in Canada are connected, unless the Legislature of British Columbia should sooner decide to accept the Tariff and Excise Laws of Canada. When customs and excise duties are at the time of the union of British Columbia with Canada leviable on any goods, wares, or merchandizes in British Columbia, or in the other provinces of the Dominion, these goods, wares, and merchandizes may from and after the union be imported into British Columbia from the provinces now composing the Dominion, or from either of those provinces into British Columbia, on proof of payment of the customs or excise duties leviable thereon in the province of exportation, and on payment of such further amount (if any) of customs or excise duties as are leviable thereon in the province of importation. This arrangement to have no force or effect after the assimilation of the tariff and excise duties of British Columbia with those of the Dominion.

8. British Columbia shall be entitled to be represented in the Senate by three Members, and by six Members in the House of Commons. The representation to be increased under the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867.

9. The influence of the Dominion Government will be used to secure the continued maintenance of the Naval Station at Esquimalt.

10. The provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, shall (except those parts thereof which are in terms made, or by reasonable intendment may be held to, be specially applicable to, and only effect one and not the whole of the Provinces now comprising the Dominion, and except so far as the same may be varied by this minute) be applicable to British Columbia, in the same way and to the like extent as they apply to the other Provinces of the Dominion, and as if the Colony of British Columbia had been one of the Provinces originally united by the said Act.

11. The Government of the Dominion undertake to secure, the commencement, simultaneously, within two years from the date of the union, of the construction of a railway from the Pacific towards the Rocky Mountains, and from such point as may be selected East of the Rocky Mountains towards the Pacific, to connect the sea-board of British Columbia with the railway system of Canada; and, further, to secure the completion of such railway within ten years from the date of the union.

And the Government of British Columbia agree to convey to the Dominion Government, in trust, to be appropriated in such manner as the Dominion Government may deem advisable in furtherance of the construction of the said railway, a similar extent of public lands along the line of railway throughout its entire length in British Columbia, not to exceed, however, twenty (20) miles on each side of said line, as may be appropriated for the same purpose by the Dominion Government from the public lands in the North West Territories and the Province of Manitoba. Provided that the quantity of land which may be held under pre-emption right or by Crown grant within the limits of the tract of land in British Columbia to be so conveyed to the Dominion Government, shall be made good to the Dominion from contiguous public lands, and provided further, that until the commencement, within two years as aforesaid from the date of the union, of the construction of the said railway, the Government of British Columbia shall not sell or alienate any further portion of the public lands of British Columbia in any other way than under right of pre-emption, requiring actual residence of the pre-emptor on the land claimed by him. In consideration of the land so to be conveyed in aid of the construction of the said railway, the Dominion Government agree to pay to British Columbia, from the date of the union, the sum of \$100,000 per annum in half yearly payments in advance.

12. The Dominion Government shall guarantee the interest for ten years from the date of the completion of the works at the rate of 5 per centum per annum on such sum, not exceeding £100,000 sterling, as may be required for the construction of a first class graving dock at Esquimalt.

13. The charge of the Indians and the trusteeship and management of the lands reserved for their use and benefit, shall be assumed by the Dominion Government, and a policy as liberal as that hitherto pursued by the British Columbia Government, shall be continued by the Dominion Government after the union. To carry out such policy, tracts of land of such extent as it has hitherto been the practice of the British Columbia Government to appropriate for that purpose, shall from time to time be conveyed by the Local Government to the Dominion Government in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians, on application of the Dominion Government, and in case of disagreement between the two governments respecting the quantity of such tracts of land to be so granted, the matter shall be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

14. The constitution of the Executive Authority and of the Legislature of British Columbia, shall, subject to the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, continue as existing at the time of the union until altered under the authority of the said Act, it being at the same time understood that the Government of the Dominion will readily consent to the introduction of responsible government when desired by the inhabitants of British Columbia, and it being likewise understood that it is the intention of the Governor of British Columbia, under the Authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to amend the existing constitution of the Legislature by providing that a majority of its members shall be elective.

The union shall take effect according to the foregoing terms and conditions on such

day as Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Most Honorable Privy Council, may appoint (on addresses from the Legislature of the Colony of British Columbia and of the Houses of the Parliament of Canada, in the terms of the 146th section of the British North America Act, 1867,) and British Columbia may in its Address specify the electoral districts for which the first election of members to serve in the House of Commons shall take place.

(Certified,)

WM. H. LEE,

Clerk Privy Council.

Confederation.—Resolutions submitted by the Government.

Resolved, That it is expedient that the Colony of British Columbia should be Confederated with Canada, on the following terms and conditions; that is to say:—

1. Canada shall be liable for the debts and liabilities of British Columbia existing at the time of the Union.

2. The population of British Columbia shall, for the purpose of financial arrangements, be estimated at 120,000. British Columbia, not having incurred debts equal to those of other Provinces now constituting the Dominion, shall be entitled to receive, by half-yearly payments, in advance, from the General Government, interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, on the difference between the actual amount of its indebtedness at the date of Union, and the proportion of the Public Debt of Canada for 120,000 of the population of Canada at the time of Union.

3. The following sums shall be annually paid by Canada to British Columbia, for the support of the Local Government and Legislature, to wit:—

An annual grant of \$35,000, and a further sum, equal to 80 cents a head, per annum, of the population; both payable half yearly in advance, the population of British Columbia being estimated as aforesaid at 120,000. Such grant, equal to 80 cents a head, to be augmented in proportion to the increase of population, when such may be shown, until the population amounts to 400,000, at which rate such grant shall thereafter remain.

[*Amendments proposed by the Legislative Council.*—That the Governor be respectfully requested to strike out figures “\$35,000,” and insert in lieu thereof “\$75,000.”]

[That figures “400,000,” be altered to “1,000,000.”]

4. The Dominion shall guarantee interest at the rate of five per centum per annum, on such sum, not exceeding £100,000, as may be required for the construction of a first class Graving Dock at Esquimalt.

5. In addition to the other provisions of this Resolution, Canada shall assume and defray the charges of the following services:—

a. Salary and Allowances of the Lieutenant Governor;

[*Amendment proposed by the Legislative Council.*—That word “Pensions,” be inserted after the word “Allowances.”]

b. Salaries and Allowances of the Judges and Officers of the Supreme Court, and of the County Courts, and Court of Appeal.

c. The charges in respect of the Department of Customs;

d. The Postal Department and Telegraph.

e. Lighthouses, Buoys, Beacons, and Lightship, and such further charges as may be incident to and connected with the services, which by “The British North America Act, 1867,” appertain to the General Government, and as are or may be allowed to the other Provinces.

6. Suitable pensions, such as shall be approved of by Her Majesty's Government, shall be provided by the Government of the Dominion for those of Her Majesty's

servants in the colony, whose position and emoluments derived therefrom would be affected by political changes on the admission of this Colony into the Dominion of Canada.

7. The Dominion Government shall supply an efficient and regular fortnightly Steam communication between Victoria and San Francisco, by steamers adapted and giving facilities for the conveyance of passengers and cargo.

8. Inasmuch as no real Union can subsist between this Colony and Canada, without the speedy establishment of communication across the Rocky Mountains, by coach road and railway, the Dominion shall, within three years from the date of Union, construct and open for traffic such coach road from some point on the line of the Main Trunk Road of this Colony to Fort Garry, of similar character to the said Main Trunk Road; and shall further engage to use all means in her power to complete such railway communication at the earliest practicable date, and that surveys to determine the proper line for such railway shall be at once commenced; and that a sum of not less than One million Dollars shall be expended in every year, from and after three years from the date of Union, in actually constructing the initial sections of such railway, from the seaboard of British Columbia to connect with the railway system of Canada.

[Amendments proposed by the Legislative Council.—That the word "and," between "construct" and "open," be erased, and words "and maintain," be inserted after "traffic."]

[That this Section be altered so that the section of the Main-Trunk Road between Yale and New Westminster, may be included in the Coach Road which the Dominion Government is to be asked to construct within Three Years from the date of Union.]

9. The Dominion shall erect and maintain, at Victoria, a Marine Hospital, and a Lunatic Asylum, either attached to the hospital, or separate, as may be considered most convenient.

The Dominion shall also erect and maintain a Penitentiary, or other principal prison, at such place in the Colony as she may consider most suitable for that purpose.

10. Efficient Coast Mail Steam Service, in connection with the Post Office, shall be established and maintained by the Government of the Dominion, between Victoria and New Westminster, Nanaimo, and such other places as may require such services.

11. Whatever encouragement, advantages, and protection, are afforded by the Dominion Government to the fisheries of any of its Provinces, shall be extended in similar proportion to British Columbia, according to its requirements for the time being.

12. British Columbia shall participate, in fair proportion, in any measures which may be adopted, and funds which may be appropriated by the Dominion, for the encouragement of immigration.

13. British Columbia shall be entitled to be represented in the Senate by Four Members, and by Eight Members in the House of Commons, until the year 18⁹¹, and thereafter the representation in the Senate and the House of Commons shall be increased, subject to the provisions of "The British North America Act, 1867."

[Amendments proposed by the Legislative Council.—That the figures "91," be inserted after figures "18."]
[That the following words be added at the end of the Clause:—"Provided, however, that the number of Members of the Senate shall never be reduced below the number of Four, and the number of Members of the House of Commons below the number of Eight."]

14. The Union shall take effect on such day as Her Majesty, by Order in Council (on an Address to that effect, in terms of the 146th Section of "The British North America Act, 1867"), may direct; and British Columbia may, in such Address, specify the districts, counties, or divisions, if any, for which any of the four Senators to whom the Colony shall be entitled shall be named; the electoral districts for which; and time within which the first election of Members to serve in the House of Commons shall take place.

15. The constitution of the Executive authority, and of the Legislature of British Columbia, shall, subject to the provisions of "The British North America Act, 1867," continue as existing at the time of Union, until altered under the authority of the said Act.

16. The provisions in "The British North America Act, 1867," shall (except those parts thereof which are in terms made, or by reasonable intendment may be held to be specially applicable to and only affect one and not the whole of the Provinces now comprising the Dominion, and except so far as the same may be varied by this Resolution) be applicable to British Columbia in the same way and to the like extent as they apply to the other Provinces of the Dominion, and as if the Colony of British Columbia had been one of the Provinces originally united by the said Act.

With reference to Defences:—

a. That it shall be an understanding with the Dominion, that their influence will be used to the fullest extent to procure the continued maintenance of the Naval Station at Esquimalt.

b. Encouragement to be given to develop the efficiency and organization of the Volunteer Force in British Columbia.

*Supplementary Resolutions in reference to Confederation, proposed by the
Legislative Council.*

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Council the duties levied upon maltsters and brewers, under and by virtue of the Excise Laws of Canada, would be detrimental if made applicable to British Columbia. That His Excellency be therefore earnestly requested to take such steps as he may deem advisable, to bring the same to the notice of the Canadian Government, and further, to take care that no Export Duties shall be charged on spars exported from British Columbia.

Resolved, That this Council respectfully represent to His Excellency the Governor, that in negotiating the terms of Union of British Columbia with Canada, it is of the first importance to point out to the Government of that Dominion, that the circumstances of this Colony are in many respects so different from those of the Eastern Provinces, that the application of the present Canadian tariff to this Colony, while reducing the aggregate burthen of taxation, would injuriously affect the agricultural and commercial interests of this Community; and that it be, therefore, urgently impressed upon that Government, that it is absolutely necessary to our well being under Confederation, that special rates of Customs Duties and special Customs Regulations be arranged for the Colony, in such manner as may be found practically most advisable, so as to secure, while our requirements in this respect remain as at present, an equal measure of protection to our agricultural products, and of facility to our commerce as are provided under the existing British Columbia Tariff.

Resolved, That a respectful address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, recommending that the Dominion Government shall be requested to cause a Geological Survey of British Columbia to be made, such survey to be commenced within one year after its admission into Union.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to insert in the Terms of Confederation to be proposed to Canada, some such Clause as the following:—

All public works and property of British Columbia at the time of admission to belong to British Columbia, except such public works and property as shall properly belong to the Dominion under the British North America Act; and such portion of the Main Trunk Road through British Columbia, or other roads then constructed, as may be necessary to complete a continuous line of coach road from a point at or below Yale, to a point at the foot of the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, and that the same shall be free of toll of every kind whatsoever.

Governor Musgrave to the Governor General.

(Copy—No. 20.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BRITISH COLUMBIA,

7th May, 1870.

SIR,—Referring to my Despatch, No. 17, of the 12th ultimo, I have the honor to introduce to your Excellency's Government, the Honorable Joseph W. Trutch, John Sebastian Helmcken, and Robert William Weir Carrall, Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils of this Colony, whom I have nominated as a Delegation to discuss with your Ministry the terms upon which the Legislature of this Colony would be willing to join the Dominion of Canada, and to explain the grounds upon which those terms have been framed.

2. These gentlemen possess my confidence, and I think also the confidence of the community in general, and they will be fully competent to inform you of the views of the Local Government, and those popularly entertained upon the several questions which may arise in conference upon the proposals which have been made.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

A. MUSGRAVE.

His Excellency,
Sir John Young,
Baronet, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

Governor Musgrave to the Governor General.

(Copy—No. 22.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BRITISH COLUMBIA,

27th July, 1870.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your Excellency's despatch of the 7th July, acquainting me with the termination of the negotiations between the Delegates from this Government and the Ministers of the Dominion, and transmitting a memorandum embodying the terms of union upon which they had agreed.

2. I have much pleasure in conveying to your Excellency my opinion, that these terms are not only satisfactory but liberal to this Colony, and I believe that they are such as will be readily accepted by this community.

3. So soon as I shall have received the necessary instructions from the Secretary of State with regard to the construction of the new Legislative Council, which I have recommended should be substituted for the existing body, I shall be able to take further steps towards bringing the question of Union forward in its present shape for final consideration and decision.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,

A. MUSGRAVE.

Governor General,
The Right Honorable Sir John Young,
Baronet, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor-General.

(Copy—Canada—No. 207.)

DOWNING STREET,
4th August, 1870.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 144, of 5th July, stating that the negotiations between the Ministers of the Dominion of Canada and the Delegates from British Columbia, respecting the union of that colony with the Dominion, had terminated satisfactorily, and enclosing a minute of the Privy Council which embodies the terms of the agreement.

I am much gratified to learn that the negotiations have made so much progress.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

KIMBERLEY.

Governor-General,

The Right Honorable Sir John Young,
Baronet, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor-General.

(Copy—Canada—No. 268.)

DOWNING STREET,
13th October, 1870.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 208, of the 13th of September, enclosing a copy of a letter which you had received from Governor Musgrave, expressing his satisfaction with the terms offered by the Canadian Government to the Government of British Columbia, with regard to the proposed Union of that Colony with the Dominion.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

FREDERIC ROGERS,
For the Earl of Kimberley.

Governor General,

The Right Honorable Lord Lisgar,
&c., &c., &c.

The Governor-General to Governor Musgrave,

OTTAWA, Dec. 31, 1870.

Your Despatch of 5th inst., covering petition as to Railway Terminus from certain inhabitants of Vancouver Island, received. The route of the Pacific Railway can only be settled after Confederation, and after exploration and survey by the Dominion Parliament, in which British Columbia will be represented.

I have no doubt that the interests of the whole Dominion, and of Vancouver Island as a part thereof, will be fully considered in the decision. The construction of a Branch Railway on Vancouver Island, as asked for, can then only be properly considered.

(Signed,)

LISGAR.

To Governor Musgrave, British Columbia.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 2nd January, 1871.

The Committee of Council having had under consideration the despatch of His Excellency the Governor of British Columbia of the 5th ultimo, covering a petition from certain inhabitants of Vancouver Island, beg leave to report :

That in their opinion Governor Musgrave should be informed by telegraph, as requested by him, that the route of the Pacific Railway can only be settled after Confederation, and after exploration and survey by the Dominion Parliament, in which British Columbia will be represented. That Your Excellency has no doubt that the interests of the whole Dominion, and Vancouver Island as a part thereof, will be fully considered in the decision; and that the construction of a Branch Railway on Vancouver Island, as asked for, can then only be considered.

Certified.

WM. H. LEE,

Clerk Privy Council.

Governor Musgrave to the Governor General of Canada.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

BRITISH COLUMBIA, 5th December, 1870.

(Copy No. 31.)

MY LORD,—I have the honor to forward to Your Excellency a copy of a petition which has been presented to me, signed by some 500 residents of Victoria and its neighbourhood. The memorial urges the claims and advantages of Esquimalt or Victoria as the terminus of the proposed trans-continental railroad, and prays that I will place myself in immediate communication with you to learn whether your Government will consent to an addition to the terms of confederation to the effect that if after the necessary "surveys" for the purpose of the railway shall have been made, it should be found impracticable "to bring it at present to Vancouver Island, then a railway, upon the same terms and conditions as the other portions of the railway, shall be constructed between Victoria and Esquimalt and Nanaimo."

2. I also enclose an extract from the "Colonist" newspaper, containing a report which, although inaccurate in some particulars of detail and phraseology, contains a substantially correct statement of what passed at the interview between the deputation who presented the memorial and myself.

3. I annex a copy of resolutions recently passed at a public meeting at New Westminster, which are diametrically opposed to the prayer of the petition from Victoria, and I am aware that those resolutions are being followed up by similar action at several places on the mainland.

4. I need scarcely say, therefore, that the petition is not supported by me nor by the Council of Government, nor does it proceed from an united community. I simply lay it before Your Excellency, as I promised the Deputation, in order that your ministers may form their own judgment upon its merits.

5. I should be obliged, however, if I may be furnished at once with a reply by telegraph upon the subject. I trust that we may count with some confidence on carrying out the agreement on the terms as they now stand, without any alteration in the new Council, as I am now acquainted with the result of the elections. But the agitation of questions, and suggestions like those embodied in this petition, tends to unsettle the public mind, and raises local and sectional—in some cases purely personal—interests into opposition to the agreement upon more important matters at issue, which concern the whole community.

I shall be glad to have this matter set at rest as soon as possible after the meeting of the Legislative Council early in January.

I have, &c.,

The Right Honorable

The Lord Lisgar, &c., &c.

(Signed,)

A. MUSGRAVE.

(Copy.)

To His Excellency Anthony Musgrave, Governor of British Columbia, &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—The petition of the undersigned, citizens of Victoria, and other inhabitants of Vancouver Island, humbly sheweth:

That amongst the anticipated benefits to accrue to the Colony of British Columbia from its becoming a part of the Dominion, the grand undertaking of Canada to construct, within ten years, a railway from the "Pacific," to connect with the railway system of the Confederacy, is obviously regarded as by far the greatest.

That we firmly believe that this railway, in order to prove a success, must be intended to serve, not only the interests of the Dominion, but also, and perhaps in a higher degree, those of the Mother Country, particularly as facilitating communication with Japan, China, and other Asiatic countries.

That Vancouver Island—possessing, as she does, a most advantageous and an envied geographical position upon the North Pacific, the most convenient and suitable harbors, the chief commercial city, the larger population, the seat of government, the station of Her Majesty's fleet and proposed dry-dock at Esquimalt, extensive deposits of coal and iron, as well as other invaluable natural resources—must be considered as the most desirable, as it is, perhaps, the intended route for the proposed railway to the Pacific.

Whilst fully convinced that Vancouver Island offers the best and most desirable route for the railway, we at the same time truly believe it to be a perfectly practicable one, and the only one by which the fullest amount of advantage can be gained, in time of war as well as peace; but in consequence of the imperfect surveys of a portion of the intervening country, some now unknown obstacle may yet prevent the immediate construction of the railway through that particular part of the route, we have to ask that the portion of the railway on Vancouver Island may not on this account be delayed.

That almost all the import and export trade of the Colony is at present carried on at Victoria and Esquimalt, the chief city of the colony, where a large amount of capital has been invested. That a large number of her citizens and property holders fear that should the railway terminate elsewhere than on the Island, and there not be any connecting link between Victoria or Esquimalt and the railway, it may, if our suggestions are not adopted, be the means of diverting the trade and doing great injury and injustice to the inhabitants of Vancouver Island without yielding them any compensating benefits.

In order to carry out our suggestions, to obviate or remove any obstacle to the immediate confirmation of Union, and to promote the best interests and prosperity of the Dominion, as also those of British Columbia, we humbly pray that the following may be inserted in the terms of Union, namely: "If, after the necessary surveys for the purpose of a railway shall have been made, it be found impracticable to bring it at present to Vancouver Island, then a railway upon the same terms and conditions as the other portion of the railway shall be constructed between Victoria, Esquimalt, and Nanaimo." And we respectfully pray that Your Excellency will place yourself in immediate communication with the Government of Canada, to learn whether the Dominion Government will accept the above addition as part of the terms of Confederation; and we further hope that Your Excellency will support the prayer of this petition.

And, as in duty bound, we will ever pray, &c.

(Signed,)

A. BUNSTER,
CHARLES SMALLWOOD,
W. C. LAWSON,
ROBT. HICKS,
W. ETTERS HANK,
E. RUTHERFORD,
With 529 others.

The Railway Terminus Petition.—The Deputation at Government House.

Yesterday morning at 11.30 a.m., agreeably to appointment, Mr. Henry Nathan, junior, (member elect for the city), Dr. H. Tuzo, Dr. W. F. Tolmie, Mr. J. H. Turner, Mr. Lumley Franklin, Mr. James Fell, Mr. J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. J. G. Norris, waited upon His Excellency the Governor, and presented a petition signed by 550 residents of Vancouver Island, praying that His Excellency would transmit the document to the Canadian Government with his favorable recommendation. The petition asks for a guarantee of the construction of a line of railroad from Victoria to Esquimalt, as a part of the terms of Confederation, and has already appeared in these columns.

Mr. Nathan having read the petition,

His Excellency said it might have the effect of indefinitely postponing Confederation. Already he had received petitions and resolutions from residents of New Westminster and other places on this very subject, and more were coming. The terminus was for engineers and surveyors to select. If the exigencies of trade required the terminus to come to Vancouver Island, it would be so brought; but no man living could tell what difficulties would have to be overcome in its construction. The Canadian Ministry had undertaken a great work; but no terms of union could make this Island a practicable terminus unless it were declared so from an engineering point of view. The petition appeared to His Excellency to be in some respects ridiculous, not to say greedy. Why not leave the matter with the engineers, for surely the Canadian Government have no interest in placing the terminus at any but the most advantageous spot. Only the other day (His Excellency continued) I learned from the Canadian Government that the terms arranged must be adhered to, and that they should be amended by us, the Canadian Government would claim the same right to amend, and commence the negotiations *de novo*. You appear to think Canada will be glad to get us. Admitted, but they will not give us any better terms. Newfoundland held out for better terms: has it got them? No; and it will not. For myself, I am amazed at the concessions that have been granted by the Canadian Government, and were it stipulated that this road should be brought across the Straits, it might not be built at all. Now, I think this petition should be withdrawn.

Mr. Nathan—It is not in our power to withdraw it.

His Excellency—I do not think I can send it on. I should have to exercise my discretion. I should have to say that which would do it no good. You can't drive traffic into a particular channel by stipulation; but if found advantageous you may be sure the line will be brought to the Island.

Mr. Norris showed that it was between this port and Nanaimo and Burrard Inlet that nearly all the disasters to shipping had occurred. However, the Canadian Government might at least guarantee the line between Victoria and Nanaimo.

His Excellency—That will stand upon its own merits; but my opinion is that a branch would not pay without through traffic.

Mr. Norris—There is always great difficulty in getting coal down from Nanaimo for H. M. ships.

His Excellency—That point has great force, and will, no doubt, be taken into consideration; but I cannot send on this petition, coming as it does from only a portion of the community.

Mr. Fell pointed out the material advantages that would flow from making Esquimalt the terminus.

His Excellency said that nothing could prevent Esquimalt being a good harbor and being used as such.

Mr. Fell thought this the time to point out our wants or grievances. The petition did not seek to stay Confederation; it sought only to point out certain advantages which we possessed, with a view to their adoption by the Canadian Government and the good of the whole colony.

His Excellency—If we attempt to add a rider to the terms they may be defeated. There will be opposition to them in any event in the Canadian Parliament, and the

strongest argument the Canadian Ministry could urge would be that they had been already accepted by British Columbia. If amended, every clause would be discussed again by Parliament.

Mr. Nathan said that the Canadian Government was not asked to bridge the Straits—it was only asked to guarantee a railway to Nanaimo.

His Excellency—That is a different thing. It is a fresh term, if it is not part of the transcontinental road. Besides, I do not think—indeed, I am sure—nothing further will be granted. I have already had a flat refusal with respect to an extension of the guarantee of the dry dock. The terms, now, are better than we had any right to expect—better than I expected. The true policy would be to accept these terms and be confederated, and then leave the natural flow of traffic to determine the terminus.

Dr. Tolmie pointed to the vast tracts of land lying along the Bute Inlet route which would all be available for settlement in case the road came that way.

His Excellency replied that that was a strong point, but no stipulation could bind the company. With respect to the petition, he would rather not be asked to transmit it, because he would be bound to say it was not a Government measure, and that it was in the interest of a section and not of the whole colony.

Mr. Turner said the petition did not require the terms to be reopened.

Mr. Nathan thought that the interests of Victoria were the interests of the whole colony, because three-fourths of the capital and population is centered here, and whatever benefitted Victoria would benefit the whole colony.

Dr. Tuzo said the great majority of the people were opposed to opening the terms; but they wanted to secure Vancouver Island as the western terminus of the railway—its natural advantages being in its favor.

His Excellency the Governor replied that the Canadian Government understood our natural advantages quite as well—perhaps better than we do. He could not support this petition, because it was the prayer of a section.

Mr. Pemberton thought that as His Excellency had placed the deputation in possession of information that they had not had before, perhaps they had better withdraw a few moments for consultation.

The deputation, then withdrew to an adjoining apartment, and after consulting together for about fifteen minutes returned, when

Mr. Nathan stated that the deputation had arrived at the conclusion to respectfully request His Excellency to send the petition forward on its own merits, and that the people of Victoria had no wish to hamper the Canadian Government in the terms. The deputation would also ask that an answer be returned before the Legislative Council should meet.

His Excellency replied that he was sure the Canadian Government would refuse the request; but if put in the way just stated, he would forward it and leave the Canadian Government to form its own conclusions.

Remarks were made by Dr. Tolmie, Mr. Nathan, Mr. Norris, and Mr. Fell; to the effect that the people believed it wise to press for the Nanaimo road before the consummation of union.

His Excellency advanced it as his deliberate opinion that the petition was lost time, and, to a certain extent, undignified. He would certainly send it on and tell the Canadian Government that it was not the wish of the entire community; but why did not the deputation send it themselves? If it went through his hands he must say that it is not a Government measure, and that it is sectional in its bearing.

Mr. Nathan urged the wealth and influence of Victoria as a reason why the prayer should be granted.

His Excellency said the wealth of Victoria was nothing when compared with the money that will be expended on the road. Perhaps it would be better for Canada to buy the whole thing out and thus overcome the difficulty.

A desultory conversation ensued as to the effect the railway would have upon the colony at large.

Dr. Tuzo having mentioned the fact that parties interested in property on the Lower Fraser are now in Canada, endeavoring to fix the terminus at their own section, His Excellency said that the gorges of the Cascades would have a great deal more to say on that point than anyone else. His Excellency added that having "cleared his conscience" he would forward the document.

Mr. Nathan suggested that an answer should be got before the House meets, so that the passage of the terms might be facilitated.

Mr. Fell thought there were many who might oppose Confederation, if the terminus was not secured for the Island.

Dr. Tuzo—Very few.

Mr. Norris—Not over a dozen in the whole city.

His Excellency quite understood that if some persons' irons were not warmed by Confederation, that they would try to defeat the whole scheme.

Mr. Fell and Mr. Nathan thought there would be much less chance of popular discontent if the terminus were secured for the Island before Confederation.

His Excellency—I don't know that. You would sow the seeds of perennial discontent on the mainland.

After some further remarks, the deputation took their leave of His Excellency.

(Copy.)

Resolutions passed at a Public Meeting held in the City of New Westminster, on November 11th and 14th.

Resolved, That we, the inhabitants of New Westminster, most strongly deprecate the agitation at present carried on by the people and "press" of Victoria, regarding the location of the terminus of the Transcontinental Railway.

That we believe the same to be hurtful to the cause of Confederation, and at the same time tending to create a sectional feeling, which at this important epoch in the history of the colony ought not to exist.

Resolved, That the action of the "press" and part of the people of Victoria in assuming that Victoria or Esquimalt should be the terminus of the railway is not justified by either her geographical or commercial position, or sustained by the people of the colony generally.

Resolved, That we are perfectly satisfied with the terms of Confederation as arranged by our delegates, feeling sure that the Valley of the Fraser presents such natural advantages for the route of the Transcontinental Railway as will not be overlooked.

Resolved, That although this meeting would willingly forward the construction of any railroad likely to be beneficial to the interests of any portion of the colony, yet they must respectfully but strongly urge upon His Excellency the Governor not to sanction the action of the people of Victoria, as, if successful, it would, in the opinion of this meeting, tend to delay Confederation and misrepresent the feelings and opinions of the colony generally.

(Signed,)

W. J. ARMSTRONG,
Chairman.

C. J. MAJOR,
Secretary.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 7th January, 1871.

The Committee of Council have had under consideration a Despatch, No. 30, dated 22nd November, 1870; from Governor Musgrave, of British Columbia, submitting the propriety, in the event of the union of that colony with Canada, of insuring pensions to certain of the officers now in the service of British Columbia.

They have also had before them an extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the Treasury Board, held on the 4th January instant, in which the Board state their opinion that the Dominion may engage either to retain the following officers in their present positions or equivalent ones, or to grant them pensions equal to two-thirds of their present emoluments, viz.—

The Commissioner of Lands and Works,
The Collector of Customs,
The Auditor General, and
The six Stipendiary Magistrates.

That as to the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General, the Board are of opinion that if neither the Imperial Government nor that of the Dominion can provide for them suitable employment otherwise, a similar pension may be guaranteed to them.

That the Board also think that in consideration of the loss and inconvenience from the office of Governor ceasing upon the union with Canada, half a year's salary be paid Governor Musgrave.

The Committee concur in the views expressed by the Treasury Board, and advise that they be communicated by Your Excellency to the Governor of British Columbia.

Certified.

WM. H. LEE,
Clerk Privy Council.

copy—No. 30.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
22nd November, 1870.

MY LORD,—In your letter to me of the 7th July, transmitting the terms of agreement between the Ministers of the Dominion and the delegates from British Columbia on the proposed union of this colony with Canada, Your Lordship stated that you had been requested by your responsible advisers to add the assurance that such provision shall be made for the retiring allowances of public officers in British Columbia as I may approve. And in the terms themselves, the sixth article undertakes that suitable pensions shall be provided for those officers whose position and emoluments derived therefrom would be affected by political changes on the admission of British Columbia into the Dominion.

2. Ample assurance is thus given for the provision of retiring allowances; but I have learnt from the delegates, since their return, that your Government is most anxious to avoid the necessity for them, if it be possible. They think, I am informed, that to many of the officers interested in this arrangement they may be able to afford employment satisfactory to them; and I should be glad if it should be found practicable in this way to aid your Government in finding a satisfactory solution for this question. For this purpose I now seek to know their views more in detail.

3. The officers who will be affected injuriously by the changes consequent upon Consideration are:

The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Hankin.
The Attorney General, Mr. Phillips.
The Commissioner of Lands and Works, Mr. Trutch.
The Collector of Customs, Mr. Hamby.
The Auditor General, Mr. Ker.
And the Stipendiary Magistrates—
Mr. Ball,
Mr. O'Reilly,
Mr. Sanders,
Mr. Bushby,
Mr. Pemberton,
Mr. Spaulding.

Of these, the Magistrates may for some purpose be considered a class apart, of whom I shall speak presently. The other five officers will probably all be displaced, except, perhaps, Mr. Hamby, the Collector of Customs, whose services I think your Government will very likely be glad to retain, and who, I believe, will not be unwilling to serve under them at some slight increase to his present salary, which is now six hundred and fifty (£650), and might fairly be increased to eight hundred pounds (£800). That amount is only equivalent in value here to about four hundred pounds (£400) in Canada.

4. Mr. Trutch would, I believe, not be unwilling to take an appointment from the Canadian Government equal in value to the one he now holds. I regard him as being an able public servant, who would be a valuable acquisition to any administration, and I should think that it might not be impossible to find an appointment which may be acceptable to him. Probably Mr. Ker, the Auditor General, may, in like manner, be suited with employment under the Government of the Dominion which will leave him in no worse position than the one he now occupies. There will then remain the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney General, for whom it will be far more difficult to provide, and for whom pensions would be necessary, unless the Secretary of State should find it possible to afford satisfactory employment for them in some other colony.

5. The Stipendiary Magistrates form another class of officers who, notwithstanding their value, would almost certainly be disturbed in their appointments on the introduction of responsible government. These Magistrates are not only Justices of the Peace, but County Court Judges, Indian Agents, Assistant Commissioners of Lands and Works, Collectors of Revenue in the different departments of the public service at the several stations hundreds of miles apart and in very extensive districts. I think that these appointments are singularly well filled, and I regard the successful administration of this Government, and the remarkable maintenance of law and order, as compared with the neighbouring territories, as mainly due to the services of these officers.

6. As the supreme government of the colony, as well as the administration of all affairs relating to the Indian tribes, will rest with the Dominion, I regard it as of the greatest importance to the tranquility of the Province and the success of the Union, that these officers should be officers of the Dominion, and not be transferred to the control or caprice of local party government, who, through mistaken motives of economy, by the substitution of unpaid irresponsible magistrates, or some such policy, might entail upon the Government at Ottawa an amount of trouble and expense not easily to be computed.

7. I propose, therefore, that these officers should be officers of the Dominion, as they naturally would be in their character of County Court Judges and Indian Agents. The question may arise whether it is desirable they should any longer discharge other duties which will be within the jurisdiction of the Local Government. But if it should not be thought objectionable to unite service to the Local Government to responsibility to the Federal authority, they might continue to render aid under the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Chief in the administration of local affairs, as they do now in the business of the Lands and Works, the Collection of the Revenue, and other miscellaneous duties. But I would have them paid by Canada, and not amenable to the control of the Local Administration, except through the Lieutenant Governor, representing the central authority.

8. This being conceded, I should seek for an assurance to these officers from the Government of the Dominion, that their appointments will be considered permanent; and that in the event of any organic change in official arrangements, they will either be provided with appointments of equal value, or allowed to retire on pensions of two-thirds of their present emoluments, which may be estimated in each case as five hundred pounds (£500) per annum, though in some instances an extra allowance has been made on account of the greater expense of living in distant districts.

9. As regards the subordinate officers in Public Departments, I assume that they will continue to hold their present posts, whether the officers to which they belong should be transferred to the Dominion, or remain under the administration of the Local Government.

10. Under the arrangements which I have sketched, if the Colonial Secretary and Attorney General can be provided for, I think it probable that the Canadian Government may be relieved from any present necessity for the *payment* of pensions. But, I regard it as absolutely necessary that the provision of pensions should be made, at the rate of two-thirds the present amount of salary as security to the officers concerned, that they will not be allowed to go without either employment or pension. It will be easy to provide that the pensions shall not be drawn in cases where the claimants accept suitable employment.

11. I think it very important that the arrangements in respect of the whole of this question, should early be placed upon a satisfactory basis. It is my duty to bear testimony to the loyalty and good feeling with which I have been supported by the official body in carrying out a policy which they could not but be aware entailed some risk to them as regards their personal interests, and it is not unnatural that the subject should continue to cause some uneasiness and anxiety.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

A. MUSGRAVE.

His Excellency
The Right Honorable Lord Lisgar,
&c., &c., &c.

(Copy.—No. 35.)

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
23rd January, 1871.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to forward for the information of Your Lordship's advisers, printed copies of an Address to the Queen, which has been passed by the unanimous vote of the Legislative Council, praying that Her Majesty will be pleased, under the provisions of the 146th section of the British North America Act, to admit British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada on the basis of the terms and conditions offered to this Colony by the Government of the Dominion of Canada therein set forth.

2. Mr. Trutch, who is already known to Your Lordship's Government as one of the Delegates who conferred with them upon this subject last year, will proceed to Ottawa next month for the purpose of affording any details of information which may be required during the passage of the proposed corresponding Address through the Canada Parliament; and also to adjust such matters of arrangements between the two Governments as it may be necessary to settle before the declaration of Union.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

A. MUSGRAVE.

The Right Honorable
The Lord Lisgar, G. C. B., G. C. M. G.,
&c., &c., &c.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Members of the Legislative Council of British Columbia in Council assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty for the purpose of representing:—

That, during the last Session of the late Legislative Council, the subject of the admission of the Colony of British Columbia into the Union or Dominion of Canada was taken into consideration, and a Resolution on the subject was agreed to, embodying the terms upon which it was proposed that this Colony should enter the Union;

That, after the close of the Session, Delegates were sent by the Government of this Colony to Canada, to confer with the Government of the Dominion with respect to the admission of British Columbia into the Union upon the terms proposed ;

That, after considerable discussion by the Delegates with the Members of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, the Terms and Conditions hereinafter specified were adopted by a Committee of the Privy Council of Canada, and were by them reported to the Governor General for his approval ;

That such Terms were communicated to the Government of this Colony by the Governor General of Canada, in a Despatch dated July 7th, 1870, and are as follows :—

1. Canada shall be liable for the Debts and Liabilities of British Columbia existing at the time of the Union.

2. British Columbia not having incurred debts equal to those of the other Provinces now constituting the Dominion shall be entitled to receive, by half-yearly payments in advance from the General Government, Interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum on the difference between the actual amount of its indebtedness at the date of the Union, and the indebtedness per head of the population of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (\$27.77), the population of British Columbia being taken at 60,000.

3. The following sums shall be paid by Canada to British Columbia, for the support of its Government and Legislature, to wit, an Annual Subsidy of \$35,000 and an Annual Grant equal to 80 cents per head of the said population of 60,000, both half-yearly in advance, such Grant of 80 cents per head to be augmented in proportion to the increase of population, as may be shown by each subsequent decennial census, until the population amounts to 400,000, at which rate such Grant shall thereafter remain, it being understood that the first census be taken in the year 1881.

4. The Dominion will provide an efficient Mail Service, fortnightly, by steam communication between Victoria and San Francisco, and twice a week between Victoria and Olympia; the Vessels to be adapted for the conveyance of freight and passengers.

5. Canada will assume and defray the charges for the following Services :—

- A. Salary of the Lieutenant Governor ;
- B. Salaries and Allowances of the Judges of the Superior Courts and the County or District Courts ;
- C. The charges in respect to the Department of Customs ;
- D. The Postal and Telegraphic Services ;
- E. Protection and Encouragement of Fisheries ;
- F. Provision for the Militia ;
- G. Lighthouses, Buoys, and Beacons, Shipwrecked Crews, Quarantine and Marine Hospitals, including a Marine Hospital at Victoria ;
- H. The Geological Survey ;
- I. The Penitentiary ;

And such further charges as may be incident to and connected with the services which by the British North America Act of 1867 appertain to the General Government, and as are or may be allowed to the other Provinces.

6. Suitable Pensions, such as shall be approved of by Her Majesty's Government, shall be provided by the Government of the Dominion for those of Her Majesty's Servants in the Colony whose position and emoluments derived therefrom would be affected by Political changes on the admission of British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada.

7. It is agreed that the existing Customs Tariff and Excise Duties shall continue in force in British Columbia until the Railway from the Pacific Coast and the system of Railways in Canada are connected, unless the Legislature of British Columbia should sooner decide to accept the Tariff and Excise Laws of Canada. When Customs and Excise Duties are, at the time of the Union of British Columbia with Canada, leviable on any Goods, Wares, or Merchandizes in British Columbia, or in the other Provinces of the Dominion, those Goods, Wares, and Merchandizes may, from and after the Union,

be imported into British Columbia from the Provinces now composing the Dominion, or from either of those Provinces into British Columbia, on proof of payment of the Customs or Excise Duties leviable thereon in the Province of Exportation, and on payment of such further amount (if any) of Customs or Excise Duties as are leviable thereon in the Province of Importation. This arrangement to have no force or effect after the assimilation of the Tariff and Excise Duties of British Columbia with those of the Dominion.

8. British Columbia shall be entitled to be represented in the Senate by Three Members, and by Six Members in the House of Commons. The representation to be increased under the provisions of the "British North America Act, 1867."

9. The influence of the Dominion Government will be used to secure the continued maintenance of the Naval Station at Esquimalt.

10. The provisions of the "British North America Act, 1867," shall (except those parts thereof which are in terms made, or by reasonable intendment may be held to be specially applicable to and only affect one and not the whole of the Provinces now comprising the Dominion, and except so far as the same may be varied by this Minute) be applicable to British Columbia, in the same way and to the like extent as they apply to the other Provinces of the Dominion, and as if the Colony of British Columbia had been one of the Provinces originally united by the said Act.

11. The Government of the Dominion undertake to secure the commencement simultaneously, within two years from the date of the Union, of the construction of a Railway from the Pacific towards the Rocky Mountains, and from such point as may be selected, East of the Rocky Mountains, towards the Pacific, to connect the Seaboard of British Columbia with the Railway system of Canada; and further, to secure the completion of such Railway within ten years from the date of the Union.

And the Government of British Columbia agree to convey to the Dominion Government, in trust, to be appropriated in such manner as the Dominion Government may deem advisable in furtherance of the construction of the said Railway, a similar extent of Public Lands along the line of Railway throughout its entire length in British Columbia, not to exceed however Twenty (20) Miles on each side of said line, as may be appropriated for the same purpose by the Dominion Government from the Public Lands in the North West Territories and the Province of Manitoba. Provided that the quantity of land which may be held under the Pre-emption right or by Crown Grant within the limits of the tract of land in British Columbia to be so conveyed to the Dominion Government shall be made good to the Dominion from contiguous Public Lands; and provided further, that until the commencement, within two years as aforesaid from the date of the Union, of the construction of the said Railway, the Government of British Columbia shall not sell or alienate any further portions of the Public Lands of British Columbia in any other way than under right of Pre-emption, requiring actual residence of the Pre-emptor on the land claimed by him. In consideration of the land to be so conveyed in aid of the construction of the said Railway, the Dominion Government agree to pay to British Columbia, from the date of the Union, the sum of \$100,000 per annum, in half-yearly payments in advance.

12. The Dominion Government shall guarantee the interest for ten years from the date of the completion of the works, at the rate of five per centum per annum, on such sum, not exceeding £100,000 sterling, as may be required for the construction of a first class graving dock at Esquimalt.

13. The charge of the Indians, and the trusteeship and management of the lands reserved for their use and benefit, shall be assumed by the Dominion Government, and policy as liberal as that hitherto pursued by the British Columbia Government shall be continued by the Dominion Government after the union.

To carry out such policy, tracts of land of such extent as it has hitherto been the practice of the British Columbia Government to appropriate for that purpose, shall from time to time be conveyed by the Local Government to the Dominion Government in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians on application of the Dominion Government;

and in case of disagreement between the two Governments respecting the quantity of such tracts of land to be so granted, the matter shall be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

14. The constitution of the Executive Authority and of the Legislature of British Columbia shall, subject to the provisions of the "British North America Act, 1867," continue as existing at the time of the union until altered under the authority of the said Act, it being at the same time understood that the Government of the Dominion will readily consent to the introduction of responsible government when desired by the inhabitants of British Columbia, and it being likewise understood that it is the intention of the Governor of British Columbia, under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to amend the existing Constitution of the Legislature by providing that a majority of its Members shall be elective.

The union shall take effect according to the foregoing terms and conditions on such day as Her Majesty by and with the advice of Her Most Honorable Privy Council may appoint (on addresses from the Legislature of the Colony of British Columbia, and of the Houses of Parliament of Canada, in the terms of the 146th section of the "British North America Act, 1867,") and British Columbia may in its address specify the electoral districts for which the first election of Members to serve in the House of Commons shall take place.

That such terms have proved generally acceptable to the people of this Colony ;

That this council is, therefore, willing to enter into union with the Dominion of Canada upon such terms, and humbly submit that, under the circumstances, it is expedient that the admission of this Colony into such union, as aforesaid, should be effected at as early a date as may be found practicable under the provisions of the 146th section of the "British North America Act, 1867."

We, therefore, humbly pray that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased, by and with the advice of Your Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, under the provisions of the 146th section of the "British North America Act, 1867," to admit British Columbia into the Union or Dominion of Canada on the basis of the terms and conditions offered to this Colony by the Government of the Dominion of Canada, hereinbefore set forth ; and, inasmuch as by the said terms British Columbia is empowered in its Address to specify the electoral districts for which the first election of Members to serve in the House of Commons shall take place, we humbly pray that such electoral districts may be declared under the Order in Council to be as follows:—

That "New Westminster District" and the "Coast District," as defined in a public notice issued from the Lands and Works Office on the 15th day of December, 1869, by the desire of the Governor, and purporting to be in accordance with the provisions of the 39th clause of the "Mineral Ordinance, 1869," shall constitute one district, to be designated "New Westminster District," and return One Member ;

That "Cariboo District" and "Lillooet District," as specified in the said public notice, shall constitute one district, to be designated "Cariboo District," and return One Member ;

That "Yale District" and "Kootenay District," as specified in the said public notice, shall constitute one district, to be designated "Yale District," and return One Member ;

That those portions of Vancouver Island known as "Victoria District," "Esquimalt District," and "Metchosin District," as defined in the official maps of those districts in the Land Office, Victoria, and which maps are designated respectively "Victoria District Official Map, 1858," "Esquimalt District Official Map, 1858," and "Metchosin District Official Map, A.D., 1858," shall constitute one district, to be designated "Victoria District," and return Two Members.

And, that all the remainder of Vancouver Island, and all such islands adjacent thereto, as were formerly dependencies of the late Colony of Vancouver Island, shall constitute one district, to be designated "Vancouver Island District," and return One Member.

[Copy of Telegram.]

To Lord Lisgar.

Received in OTTAWA, 24th January, 1871.

Address to Queen for union with Canada on terms agreed upon, passed Legislative Council unanimously to-day.

(Signed,) A. MUSGRAVE.

To Governor Musgrave, British Columbia.

OTTAWA, January 26th, 1871.

I have received your telegram announcing the decision of the Legislature of British Columbia in favor of union with Canada. I feel sure the news will be received with welcome throughout the Dominion. My Ministers join with me in offering you cordial congratulations.

(Signed,) LISGAR.

Governor Musgrave to Governor General of Canada.

Received in OTTAWA, January 27th, 1871.

Legislature by resolution request me to seek consent of your Government to allow of our existing tariff during this season (?) by reducing duty on spirits to Canadian rate, 80 cents, on flour, to 75 cents per barrel, on wheat, to 10 cents per bushel, so as to enter union with British Columbia tariff so altered. Aggregate revenue would not be less than under Canadian tariff. I recommend assent—telegraph reply.

(Signed,) A. MUSGRAVE.

Vancouver Island, January 25, 1871.

To Governor Musgrave, British Columbia.

OTTAWA, February 1, 1871.

The terms of union are in nature of a treaty. They have been extensively published in Canada, and accepted by British Columbia. The Canadian Government, therefore, think they have no right to alter those terms. After acceptance by Canada, Parliament may, in its discretion, modify the tariff on the request of British Columbia. I have no doubt that Parliament will consider any proposition made by you, with a desire to meet your views as much as it properly can.

(Signed,) LISGAR.

4th Session, 1st Parliament, 24 Victoria, 1871.

MESSAGE.

INSGAR.

The Governor General transmits, for the information of the House of Commons, the accompanying papers relative to the proposed union of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada.

Printed by Order of Parliament.

OTTAWA:

Printed by I. B. TAYLOR, 29, 31, & 33, Rideau Street.
1871.

