

James Cooper born Wolverhampton England
1821
Entered service of H. B. Co. 1844 as
Master in command of vessel trading
from London to Vancouver & Columbia
River
Maritime Matters

is on the

Northwest Coast

and other affairs
of the

Hudson's Bay Company
in early times

By
James Cooper

Victoria

1878

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James Cooper born ^{at Bilston parish of} Wolverhampton England
1821

Entered service of N B Co in 1844 as
Master in command of vessels trading
from London to ^{Port} Vancouver (Columbia
River) & Vancouver Island.
Yearly voyages with outfit always
12 months in advance in order
to provide against loss of ships
with outward freight.
3 Ships in this trade, as that
time occupied in above trade
viz: "Vancouver", "Cowichy" & "Columbia".
These were the regular traders engaged
in the above trade at this period.
The Vancouver was the first vessel
that ever entered the port of
Victoria direct from England (1845).
Formerly the port of discharge was
Port Vancouver (Columbia River) &
the Headquarters in early times
of the Hudson's Bay Co & from
whence all freight was distributed
both for the Interior & Coast.
~~The negotiations entered into in 18~~
The agitation attending the settlement
of the Oregon Boundary question which
in the event of its being settled adverse
to British interests would have compelled

the Hudson's Bay Coy to seek
other quarters for their establishment
to replace ^{the previous} that of Port Vancouver
Consequently, Victoria on Vancouver
Island was decided upon and
the Port which was commenced
in 1842 & completed in 1844 chosen
as the head quarters for the Company's
operations on the N. W. coast. *

The trade of the H. B. Coy
was ^{almost} exclusively that of fur traders
they nevertheless devoted considerable
attention to the Salmon fisheries
on the Fraser River & exported
annually from 1500 to 2000 Bbls
of Salted Salmon. Some attention
was also devoted to agriculture
but in a crude & primitive manner
There existed however a treaty or an
agreement between the ^{Hudson's Bay} Company
& the Pacific Fur Companies to supply
the latter with certain cereals
particularly wheat. This arrange-
ment expired in 1849. I presume
in consequence of the inability of
the Hudson's Bay Company to
longer continue such supplies
owing to their having to surrender
the agricultural lands in the neighbourhood

1849

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of Port Vancouver on Columbia
River ^{to} which fact may ^{be} attributed
to the enhanced prices caused by
the discovery of gold in California.
In 1848 ~~or~~ ^{at} the first
overtures were made between the
British Government & the Hudson's
Bay Coy. with reference to the
Colonization of Vancouver Island
the Hudson's Bay Coy undertaking
to send out certain numbers of
Colonists & prepared a prospectus
holding forth certain inducements
(as understood by the Company)
to emigrants. The price of land
was held at £1 Sterling per acre
and for every 100 acres bought
the purchaser was bound to import
four persons the price of land
& the above restrictions precluded
the possibility of colonization with the superior
advantages offered by the B. S. Govern-
ment ^{also} greatly militating against
the consummation of the scheme.
The question might however fairly
be put whether this arrangement
was not more in consonance
with the general trade & designs
of the Hudson's Bay Coy to impede
Colonization.

than a bona fide inducement
for settlers to enter the country.
A Mr Blanshard was
appointed by Her Majesty as the
first governor of Vancouver Island
but the tenure of his office, was
in most respects similar to the
general scheme of colonization
of the Island - a mere sham,
as he presumably had no means
of enforcing his authority
without appealing to the Chief
Factor of the Hudsons Bay Coy,
who was "de jure" & "de facto"
the governor himself. Mr Blanshard
remained in the Island about
18 or 20 months but finding that
the expense of living was so enormous by
in excess of the H.B. Coy's representations
& every possible difficulty being thrown in
his way by the system inaugurated
in the colonization scheme as before
described, (the Hudsons Bay Coy
being virtually lords of the soil)
he was compelled to resign his
appointment some time before
its expiry. In 1838 the Hudsons
Bay Coy obtained an exclusive license
of trade with the Indians on the
mainland ^{known as the Oregon Territory} ~~part of the Rocky Mountains~~

Consequently it is not to be understood
that the price of land before mentioned
had any reference to the country
^{subsequently} ~~known~~ known as British Columbia
Notwithstanding 25 years have passed
& ~~that~~ any harsh feeling on my part
may fairly be considered to have
vanished I state with all candour
that difficulties experienced by myself
in the early struggles of settlement
in this country may be attributed
to the monopoly & avarice, interest of,
the Hudsons Bay Coy. At a considerable
expense, I brought out from England
a small iron vessel in sections &
put her together in Victoria which
may be considered, the first vessel
that was ever built or put together
on the Pacific Coast. When launched
& fairly under weigh in the season
of 1852 I proceeded to Fraser River
& there traded from the Indians
Crayberries & potatoes intended for
the San Francisco market. To show
how closely ~~the~~ dependant settlers
were upon the Hudsons Bay Coy,
I found it necessary to apply to
the company to pay for ^{the} purchase of
barrels originally intended as salmon
barrels

for the purpose of holding the Cranberries
traded on the Fraser River. I should
I fail to secure such barrels
the time labor & expense I had been
put to, to collect such cargo would
be lost. I had no thought however
that a refusal would be made.
Considering that to speak within
bounds the company had at that time
at least 1000 barrels on hand, the prime
cost of which to them would not
certainly exceed 30 Cents ^{each} & however it
would appear that I was caught in a
corner. No barrels could be bought elsewhere
as for the best of all reasons there were,
none in other hands. I therefore applied
to the company to sell me 100 barrels for
the purposes above stated, when after
much ^{pleading} concession the favor was accorded
to me, of being allowed to purchase 100
barrels @ ^{#3} ~~XX~~ ^{Three} (one dollar) each cash.
This collecting & exportation of Cranberries
was entirely a new industry of which
the Hudson's Bay Co. had never thought
or dreamed previously & thus it was dropped
in the bud, as instructions were sent
to the gentleman in charge of Fort Langley
some 30 miles from the mouth of the
Fraser River to trade Cranberries & all other

such produce, from the Indians & then
keep other white traders out of the
country in which ^{the} ~~the~~ company
considered they had the exclusive right
of Trade with the Indians. This
statement may however be perhaps
questioned on the ground that their
experience ^{according to their feelings} ~~experience~~ does not only ^{to} the
fur trade but to the general trade
of the ^{country} ~~province~~. To whatever their rights
were, I am not prepared to prove,
but the illiberality shown by them
to the early settlers is demonstrated
in the foregoing anecdote. The all
land situated at the mouth of the
Fraser River produce Cranberries in
large quantities to which ^{some are and are} ~~are~~ gathered
by the Indians & traded ^{then} ~~by~~ them
for an approximate price of 75 cents
per barrel, which I shipped to San
Francisco where they sold in early
days at about 1 dollar a gallon.

The Rev. R. J. Staines was first Chaplain
to the company on this ~~last~~ Vancouver
Island. He came out on the A.B.C.'s
brig "Columbia" of which vessel I
was Master in 1849. This gentleman
had probably mistaken his vocation
inasmuch as he would have made a

very good Parish lawyer instead of a parish priest. He had nevertheless many trials to endure. One of his grievances was that he was insured by his agreement to be furnished with provisions & from the boy's stores at exorbitant prices viz: 50 per cent over prime cost. He however found that by a careful calculation the boys were charging him something like 2000 per cent above cost price for some articles - for instance a Salmon that in early days could be bought from Indians ~~from~~ ^{from} the boy's trade shop for a mere song & charged at what would appear now a fair price, say 50 cents for a medium sized Salmon & similar transactions in other matters. This gentleman had his peculiarities & was accustomed to make his round of visits on horseback in a rig that would not have done discredit to Don Quixote himself. Mr. Staines had devoted some attention to farming & prided himself upon possessing a fine breed of pigs & encouraged every master of ships trading to this country to import for him breeding stock & in the course of 2 or 3 years

had for Vancouver Island a very good show of fine bred pigs. Several of these pigs had strayed to the neighbours farms & in the course of the worthy pastor's peregrinations thro' the country he discovered some of his own pigs in his neighbours sties. He felt "wrathing" & applied at once to a neighbouring "Justice" for what was termed in those days a "lettre de cachet" or in other words a warrant to enable him to recover his property which was ~~disposed of~~ ^{disposed of} by the holder thereof. This gave rise to a serious case of litigation & Mr. Staines being indicted for felony was actually arrested on such charges & he was afterwards admitted to bail & narrowly escaped being tried for the presumed offence, but upon the Grand Jury being empanelled the bill was ignored.

The few independent settlers had many grievances amongst others ~~was~~ ^{was} that of creating the brother-in-law of the Governor Chief Justice of the colony. This gentleman had had no legal training & to place ~~to~~ ^{to} our lives & property under his jurisdiction.

was considered altogether a step too far
in the wrong direction. It was therefore
resolved that Mr. Staines being
eminently qualified should be
sent to England as a delegate to
represent the difficulties & grievances
(under which the colonists laboured)
to the home authorities. Procrastination
was however ~~however~~ one of the characteristics
of ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Mr. Staines & unfortunately
instead of being prepared to take his
passage in a vessel bound for San Francisco
at a certain time he being too late the
vessel had sailed from Sooke. Another
vessel lying there was to leave a few days
after & on her he took passage in. This
vessel being lumber laden & trucking with
heavy loads outside Cape Flattery
became waterlogged & was drifting
about on her broadside for some time
when one ~~or two~~ of the survivors were
picked up from the wreck. Mr. Staines
having cut his way thro' the ship's side
from his Cabin & when rescued by one
of the crew was rescued by a passing
vessel the survivors reported that Mr.
Staines (as he called him) had died
only a day or two previously. This
survivor only lived sufficiently long

to make these statements & it was
my unfortunate lot to bring this
sad intelligence to Victoria I having
been ~~at~~ up Tiger Sound at the
time the vessel arrived carrying the
survivor who died & before I
could see him.

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By the death of Mr. Staines & the
loss of the documents of which he
was the bearer the colonists suffered
as no further steps were taken to
represent their grievances until
the Committee of the British House
of Commons held an investigation
into the affairs of the Hudson's
Bay Co^y in 1857 (See Parliamentary Report
from the select Committee on the Hudson's
Bay Company) before which Committee
I myself gave evidence & there stated
that fact was known to exist at that
time (1857) in British Territory in
the neighbourhood of Port Colville,
north of the Boundary line & foretold
that there would be as great a rush
to the country now known as British
Columbia as there was to California
in 1848/9. Twelve months after
making this statement in the
House of Commons from 30 to
40 thousand persons invaded the country

4/2/14

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In 1858 a wild gold excitement brought up from 30 to 40 thousand people from California. Many of them not knowing whether they ~~they~~^{were} bound, having been attracted by the wildest rumours respecting the fabulous wealth of the country. The Hudson Bay Co. having been located at Victoria induced many who came for the purposes of trade, to erect buildings on the present townsite of Victoria.

and to these circumstances may be attributed the present importance of the City. Had it not been for the fact of the Hudson Bay Coy having laid the foundations of a city ^{on} its present site Esquimaux from its far superior natural advantages would undoubtedly have been selected. The chief disadvantage of the site chosen for the city was the very inferior harbour it possessed and the more important it grows the more palpable will this deficiency appear. It is almost impossible to trace the origin of the gold excitement but it is nevertheless a fact that considerable quantities of gold were extracted from the banks of the Fraser River. Numbers of the more sanguine however, after the first excitement died out remained to prosecute the search for the precious metal & every ^{successive} year fresh fields were discovered of more or less importance until the ^{rich} placer diggings of Cariboo were reached in 1861. It would be impossible for a community of Anglo Saxons to exist without shortly after the commencement of the first gold excitement signs of civilization

manifested themselves in the appearance of a miniature newspaper called the "British Colonist" under the Editorship of Mr. A. McCosmo. The tone of this publication was considered very objectionable by the Government of the day so much that ^{so} that an injunction was placed upon the paper in 1859 the Editor & Proprietor having to find 2 sureties in £500 each (myself being one) & himself in £1000. This proceeding was considered very high handed on the part of the Government showing a disposition to muzzle the freedom of the press. Public meetings were called which were largely attended and the community binding themselves under written agreements in small sums averaging from 10 to 50 dollars to indemnify the sureties. These facts tend to prove that popular feeling was strongly adverse to the Government of the day by whom another very obnoxious measure was introduced viz: "Dunk tax" having for its object the collection of 5 dollars for every Dunk load leaving ^{Yale} for the interior. It is necessary here to state by way of explanation that no legislative privileges had been accorded to the mainland ^{the} Governor

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 bearing almost autocratic powers over
 the country now known as the mainland
 of British Columbia & this state of things
 lasted until 1864 when simultaneously
 a Governor was sent to relieve Governor
 Douglas ^{of his functions in respect to the}
 Island and the ^{mainland} ~~mainland~~ having been
 created a separate Colony a Governor
 was also sent out for it. The name
 of the Governor of Vancouver Island was
 Mr (now Sir Arthur) Kennedy & that of
 the mainland (British Columbia) Mr. Edw.
 Seymour ~~in this~~

After the mainland was positively severed
 from the Island & with legislative powers
 of their own the Island Colony soon
 discovered that its comparative insignificance
 began to agitate for a union of the colonies
 which was consummated in November 1866
 both Victoria for the Capital
 * who prior to this date had performed the
 duties of Governor over both colonies with
 the Capital at New Westminster. Under
 his Governorship there was a legislative
 Council composed of heads the majority
 of whom were nominated by the Governor
 & the remainder selected by the people from
 which will be seen that if the people selected
 an improper or objectionable person to represent

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 them the Governor had the privilege
 of declining to ratify his appointment.
 The predominance of Victorian elements
 in the Council soon gave rise to an
 agitation for removing the Capital to
 Victoria which was eventually consummated
 in 1866

Copy furnished
 District When the news of the Fraser River gold
 excitement in 1858 reached the ears of
 the British Government, measures were
 immediately taken to introduce a Bill
 into the Imperial Parliament creating
 the mainland north of the Boundary
 line (49th par.) into a separate distinct
 Colony from Vancouver Island with the
 name of "British Columbia" and appointing
 the Governor of Vancouver Island (Mr. James
 Douglas) to the Governorship of the ^{mainland} ~~Colony~~
 also, with almost autocratic powers, as
 no legislative authority was conceded to
 British Columbia until such times as the
 population gave indication of permanency.
 The laws promulgated for the government
 of British Columbia were by proclamation
 of the Governor ^{and} issued and emanated from
 from Victoria Vancouver Island, the people
 of which latter Colony finding that the
 expense of keeping up a civil list was

More than they could by themselves bear, an agitation arose proceeding almost exclusively from the Island ~~with~~ with a view to obtaining a union of the two colonies. It should be here stated that Victoria was then a free port whither goods entering British Columbia had to pay duty.

The movement in favor of the union of the colonies was supported by a petition from the Legislature of Vancouver I. C. and despite the better opposition shown by the people of Mainland to what they supposed would prove ruin to them, they, having no organized body with legislative rights ^{only for a brief period} were ~~able to prevent~~ ^{unable to prevent} the consummation of the projected alliance and to them ~~un-~~ welcome alliance. The active and vigorous measures taken by the Mainland Colonists however enabled them for a time to triumph over their brethren of Vancouver Island and a governor for each Colony was sent out from England to relieve Governor Douglas who had been Governor of Vancouver I. C. from 1854 to 1863 and of British Columbia from 1858 to 1863. — Captain (now Sir Arthur) Kennedy was appointed to the governorship of the Island and Sir Fred Seymour to that of the Mainland.

The latter a gentleman whose memory is warmly cherished by many friends. These changes however left the Colonists of Vancouver Island still dissatisfied and the agitation for "Union" commenced afresh with renewed force, on this occasion the people of the Island carrying their point the consequence of their success being that Governor Kennedy was recalled in 1866 and Governor Seymour appointed to the governorship of the United Colonies, known since as British Columbia, Vancouver Island thus becoming a dependency or part of the Colony of British Columbia the capital of which was declared to be at New Westminster which City is often spoken of as the "Royal City" inasmuch as Her Majesty having been appealed to to decide whether the name of Queenboro' or Queensboro should be given it when its site was fixed upon by Colonel Doody (who was sent out in 1858 in command of a body of Royal Engineers for the purpose of determining order, road making &c.) &c. The Queen having been pleased to designate the site as New Westminster the embryo City was thus named in accordance with Her Majesty's desire and the decision was agreeable to both Colonel Doody & Governor Douglas the dispute was in the end settled.

Whether the fact of there existing on the Atlantic Shore of this Continent a city called New York found any reason for naming the infant city on the Pacific Side New Westminster can only be a matter of conjecture but let it be hoped that the relations between the two New Cities may be as cordial as that that have always existed between the ancient places in the Mother Country from whence their names are derived.

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The Legislative Council of the United Colony was in a building situated at Sapperton (the Camp of the Royal Engineers Detachment) about one mile above New Westminster. The Council consisted of 15 members, nine of whom were nominated by the Governor and 6 "elected" by the people, such selection having to be sanctioned by the Governor. It will thus be seen that if an improper or objectionable person were selected the Governor had the privilege of declining to ratify his selection. This precaution was probably considered necessary at the time by the Imperial Government.

The fact of New Westminster having been selected as the Capital of the United Colony was a source of great annoyance to the people of Vancouver Island and the removal

of the Capital to Victoria was made the effort of the day, the vested interests of the majority of the Legislative Council favoring such a course it can readily be imagined that under those circumstances the difficulty was not insuperable. Finally in November 1866 the proclamation was promulgated, creating Victoria the Capital of the Colony of British Columbia the Government and all heads of Departments residing there.

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In 1869 Governor Seymour died on board U.S.S. "Porpoise" while on a cruise to the Northern portion of the Colony and Governor Dewar was sent out to encourage a growth of among the Colonists of the desirability of entering the Dominion of Canada as a province, of the same. Overtures were made and finally 3 delegates (Messrs. Busch, Helmcken and Carroll) were sent from British Columbia to Ottawa to negotiate the terms proposed by Canada. Among the terms proposed by Canada was the offer to construct a railroad to connect their existing Railway System with the Pacific Shores. Those who prior to the departure of the delegates had coined a disinclination to surrender the freedom & privileges enjoyed by the country

as an independent colony, certainly
withdrew all opposition when upon their
return the terms of Union were made public,
so satisfactory were the ^{considerations} voluntary concessions
of the Dominion Government & many
Confederation of the colony with Canada was entered into in 1871 (July 20)
Difficulties have presented themselves to the
Dominion Govt. to hinder or prevent the
carrying out of these terms in their integrity.
The Province has been thoroughly explored
as a large expense and surveys of its
different tracts have been made (in as
many years) west of the Rocky
Mountains to the shores of the Pacific,
the Fraser Valley route taking precedence
of them all for during the present month
May 1878 that route with the terminus
at Burrard has been officially declared

X — In anticipation of the settlement of the
Oregon Boundary Question the Tiger Sound
Agricultural Association was formed
as an offshoot of the Hudsons Bay
Co., with a nominal capital of
probably say £200,000. The object
of this association was to occupy
large tracts of country ostensibly for
stock & grain raising purposes but
in reality to secure & keep possession
of as large a tract of land as possible
but there is little doubt that the real
purpose was to, with a view to securing
impressing the U.S. Commissioners appointed
to decide the question of the boundary
from the U.S. to the British line north of the
Columbia River, a large tract of land were
also taken possession of by the Hudsons
Bay Co. in Vancouver Island in the
name of the Tiger Sound Co. All
the land within a radius of 10 miles ^{round}
the Hudsons Bay Co. Fort as Victoria
being held either in the names of the
Hudsons Bay or Tiger Sound Co. it
is now a matter of impossibility for
private settlers to obtain land within
reasonable distance of the settlement.

Such was the state of affairs in the
Spring of 1851 when I landed here with

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A view to taking up land to settle upon but in consequence of the foregoing restriction I could obtain none nearer to Victoria than 14 miles. I may fairly claim to have been the first bona fide white settler having complied in every respect with the prospectus of the Hudson's Bay Co.

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Before Mr Blanchard (the first Governor of the Colony) left the Island he was induced to nominate a Council of three persons viz. Mr James Douglas Mr John Louisa & Mr James Cooper & he did so upon the strength of the following petition -

"To His Excellency Richard Blanchard Esq. Governor of Vancouver's Island -

May it please your Excellency we the undersigned, inhabitants of Vancouver's Island, having learned with regret that your Excellency has resigned the government of this Colony, and understanding that the government has been committed to a Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, cannot but express our unfeigned surprise at such an appointment.

The Hudson's Bay Co. being as in a

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A great trading body must necessarily have interests clashing with those of independent Colonists. No matters of a political nature will cause a contest between the Agents of the Company and the Colonists. Many matters of a judicial nature also will undoubtedly arise in which the Colonists and the Company or its Servants will be contending parties or the upper Servants and the lower Servants will be arrayed against each other. We beg to express in the most emphatical and plainest manner our assurance, that impartial decisions cannot be expected from a Governor who is not only a member of the Company sharing its profits, his share of such profits rising & falling as they rise and fall but is also charged as their chief agent with the sole representation of their trading interests in this Island and the adjacent Coast. Furthermore ~~but~~ ^{thus} situated the Colony will have no security that its public funds will be duly disposed of solely for the benefit of the Colony in general and not turned aside in any degree to be applied to the private purposes of the Company.

by disproportionate sums being
voted to the improvement of that
tract of land held by them or
otherwise unduly employed;

Under these circumstances we beg to
acquaint your Excellency for the real
good & welfare of the colony that a
Council should immediately be
appointed in order to provide some
security the interests of the Hudson
Bay Co. shall not be allowed
to outweigh & ruin those of the colony
in general.

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We who join in expressing these
sentiments to your Excellency are
unfortunately but a very small
number but we respectfully beg your
Excellency to consider that we and
we alone represent the interests of
the island as a free and independant
British Colony for we constitute the
whole body of the independant
Settlers all the other inhabitants
being in some way or other so
connected with and controlled by
the Hudson Bay Co. as to be
deprived of freedom of action in all
matters relating to the public affairs
of the colony some indeed by their own

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Confession as may be proved if necessary
and we further allege one form per-
-suasion that the unsworn influences
to which we have adduced above
are ^{likely} ~~likely~~ of entirely unguarded against
not only to prevent any increase of
free and independant Colonies in the
Island but positively to diminish
their present numbers.

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We therefore humbly request your
Excellency to take into your gracious
consideration the propriety of appointing
a Council before your Excellency's
departure, such being the ^{anxious} ~~anxious~~ ^{earnest} desire of your Excellency's
most obedient & humble servants and
Her Majesty's most devoted and loyal
Subjects

Signia James Yates Land owner
Robert John Staines Trinity Hall Cambridge
Chaplain to the Hon. Hudson Bay Co.
James Cooper Merchant & Land owner
Thomas Monroe Lessee of Capt. Grant's
Land at Sooke
William McDonald Carpenter & Stone holder
James Langster Settler
John Muir Senr. Settler Sooke
William Fraser Do Do
Andrew Muir Do Do

John McGregor	Settler, Sooke
John Muir junr	do do
Michael Muir	do do
Robert Muir	do do
Archibald Muir	do do
Thos. Blinkhorn	do Merchant

[23] This is copied in the foregoing pages

[cf. pp 18-22]

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such Colony was sent to relieve Governor Douglas who had been Governor of Vancouver Island from 1854 to 1863 and of the Mainland Colony from 1858 to 1863. The Governor appointed to Vancouver Island was Captain ⁽¹⁸⁷⁸⁾ Sir Arthur Kennedy and the Governor appointed to the British Columbia was Mr Frederick Seymour a gentleman whose memory ~~is~~ ^{is} warmly cherished by many friends. I presume it is the privilege of Anglo-Saxons to grumble, and notwithstanding their Commission had been ^{made} by the Imperial Govt the Vancouver Island Colony was still unsatisfied, the agitation for union continued again with renewed force and was in due course successful. Governor Kennedy from Vancouver Island was recalled and Governor Seymour assuming the authority of Governor over the United Colonies under the name of British Columbia. Vancouver Island thus becoming a dependency of part of the Colony of British Columbia. The Capital of the United Colonies was declared at New Westminster which city is often spoken of as the "Royal City" inasmuch as Her Majesty the Queen having been ^{appealed} ~~applied~~ to, to decide whether the name of Queenboro or Queensboro should be given to the site laid out by Colonel Moody in command of a body of Royal Engineers sent from England in 1858 to enforce and maintain order in the Colony. It pleased Her Majesty to designate the site as New Westminster preferring that name to either of the above thus giving offence to neither Governor Douglas nor Colonel Moody with reference to their dispute over the letter S. Whether the fact

of having in the Atlantic a City Called New York was in any measure the reason for calling giving the name of the Embryo City On the shores of the Pacific the names of New Westminster can be only ~~best~~ conjecture. May the relations between the New York & Westminster be as cordial as those ancient plans in the mother Country from whence their names were borrowed. The Legislative Council of the United Colony sat in a building at the Camp at Papperton about one mile above New Westminster Governor Douglas having the honor of inaugurating the first ~~Council~~ in British Columbia. The Council consisted of fifteen members, nine of which were nominated by the Governor and six being selected by the people from which it will be seen that if an improper or an objectionable person was selected that the Governor had the privilege of declining to ratify his selection. This precaution was probably considered necessary at the time by the Imperial Government. The Capital of the United Colony being New Westminster was a source of great annoyance to the Victorians and the removal of the Capital to Victoria was made the effort of the day. The vested interests of the majority of the Council forming such a cause it can readily be imagined that under those circumstances ^{the difficulty} was not insuperable. Finally in November 1866 the proclamation was promulgated creating

Victoria the Capital of the Colony of British Columbia, The Governor and all Heads of Departments residing there. In ~~1869~~ 1870 1869 Governor Seymour died on board Her Majesty's Ship Sparrowhawk while on a cruise to the northern portion of the Colony, and Governor Douglas was sent out to encourage a growth of feeling amongst the inhabitants of the dominion of entering the Dominion of Canada as a Province ^{Douglas, Smith, Spilken & Carrall} overtures were made and finally three delegates were sent from British Columbia to Ottawa to negotiate terms amongst which was the offer to build a railroad ~~from~~ connecting the railroad system of Canada to the shores of the Pacific. Those who hesitated about the desirability of surrendering our independence to becoming a Province of the Dominion before the delegates left British Columbia for Ottawa certainly withdrew all opposition ^{on their return} when the terms of union were ~~made~~ publicly made known which the Dominion Government had voluntarily ~~conceded~~ ^{to the Dominion Govt}. Many difficulties have presented themselves to hinder or retard the carrying out of those terms in their integrity by the Dominion Govt. The Province has been thoroughly explored at a large expenditure of money. Surveys of six different routes have been made ^{occupying a many years} west of the Rocky mountains to the shores of the Pacific. The Fraser Valley route taking precedence of them all for during the present month May 1878 the Fraser Route with the terminus at Burrard Inlet ~~has been officially declared~~

to Fraser River in 1858

after running
Victoria was
abolished

hence the agitation -
Mainland that a tariff
was a free port -
always

When the news of the gold excitement reached the Govt of Great Britain, measures were immediately taken to introduce a bill to the Imperial Parliament creating the Mainland North of the Boundary line into a separate and distinct Colony from Vancouver Island with the name of "British Columbia" and creating the Govt of the Vancouver Island Colony Governor of British Columbia also, with almost Autocratic powers, as no Legislative authority was conceded to British Columbia until such times as the population gave indications of permanency. The laws promulgated for the government of British Columbia were by proclamation of the Governor issued and emanating from Victoria Vancouver Island which colony soon discovered that the ^{expenses attending the} support of a civil list was more onerous than the people could bear. Consequently an agitation soon arose almost exclusively from Vancouver Island for a Union of the two Colonies these measures being promoted by petition from the Legislature of Vancouver Island Union however was opposed by the residents of the mainland but seeing that no organized body with legislative functions had been granted to British Columbia at this time, the people were almost powerless to prevent what they supposed was fraught with danger to their own interests. The active and vigorous measures taken by the British Columbians however triumphed over their fellow Colonists for a time and a Governor for