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HOUSE *of* ASSEMBLY
CORRESPONDENCE BOOK
1856-1859



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ARCHIVES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MEMOIR NO. IV.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
CORRESPONDENCE
BOOK

AUGUST 12TH, 1856, TO
JULY 6TH, 1859.

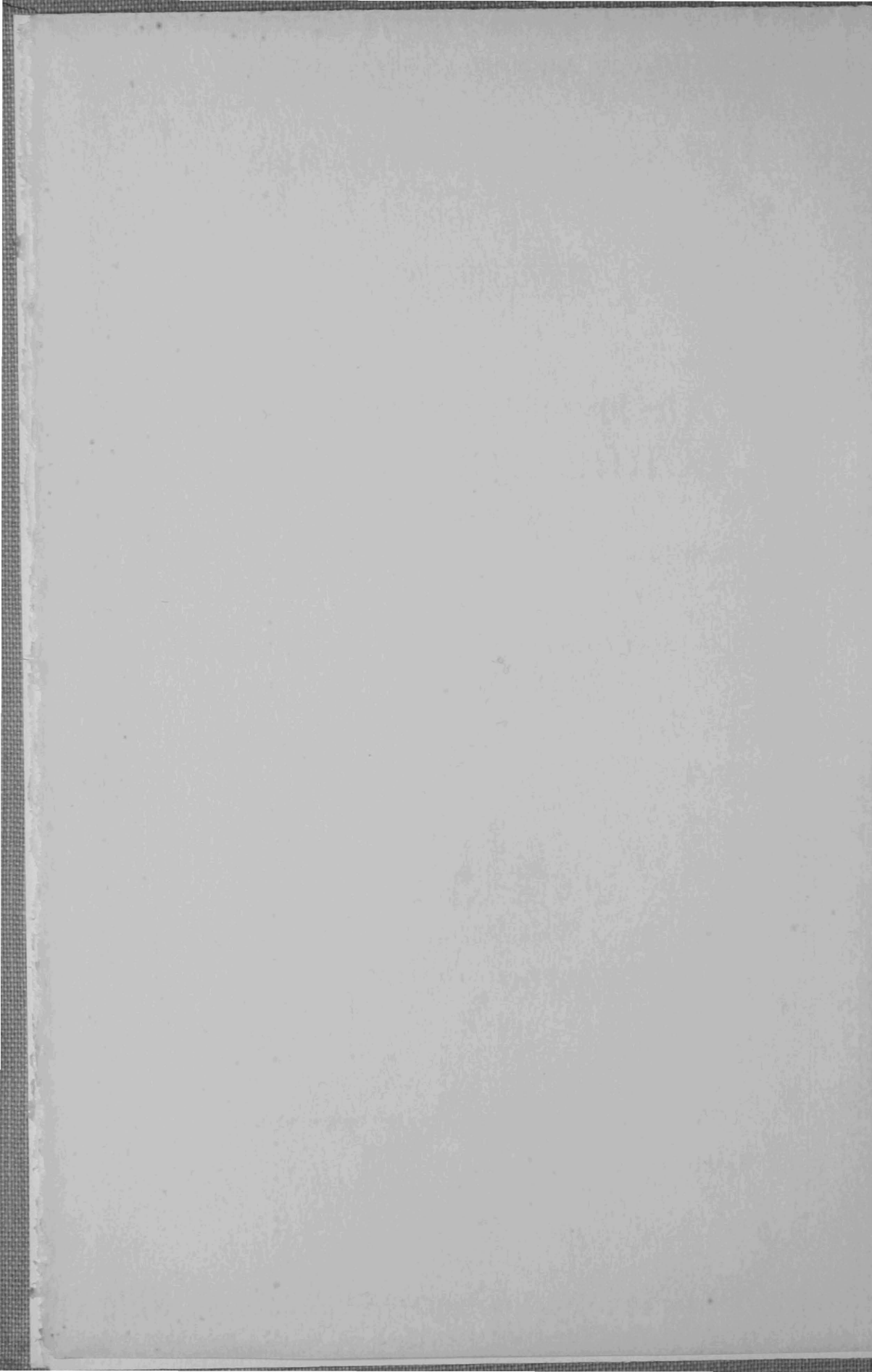


THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:

Printed by WILLIAM H. CULLIN, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1918.



PROVINCIAL LIBRARY,

VICTORIA, December 10th, 1918.

The Hon. J. W. de B. Farris, K.C.,

Attorney-General of British Columbia,

Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you herewith Memoir No. IV. of the Archives Department, entitled "House of Assembly Correspondence Book, 1856-1859." This bulletin completes the first series of publications relating to the inauguration and progressive development of the Colonial Government of Vancouver Island. The letters which passed between the Governor, Legislative Council, and House of Assembly throw light on the working of our earliest Legislature and the public questions of that day. It is a pity that the Ordinances of the Colony from 1850 to 1857 were not printed, for some of the references in the Minutes would be still more instructive if read with the Acts themselves. It would be interesting to compare the earliest colonial enactments of that formative period with their modern counterparts.

With your permission and approval, the next bulletin will be one dealing with the earliest official reports on the goldfields of the Fraser River and in the heart of the great Cariboo District. These documents should appeal to every one in the Province, for they stand as a monument to the achievements of that heroic band of pioneers and adventurers who laid the foundation of the Province of British Columbia. His Honour Judge F. W. Howay, a high authority on the early history of the Pacific slope in general, and of the gold excitement in particular, has very kindly consented to edit the memoir.

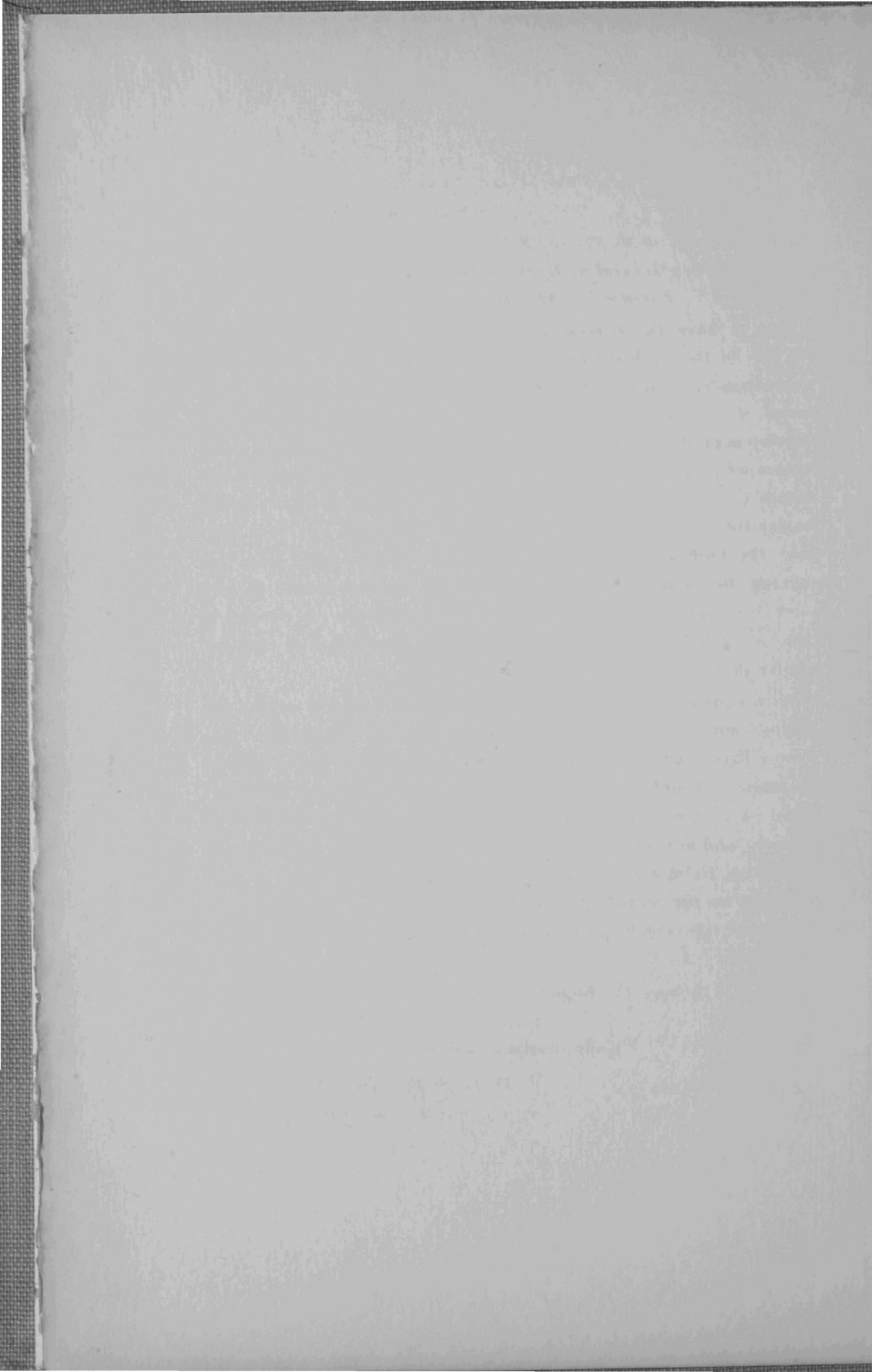
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. O. S. SCHOLEFIELD,

Librarian and Archivist.



CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF COMMUNICATIONS

Between His Excellency the Governor, Legislative Council,
and the House of Assembly.

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House of Assembly Correspondence Book.

1856 to 1859.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
August 12th, 1856.

To His Excellency James Douglas, Esqr., Governor, &c., &c., &c. :

SIR,—I am instructed by the House of Assembly to transmit to Your Excellency the following resolutions passed this day in the House aforesaid:—

It was proposed by Mr. Helmcken, That Mr. Pemberton be appointed the Speaker of the said House. Seconded by Mr. Kennedy.

Election of
Speaker.

An amendment was proposed by Mr. Langford, That Mr. Helmcken be appointed the Speaker of the said House. Seconded by Mr. Yates and carried.

Hon. J. S.
Helmcken.

It was proposed by Mr. Pemberton, That Mr. Barr be appointed Clerk *pro tem*. Seconded by Mr. Yates and carried.

Robert Barr
Clerk
pro tem.

It was then proposed by Mr. Skinner, That an application be made to the Governor that proper and efficient books, &c., be supplied to the House. Seconded by Mr. Pemberton and carried.

Library
required.

It was then proposed by Mr. Skinner, That the House do adjourn until Tuesday next, the 19th day of August next ensuing, at the hour of 11 in the forenoon.

I am, &c., &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BARR,
Clerk pro tem.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
August 19th, 1856.

MOTION No. 4.

"That application be made for the use of the law works, the property of the Colony."

Law books.

August 26th, 1856.

REPLY.

The Speaker informed the House that any law books, the property of the Colony, could be placed upon the table, the names

26 Aug., 1856.
Library.

of such books being given, with this proviso, that none be taken away, but given up immediately the House adjourned, as the said books are placed under the immediate charge of His Excellency the Governor.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
August 28th, 1856.

MOTION No. 12.

Grant of
Island.

"That respectful application be made to His Excellency the Governor for a correct copy of the Grant of the Island and of any other documents of a public nature calculated to throw light upon the political position of Vancouver's Island Colony, likewise a general Abstract of Colonial Accounts since the first formation of the Colony up to the present time, showing the present income and expenditure."

REPLY.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
27th November, 1856.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Message.

I herewith transmit the documents described in the accompanying Schedule for your information.

Public
Accounts.

The Colonial Accounts extending to the close of 1855 are not yet completed, and therefore cannot be laid before the House in full. You will, however, find among the documents now transmitted a full account of all lands appertaining to the public domain of this Colony which have been sold up to the 10th day of October last, and also a classified abstract of the expenditure of the Colony for the year ending with the 1st day of November, 1855.

Public lands.

Land sales,
£6,193.

In addition to the proceeds arising from sales of the public domain appearing in the documents herewith, the sum of £6,193 0 0 has been received from the Hudson's Bay Company for lands purchased on their account within the Colony. Further documents relative to the financial state of the Colony will be sent to the House as soon as they are made up.

Official
documents.

I have to recommend that a sufficient money appropriation be made by the House to defray the expense of preparing any documents required for their information in future, as there are at present no funds at my disposal for that purpose.

I beg that the Charter of Grant of Vancouver's Island may be returned, as I have no other copy.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor, Vancouver's Island.

Extract from Governor Douglas' Despatch to W. G. Smith, Esqr., Secretary, Hudson's Bay Company, dated 19th July, 1855. 27 Nov., 1856.
Returns.

Extract from Governor Douglas' Despatch to W. G. Smith, Esqr., dated 16th October, 1856, containing an Abstract of Accounts from November, 1854, to November, 1855.

Abstract from Surveying Department showing Sales of Land from the commencement of the same up to December, 1854. Revenues.

Copy of the Charter of Grant of Vancouver's Island.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,

November 28th, 1856.

The Speaker begs to inform His Excellency the Governor that the House of Assembly met yesterday and adopted the following resolutions, and ordered the same to be presented to Your Excellency:— Speaker to Governor.

1st. That the thanks of this House be presented to His Excellency the Governor for his communication of the 27th November, 1856, and that the subject contained therein relating to a supply of money for copying documents, &c., will be taken into consideration at an early period. Copying public documents.

2nd. It was resolved that respectful application be made on the part of the House of Assembly to know what funds are subject to its control, and, if any, the amount of the same and from what source derived? Also what fund is the royalty upon coal paid into? Revenues.
Coal royalty.

3rd. T. J. Skinner, Esqr., was elected Chairman of Committee and Deputy Speaker. T. J. Skinner elected Deputy Speaker.

The House adjourned until Saturday next, to meet at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

VICTORIA, V.I.,

6th December, 1856.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have further to transmit with this communication Abstracts of the Income and Expenditure of the Colony of V.I. for the two years ending respectively with 31st day of October, 1853 and 1854. Message.
Public Accounts.

I have received your Speaker's address of the 3rd day of December, and highly appreciate your complimentary message.

In reply to the following questions of the House: "What funds are subject to its control? The amount of such funds; from what source derived; and to what fund is the royalty upon coal paid into?" I would observe that I am not at present prepared Sources of revenue.
Coal royalties.

6 Dec., 1856.
Revenue and
coal royalty.
Liquor licenses
only revenue.

to give the House a reliable and decided answer. My own impression, however, is that the House can exercise a direct control only over the revenue raised in the Colony through the act of the general Legislature. The revenue derived from the tax on licenced houses is therefore, I conceive, the only fund absolutely at our disposal; the proceeds arising from land sales, royalties, and timber duties being remitted and placed to account of the Reserve Fund in England, which is, however, also exclusively applicable for Colonial purposes, with the exception of 10 per cent. allowed by virtue of the Charter of Grant to the Hudson's Bay Company.

Revenue from
liquor licenses.

The amount of revenue derived from the duty on licensed houses for the respective years mentioned is given in the annexed table:—

Year 1853	£220 0 0
„ 1854	£460 0 0
„ 1855	£340 0 0

These sums are also embodied in the Abstract of the Colonial Accounts transmitted to the House.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor, Vancouver's Island.

Abstract of Income and Expenditure of the Colony of Vancouver's Island for the Year ending 31st October, 1853 and 1854.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
December 6th, 1856.

Speaker to
Governor.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the House of Assembly resolved this day:—

License Fund.

1st. That the Speaker be requested to thank His Excellency the Governor on behalf of this House for the information so promptly and courteously afforded, and further to apply to His Excellency for similar information for the year ending November, 1856, as also to ask whether there is any charge against the License Fund, to come under their control from that date.

The House of Assembly will meet again on Wednesday next at 11 a.m., and resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Victoria, 10th December, 1856.

10 Dec., 1856.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have received your address through Mr. Speaker's communication of the 6th December, and I thank you gentlemen for your kind message.

I herewith transmit for your information an Abstract of the Expenditure and Income of the Colony made up to the 31st day of October last; excepting, however, the income derivable from the royalty on coals, and the duty on timber, of which a statement will be sent to the House as soon as the returns are received.

With respect to your inquiry touching the application of the duty on licenced houses for the year 1856, I have to inform the House that the whole sum derived from that source of revenue was paid over to the Hudson's Bay Company immediately after collection, and was carried with the other proceeds of revenue to the credit of the General Colony Account, as shewn by the abstract of the year's income transmitted with this communication.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor, Vancouver's Island.

Abstract of Income and Expenditure on account of Vancouver's Island Colony for Twelve Months ending 31st October, 1856.

Message.

Public
Accounts.
Coal royalty.
Timber dues.

Liquor
Licenses.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
December 10th, 1856.

The Speaker, on the part of the House of Assembly, has respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of a gracious communication and an Abstract of the Income and Expenditure for the Year 1856 from His Excellency the Governor, and to inform His Excellency that the House of Assembly unanimously resolved, "That the thanks of this House be presented to His Excellency the Governor for the same."

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

Speaker
acknowledges
Message.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
December 13th, 1856.

The Speaker begs to inform His Excellency the Governor that the House met this day and adopted the following resolution, viz. :—

13 Dec., 1856.
Census
statistics.

"That a requisition be made to His Excellency the Governor for a copy of the last census of the population of the Island, and other such statistics connected therewith."

The House of Assembly will meet again on Thursday next at 11 a.m.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
17th December, 1856.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Message.
Census returns.

I have received Mr. Speaker's communication of the 13th Day of December, containing the requisition of the House for a copy of the last census of the population of Vancouver's Island, and I have in consequence the honor of forwarding with this letter the documents described in the annexed Schedule.

Not having time to procure copies, I have sent the original documents, which the House will probably cause to be returned when convenient.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor, Vancouver's Island.

No. 1. Census Returns, V.I. Colony, 1855. No. 2 Indian population, V.I., 1856.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
December 18th, 1856.

Speaker to
Governor.
Census returns.

The Speaker, on behalf of the House of Assembly, begs respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of the "census" of the inhabitants and Indians of Vancouver's Island from His Excellency the Governor, and has the honor, in the name of the House, to thank His Excellency for the same, and that they shall be returned at an early period.

Clerk resigns.

He has also to inform His Excellency that Mr. R. Barr wishes to resign his office of "Clerk of the House" *pro tem*.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
December 18th, 1856.

Speaker to
Governor.
First Supply
Bill.

The Speaker begs to inform His Excellency the Governor and Council that the enclosed Appropriation Bill was first voted in "Committee of Supply," and has subsequently passed through the

usual stages of first, second, and third readings, and that it is now presented by order of the House for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor and Council.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

The following is the Bill referred to in the preceeding letter, entitled

A Bill for the Appropriation of certain Moneys for the Use of the House of Assembly of Vancouver's Isld.

Whereas it is necessary that certain sums of money be voted for defraying the unavoidable expenses attending the conduction of the business of this House of Assembly of Vancouver's Island: Be it enacted:—

1st. That £50 sterling be placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Governor to defray the expenses of copying statistics and documents for the use of this House.

2nd. That £10 sterling be given to Mr. Barr for his passed (*sic*) services as Clerk of this House.

3rd. That £5 sterling be granted to Mr. Andrew Muir for his past services of Sergeant-at-Arms.

4th. That £25 be allowed for the salary of the Clerk of the House for the year 1857.

5th. That £15 be allowed for the salary of the Sergeant-at-Arms & Messenger for the year 1857.

6th. That £20 sterling be granted for lighting, heating, and furnishing the House for the year 1857.

7th. That £5 sterling be granted for stationery for the use of the Members of the House of Assembly.

8th. That the above items be paid out of the revenue derived from the licenses of July 16th, 1856.

Read the third time this 18th day of December, 1856, and ordered to be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor and Council.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

The following resolution relating to the 8th clause of the above Bill was added as a rider, December 13th, 1856:—

"That, in the opinion of this House, the revenue derived from licenses on the 16 day of July 1856 ought to be withdrawn from the credit of the 'Trust Fund.'"

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

18 Dec. 1856.
First Supply
Bill.

Supply Bill.

Appropriations.
Copying
documents.

Clerk.

Sergeant-at-
Arms.

Clerk.

Sergeant-at-
Arms.

Lighting, etc.

Stationery.

Amendment to
Supply Bill.

7 Apr., 1857.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
April 7th, 1857.*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*Message.
Supply Bill.

I herewith return the Act of the 18th day of December, 1856, granting certain sums of money for the purpose of defraying the ordinary expenses of the House of Assembly, which passed the Council on the 14 day of February of this year, without alteration in any of its material provisions.

Rules of Court.

I also forward with this communication, for the use of the House of Assembly, a copy of the "Rules and Manner of Proceeding of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice for Vancouver's Island," which received the approval of the Governor and Council on the 17th day of February last and was published on the same day.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

Returns.
Rules of
Court, etc.

Schedule 1. Copy of Minutes of Council, 14 Febr. 1857.
2. Rules of Supreme Court.

Copy of Minutes of a Council held at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, on the 14 day of February, 1857.

The Council having met this morning pursuant to a summons issued on the 13th of this present month, the Governor being present and the following Members vizt.:—

John Tod, Senior Member,
Roderick Finlayson,
John Work,

Supply Bill.

The Governor then proceeded to lay before the Council An Act granting the Sum of £130 for defraying the Unavoidable Expenses of the House of Assembly, which was read a third time and passed the House on the 18th day of December last.

Amendment.

The Council having read the several clauses of the said Act, it was proposed as an amendment, That the following words should be omitted in the preamble, vizt.: "Attending the conduction of the business"; and the following words in the 8th clause, vizt.: "Licenses of July 16th, 1856"; and that the Act be as follows:—

Bill as
amended.

A Bill granting certain Sums of Money for the Use of the House of Assembly of Vancouver's Island.

Whereas it is necessary that certain sums of money be voted for defraying the unavoidable expenses of the House of Assembly of Vancouver's Island: Be it therefore enacted.

The clauses following are exactly the same as those in the original Bill, with the exception of the 8th clause, which runs thus:—

Sth clause. That the above items be paid out of the revenue derived from the duty charged on licensed houses. 7 Apr., 1857.

The Act so amended was approved and passed.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

Victoria, 7 April, 1857.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
April 7th, 1857.

The Speaker, on behalf of the House of Assembly, begs to acknowledge the receipt (of) a copy of the "Rules and Manner of Proceeding of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of Vancouver's Island" from His Excellency the Governor; also "a copy of Minutes of Council, 14th February," relating to certain amendments proposed in the Bill of Supply. Supreme Court Rules.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
April 7th, 1857.

To His Excellency the Governor and the Honble. Members of Council:

The Speaker has the honor to transmit to Your Excellency and the Honble. Members of Council:—

1st. A copy of the report of the Committee appointed by the House Assembly to enquire into the postal arrangements of Vancouver's Isld. Postal arrangements.

2nd. A copy of a petition from certain Colonists, praying for various improvements in roads and extensions of the same. Also a resolution of the House of Assembly thereon. Petition for roads.

3rd. The "Bill for the Granting of certain Sums of Money for the Use of the House of Assembly," and also a resolution of the House of Assembly relating thereto, as regards certain amendments proposed therein, rejecting the same. Supply Bill.

The House will meet again April 21st, 1857.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

To His Excellency the Governor and Honble. Members of Council:

Supply Bill.

The Speaker, in returning the enclosed "Bill for the Granting of certain Supplies for the Use of the House of Assembly." has the honor to lay before Your Excellency and the Honble. Members of Council the following resolution relating thereto:—

"That, in the opinion of this House, the funds derived from the licenses granted in July, 1856, are under its control, and therefore that the 8th clause of the Bill remain as it stood in the original."

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.

April 7th, 1857.

To His Excellency the Governor and Honble. Members of Council:

The annexed petition was presented to this House, and the following resolution relating thereto proposed and carried *nem. con.*:—

Roads to
Gonzalo Point,
Cadboro Bay,
Deadman's
River.

"That the consideration of His Excellency the Governor be earnestly requested to the substance of the petition; at the same time mentioning 'That a road to accommodate settlers in the neighbourhood of Gonzalo Point is still more required, and a road leading to Cadboro Bay much required. Also that the circumstances in this respect of the settlers in the neighbourhood of Deadman's River be taken into consideration.'"

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISL.,

21st April, 1857.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Message.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Speaker's communications of the 7th April, with the accompanying documents.

Objections to
Supply Bill
amendments.

With those documents is the "Bill providing for the Ordinary Expenses of the House of Assembly," which the House has objected to pass as amended by the Council.

I would observe, in reference to that Bill, that the duties raised on licensed houses for the year 1856 were paid into the General Colonial Fund and expended, with other proceeds of

revenue, in the service of the Colony, prior to the Convention of the House of Assembly in August last, and for that reason are not at our disposal.

The Council, in amending the Bill, by charging the sums thereby granted to the revenue derivable from the same source in 1857, were influenced solely by the knowledge of that fact, and not from any desire to interfere with the arrangements of the House of Assembly.

I have received the report of the Committee on postal arrangements and the petition from certain Colonists praying for the improvement of part of the public roads and for opening new ones into other parts of the District of Victoria.

Feeling the great importance of the objects recommended in those papers, I am of opinion that no time should be lost in providing means for initiating a postal system, securing at once the twofold object of safety and despatch in the delivery and transmission of letters, and also that a provision should be immediately voted by the House for the improvement and opening of public roads.

The Council will cordially co-operate in all measures suggested by the House for the attainment of those objects.

I herewith annex a scheme of the probable outlay which will thereby be incurred.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE.

Postal Expenses.

Postmaster, salary	£100	
Post Office, rent, &c.	100	
Transmitting mails	300	
	£500	£500

Road Expenses.

Improvement of public road	£200	
Opening road from Victoria to Mount Douglas	450	
Opening road from Victoria to Point Gonzalo	250	
	£900	900
		£1,400

21 Apr., 1857.

Message.
Supply Bill
amendments.

Post-office
and public
roads.

Postal system.

Roads.

Postal
estimates.

Road estimates,
1857.

21 Apr., 1857.

Speaker to
Governor.
Supply Bill,
post-office,
and roads.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
VICTORIA, V.I.,
April 21st, 1857.

The Speaker has the honor, on behalf of the House, to acknowledge the receipt of the communication from His Excellency the Governor relating to certain amendments proposed in the "Bill providing for the Ordinary Expenses of the House," and also suggestions regarding postal arrangements and the opening and improving of roads, &c.

The House begs, with every respect, to assure Your Excellency that it never supposed the Honble. Council intended interfering with the well-known privilege of the House; at the same time, it was considered expedient to know with certainty that the money received from the licenses of 1856 had been expended, of which there existed some doubt.

In consenting now to the amendments proposed by the Council, "That the various items in the Bill be paid out of the money derived from the duties on licensed houses for the year 1857," the House begs to acquaint Your Excellency that they intend voting the remainder of such revenue as circumstances may demand.

With regard to the remaining portion of Your Excellency's communication, the House will take it into consideration this day fortnight, and give it such attention as the importance of the subject demands.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 21st, 1857.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution was agreed to by the House of Assembly this day:—

Moneys from
licensed houses,
1856.

"That on account of the communication from His Excellency the Governor explaining that the money derived from the duties on licensed houses of 1856 had been expended previous to the creation of this House, this House do agree to the amendments proposed by the Honble. Council, that the various items be paid out of the revenue derived from licenses of 1857."

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 5th, 1857.

5 May, 1857.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the House went into Committee this day, and the following Address agreed to and ordered respectfully to be forwarded to Your Excellency.

Speaker to Governor.

Here follows the Address, for which consult the Journal of the above date.

See p. 33, Assembly Minutes, Mem. III.

The following motion was also agreed to.

Here follows Mr. McKay's motion for returns of income and expenditure, for which see the proceedings of the House of the above date.

See p. 34, Mem. III.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 18th, 1857.

The Speaker has the honour to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution was unanimously agreed to this day:—

"That requisition be respectfully made to His Excellency the Governor for copies of all laws enacted by the Council at present in force in this Colony."

Copies of laws enacted by Council.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 28th, 1857.

The Speaker, on behalf of the House of Assembly, has to acknowledge the receipt of an Abstract of the Income and Expenditure for the Years 1855 & 56, as also a copy of the Laws and Ordinances (from 1 to 10) enacted by the Governor and Council, for which the House passed a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Governor, after which the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

Public Accounts, 1855-6.
Laws in force.

Vote of thanks.

"That requisition be respectfully made to His Excellency the Governor for information relating to the progress of the negotiations for a Reciprocity Treaty affecting this Colony."

Reciprocity Treaty.

"That requisition be made with every respect to His Excellency the Governor for information relative to the 'Inferior Court of Civil Justice,' the constitution of the same, and by whose authority the said Court has been constituted."

Inferior Court.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

1 June, 1857.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
June 1st, 1857.Speaker to
Governor.

The Speaker, in compliance with the wishes of the House, begs to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution was agreed to this day, as no Member could give the required information:—

Royalties on
Nanaimo coal.

“That requisition be courteously made to His Excellency the Governor ‘to know whether any royalties upon coal have been received from Nanaimo for the year 1856? and, if not? the reason of their being withheld.’”

J. S. HELMCKEN,
*Speaker.*HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
June 1st, 1857.*To His Excellency the Governor and Honble. Council:*Bill to enfran-
chise Victoria.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor and Honble. Members of Council that the enclosed “Bill to enfranchise the Town of Victoria” was read a third time this day and finally passed.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
*Speaker.*HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
June 25th, 1857.Spirituuous
liquors.

The Speaker has the honor to acknowledge the receipt from His Excellency the Governor of the following documents:—

1. Act regulating the Importation of Spirituous Liquors.
2. An Act prohibiting the Gift or Sale of Spirituous Liquors to Indians.

Colonial
Church.

3. An Ordinance establishing Regulations for the Arrangement of the Affairs of the Colonial Church of Victoria.

Letter from
Cameron, C.J.

4. Copy of a Communication from Chief Justice Cameron, dated Belmont, 30th May, 1857.

Inferior Court.
Coal royalties.

Also three several communications relating to—

1. The Inferior Court of Civil Justice.
2. The Non-receipt of Royalties upon Coal from Nanaimo for the Year 1856.

Reciprocity
Treaty.

3. The Negotiations with the American Government for a Reciprocity Treaty.

Being the returns moved for upon these subjects respectively.

The House thanks Your Excellency for the same, and have appointed a day, July 9th, for taking the same into consideration.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
June 1st, 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Speaker's communication of the 28th May, transmitting a vote of thanks from the House, which I highly appreciate and receive with the most grateful feelings.

Copies of certain laws enacted by the Governor and Council, not previously furnished, are transmitted with this communication for the information of the House.

In respect to your Address of the 28th day of May, requesting "information relative to the Inferior Court of Civil Justice, the constitution of the same, and by whose authority it has been constituted."

I addressed a note of enquiry upon that subject to Chief Justice Cameron, and herewith forward his reply, containing the information desired by the House.

I will further remark, in reference to that subject, that the Court styled in your address "the Inferior Court of Civil Justice" is administered by the same officers and in substance is nothing more than a subordinate branch of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice, established by Her Majesty's Order in Council, dated the 4th day of April, 1856, and is intended for the recovery of small claims by means of a less costly process than is required in the case of suits instituted in the Supreme Court.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

(Copy of a letter from David Cameron, Esqr., to Governor Douglas, dated Belmont, May 30th, 1857.)

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note of this date, enclosing an Address from the House of Assembly, "That requisition be made with every respect to His Excellency the Governor for information relative to the Inferior Court of Civil Justice, the constitution of the same, and by whose authority it has been constituted."

25 June, 1857.

Vote of thanks.

Colonial
Ordinances
transmitted.

Inferior Court.

Small debts.

Enclosure.
Letter from
Chief Justice
Cameron
touching "In-
ferior Court."

"Inferior"
or "Small
Debts" Court.

In reply, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Inferior Court of Civil Justice is founded upon the 9th and 10th Vic., Cap. 95, entitled "An Act for the More Easy Recovery of Small Debts and Demands in England, on the 28th Day of August, 1846."

English Jurists hold that Englishmen settling or colonizing new countries carry with them as their birthright not only the Common Law, but all the Statute Law, which may be suitable to their circumstances and enacted prior to the foundation of the Colony.

That this law is suitable and in existence here, as the Colony was not founded until a few years after its enactment, there can be no doubt.

Petty debts
numerous.

As Chief Justice, I have brought it into use to meet the exigencies of the suitors. Since my appointment suits for petty debts have become comparatively numerous, and as the process of the Supreme Court would be too costly and even ruinous to the suitors, I have used my discretion and adopted the process of the 9th and 10th Victoria as quoted above.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's

Most humble servant,

(Signed) DAVID CAMERON, C.J.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISL.,

8th June, 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Nanaimo coal
royalties, 1856.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Speaker's communication of the 1st June, transmitting a resolution of the House, to the effect "That requisition be made to His Excellency the Governor to know whether any royalties upon coal have been received from Nanaimo for the year 1856; and, if not, the reason of their being withheld."

No royalty
paid.

The House will observe by the Abstract of the Income and Expenditure of the Colony for the twelve months ending with the 31st day of October, 1856, which I lately forwarded for their information, that no royalty on coal has been paid in for that period.

No law to en-
force payment.

No reason has been assigned for that omission, and I am really not aware of any law by which the Executive can properly enforce payment against the proprietors of the coal-mines.

No coal
exported and
none used.

It is known that no coal has been exported, and that none has been sold within the Colony for the last twelve months; it is equally notorious that large stocks of coal have been accumulating at the mines for which there is no demand.

The coal proprietors may therefore be unwilling, after having gone to great expense in developing the resources of the Colony, to incur a further outlay by the payment of duties which probably exceed the value of the coal.

Whenever the coal is sold the proprietors will be called upon to pay the royalties; though I hold, as an incontrovertible maxim, that the taxation of native produce is, in all cases, ruinous in its effects on commercial enterprise, and directly opposed to every sound principle of political economy.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISL.,
June 8th, 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have to acknowledge your Speaker's communication of the 28th of May, containing the following resolution: "That requisition be made to His Excellency the Governor for information relating to the progress of the negotiations with the American Government regarding the Reciprocity Treaty affecting this colony."

I regret to say that I have no other information upon that subject than is contained in a Despatch from J. F. Crampton, Esqr., lately Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, dated 15th February, 1856, which relates that he had addressed a note to Mr. Marcy stating that the Authorities and the British settlers in Vancouver's Island had expressed a desire to have that Colony included in the provisions of the treaty signed at Washington, June, 1854, for a Reciprocity Treaty of Trade between the United States and certain British Colonies therein enumerated, and that Her Majesty's Government entirely concurred in the expediency of such a measure, and had instructed him to ascertain whether the Government of the United States would be disposed to enter into negotiations for that purpose.

I have not received a copy of Mr. Marcy's reply to that Despatch, but Mr. Crampton further relates that when he first alluded to the subject, Mr. Marcy remarked that, before he could form any opinion in regard to the expediency of such a measure, it would be necessary for him to consult some of the representatives in Congress of the States and Territories, who might be supposed to be more particularly interested in the matter.

Such is the very limited amount of information which I possess in reference to that subject.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

8 June, 1857.
Governor
to Speaker.
Nanaimo coal
royalties.

Taxation of
native produce
ruinous.

Reciprocity
Treaty.

Progress of
negotiations.

Colony
anxious for
arrangement.

H. M. Govt.
concurs.

16 July, 1857.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

July 16th, 1857.

Speaker to
Governor.

The Speaker has the honor to forward to His Excellency the Governor the enclosed Addresses, agreed to unanimously this day.

J. S. HELMCKEN,

*Speaker.*Reciprocity
Treaty.

1st. An Address in reply to the communication of June 1st relating to the progress of the negotiations with the American Government for a Reciprocity Treaty with this Island.

Nanaimo coal
royalties.

2nd. An Address in answer to a communication of the 8th of June upon the subject of the non-payment of royalties upon coal at Nanaimo for the year 1856.

For the Addresses *see* the proceedings of the House of the above date.—J. S. H.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

August 11th, 1857.

Births,
Deaths, and
Marriages.

The Speaker has the honour to forward to His Excellency the Governor and Council for their consideration the enclosed "Bill for the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies."

J. S. HELMCKEN,

Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

August 11th, 1857.

Governor's
Message on
beer houses.

The Speaker has the honor to acknowledge on the part of the House the receipt of a Message from His Excellency the Governor relating to the granting of licenses to beer houses, and containing a recommendation that the subject be taken into consideration.

The House have appointed the 14th day of August for the consideration of the subject.

J. S. HELMCKEN.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISL.,

5th August, 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have received your Speaker's letter of the 16th July last, transmitting two Addresses from the House of the same date, which shall have my best consideration.

I have on the present occasion to call the attention of the House to the Ordinance of the 29th of March, 1853, which authorizes the licensing of inns, public or beer houses, and regulates the amount of duty chargeable for general wholesale and retail licenses, but does not fix the rate of duty chargeable on houses licensed for the sale of beer only.

An application for a beer license having been made to the Licensing Magistrates at their late annual meeting by a respectable citizen of Victoria, it was granted accordingly, and in the absence of a legally fixed rate, the sum of £20 was charged for the said license.

I have now to recommend to the House that the license law be remodelled, or a clause added to that law fixing the amount of duty to be hereafter charged for licenses to sell beer and other malt liquors.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

Receipt of the above acknowledged; *see* preceeding page.—
J. S. H.

August 11th, 1857.
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

The Speaker has the honor to forward to His Excellency the Governor the following resolutions adopted by the House this day:—

The House of Assembly in Committee have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 5th August, 1857, suggesting their consideration of the Ordinance of the 29th March 53, with a view to remodelling the same, and beg to say the subject shall receive their closest attention at a future period.

The House is further of opinion that the sense of the House should have been taken previously to fixing the £20 rate, which they would suggest was a breach of their privileges.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
December 11th, 1857.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the House met this day and adopted the following resolutions, respectfully requesting information thereon:—

1st. For information respecting the "Bill to enfranchise the Town of Victoria," also for the same concerning the "Bill for the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages."

11 Aug., 1857.
Beer-house
licenses.

£20 paid by
respectable
citizen.

Revision
of law.

Remodelling of
Liquor License
Ordinance.

Breach of
privilege.

Enfranchise-
ment of
Victoria.

Births,
Deaths, and
Marriages.

11 Dec., 1857.

2nd. That a copy of the Colonial Accounts for the year 1857 be laid before the House as early as convenient.

3rd. That information be respectfully requested whether any land be legally attached to the district schools or not? and, if any, what extent of land is attached to each.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
December 11th, 1857.

To His Excellency the Governor and Council:

Address on
Public Schools.

The Speaker begs respectfully to inform His Excellency the Governor and Council that the report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the Public Schools, and which is herewith enclosed, was presented to the House on December 4th and ordered to be read, after which the following notice of motion was placed upon the books:—

Moving Dis-
trict School.

"That the House go into Committee at its next meeting for the purpose of considering the propriety of removing the Victoria District School to a position nearer the Town of Victoria."

The House met this day, and after some preliminary proceedings formed itself into Committee, and after discussion unanimously agreed to the following resolutions:—

1st. That, in the opinion of this House, it is advisable that the Victoria District School be removed to a position nearer the Town of Victoria.

Craigflower
School.

2nd. The House would recommend, "That the school-house opposite Craig Flower, being in a very dilapidated condition, be thoroughly repaired before being taken off the contractor's hands."

It was also resolved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that the attention of His Excellency the Governor and Council be respectfully directed to the matters related therein.

The House then adjourned until December 22nd at 10 a.m.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
19th December, 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Public
Schools.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Speaker's communication of the 11th of August last, transmitting a copy of the report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the Public Schools, and also copies of certain resolutions respecting

the District Schools, which had passed the House in consequence of the information presented in that report.

I have to thank you for the said report, and to assure the House that those resolutions shall be laid before the Council for consideration at an early day.

I herewith transmit for your information the copy of a notice issued on the 15th instant, respecting the rate of fees authorized by the Governor and Council in the District Schools of Vancouver's Island.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

19 Dec., 1857.
Public
Schools.

NOTICE.

Whereas it appeareth from a report of a Committee of the House of Assembly appointed to enquire into the state of the Public Schools of this Colony, and some misapprehension exists with respect to the District School Fees as authorized by the Governor and Council:

It is therefore desirable to make known to all whom it may concern that the Teachers of the District Schools of Vancouver's Island are, in addition to their annual salary and board allowance from the Colonial Trust Fund, authorized to receive pupils in the manner following, and to charge according to the Scale of Fees hereinafter set forth for each pupil; that is to say, children placed under the care of the District Teachers for tuition shall be boarded at the following rates:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1st. Children of Colonists residents of Vancouver's Island and of servants of Hudson's Bay Company, | } 18 guineas per annum. |
| 2nd. The children of non-residents, not being servants of Hudson's Bay Company, | |
| | } Any sum that may be agreed with the parties. |
| | |

Day scholars attending the District Schools shall pay at the following rates for tuition, viz.: Five shillings per quarter of (or) twenty shillings per annum for the following instruction, viz.: Reading, English grammar, writing, geography, arithmetic, and industrial training.

When a higher series of education is given, such as Latin or other languages and the higher branches of arithmetic and mathematics, they shall pay an increased rate of school fees to be arranged between the Governor for the time being and the Schoolmaster.

District
School Fees.

Day scholars.

Higher
education.

In all cases the pupils are to find books and stationery at their own expense, the same not being provided by the Colony.

RICHARD GOLLEDGE,
Secretary.

*Victoria, Vancouver's Isld.,
December 15th, 1857.*

By His Excellency's command.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
19th December, 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Enfranchise-
ment of
Victoria.
Births,
Deaths, and
Marriages.
Public
Accounts.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Speaker's communication of the 11th December, and in compliance with the request of the House of Assembly, I have to refer you to my communications of this date for information respecting the "Bill to enfranchise the Town of Victoria" and the "Bill for the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages." I also herewith transmit a copy of the Expenditure of the Colony for the twelve months ending with the 31st day of October last, so far as the returns have been received.

Land grant
to District
Schools.

I have also further to inform the House that it is my intention to make over by way of grant a piece of land for the use of each of the District Schools, and I have every reason to believe that the Governor and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company will confirm the said grant.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLD.,
19th December, 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Births,
Deaths, and
Marriages.

I have to acknowledge Mr. Speaker's communication of the 11th of August last, transmitting "A Bill for the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages," which passed the House on the same day.

It is my intention to submit the said Bill for the consideration of the Governor and Council at an early day.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLD.,
December 19th, 1857.

19 Dec., 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have to acknowledge your Speaker's communication of the 1st of June last, transmitting "A Bill to enfranchise the Town of Victoria," which will be submitted for the consideration of the Council.

Enfranchise-
ment of
Victoria.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLD.,
19th December, 1857.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have received your Speaker's communication of the 11th of August last, transmitting certain resolutions respecting the licensing of beer houses, which had passed through the House, and will have my best attention.

Beer houses.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 29th, 1858.

The Speaker has the honor to forward the enclosed "Bill to amend the Law relating to the Licensing of Inns, Public and Beer Houses" for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor and Council.

Inns, Public
and Beer
Houses.

The House of Assembly does not consider any further alteration of the law necessary at present, but, with a view to its future consideration, have limited its duration to one year.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 29th, 1858.

The Speaker, on behalf of the House of Assembly, begs respectfully to enquire whether a copy of the evidence given before the Committee appointed to enquire into the affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company has been sent for their information; and, if not, to ask the loan of one from His Excellency the Governor.

Enquiry into
H. B. Co.'s
affairs.

29 April, 1858.
Blue Books.

The House of Assembly is further of opinion the copies of Blue Books containing matters connected with Vancouver's Island should be forwarded as soon as published for the information of the House.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
June 15th, 1858.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the House met this day and adopted the following resolutions.

Conference
between
Council and
House.

For which see the proceedings of the House of the above date relating to a Conference requested between the House and His Excellency the Governor and Council.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

VICTORIA, V.I.,
June 16th, 1858.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Conference
between
Council and
Assembly.

I have received your Speaker's Address of the 15th inst. requesting a Conference with me for the purpose of seeking information on certain subjects which are therein detailed, and I have to inform you, in reply, that I shall have much pleasure in meeting the House in Conference at Government House at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
August 10th, 1858.

The Speaker begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following documents from His Excellency the Governor, being returns, &c., moved for, and on the part of the House to thank His Excellency for the same:—

Returns from
Licensed
Houses.

1st. Returns of Monies arising from Duties on Licensed Houses.

Reservation of
Springs and
Old Well.

2nd. Information of Instructions having been given to reserves the Springs of Water and Old Well with the Land adjacent for the Use of the Public (July 27th).

School-house.

3rd. Information regarding the School-house, Victoria, being Information asked for as per Resolution of the House, August 5th.

4th. A Communication relative to the Necessity of enlarging the Prison and raising Funds for the Erection of same and other matters.

The latter was to have been taken into consideration this day, but owing to the indisposition and absence of Members the subject will be brought forward on Tuesday next at 11 a.m.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
August 6th, 1858.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have the honor to acknowledge your Speaker's communication of the 27th of July, transmitting a resolution agreed to by the House on the same day, and I have, in consequence of the wishes expressed by the House in that resolution, given instructions to the Surveyor-General to reserve the water springs and adjoining land, and the well which formerly supplied the Town of Victoria with water, for the use of the public.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
VICTORIA, August 9th, 1858.

To Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have received your Speaker's communication of the 5th August on the subject of the transfer of Victoria Colonial School, and I have to inform the House that through my instructions arrangements are now in progress for erecting a new School-house on the Church lands near the parsonage, and when it is completed the school will be removed thither and the present school-house be made over to the Customs Department, which will be charged with the cost of the building.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

10 Aug., 1858.
Prison.

Water springs
and old well
reserved.

Removal of
Victoria
Colonial
School.

9 Aug., 1858.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
VICTORIA, August 9th, 1858.*To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

Public Gaol.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Committee's report on the state and discipline of the Public Gaol at Victoria, as transmitted to me in your Speaker's communication of the 5th instant.

The painful details given in that report call for the instant attention of the Legislature. The report shews that the present gaol is too small for the place, and that a larger and well-ventilated building is urgently required.

Public Hospital.

A Public Hospital is also one of those institutions which is greatly needed for the relief of the casual sick, applications for medical attendance being of almost daily occurrence at Government Houses by sick and destitute persons.

I would therefore recommend that the House enter without delay into the consideration of the ways and means of raising money for defraying the expense of erecting a Public Gaol, and also, should the expense not appear greater than the revenues of the Colony are capable of defraying, the erection of a Public Hospital.

Cost of buildings.

The cost of those buildings will probably not exceed the sum of £4,000 sterling, and the House should make provision accordingly.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
*Governor.*VICTORIA, V.I.,
23rd August, 1858.*To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*Duties on
licensed
houses.

I herewith transmit for the information of the House a further return of the 19th inst. of £360 arising from duties on licensed houses.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

Amount already accounted for	£2,650	0	0
Account now transmitted	360	0	0
	£3,010	0	0

VICTORIA, V.I.,
23rd August, 1858.

23 Aug., 1858.

To the Gentlemen and Speaker of the House of Assembly:

In consequence of the request of the House, there is herewith forwarded for their information a return of the number of vessels which have entered at the Port of Victoria since the 1st March last and the dues collected on the same, and also of the number of officers employed in the Custom-house and a statement of the salaries which they respectively receive.

The Governor and Council have not framed any Customs Regulations; the laws relative to shipping in this Colony being enforced under the Customs Consolidation Acts, as they apply to the British Possessions in America.

I have to thank the House for a copy of the report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the state and discipline of the Public Gaol.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

No. of vessels
entering
Victoria.

Custom-house.

Customs
Regulations.

VICTORIA, V.I.,
23rd August, 1858.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Your Address of the 17th instant on the subject of the enlargement of the Public Gaol has been received, and your suggestions will be attended to.

In waiting the further action of the House, and the grant of the sums of money requisite for carrying the proposed plans of improvement into effect, there are two points which I have to suggest for your consideration:—

1st. That the site of the building used at present as a Public Gaol is in a very confined situation, and manifestly unfit for an hospital, where thorough ventilation and pure air are so essentially necessary for the recovery of the sick.

2nd. The Hudson's Bay Company will not consent to the proposal of the House for enlarging the present building, which belongs to them, and is merely leased from year to year for the use of the Colony.

JAMES DOUGLAS.

Public Gaol.

23 Aug., 1858.

VICTORIA, V.I.,

23rd August, 1858.

*To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*Removal of
Victoria
School.

In acknowledging your Address of the 17th August respecting the removal of the Victoria School from the building where it is now kept to another building which it is proposed to erect on a more convenient site for the population of the town generally, I am prepared to admit the cogency of the reason which have (has) induced the House to express a wish that the proposed arrangement should not be carried into effect; at the same time, however, I must inform the House that arrangements have already been entered into for the erection of the new building, chiefly in consequence of the generally expressed wish of the people, and of the resolution which the House passed to that effect on the 11th of December last; and those arrangements cannot now be altered.

Nevertheless, should any evidence be made to appear of a general desire on the part of the inhabitants of Victoria to retain possession of the present school-house in preference to the new building, I will in that case yield to their wishes and order the new building to be used for some other public purpose.

Customs officers
not to be
provided with
residences.

The House having in the same Address given it as their opinion that the officers of the Customs should not be provided with private residences at the public expense, lest the outlay should become burdensome to the Colony, I have to acquaint the House that, in the arrangement made with the present Collector of Customs, the advantage of having a free house forms part of the salary and remuneration which he receives for his services, and is not allowed him as a gratuitous favor.

JAMES DOUGLAS,

Governor.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISL.,

August 23rd, 1858.

*To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*Unauthorized
sale of liquors.

In reply to your Address of the 17th of August respecting the unauthorized sale of spirituous liquors at Nanaimo, I would suggest that any Member of the House cognizant of infractions of the license law should give information of the same to a Magistrate, and prosecute before the proper Court all persons guilty of those offences.

Licenses paid
into General
Colonial Fund.

The moneys raised last year from duties on licensed houses were paid into the General Colonial Fund as per a return then furnished. The House has consequently the means of ascertaining

through its own records what sums were voted for the service of the year, and what balance or if any remains disposable for the current year. I therefore regret that the House should have had the trouble of referring to me for information on a subject with which I am imperfectly acquainted.

The income derived from the dues on shipping must in the first place be applied to the payment of the officers employed and the other necessary expenses of the Department, and should any balance remain after defraying those expenses, the sum will be applied to meet the general expenditure of the Colony.

When Customs duties are levied in this Colony, which is, however, not the case at present, the revenue so raised will unquestionably be at the disposal of the Colonial Legislature.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
August 24th, 1858.

The Speaker begs to acknowledge the receipt of the several communications of August 23rd from His Excellency the Governor.

The House intends taking the same into consideration on Friday next, but previous to that would be glad to know the salary of the Collector of Customs, the same not being stated in last returns.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
November 8th, 1858.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

With reference to your Address of September 17th, wherein further reasons are given in support of the opinion of the House that the Victoria District School should not be removed from its present situation, I have to acquaint the House that their wish has been complied with; and, further, that instructions have been given to put the said school-house in a proper state of repair, as requested per resolution of the House of August 17th, 1858.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

23 Aug., 1858.

Shipping dues.

Salary of
Collector of
Customs.

Removal of
Victoria Dis-
trict School.

8 Nov., 1858.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
November 8th, 1858.Collector of
Customs.*To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

In acknowledging the receipt of your Address of September 17th relating to certain omissions in the returns furnished by the Collector of Customs, I beg to inform the House of my ignorance of such omissions, and now state for the information of the House that the salary of the Collector of Customs to be £700 per annum with a free residence, and that the salaries of the officers engaged in the Customs Department are paid out of the revenues received by that Department.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
November 8th, 1858.*To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*Income
returns.

I have to inform the House that instructions have been given to forward, as soon as possible, "An Abstract of the Income of the Year ending October 31st, 1857," being the returns moved for by the House, September 17th, 1858.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
November 8th, 1858.*To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*Enfranchise-
ment of
Victoria.

In reply to your communication of November 2nd requesting information as to the progress of the "Bill to enfranchise the Town of Victoria," I have to inform the House that the subject is still under consideration.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
November 15th, 1858.*To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

I herewith return the following Bills, which have been under the consideration of the Council and have this day been duly passed, and copies of which are herewith forwarded, viz.:—

1st. A Bill to amend the Law relating to Inns and Beer Houses.	15 Nov., 1858.
2nd. A Bill of Supply granting certain Sums of Money for the Improvement of the Roads and Streets and for the Use of the House of Assembly.	Inns and Beer Houses Bill.
3rd. An Act to amend the Law relating to the Licensing of Inns, Public and Beer Houses.	Supply Bill.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor.	Licenses.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
November 23rd, 1858.

The Speaker begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following Bills:—

1st. A Bill to amend the Law relating to Inns and Beer Houses.	Inns and Beer Houses.
2nd. A Bill of Supply granting certain Sums of Money for the Improvement of the Roads and Streets and for the Use of the House of Assembly.	Supply.
3rd. An Act to amend the Law relating to the Licensing of Inns, Public and Beer Houses.	Liquor licenses.

These Bills were severally laid before the House this day, and the formular (*sic*) amendments therein made by the Legislative Council agreed to *nem. con.*

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
December 7th, 1858.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution was unanimously agreed to this day:—

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that a public road be opened from Craig Flower to the Hospital Road at Esquimalt, passing by the Barracks at Constance Cove, and also that the old road across the Gorge be reopened."

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

Road, Craig-flower to Hospital Road.

11 Jan., 1859.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
January 11th, 1859.Enfranchise-
ment of
Victoria.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following motion was brought forward by Mr. J. Yates (Victoria) and agreed to:—

“I beg to move, That this House be informed by the Executive if the bill for the Extension of the Franchise to the Town of Victoria, which passed this House on the first of June, 1857, is likely to be passed or rejected by the Executive.”

The House will meet on Tuesday next at 11 a.m.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
January 18th, 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have received your Speaker's communication of the 11th inst. containing the following motion brought forward by Mr. Yates (Victoria):—

Enfranchise-
ment of
Victoria.

“I beg to move, That this House be informed by the Executive if the bill for the Extension of the Franchise to the Town of Victoria, which passed this House on the first day of June, 1857, is likely to be passed or rejected by the Executive.”

I have to inform you, in reply to that Address, that the consideration of the Act for the Enfranchising to (of the) Town of Victoria has been necessarily delayed in consequence of the condition of the country and the great pressure of public business; it will, however, be brought forward for the consideration of the Council on the first convenient occasion, and the decision of that body will be communicated to you at an early day after its first meeting.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
January 18th, 1859.

Books for
House.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution was unanimously agreed to this day:—

“That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that His Excellency would communicate with

His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada or proper authorities for the purpose of obtaining a presentation of the following works:—

1. Statutes of Upper Canada.
2. do of Lower Canada.
3. Journal of Proceedings of Legislative Assembly.
4. Journal of Proceedings of Legislative Council.
5. Revised Statutes of Upper Canada.
6. Revised Statutes of Lower Canada.
7. Canada Gazette—Old files as well as new as they come out, and any other works issued by Government.

And that His Excellency would also hold communication with the Home Government for the purpose of obtaining the more recent Statutes as well as a supply of works published by the Government."

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
January 25th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution passed unopposed this day:—

"That application be made to His Excellency the Governor for the following information, viz.: Has the Government of this Island the power to remove the Indians (by purchase) from that piece of land inside Victoria Harbour known as the 'Indian Reservation'? Should Government not have that power, may it please His Excellency to inform this House "wherein the Government is powerless."

(J. Yates.)

The House will meet again February 8th at 11 a.m.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
January 25th, 1859.

The Speaker begs to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following motion was agreed to this day:—

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that one hundred acres of land be reserved in the Districts of Esquimaux and Metchozen, Sooke, Saaniitch, and Cowwitchin for educational purposes, and that one hundred acres of land in

18 Jan., 1859.

Books required
by House.

Removal of
Indians from
Reservation.

Reservations
of land for
educational
purposes.

each of the aforesaid districts be reserved for public purposes, the said lands to be chosen in the most eligible situations."

(J. W. McKay.)

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
5th February, 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Reservation
of lands for
school
purposes.

I have duly received your Address of the 25th ultimo, praying that certain lands should be reserved in the several Districts of Esquimault, Sooke, Saanitch, Metchosin, and Cowitchin for educational and public purposes, and I have to communicate to you, in reference thereto, that instructions have been issued to Mr. Surveyor-General Pemberton requiring him to make large reserves for the general purposes of the Government in the Districts of Esquimault, Metchosin, Sooke, Saanitch, Cowwitchin and Nanaimo, and all other districts in Vancouver's Island which may hereafter be surveyed for settlement.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
5th February, 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Removal of
Indians from
Reservation
at Victoria.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Speaker's communication of the 25th ultimo, containing the following resolution which passed the House on that day:—

"That application be made to His Excellency the Governor for the following information, viz.: Has the Government of this Island the power to remove the Indians (by purchase) from that piece of land inside Victoria Harbour known as the Indian Reservation? Should the Government not have that power, may it please His Excellency to inform this House wherein the Government is powerless." (J. Yates.)

In reply to the foregoing resolution, I have to observe that previously to the grant of the Island to the Hudson's Bay Company the whole Island was vested in the Crown as part of its domains.

When the settlement at Victoria was formed, certain reservations were made in favour of the Indian tribes.

First: They were to be protected in their right of fishing on the coast and in the bays of the Colony, and of hunting over all

unoccupied Crown lands; and they were also to be secured in the enjoyment of their village sites and cultivated fields.

Those rights they have since enjoyed in full, and the reserves of land covering their village sites and cultivated fields have all been distinctly marked on the maps and surveys of the Colony, and the faith of Government is pledged that their occupation shall not be disturbed.

For that reason the Government will not cause them to be removed, because it is bound by the faith of a solemn engagement to protect them in the enjoyment of those agrarian rights.

It may further interest the House to know that the title to those lands is vested in the Crown, and that the Indians of themselves can convey no title to any part of their reserves either by sale or lease.

The presence of Indians near the town is a public inconvenience, but their violent removal would be neither just nor politic.

I therefore propose, as a remedy, to enter into arrangement with their consent to subdivide the reserve adjacent to Victoria, and to let it out on leases to persons who will undertake to build and to make other improvements upon it, and to apply the whole proceeds of those leases to the general benefit of the Indians interested. That is by providing them with a school-house and teacher, who will probably be a Missionary Clergyman, for the education of their children, and to endeavour thus to raise them morally and socially to a higher position than they now occupy in the Colony.

By such means a great benefit, worthy of the philanthropy of our country, will be conferred upon the Indians themselves, while at the same time the improvement and increase of the Town of Victoria will not be retarded by their unprofitable occupation of one of its most valuable portions.

JAMES DOUGLAS.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

February 8th, 1859.

The Speaker begs to acknowledge the receipt of two several communications from His Excellency the Governor:—

1st. Relating to the reservation of certain lands for Government purposes in various districts of Vancouver's Island; the same being in reply to a resolution of the House of January 25th.

2nd. Relating to the removal of the Indians from their reservation in Victoria Harbour, and defining a plan by which the desire of the House, as expressed by resolution January 25th, might be obtained.

5 Feb., 1859.
Removal of
Indians from
Reservation.
Their rights.

Leasing of
reserve for
benefit of
Indians.

Reservation of
certain lands.

Removal of
Indians.

These several communications were read to the House and ordered to be taken into consideration on Tuesday next at 11 a.m., when certain resolutions will be proposed relative thereto.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISLD.,
5th February, 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Books for
House.

I have duly received your Speaker's communication of the 18th ultimo, forwarding to me a resolution which had been unanimously agreed to on that day, to the effect that the Governor-General of Canada should be requested to present certain works as named for the use of the House of Assembly of Vancouver's Island.

In reply thereto, I would beg to acquaint you that I will forward a copy of your resolution to the Governor-General of Canada, and will request a presentation of the works desired.

JAMES DOUGLAS.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA,
VANCOUVER'S ISLAND,
21st February, 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of House of Assembly:

New apart-
ments for
Legislature.

Having received intimation from the officer in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's establishment at this place that he cannot without much inconvenience any longer dispense with the use of the apartment in which the House of Assembly have hitherto met and pursued their meritorious and highly useful labors, I wish on the present occasion to inform you that I have made arrangements that the House should hereafter be convened in the Court-room of the New Police Office, which I have directed the Commissioner of Police to prepare for your reception without delay, in a manner befitting the dignity of your Honourable House.

I have, &c.,
(Sgd.) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Gov.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
February 15th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution was agreed to this day:—

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying for the immediate removal of the Northern Indians from the Town of Victoria."

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
February 22nd, 1859.

The Speaker begs to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following motion was carried this day:—

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will impress upon Her Majesty's Government the imperative necessity of sending Commissioners to this Island without delay for the purpose of making a thorough investigation into the affairs of the Colony before releasing the Hudson's Bay Company from their responsible Government."

(Mr. Yates.)

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
February 22nd, 1859.

The Speaker, having received Your Excellency's communication of February 21st informing the House that the hall in which they at present meet is required for other purposes and that suitable accommodation will be afforded in future in the Court-house, laid the same before the House of Assembly, who acquiesced in the arrangement.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

To His Excellency the Governor of Vancouver's Island.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
15th February, 1859.

To His Excellency the Governor:

The House of Assembly begs respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's communication of 5th February, 1859, the same being a reply to the resolution of the House of January 25th that one hundred acres of land should be reserved in several mentioned districts for educational and one hundred for public purposes.

15 Feb., 1859.
Northern
Indians.

Investigation
into Colonial
affairs.

New chamber
for House.

Reservation
of land.

15 Feb., 1859.
Large reserves
for Government
purposes.

Averse to
reserves for
religious estab-
lishments.

Reserves not
to be sold
without consent
of House.

Mint.

Enfranchise-
ment of
Victoria.

The House observes that, in replying to this resolution, Your Excellency's remarks "that instructions have been issued to Mr. Surveyor-General Pemberton requiring him to make *large reserves for the general purposes of Government* in the various Districts of Esquimalt, Matchosin, Soosake, Saanitch, Cowitchin, and Nanaimo, and all other districts in Vancouver's Island which may hereafter be surveyed for settlement."

In reference to this paragraph, the House would humbly observe that, knowing large reserves to be detrimental to the settlement of the Colony and at the same time unnecessary, it had no desire that any more land should be reserved and not for any other purpose than was explicitly stated, but particularly were averse to making reserves for the purpose of endowing or supporting any religious establishments, considering any reserve for this purpose unadvisable and objectionable.

The House would therefore humbly request that its resolution of January 25th should be complied with, and, moreover, hopes and respectfully asks that in any case it shall be guaranteed that such reserves shall not be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of, made use of, excepting with the consent of the Legislature of Vancouver's Island, and respectfully urges that this request be complied with.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
31st March, 1859.

Mr. Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following Address was agreed to this day:—

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will urge upon the Home Government the desirability of establishing a mint in this Colony, and also that the money therein coined shall be decimal currency of the same value as that of the United States of America."

Proposed by the Hon. Member for Esquimalt.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April, 1859.

Mr. Speaker begs respectfully to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution was agreed to by the House this day:—

"That information be courteously requested of His Excellency the Governor respecting the progress of the Bill to enfranchise the Town of Victoria."

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA,
7th April, 1859.

7 April, 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

In reply to the resolution which passed your House on the 6th instant requesting information respecting the progress of the Bill to enfranchise the Town of Victoria, I have to communicate for your information that the said Bill was laid before Council and received its favorable consideration for the first time on the 23rd day of March last.

Enfranchise-
ment of
Victoria.

(Sgd.) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
6th April, 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from Mr. Speaker dated on the 31st March, transmitting the following Address:—

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will urge upon the Home Government the desirability of establishing a Mint in this Colony, and also that the money shall be decimal currency of the United States of America."

Mint.

I beg to assure the House that I will, without delay, enter into communication with Her Majesty's Government strongly recommending the expediency and advantage of establishing a Mint on Vancouver's Island.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
6th April, 1859.

The Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Address of the 22nd February last, stating that the following motion was carried that day:—

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will impress upon Her Majesty's Government the imperative necessity of sending Commissioners to this Island without delay for the purpose of making a thorough investigation into the affairs of the Colony before releasing the Hudson's Bay Company from their responsible Government."

Investigation
of Colonial
affairs.

6 Apr., 1859.

I beg to assure the House that I will transmit, without delay, a copy of this motion for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

(Sgd.) J. DOUGLAS,
Governor.

Gov. HOUSE, V. ISLD.,
6th April, 1859.

To Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Removal of
Northern
Indians.

I have received your Address of the 16th February last, "praying for the immediate removal of the Northern Indians from the Town of Victoria," and in reference to that subject I now communicate for your information copy of a correspondence with Captain De Courcy, R.N., making a demand on that officer for the assistance of one of Her Majesty's vessels of war to convey, for reasons therein stated, the said Indians in their canoes as far as Johnston's Straits, and communicating his ready compliance with the demand by detaching Her Majesty's steamship "Tribune," under the command of Captain Hornby, R.N., for that responsible and trying service.

Their removal was effected with complete success, attended with circumstances evincing a degree of humanity and sound judgment highly honorable to the gallant officer in command.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

VICTORIA, V.I.,
8th March, 1859.

Removal of
Northern
Indians.

SIR,—There is at the present moment a large number of Northern Indians encamped in and around Victoria through whom it is apprehended disturbances may arise, and by whom outrages may be committed, and as I have been anxious for some time past to remove these Indians from the place, and to send them to their homes, I have the honor to apply to you on the occasion to know whether you will spare one of Her Majesty's vessels of war to assist me in my endeavours, by conveying the said Indians in their canoes as far as Johnston's Straits, which would insure the safe conveyance of the Indians beyond a point where they would be likely to commit any outrages on the white settlements, and would at the same time give them sufficient protection against a tribe near to that locality whom they represent they are unable to pass at the present time unless protected.

(Sgd.) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

H.M.S. "PYLADES," ESQUIMALT HARBOUR,
12th March, 1859.

12 Mar., 1859.

SIR,—In reply to your letters of the 8th and 9th inst., I have the honor to acquaint you that H.M.S. "Tribune" will be ready on Wednesday, the 16th inst., to convey the Northern Indians as far as Cape Mudge, beyond which point I cannot authorise Captain Hornby to go in the ship, but will leave it to his judgment as to the necessity, or otherwise, of conveying the Indians by the ship's boats for a moderate distance beyond that point.

Removal of
Northern
Indians.

Captain Hornby will be instructed to receive on board the "Tribune" whoever you may think necessary to send in charge of the Indians, and any suggestions you may have to offer shall be attended to.

&c., &c., &c.,

MICH. DE COURCY,
Captain and Senior Officer.

His Excellency the Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, V.I.,
6th April, 1859.

The Speaker and Gentlemen of House of Assembly:

I have received your Speaker's communication of the 31st March, wherein reference is made to a communication from me of the 5th February in reply to the resolution of the House of the 25th January last, praying that 100 acres of land should be reserved in certain districts of Vancouver's Island for educational and 100 for public purposes.

Reservations
of land for
school and
other purposes.

I beg to observe, for the information of the House, that in surveys of the public domain large reserves of land are invariably made for the purposes of Government, and that rule has been carried out in Vancouver's Island in common with other Colonies.

Civil list.

The disposal of such land and its application to special objects rests with the Crown, except in Colonies where arrangements have been made for securing a civil list in return for the lands of the Crown.

In communicating, therefore, to you that I had issued instructions to Mr. Surveyor-Pemberton requiring him to make large reserves for the general purposes of Government in all the surveyed districts of Vancouver's Island, I, in substance, complied with the wishes of the House and exercised to their full extent the power vested in my office.

Large revenues
for general
purposes.

The House will thus observe that I could not authorize the application of those reserves for special objects, and for the same reason I cannot literally comply with the request of the House

6 Apr., 1859.
Land reserves.

as stated in your communication of the 31 March, to the effect that "It shall be guaranteed that such reserves shall not be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of (or) made use of excepting with the consent of the Legislature of Vancouver's Island."

The House may, however, rest assured that I will not fail to recommend their petition for the favorable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER'S ISL.,
5th February, 1859.

To Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Removal of
Indians from
Reservation
at Victoria.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Speaker's communication of the 25th ultimo, containing the following resolution which passed the House on that day:—

"That application be made to His Excellency the Governor for the following information, viz.: Has the Government of this Island the power to remove (by purchase) the Indians from that piece of land inside Victoria Harbour known as the "Indian Reservation"? Should Government not have that power, may it please His Excellency to inform this House wherein the Government are powerless." (J. Yates.)

In reply to the foregoing resolution, I have to observe that previously to the grant of Vancouver's Island to the Hudson's Bay Company the whole Island was vested in the Crown as part of its domain.

Indian rights.

When the settlement at Victoria was formed certain reservations were made in favour of the native tribes.

1st. They were to be protected in their original right of fishing on the coast and in the bays of the Colony, and of hunting over all unoccupied Crown lands; and they were also to be secured in the enjoyment of their village sites and cultivated fields. Those rights have since been enjoyed in full, and the reserves of land covering their village sites and cultivated fields have all been distinctly marked on the maps and surveys of the Colony, and the faith of Government is pledged that their occupation shall not be disturbed.

Government
bound by
solemn engage-
ment.

For that reason the Government will not cause them to be removed, because it is bound by the faith of a solemn engagement to protect them in the enjoyment of those agrarian rights.

Title vested
in Crown.

It may further interest the House to know that the title to those lands is vested in the Crown, and that the Indians of themselves can convey no title to any part of their reserves either by sale or lease.

The presence of the Indians so near the town is a public inconvenience, but their violent removal would be neither just nor politic.

I therefore propose as a remedy to enter into arrangements, with their consent, to subdivide the reserve adjacent to Victoria, and to let it out on leases to persons who will undertake to build and to make other improvements upon it, and to apply the whole proceeds of those leases to the general benefit of the Indians interested; that is, by providing them with a school-house and Teacher, who will probably be a Missionary Clergyman, for the education of their children, and to endeavour thus to raise them morally and socially to a higher position than they now occupy in the Colony.

By such means a great benefit, worthy of the philanthropy of our country, will be conferred upon the Indians themselves, while at the same time the improvement and increase in the Town of Victoria will not be retarded by the unprofitable occupation of one of its most valuable portions.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS.

This communication is placed here, having been overlooked for insertion in its proper place.—J. S. H.

As a matter of fact this letter is printed on page 46.—E. O. S. S., Ed.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 20th, 1859.

The Speaker begs to acknowledge the receipt from the Governor and Council of—

1st. A Bill for the Passage of an Act respecting Marriages in the Colony of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies.

2nd. A Bill for the Passage of an Act respecting the property of Religious Institutions in the Colony of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies.

3rd. A Bill to provide for the Registration of Conveyances and other Deeds.

These several Bills were duly laid before the House this day.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 20th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to forward the enclosed "Bill to authorize the McAdamizing of certain Streets, the Erection of a

5 Feb., 1859.

Leasing of
Indian Reserve.

School-house
and teacher-
missionary.

Marriages.

Property of
Religious
Institutions.

Registration
of Deeds.

Macadamizing
of certain
streets.

20 Apr., 1859.

Bridge, and to provide Means for the Same," which passed the House this day, and ordered to be transmitted for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor and Council.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 20th, 1859.

Game Bill.

The Speaker begs to acknowledge the return of the "Bill to provide for the Passage of an Act for the Preservation of Game," with certain amendments inserted therein by the Governor and Council.

The aforesaid amendments having been brought under the consideration of the House were agreed to this day.

J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 26th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following Address passed the House of Assembly this day:—

Improvement
of Harbour.

"That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that His Excellency will take into consideration the importance of having buoys laid down on the sunken rocks in Victoria Harbour, as they are extremely dangerous to shipping, and from the frequent occurrence of vessels getting aground upon these rocks, it has a tendency to impress upon the minds of shipmasters and others a very unfavourable opinion of the harbor." (Mr. Yates.)

The House will meet again on Thursday, the 28th instant, at 11 o'clock a.m.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA,
VANCOUVER'S ISLAND, 28th April, 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

Capt. Richards'
survey of Vic-
toria Harbour.

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your information a copy of a report and of an elaborate survey of the Harbor of Victoria, kindly prepared at my request by George Henry Richards, Esquire, Captain of Her Majesty's surveying ship "Plumper," and I beg to call the attention of the House to the valuable suggestions of that officer with respect to the

expediency of placing buoys and distinguishing marks on the Sleepers, and other rocks, which obstruct the passage, and endanger the safety of vessels entering and leaving this harbour.

I have strongly to recommend that highly important measure to your favourable consideration, and that provision may be made by the House without delay for defraying the necessary expense of labor and material, which it is estimated will not much exceed the sum of £400 sterling.

(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor, Vancouver's Island.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
April 28th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution passed the House of Assembly this day:—

"That six hundred pounds having been voted last year out of the License Fund for the repairs of the road to Esquimalt, His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to order the necessary repairs to be commenced without delay." (Mr. Skinner.)

The House will meet again on Monday, May 2nd, at 11 o'clock a.m.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
4th May, 1859.

The Speaker has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from His Excellency the Governor, accompanying a report and an elaborate survey of the Harbor of Victoria, prepared by George Henry Richards, Esquire, Captain of Her Majesty's surveying ship "Plumper."

The report and survey having been laid before the House of Assembly will receive at an early day that attentive consideration which the importance of the subject demands.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 4th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution was carried in the House of Assembly this day:—

28 Apr., 1859.

Expenditure
of £400
proposed.

Repairs to
Esquimalt
Road.

Survey of
Victoria
Harbour.

4 May, 1859.
Removal of
Government
offices.
James Bay
Bridge.

"That, as His Excellency the Governor has determined on removing some of the Government offices from a central position of the town to the south end of it, as well as having a bridge constructed 800 feet in length leading thereto, the erection of which and removal of Government offices has not been brought before the representatives of the people for their consent, therefore this House protests against the action adopted by His Excellency, and declares the same to be unconstitutional and a breach of privilege." (Mr. Yates.)

The House will meet again on Tuesday, May 10th, at 11 o'clock a.m.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 10th, 1859.

Removal of
Government
Buildings.
James Bay
Bridge.

The Speaker has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from His Excellency the Governor, dated the 7th instant, in reply to a resolution of the House forwarded to His Excellency on the 4th May, in reference to the removal of Government Buildings and the erection of a bridge across James' Bay.

The House will go into a Committee of the Whole to take the same into consideration on Tuesday next, the 17th instant, at 11 o'clock a.m.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 16th, 1859.

No funds for
improvement
of Victoria
Harbour.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the House this day went into Committee of Ways and Means, and reported the following answer to His Excellency's requisition for £400 for the purpose of buoying Victoria Harbour, dated 28th April, 1859:—

"In reply to Your Excellency's requisition for £400 for the purpose of buoying Victoria Harbour, the House begs respectfully to inform Your Excellency that they have no funds, but strongly recommend the execution of the same."

The House adopted the report of the Committee.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 16th, 1859.

16 May, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor of returning to His Excellency the Governor the copy of a report and a survey of the Harbour of Victoria, prepared by George Henry Richards, Esquire, Captain of Her Majesty's surveying ship "Plumper," and begs to offer to His Excellency, on the part of the House of Assembly, their thanks for the use of the same.

Report on
Harbour.

The Speaker has also the honor of transmitting to His Excellency the report of the Select Committee on the subject, together with their recommendations, which were adopted by the House.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 17th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following resolution and Address were passed in the House of Assembly this day:—

Transmitting
resolutions.

"The House of Assembly begs to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's and candid reply, &c." (Mr. Pemberton.)

"But the House cannot allow the following remarks of your Excellency to remain unnoticed, &c." (Mr. Helmcken.)

(NOTE.—For Address and resolution *see* Minute Book of House of Assembly of date May 17th, 1859.—Jos. PORTER, *Clerk of House.*)

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 16th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor of transmitting to His Excellency the Governor and Council the following Bill, which passed the House of Assembly on the 10th of instant:—

Remains of
deceased
persons.

"A Bill for the Removal of the Remains of Deceased Persons from a Deserted Graveyard in Victoria to the New Burial Ground there."

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

26 May, 1859.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
May 26th, 1859.Religious
Institutions.

The Speaker has the honor of returning to His Excellency the Governor and Council the accompanying Bills, which passed the House of Assembly this day, with the following Amendments:—

“A Bill respecting the Property of Religious Institutions in Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies.”

Marriages.

“A Bill respecting Marriages in Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies.”

(NOTE.—For amendments *see* Minute Book of the House of Assembly of date May 16th, 1859.)

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
June 4th, 1859.Buoying of
Victoria
Harbour, £250.

The Speaker has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from His Excellency the Governor, dated May 30th, 1859, conveying to the House the information that His Excellency “has authorized the expenditure of two hundred and fifty pounds for the purpose of buoying the Harbour of Victoria, and rendering it at once safe and accessible for shipping; and trusting that the House of Assembly will make provision for the liquidation of that sum in their future grants of money for the Public Service,” and to state that the same has been laid before the House.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
June 6th, 1859.New writ for
Nanaimo.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following order was made this day:—

“That a new writ be forthwith issued for the election of a Member to serve in the House of Assembly for the District of Nanaimo.”

(Sgd.) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
June 30th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from His Excellency the Governor, dated June 29th, 1859, conveying to the House of Assembly the information that at an election held at Nanaimo on the 23rd of instant, John Swanston, Esquire, was duly elected representative for that place; and the same was laid before the House at its sitting this evening.

The return from Alfred R. Benson, Esquire, mentioned as being enclosed, did not accompany the communication.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

30 June, 1859.

Return of John
Swanston for
Nanaimo.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
July 4th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from His Excellency the Governor, dated 1st July, enclosing a return from Alfred R. Benson, Esquire, certifying that John Swanson, Esquire, was duly elected representative for Nanaimo on the 23rd of June; and the same is now returned to His Excellency for the purpose of being placed on record.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

Return of John
Swanston for
Nanaimo.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
July 4th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor to inform His Excellency the Governor that the following return was moved for in the House of Assembly this day:—

"That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully asked to inform this House if any Despatches have been received from the Home Government relative to the future Government of this Colony."

The House will meet again on Thursday next, the 7th instant, at 6 o'clock p.m.

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,
Speaker.

Future
Government
of Colony.

4 July, 1859.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

July 4th, 1859.

The Speaker has the honor of transmitting to His Excellency the Governor and Council the following Bills, which passed the House of Assembly this day:—

Completion of
certain streets.

1. "A Bill to enforce the Completion of certain Streets already or about to be Macadamized."

Redistribution
Bill.

2. "A Bill to increase the Number of the Representatives of the People of this Colony in the House of Assembly, and to create New Electoral Districts, and for other Purposes."

Inns and Beer
Houses.

3. "A Bill to extend the Law relating to Inns, Public and Beer Houses."

(Signed) J. S. HELMCKEN,

*Speaker.**His Excellency the Governor and Council.*

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

July 6th, 1859.

Summons to
special session.

SIR,—I am desired by Mr. Speaker to inform you that your attendance at the meeting of the House of Assembly to-morrow evening at 6 o'clock is of the greatest importance.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

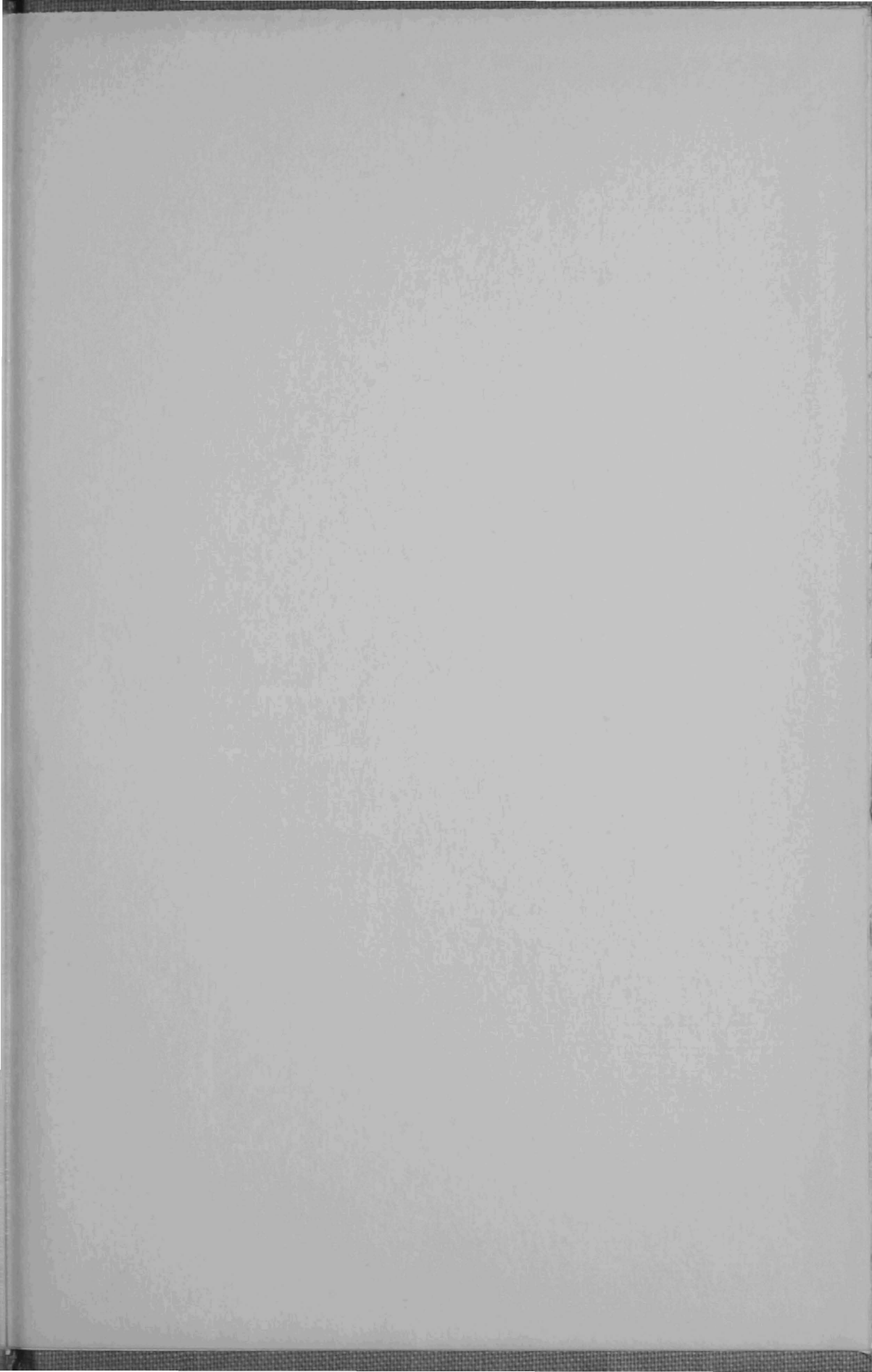
Your most obedient Servant,

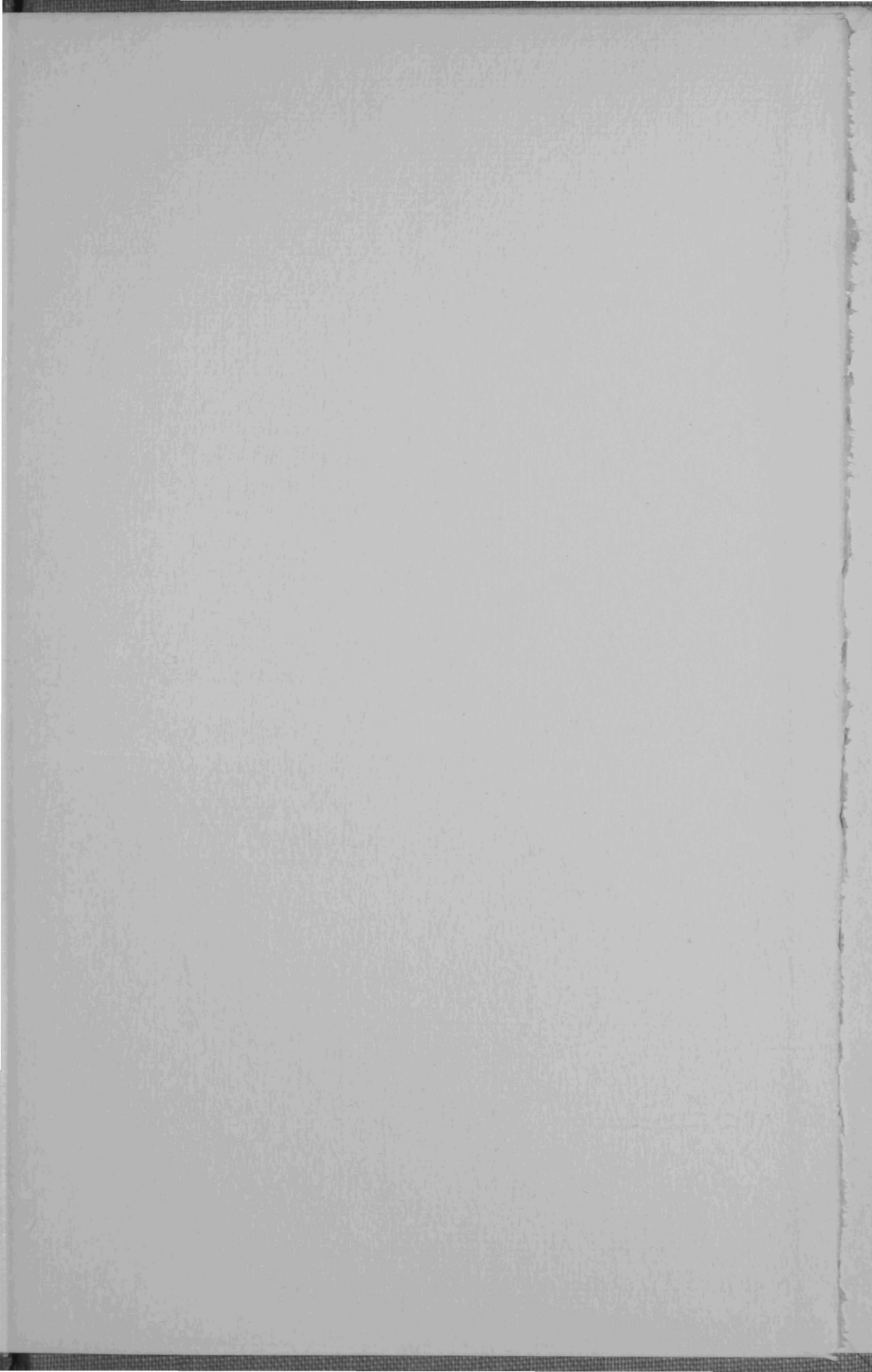
JOS. PORTER,

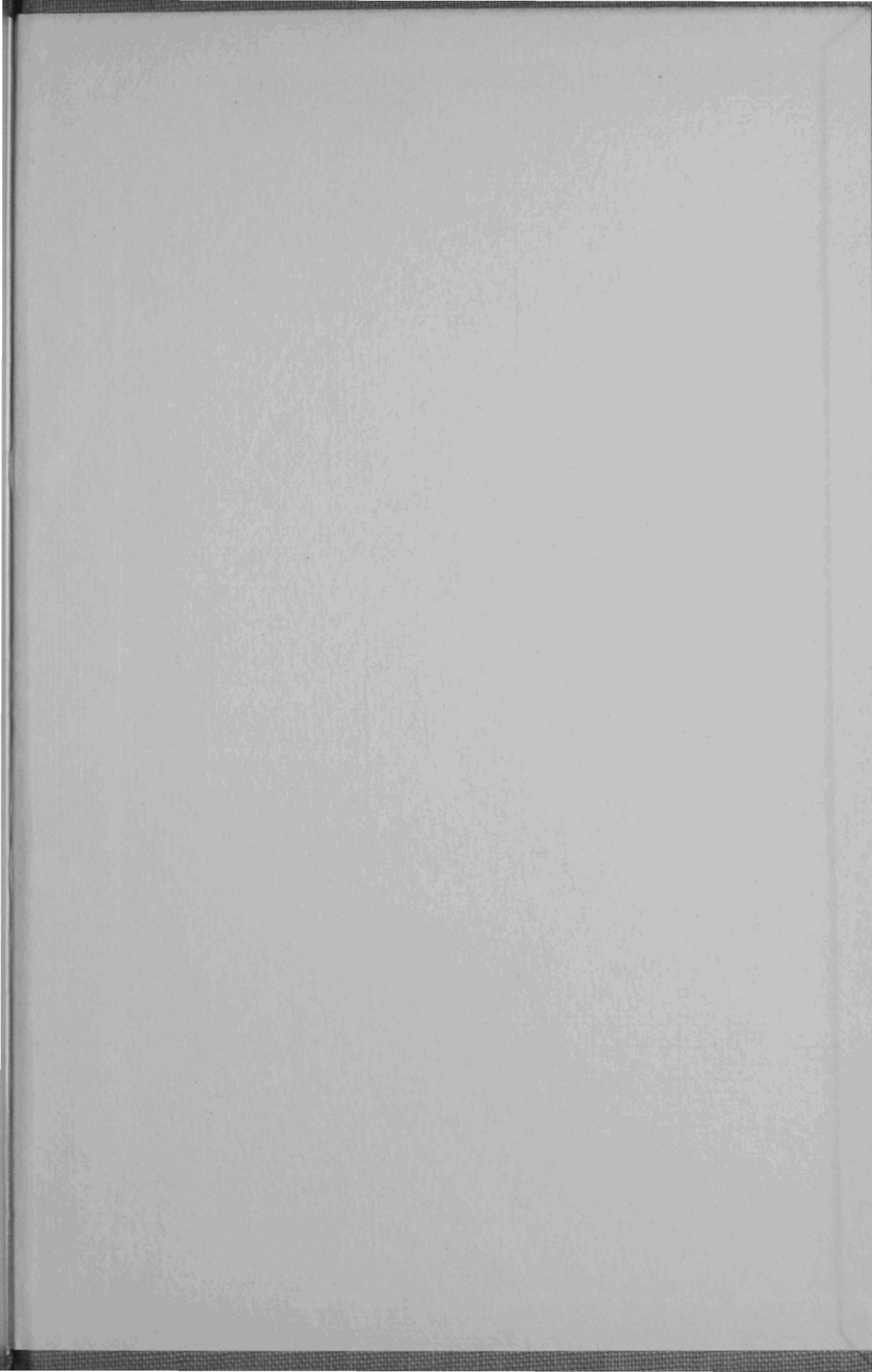
*Clerk of the House.**To Jos. D. Pemberton, Esquire.**James Yates, Esquire.**J. W. McKay, Esquire.**T. J. Skinner, Esquire.*

VICTORIA, B.C.:

Printed by WILLIAM H. CULLIN, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1918.









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