



Members of the First House of Assembly, Vancouver Island. *Front row* (left to right): Thomas Skinner, Dr. J. S. Helmcken, James Yates. *Back row*: Joseph W. McKay, J. D. Pemberton, Joseph Porter (clerk). From an original ambrotype, PABC (Photo No. 7756).

Vancouver's Island.



By His Excellency James Douglas, Companion
of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor
and Commander in Chief of Vancouver's
Island and its Dependencies, Vice Admiral
of the same for &c &c

Whereas the House of Assembly, convened
on the 1st day of March A.D. 1860, has been
proprised until the 28th day of February
next, for the purpose of convening a new
House of Assembly.

Now Therefore I James Douglas do
hereby proclaim and declare that the said
House of Assembly is dissolved from this
28th day of February A.D. 1863.

Issued under the Public Seal of the
Colony of Vancouver's Island
this 28th day of February in the
year of our Lord one thousand
Eight Hundred and Sixty Three
and in the Twenty Sixth Year
of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

By His Excellency's Command
James Douglas
William A. G. Young
Acting Colonial Secretary

G. D. Mackenzie the Queen!



The "Birdcages," the new government buildings erected in Victoria by James Douglas in 1859 on the site of the present parliament buildings. The prominent building in the centre is the Colonial Office; the other buildings are, left to right, the Land Office, Legislative Hall, Supreme Court, and Treasury. PABC (Photo No. 1996).



Top: The legislative building in Victoria. First occupied in January 1860, this building was the site of meetings of the Council, Legislative Council, and House of Assembly of Vancouver Island to 1866, of the Legislative Council of the colony of British Columbia from 1868 to 1871, and of the Legislative Assembly of the province from 1871 to 1898. In 1893 it was moved to the rear of the grounds to permit construction of the present parliament buildings. It was then occupied by the Department of Mines until 1957, when it was destroyed by fire. PABC (Photo No. 28729).

Bottom: Interior chamber of the above building used by the colonial Assembly and later, when this picture was taken, by the provincial Legislative Assembly. PABC (Photo No. 75667).



Wednesday 18th April 1860

In consequence of the House of Assembly being in the possession of the Supreme Court - trial room the House adjourned until Thursday at 3 o'clock 1860.

Speaker.

Thursday 19th April 1860

Present - Mr. Speaker

Mr. Foster	Mr. Cooper
" Gordon	" Waddington
" Green	" Shattogate
" Beach	" Franklin
" Talbot	" McDonald

The minutes of the former proceedings having been read & confirmed.

Mr. Beach gave notice of 2nd Reading of "Father Bill" for next meeting

Mr. Cary brought in "Bill to amend the provisions of the Joint Stock Companies Act to Vancouver Island."

Mr. Beach seconded. Read 1st time

Mr. Cooper asked permission for the House to consider the Petition of the Pilot introduced by him on 27 March - he considered the Committee of the whole on the 28th inst.

House has adjourned until 3 o'clock, the Tuesday 2nd April

Speaker

A BILL

ENTITLED

An Act to enable the Districts of Cowichan and Comax to elect Members to the House of Assembly.

WHEREAS it is expedient to have every district in the Colony, possessing a settled population, represented in the House of Assembly;

And whereas the districts of Shawnigan, Cowichan, Comiaken, Quamichan, and Somenos, and the district of Comax, have a settled population;

Be it enacted by the Governor, on Her Majesty's behalf, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly:

1. The districts known on the official map under the names of Shawnigan, Cowichan, Comiaken, Quamichan, and Somenos, shall be and are hereby constituted an electoral district, under the name of Cowichan County; and said electoral district shall be entitled hereafter to send one Member to the House of Assembly.

2. The district known under the name of Comax, and which is included within the following boundaries, that is to say, starting from the centre of Quallahum river, on the eastern coast of this colony, thence running northerly to Willow Point, at the mouth of Discovery Passage, thence running due west twenty miles, thence running to Mount Washington, thence to Mount Beecher, thence to Mount View, thence to Horne Lake, and through the centre of said river to the place of beginning, shall be and is hereby constituted an electoral district, under the name of Comax County, and shall be entitled to send one member to the House of Assembly.

3. Registered Lists of Voters for the electoral districts created by this Act shall be made in conformity with "The Registration of Voters Act, 1859," and "The Annual Registration of Voters Act, 1860," except it be otherwise hereafter provided.

4. The first election in the electoral districts created by this Act shall take place as soon as possible after the next annual registration of Voters.

5. This Act may be cited for all purposes as "The Cowichan and Comax Registration Act, 1863."

Format of a bill printed for consideration by the House of Assembly in 1863. PABC.