
Tuesday, the 14th day of June, 1859

The House met at 5½ o'clock p. m., But, there being no quorum present, Adjourned until Tuesday the 21st instant at 5½ o'clock p. m.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Tuesday, the 21st day of June, 1859

The House met at 5½ o'clock p. m. and There being no quorum present, Adjourned until Friday June 24th 1859 at 5½ o'clock p. m.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Friday, the 24th day of June, 1859

The House met at ½ past 5 o'clock p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, T. J. Skinner, and Mr. Speaker.

There being no quorum adjourned until Monday 27th instant at 11 o'clock A. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Monday, the 27th day of June, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed.

The House went into Committee on "The Franchise Bill."

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

At ½ past 1 o'clock p. m. The House resumed its sitting.

The Chairman having brought up the Report of the Committee on the "Franchise Bill", Mr. Yates Moved for a re-committal of Clause VI.

The motion having been Seconded by Mr. McKay and carried, The House again resolved itself into Committee.

At 2 o'clock p. m. The House resumed its sitting.

The Report of the Committee on the "Franchise Bill" having been brought up by the Chairman, with the additional Amendments, Was read and adopted and The Bill ordered to be engrossed and read a Third time.

Mr. McKay Introduced a "Bill to extend the duration of the laws relating to Inns Public and Beer Houses", And moved its First reading, Seconded by Mr. Skinner and Read a First time.

And ordered to be read a Second time at next meeting.

On Motion the House then adjourned until Thursday next the 30th instant at 5½ o'clock p. m.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Thursday, the 30th day of June, 1859

The House met at 5½ o'clock p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker read the following communication from His Excellency the Governor.

Victoria Vancouvers Island
29th June 1859

To the Speaker of the House of Assembly

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith a Return from Alfred R. Benson Esquire dated on the 23rd of instant, showing that an Election was held at Nanaimo on the 23rd of instant, and that John Swanson [Swanson] Esquire was duly elected Representative for that place.

(Signed) James Douglas
Governor.

The Speaker remarked the Return mentioned as being enclosed, did not accompany the communication.

Mr. Yates Enquired if certain information he had received, to the effect that the Hon. Member for Sooke had resigned his seat in that House, was correct?

Mr. Skinner Asked if the Hon. Member *could* resign his seat?

Mr. Speaker Said he had received no official information on the subject, but he had heard that the Member for Sooke had received an appointment under the Government, which would of course incapacitate him from continuing to sit as a Member of that House; he presumed if such were the case, the House would be duly informed on the matter.

Mr. McKay Moved the Second Reading of "A Bill to Extend the duration of the Laws relating to Inns Public and Beer Houses."

Seconded by Mr. Skinner, and ordered to be read a third time at next meeting.

Mr. Skinner Introduced "A Bill to create certain Wardens for the Surveillance of the Hills of Vancouvers Island" And moved its First Reading.

Seconded by Mr. McKay and read a First Time, and ordered to be read a second time at next meeting.

On Motion, the House then adjourned until Monday next July 4th 1859, at 11 o'clock A. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Monday, the 4th day of July, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed

Mr. Speaker Read the following Communication from His Excellency The Governor,

Victoria Vancouvers Island
1st July 1859

The Speaker of the House of Assembly

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 30th of June.

The Return from Alfred R. Benson Esquire omitted through inadvertence in my letter of 29th June, is now herewith transmitted.

(Signed) James Douglas.

Mr. Skinner Moved for the following return,

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.

Seconded by Mr. Yates, and Carried.

Mr. Yates Gave notice that at the next meeting he should move:

That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to furnish this House with a detailed account of Revenue and Expenditure from the first of June to the first of July of the present year; also a list of all persons employed in the Service of the Government, setting forth their respective offices and Salaries.

On motion of Mr. McKay, Seconded by Mr. Skinner, "A Bill to Enforce the Completion of certain Streets, already or about to be macadamized", was read a third time, and passed.

- On Motion of Mr. Pemberton, Seconded by Mr. Yates, "A Bill to increase the number of Representatives of the people of this Colony in the House of Assembly, and to Create New Electoral Districts, and for other purposes", Was read a Third time and passed.
- On Motion of Mr. McKay, Seconded by Mr. Skinner, "A Bill to Extend the duration of the Laws relating to Inns Public and Beer Houses", was read a third time, and passed.
- On Motion of Mr. McKay, Seconded by Mr. Pemberton, "A Bill to Create certain Wardens for the Surveillance of the Hills of Vancouvers Island," was read a Second time, and ordered to be considered in Committee at next meeting.
- "A Bill for the Registration of Deeds, Conveyances &c." was taken from the table, and its consideration was postponed to a future day.
- Mr. Speaker Gave notice that at the next meeting he should bring forward "The Victoria Steam Navigation Bill."
- On Motion the House then adjourned until Thursday next the 7th instant at 6 o'clock p. m.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Thursday, the 7th day of July, 1859

The House met at 6 o'clock p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of the last Meeting having been read and Confirmed.

Mr. Speaker Read the following communication from His Excellency the Governor,

Government House
Victoria, July 7th 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I herewith enclose a copy of a "Bill to provide for the passage of an Act to Authorize and regulate the Sale of Wines, Spirits and other Liquors" which has this day passed the Council.

After due consideration the Council were of opinion that the Bill passed by the House of Assembly and sent up to the Council, entitled "A Bill to Extend the duration of the Laws relating to Inns, Public and Beer Houses" would have been incomplete and inoperative as a Legislative Enactment, and that it would therefore be better to revise all the measures which have been previously passed on the Subject, and to Embody them in one Act, which has been done in the Enclosed Bill.

(Signed) James Douglas
Governor.

Mr. Yates Presented the following Petition.

To the Honorable The House of Assembly of Vancouvers Island.

Your petitioners the undersigned actual residents of this Colony, and deeply interested in its prosperity, having viewed with alarm the departure of many of Her Majesty's Loyal Subjects and others from this Colony to the neighbouring Republic,

and having learned that their departure has been induced by the difficulty of obtaining Agricultural Lands at once, on application, and by not being obtainable on such terms as would afford equal encouragement to actual Settlers, in this Colony, as are offered in the neighbouring Republic, and believing that we shall lose many more of Her Majesty's Loyal Subjects and others whom it is desirable to retain, as well as induce those who are now on the way here or desirous of coming, to turn their attention to Countries where greater encouragement is offered to Agriculturalists and persuaded that except the Land System of the Colony is materially modified, the prosperity and settlement of the Country will be seriously retarded, and believing that the encouragement of Agriculture is the surest way to secure the enduring prosperity of the Country and that a Liberal Land System is best calculated to rapidly populate the Colony, and holding that the Public Lands are the patrimony of the People vested in the Crown for their benefit, and presuming that Your Honorable Body have at heart the well being and prosperity of the Country, and are desirous of introducing those changes which you may deem necessary to secure so desirable a result.

Therefore, Your Petitioners would respectfully submit to your Honorable Body that they humbly pray that the Crown Lands of this Colony may be opened at once to actual Settlers, that a preference may be given to them in the choice of the Public Lands, surveyed or unsurveyed, over Capitalists, that they may be secured in a preëemptive right, that the highest price of Land to actual Settlers may not exceed one Dollar and Twenty Cents per Acre, or such price as will barely cover the Expenses of Survey, and that five Years may be allowed for its payment.

All of which is most respectfully Submitted, hoping that it may please Your Honorable Body to take this our Humble Petition into your favorable consideration, and Your petitioners as in duty bound will every pray.

Victoria 2nd July 1859.

The Committee duly appointed by the inhabitants of Victoria at a Public Meeting held at the Assembly Hall, Victoria this day, to present this their Petition.

Signed,
Chas. B. Young
Alfred Waddington
Thos. Harris
Geo. I. Wight
Jas. N. Thain

Which was read, and on Motion of Mr. Skinner, Seconded by Mr. Yates.
Ordered to be taken into consideration at a Subsequent meeting.

Mr. Yates Then brought forward the following motion, of which he had given notice at a previous meeting, (see Motion Book, July 4th) and moved its adoption,

Seconded by Mr. Skinner, and agreed to, nem. con.

The Bill from the Governor and Council, being a codification of Laws previously passed, entitled A "Bill to provide for the passage of An Act to authorize and regulate the Sale of Wines, Spirits and other Liquors," Was read a first time, and ordered to be read a Second time at next meeting.

On Motion that the House do now go into Committee on "The Victoria Steam Navigation Bill."

Mr. Skinner and Mr. Pemberton objected, and the consideration of the Bill was postponed to a future day.

The House then went into Committee on "The Bill to create certain Wardens for the surveillance of the Hills of Vancouver's Island."

Mr. Skinner in the Chair

At 7½ o'clock p. m. The House resumed its Sitting, and the Chairman Brought up the Report of the Committee.

The Report having been agreed to, Some conversation took place between Mr. Skinner and Mr. Pemberton relative to the Cowetchin Lands sold last Year.

On Motion the House adjourned until tomorrow Friday July 8th at 6 o'clock p. m.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Friday, the 8th day of July, 1859

The House met at 6 o'clock p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

On Motion of Mr. Skinner, Seconded by Mr. McKay, "A Bill to Create certain Wardens for the Surveillance of the Hills of Vancouvers Island" was read a third time, and passed.

On Motion of Mr. McKay Seconded by Mr. Yates, "A Bill to provide for the passage of an Act to authorize and regulate the Sale of Wines, Spirits and Liquors", was read a Second time, and ordered to be considered in Committee on Monday 11th instant at 6 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Skinner Asked for leave to move the following resolution.

That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully asked to inform this House whether the Legislature of this Colony has the power to modify the Land System?

Leave having been granted, the Resolution was carried, and the House adjourned until Monday the 11th instant at 6 o'clock p.m.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Monday, the 11th day of July, 1859

The House met at 6 o'clock p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker Read a Communication from Mr. Skinner, stating his inability to attend in consequence of sickness, And there being no quorum present, the House adjourned until Wednesday the 13th instant at 11 o'clock A.M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Wednesday, the 13th day of July, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A.M. pursuant to adjournment.

In consequence of Mr. Skinner's continued indisposition he was unable to attend, and There being no quorum present, The House adjourned until Friday the 15th instant at 11 o'clock A.M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Friday, the 15th day of July, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A.M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker read the following Communications from His Excellency the Governor.

1.

Government House
July 8th 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Speakers Communication of July 4th instant, transmitting the following Bills which had passed the House of Assembly: namely,

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

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."

3. A Bill to Extend the duration of the Laws relating to Inns Public and Beer Houses.

I shall take an early opportunity of laying these measures before the Council for its Consideration.

Signed James Douglas
Governor.

2.

Government House
July 8th 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I herewith inform the House that the "Bill to authorize the Macadamizing certain Streets and to provide means for the same" has this day passed the Council without amendment.

Signed James Douglas
Governor.

3.

Government House
July 11th 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have received Your Speaker's Communication of the 4th instant and have to state in reply to your address that I have received no instructions from Her Majesty's Government relative to the future system of Government of Vancouvers Island, nor have I received intimation that the rights of the Hudsons Bay Co. in Vancouvers Island have been resumed by the Crown.

(Signed) James Douglas
Governor.

4.

Government House
July 11th 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have received your Speakers letter of July 8th transmitting a "Bill to Create Certain Wardens for the Surveillance of the Hills of Vancouvers Island" and I have to inform you that the same has been this day laid before the Council for its consideration, and read the first time.

(Signed) James Douglas
Governor.

5.

Government House
July 11th 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I have to acknowledge Your Speakers Communication of the 8th instant conveying the resolution that I should inform the House "whether the Legislature of this Colony has the power to modify the land System."

I would in reply inform the house that the Legislature does not possess that power; but I would add that if the House of Assembly should think proper to follow the course adopted by the Legislatures of New South Wales, Victoria, and of other Colonies in Australia, namely to grant a Civil List which will provide for the Expenditure of the Colony, I shall be happy to recommend to the Imperial Government that the management and Control of the Crown Lands in the Colony, subject to such reserves as may be required for Imperial purposes, and the appropriation of the proceeds of the Sales of such lands, shall be vested in the Colonial Legislature.

(Signed) James Douglas
Governor.

The House went into Committee on the "Bill to provide for the passage of an Act to authorize and regulate the Sale of Wines Spirits, and other Liquors."

At 1 o'clock p.m. the House resumed its sitting.

The Chairman Having brought up the Report of the Committee on the "Bill to provide for the passage of an Act to authorize and regulate the Sale of Wines Spirits and other Liquors"—it was read and agreed to, and the Bill ordered to be read a third time at next meeting.

On Motion, the House then adjourned until Monday the 18th instant at 11 oclock A.M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Monday, the 18th day of July, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A.M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and Confirmed.

Mr. Speaker read the following Communications from His Excellency the Governor.

No. 1.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
15th July 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I have much pleasure in transmitting herewith for your information, copies of a Correspondence with Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, relative to the erection of Lighthouses in the Straits of Juan del Fuca, and the approaches to Esquimalt Harbour.

2. You will observe that Her Majesty's Government, have in the most liberal manner advanced the sum of Seven Thousand Pounds Sterling in aid of these contemplated works which will so materially promote the commercial progress of this Colony.

3. It is my intention to have the exact site selected without delay for one Light House on the Race Rocks, and for a second and smaller light at the Entrance of Esquimalt Harbour: we will then provide materials and enter upon the construction of those important works as soon as we receive drawings of the Lanterns and tops of the Towers, which are daily expected from England for the information of the Engineer who designs the Towers.

4. It is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to provide and send from England the Lanterns and Light Apparatus, and it is supposed that the remainder of the Parliamentary Grant of Seven thousand Pounds will be sufficient to meet the expense of the buildings.

5. The cost of maintaining those Lights, is to be borne by the Colony, and I have therefore to urge upon the House the propriety of at once entering upon the consideration of the ways and means of meeting that outlay; either by imposing a direct tax on property, or by charging a "Light due" on all ships entering the Harbours of this Colony, or by any other mode of taxation which may appear advisable to the House.

6. The House will also be prepared to repay the proportion of the advance of Seven Thousand Pounds chargeable to Vancouvers Island, vizt. One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Pounds.

(Signed) James Douglas
Governor.

No. 2. Copy of a Despatch from Governor Douglas to Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton Bt.—(No. 76).

Victoria, Vancouvers Island
15th January 1859.

Sir

I beg you will allow me to solicit your earnest attention to a subject which is one of the highest importance to the progress and prosperity of the Colonies of Vancouvers Island and British Columbia.

2. I allude to the necessity which exists for the early construction of Light Houses upon some of the salient points of the approaches to the Harbours and Anchorages of these Colonies.

3. At the present moment however I will only mention two positions which are of the first importance and which the experience of every succeeding day renders more and more evident should be properly lighted at the earliest possible period.

4. The first of these is the Race Rocks situated in the Straits of Fuca, between two and three miles from the Mainland of Vancouvers Island, and about 12 miles from the Harbour of Esquimalt. These Rocks or rocky Islets may be viewed as the turning point in the Strait for ships bound to Vancouvers Island, or to the Gulf of Georgia. They form a most dangerous cluster, and the making them out, is, not only an object anxiously sought, but it is one of essential help in the determination of position.

They are mostly above water and the largest of them would be found an admirable situation for placing a Light House. It has some considerable elevation above high water mark, and the materials for building can be found in abundance close to the spot.

The Light at this position should be one of the first order.

5. The next spot upon which I would urge the establishment of a Light House is the Fisgard Rocks, at the Entrance of Esquimalt Harbour, a harbour whose growing importance can scarcely be estimated. It is capacious and secure. Her Majesty's Ships always resort to it, the Admiralty and Military Buildings are also there;—and it is the Harbour to which all Vessels of large size must come and consequently it must be the great Depot of the Ocean traffic.

The entrance being narrow, the back ground composed of high hills exhibiting no remarkable leading marks, and the Coast line adjacent being rugged and full of indentations, the Harbour of Esquimalt presents no characteristic features to guide the mariner to its tranquil security.

During the day the entrance is difficult enough to find to those possessing no previous knowledge of the locality, but at night the difficulties of distinguishing it are so great that the attempt to enter the harbour is never made except by those whose long acquaintance with the coast has rendered them intimately familiar with every peculiarity.

The Establishment of a Light upon Fisgard Rocks would at once unmistakably point out the position of the Harbour and would render access to it, or exit from it, safe and easy at all times.

6. The navigation of the Straits of Fuca, and the inland waters leading from it, is attended with no small amount of danger without the valuable assistance of lights. The Government of the United States have already acted very promptly and liberally in lighting their portion of the Strait.

They have placed a light of the first order upon Tatooch Island, at the Entrance of the Strait, and vessels from seaward are now enabled to continue their course up the strait at all times. This light has a range of 20 miles, and if a light of the first order were placed on the Race Rocks, as I now submit, and a Light of an inferior order upon the Fisgard Rocks, a Vessel running up Fuca Strait would scarcely lose sight of the Tatooch Light before she would discern the Race light, after rounding which she would perceive the Fisgard Light, and thus be enabled to proceed into Esquimalt Harbour without a check, and by such means valuable time would be saved and considerable risk avoided.

7. The United States Government have also placed lights upon two other points in the Strait of Fuca. Dungeness, near the entrance of Pugets Sound and upon Smiths' Island near to the Southern termination of the Rosario Strait. The Light at Tatooch Island is undoubtedly of equal advantage to the British possessions in this quarter of the Globe, as to those of the United States, the other lights are also useful; and I therefore conceive that we are in honor bound to reciprocate the benefit.

8. I am not aware of any funds that may be appropriated to these objects, nor do I know to what department of State I should properly apply for assistance; the

infant State of the two Colonies precludes the possibility of their being able to help themselves; and the matter being one which it is manifest must materially affect their future development, I trust you will pardon me in bringing it before you, and in earnestly soliciting your aid towards the accomplishment of the desired object.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most obedient humble Servant
(Sgd.) James Douglas
Governor.

No. 3. Copy of a Despatch from Governor Douglas to Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton
Bt. No. 90.

Victoria, Vancouvers Island
4th Feby. 1859.

Sir

With reference to my despatch of the 15th Ultimo No. 76, upon the subject of the erection of LightHouses upon two very important positions off the Coast of Vancouver's Island, I have now the honor to submit to you herewith a very complete and valuable Report upon the subject, which has kindly been made to me, in accordance with my request, by Captn. Richards of H. M. S. "Plumper", together with tracings of the line of coast exhibiting the exact positions upon which the Lights should be placed.

I have the honor to be
Sir, your most obedient humble Servant
(Sgd.) James Douglas

No. 4. Copy of a Despatch from Sir E. B. Lytton to Governor Douglas.

Downing Street
11th May 1859.

Sir

I have received your Despatches No. 76 of the 15th of January, and No. 90 of the 4th of February, on the subject of the erection of Light Houses in Fucas Straits and the approaches to Esquimalt Harbour.

I transmit for your information and guidance the copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Admiralty, the Board of Trade, the Treasury, and this Department on the subject.*

You will perceive that the Expense of the construction of the two LightHouses suggested by Captain Richards has been estimated by Captain Sullivan of the Board of Trade at Seven Thousand Pounds, and in compliance with my recommendation the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have consented to advance this sum on condition that one moiety of it shall be repaid by the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia jointly.

The Board of Trade have been requested to send out immediately from this Country the necessary apparatus, and to give you any advice or information in their power, and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been requested to instruct the Naval officers on the spot to give you every assistance by their advice or otherwise to facilitate the work. But you will distinctly understand that the responsibility of the Selection of proper sites and of the superintendence of the work, rests with yourself, and I need not impress upon you the necessity of promptness and energy in carrying out an undertaking which is calculated so materially to promote the commercial progress of the two Colonies under your Government.

With regard to the repayment by British Columbia and Vancouvers Island to the Imperial Treasury of the moiety of the advance of Seven Thousand Pounds, I

must leave it to you to decide the proportion of that sum which it would be equitable that each Colony should contribute; but I must instruct you that this debt should be repaid within the earliest practicable period.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, Your most obedient humble Servant

(Signed) Carnarvon in the absence of Sir E. B. Lytton.

Governor Douglas, C.B., &c. &c. &c.

*Board of Trade	9th Mar.	1859
Col. Off.	31st	„
Bd. of Trade	7th Apl.	„
Col. Off. to Treasury	29	„
Admiralty	28 Mar.	„
Admiralty	20 Apl.	„
Treasury	4 May	„

On Motion of Mr. McKay, Seconded by Mr. Yates, "A Bill to provide for the passage of an Act to authorize and regulate the Sale of Wines, Spirits and other Liquors" was read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Speaker Gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he should move an Address to His Excellency the Governor relative to the Entrance and Clearance Fees, Licences on Boats, &c., and Harbour Dues.

Mr. Pemberton moved for a Committee to take into consideration the Documents laid before the House by His Excellency the Governor, relating to Light-houses, &c.—and also to consider the position of the Second Light.

Committee Appointed for Tuesday the 26th instant.

On Motion the House then adjourned until Tuesday next the 26th instant at 11 o'clock A. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Tuesday, the 26th day of July, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A.M. pursuant to adjournment, But, there being no Quorum present, Adjourned until Friday 29th instant at 11 o'clock A. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Friday, the 29th day of July, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

John Swanson Esquire, Elected on the 23rd of June, to represent the District of Nanaimo, in the House of Assembly, Came into the House and stated that he was not prepared to Qualify.

Mr. Speaker said in that case he could not take his seat, And declared his Election null and void.

There being no quorum present the House adjourned until Tuesday August 2nd at 5 o'clock P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Tuesday, the 2nd day of August, 1859

The House met at 5 o'clock p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner and Mr. Speaker.

There being no quorum The House adjourned until Wednesday, August 3rd at 9 o'clock A. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Wednesday, the 3rd day of August, 1859

The House met at 9 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read, and confirmed.

Mr. Skinner Gave notice that at the next meeting he should move, That "Four plans of all surveyed lands in the Island of Vancouver to be furnished to the House, shewing therein each reserve, with a distinct specification in writing attached thereto, of the total amount of lands sold, with names of purchasers thereof up to the 31st July last; Also, a distinct written specification stating for what purpose each several and separate reserve is made for, in each and every district of the said Island of Vancouver; and whether the Governor's Sanction has been obtained for marking off in the plans, lands marked in the Several districts as reserves."

Mr. Yates, Gave notice that at the next meeting he should move, That "This House desires to be informed by His Excellency the Governor by what authority the Treasurer demands the American Dollar to be paid at the rate of Four Shillings, when other branches of the Service receive at four shillings and two pence, such being its actual value."

The Speaker Read the following communication from His Excellency the Governor,

Government House,
July 18th, 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I herewith enclose an "Act to provide for the resignation and vacating of Seats in the House of Assembly of the Colony of Vancouver's Island and for the Election of members on Vacancies."

In transmitting this Bill I wish to inform the House that the Council were of opinion that a measure which would enable Members to resign their seats in the most simple manner possible, whenever through ill-health or any other cause, they wished to do so, was preferable to the expedient proposed by the House of creating an office of Wardens of the Hills for that purpose.

I would further remark that this Bill has been framed with a view to its being hereafter incorporated into a more comprehensive measure for Settling the Constitution of the Legislature, whenever such a measure shall be brought under consideration.

(Signed) James Douglas.

On motion of Mr. Pemberton, seconded by Mr. Skinner, The Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a Second time at next meeting.

The House then went into Committee on "The Address to H. E. The Governor relative to Boat Licenses, Import and Export permits &c." (Mr. Helmcken) and the consideration of the Documents relative to LightHouses.

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

11 o'clock a. m. The House resumed its Sitting.

The Chairman reported that the Committee had been engaged in the consideration of the Addresses, and asked leave to sit again on this day week.

Leave granted.

Mr. Skinner gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he should submit an Address to H. E. the Governor expressive of the Entire Confidence of the House of Assembly in the course pursued by H. E. in relation to the difficulty arising out of the unjustifiable conduct of the U.S. Authorities in landing an armed force on the Island of San Juan.

On Motion the House then adjourned until Monday the 8th instant at 10 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Friday, the 5th day of August, 1859

The House met this day at 4 o'clock p. m. in pursuance of a call from the Speaker.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker read the following communications from His Excellency the Governor,

No. 1

Government House, Victoria
3rd August 1859.

To the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Colony of Vancouver's Island
Gentlemen

I have the honor to communicate for your information intelligence of the landing of a Detachment of United States Troops on the Island of San Juan, avowedly, see Enclosures Nos. 1 & 2, for the purpose of forming a Military Post and of asserting the sovereignty of the United States to that Island.

Having received no intimation from any quarter that the Government of the United States ever contemplated taking Military possession of any part of the disputed Territory, while the Boundary line remained unsettled, I am forced to believe that the late unwarrantable and discourteous act, so contrary to the usages of Civilized Nations, has originated in error, and been undertaken without the authority of that Government.

That impression is corroborated by a letter (a copy of which is herewith enclosed) from the Honble. Wm. L. Marcy, Secretary for the United States, dated Washington, 17th July 1855 to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, which contains instructions from the President of the United States to the Governor of Washington Territory, and displays in the clearest manner, the conciliatory and moderate views, entertained by his Government on the subject of the disputed Territory.

Though the right of Great Britain to all the Islands situated to the Westward of "Vancouver" or "Rosario" Straits, is to our minds, clearly established by the 1st Article of the Treaty of 1846, and though those Islands have since the foundation of this Colony, been considered as a Dependency of Vancouvers' Island, it is well known to you Gentlemen, that out of respect to the construction that has been put upon that Treaty, by the Government of the United States, we have abstained from exercising exclusive Sovereignty over them.

Convinced that any officious or unjust assumption on either side, of exclusive right to the disputed Territory, would simply be a fruitless and mischeivous waste of energy, neither detracting from, nor adding force to, the claims of either Nation; wise and considerate policy enjoins upon us, the part of leaving so important a national question for settlement by the proper authorities, and of avoiding complications foreign to the views and wishes of, and probably embarrassing to, both Governments.

Immediately on being informed of the landing of United States Troops at San Juan, Her Majesty's Ship "Tribune" under the command of Captain Hornby, was dispatched to that Quarter, and soon afterwards a Detachment of Royal Engineers, and Royal Marine Light Infantry, were ordered from New Westminster by Her Majesty's Ship "Plumper" Captain Richards, and those Troops will be landed at San Juan to protect the lives and property of British Subjects.

You will observe Gentlemen from Enclosure No. 1 that the Captain in Command of the United States Detachment of Troops, in a public notice dated 27th of July, assumes the exercise of exclusive sovereign rights in the Island of San Juan, while the President of the United States altogether disclaims such pretensions, and seeks at most to continue the joint right of Sovereignty and domain in common with Great Britain.

We may presume from that circumstance, that the notice in question was framed in ignorance of the intentions of the United States Government, and that the pretensions set forth will not be maintained.

Entertaining such opinions, I have not failed to impress on Her Majesty's Naval Officers, now stationed at San Juan, the desire of Her Majesty's Government, to avoid every course which may unnecessarily involve the suspension of the amicable relations, subsisting between Great Britain and the United States; at the same time those officers have been instructed and are prepared to assert the rights, and to maintain the honor and dignity of our Sovereign and Her Dominions.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your most obedient servant
(Signed) James Douglas

Enclosure No. 1.

Military Post, San Juan Island
Washington Territory
July 27th 1859.

1. In compliance with orders and instructions from the General Commanding, a Military Post will be established on this island on whatever site the Commanding Officer may select.

2. All the Inhabitants of the Island are requested to report at once to the Commanding officer in case of any incursion by the Northern Indians, so that he may take such steps as he may deem necessary to prevent any further occurrence of the same.

This being United States Territory, no Laws other than those of the United States Courts, except such as are held by virtue of said laws will be recognised or allowed on this Island.

By order of Captain Pickett

(Signed) James W. Forsyth
2nd Lieut. 9th Inftry.
Post Adjutant.

Enclosure No. 2.

Territory of Washington
County of Whatcom

I hereby certify that on the 30th day of July A. D. 1859, William Smith and Isaac E. Higgins were duly appointed and qualified as Constables on and for the Precinct of San Juan County of Whatcom and Territory of Washington.

All persons are therefore in the name of the United States, commanded to obey their orders as such.

Given under my hand this 1st day of August A. D. 1859 and the 84th year of the Independence of the United States of America.

(Signed) Henry R. Crosbie
Justice of the Peace.

Enclosure No. 3.

Copy of a letter from the Honble. W. L. Marcy, Secretary of State, to J. F. Crampton Esqre. Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary at Washington transmitting extract of a Letter to His Excellency J. L. Stevens, Governor of Washington Territory.

J. F. Crampton Esqre.
&c. &c. &c.

Department of State
Washington
July 17th 1855

Sir

I am under some apprehension that collision may take place between Our Citizens and British Subjects, in regard to the occupation of the disputed points along the line between Washington Territory, and the British possessions on the North of it.

In the hope of avoiding such a difficulty I have by the direction of the President, addressed a letter to the Governor of that Territory on the subject, and herewith furnish you with an extract from it.

I presume that the Government of H. B. M. will be willing to recommend to Her Subjects along the boundary in question, a similar course until the line can be established.

In that way I sincerely hope all collision may be avoided.

I avail, &c. &c. &c.
(Signed) W. L. Marcy.

State Department, Washington.
July 14th 1855.

The President has instructed me to say to you that the officers of the Territory should abstain from all acts on the disputed grounds, which are calculated to provoke any conflicts, so far as it can be done, without implying the concession to the Authority of Great Britain of an exclusive right over the premises.

The title ought to be settled before either party should exclude the other by force, or exercise complete and exclusive Sovereign rights within the fairly disputed limits.

Application will be made to the British Government to interpose with the local authorities on the Northern borders of our Territory to abstain from like acts of exclusive ownership, with the explicit understanding that any forbearance on either side to assert the rights respectively, shall not be construed into any concession to the adverse party.

By a conciliatory and moderate course on both sides, it is sincerely hoped that all difficulties will be avoided until an adjustment of the boundary line can be made in a manner mutually satisfactory.

The Government of the United States will do what it can to have the line established at an early period.

(Signed) W. L. Marcy

[Marginal note:] Mem: Enclosures Nos. 1, 2 & 3—Retd. to H. E. the Governor Augt. 12/59.

After some discussion it was carried, that the House do go into a Committee of the whole to take the Communications into Consideration on tomorrow, Saturday August 6th at 9 o'clock A. M. To which hour the House adjourned.

Speaker.

Saturday, the 6th day of August, 1859

The House met at 9 o'clock pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker. A message Was received from Mr. Yates, stating that in consequence of having met with an accident, he was unable to attend, and There being no quorum present the House adjourned until Monday Augt. 8th at 10 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Monday, the 8th day of August, 1859

The House met at 10 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

In consequence of the continued indisposition of Mr. Yates, There was no quorum present, and The House adjourned until Wednesday August 10th at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker

Wednesday, the 10th day of August, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, and Mr. Speaker. There being no quorum, The House adjourned until Friday the 12th instant at 10 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Friday, the 12th day of August, 1859

The House met at 10 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of the last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Yates Gave notice that at the next meeting he should move, That "His Excellency the Governor informs this House that he has instructed Her Majesty's Naval Officers 'to assert the rights and to maintain the honor and dignity of our Sovereign and Her Dominions.' This House begs His Excellency to furnish a Copy of those instructions above referred to."

Mr. Skinner Brought forward the motion, of which he had given notice at last meeting, That "A Tracing of all Surveyed Lands in the Island of Vancouver to be furnished to the House, shewing therein each reserve, with a distinct specification in writing attached thereto, of the total amount of lands sold, with names of purchasers thereof, up to the 31st day of July last; Also, a distinct written specification stating for what purpose each several and separate reserve is made in each and every District of the said Island of Vancouver; and whether the Governors sanction has been obtained for marking off in the plans, lands marked in the several Districts as Reserves."

Seconded by Mr. Yates, and carried.

Mr. Yates Brought forward the motion of which he had given notice at last meeting, This House desires to be informed by His Excellency the Governor by what authority the Treasurer demands the American Dollar to be paid at the rate of Four Shillings, when other branches of the Service receive at Four Shillings and two pence, such being its actual value.

Seconded by Mr. Skinner, and carried.

On motion of Mr. Pemberton Seconded by Mr. Skinner "An Act to provide for the Resignation and vacating of Seats in the House of Assembly of the Colony of Vancouver Island, and for the Election of members on Vacancies" Was read a second time and ordered to be committed.

The House Then went into Committee, on the message from His Excellency the Governor relating to the "landing of United States Troops on the island of San Juan."

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

12 o'clock *Noon*. The House resumed its Sitting.

The Chairman Brought up the Report of the Committee, which was read and agreed to, and leave granted to sit again on Tuesday next to take up the adjourned consideration of the subject of "Harbour Dues &c." and of the communications relating to "Light-Houses." Made the special order for Tuesday the 16th instant.

Mr. Skinner Gave notice that at the next meeting he should move the following address.

Considering the critical state of political affairs throughout the world, and the position of the whole of the British Empire in relation thereto, it is desirable that

this Colony of Vancouvers Island should not be behind the rest of the other colonies in making such preparations as shall enable it well to defend its loyalty should occasion at any time arrive calling for it.

This House would earnestly recommend Your Excellency to take such steps for forming such Volunteer Corps as may appear the best adapted to meet the above object.

After some discussion relative to the completion of certain Streets, The House adjourned until Tuesday the 16th instant at 11 o'clock A.M.

Speaker.

Tuesday, the 16th day of August, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. McKay Gave notice of his intention to introduce at next meeting "A Bill for the passage of an Act to regulate the Interest of Money."

Mr. Pemberton Read a Statement of the sums of money expended on improving the Streets &c.; and of the amount voted by the House for that purpose, from the license fund.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. Yates Brought forward the motion of which he had given notice at a previous meeting, respecting "the instructions to Naval Officers" (see page 13).⁶

Withdrawn.

Mr. Skinners motion, relative to the formation of [a] Volunteer Corps, of which he had given notice at last meeting, (see page 14)⁷ was ordered to be considered in Committee.

The House then went into Committee on The Address to His Excellency the Governor on the subject of Harbour Dues, Licenses to Boats, Permits, &c., The Bill to provide for the Resignation of Members; and Mr. Skinners resolution regarding Volunteer Companies.

At 1 o'clock p. m. The House resumed its sitting.

The report of the Committee having been brought up and agreed to, The subject of the communication on Lighthouses, was postponed until Tuesday the 23rd instant.

On motion the House adjourned until Tuesday next 23rd instant at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

⁶ I.e. minutes for 12 August 1859.

⁷ *Ibid.*

Tuesday, the 23rd day of August, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. D. Pemberton, T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker read the following Communications from His Excellency the Governor.

1.

Government House
Victoria Vancouvers Island
22nd August 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Speakers communication of 12th August asking for a return of "A Tracing of All Surveyed lands in the Island of Vancouver with a Specification in writing of the amount of land sold; and stating for what purpose each reserve is made".

The Colonial Surveyor has been directed to prepare the documents required by the House, and the same will be transmitted to you when received.

(Signed) James Douglas.

2.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
22nd August 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speakers Communication of 16th Augt. accompanying an address of the House recommending the reduction of the Harbour dues, and the charges for Permits and Boat Licenses.

I will avail myself of any early opportunity of laying the same before Council.

(Signed) James Douglas.

3.

Government House,
Victoria, Vancouvers' Island
22nd August 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from Your Speaker dated 16th August, containing an Address from the House recommending the formation of a Militia; and I have to state in reply that I will take an early opportunity of laying the same before the Council for its consideration.

(Signed) James Douglas

4.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
22nd August 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Address of 12th August on the subject of the occupation of the Island of San Juan by the Military Forces of the United States, and of other matters connected with the affairs of this Colony, which have received my instant and careful attention.

(Signed) James Douglas.

5.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
23rd August 1859

To the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your information the copy of a letter which I lately received from Brigadier General Harney, commanding the United States Army in Oregon and Washington Territory, giving a statement of his reasons for the occupation of the Island of San Juan by Troops of the United States, and a copy of my reply to that communication.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen
Your most obedient Servant
(Signed) James Douglas

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GEN. HARNEY AND GOV. DOUGLAS
GEN. HARNEY'S LETTER TO GOV. DOUGLAS

Head-Quarters Department of Oregon,
Fort Vancouver, W.T., Aug. 6th, 1859.

*His Excellency, James Douglas, C.B., Governor of Vancouver's Island,
&c., and Vice Admiral of the same.*

Sir: I have the honor to inform you of the receipt of an official copy of a protest made by you to the occupation of San Juan Island, in Puget Sound, by a company of United States troops under my command.

This aforesaid copy was furnished by Capt. Hornby, of Her Majesty's ship Tribune, to the United States officer in command at San Juan Island, Capt. George Pickett, of the 9th Infantry of the American army, together with a communication threatening a joint occupation of the San Juan Island, by the forces of Her Majesty's ships Tribune, Plumper, and Satellite, now in the harbor of that Island by your orders.

As the military commander of the department of Oregon, assigned to that command by the orders of the President of the United States, I have the honor to state for your information, that by such authority invested in me, I placed a military command upon the Island of San Juan to protect the American citizens residing on that island from the insults and indignities which the British authorities of Vancouver Island, and the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company have recently offered them, by sending a British ship of war from Vancouver Island, to convey the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company to San Juan, for the purpose of seizing an American citizen and forcibly transporting him to Vancouver Island to be tried by British laws.

I have reported this attempted outrage to my government, and they will doubtless seek the proper redress from the British government. In the meantime, I have the honor to inform your Excellency, I shall not permit a repetition of the insult, and shall retain a command on San Juan Island to protect its citizens in the name of the United States, until I receive further orders from my government.

I have the honor to be very resp'y, you ob'dt serv't,

W. S. Harney,
Brig.-Gen. U. S. Army, Commanding.

REPLY OF GOV. DOUGLAS TO GEN. HARNEY.

Government House, Victoria.
Vancouver's Island, 13th Aug. 1859.

Brigadier-General Wm. S. Harney, Commanding the Troops in the Department of Oregon—

Sir: On the evening of the 10th inst., I had the honor of receiving your Dispatch dated Fort Vancouver, August 6th, 1859.

In reply thereto, I must thank you for the frank and straightforward manner in which you communicate to me your reasons for occupying the Island of San Juan in the Haro Archipelago with a portion of the military forces of the United States under your command.

I am glad to find that you have done so under your general instructions from the President of the United States as Military Commander of the Department of Oregon, and not by direct authority emanating from the Cabinet at Washington.

You state that the reasons which induced you to take that course are the "insults and indignities which the British authorities of Vancouver's Island, and the Establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company have recently offered to 'American citizens residing on the Island of San Juan,' by sending a British ship of war from Vancouver's Island to convey the Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company to San Juan, for the purpose of seizing an American citizen, and forcibly transporting him to Vancouver's Island to be tried by British Laws."

I will explain for your information that the Agents of the Hudson's Bay Co. hold no official position in Vancouver's Island, nor exercise any official power or authority, and are as entirely distinct from the officers of the Executive Government as are any of the other inhabitants of Vancouver's Island.

To the reported outrage on an American citizen, I beg to give the most unhesitating and unqualified denial. None of Her Majesty's ships have ever been sent to convey the Chief Factor or any officer of the Hudson's Bay Company to San Juan for the purpose of seizing an American citizen, nor has any attempt ever been made to seize any American citizen and to transport him forcibly to Vancouver's Island for trial as represented by you.

Up to a very recent period but one American citizen has been resident on San Juan. About the commencement of the present year a few American citizens began to "squat" upon the Island, and upon one occasion a complaint was made to me by a British subject of some wrong committed against his property by an American citizen, but no attention was paid to that complaint, out of consideration and respect to the friendly government to which the alleged offender belonged, and whose citizens, I think it cannot be denied, have always been treated with marked attention by all the British authorities in these parts. With reference to San Juan in particular, I have always acted with the utmost caution to prevent, so far as might lie in my power, any ill feelings arising from collisions between British subjects and American citizens, and have in that respect cordially endeavored to carry out the views of the United States Government as expressed in a dispatch from Mr. Marcy, dated 17th July, 1855, to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington. a copy of which I herewith enclose for your information, as I presume that the document cannot be in your possession.

Following the dignified policy recommended by that dispatch, I should in any well grounded case of complaint against an American citizen have referred the matter to the Federal authorities in Washington Territory, well assured that if wrong had been committed reparation would have followed.

I deeply regret that you did not communicate with me for information upon the subject of the alleged grievance, you would then have learned how unfounded was the complaint, and the grave action you have adopted might have been avoided. I also deeply regret that you did not mention the matter verbally to me when I had the pleasure of seeing you at Victoria last month, for a few words from me would, I am sure, have removed from your mind any erroneous impressions, and you would have ascertained personally from me how anxious I have ever been to co-operate to the utmost of my power with the officers of the United States Government in any measures which might be mutually beneficial to the citizens of the two countries.

Having given you a distinct and emphatic denial to the circumstances which you allege induced you to occupy the Island of San Juan with United States troops; having shown you that the reasons you assign do not exist, and having endeavored to assure you of my readiness on all occasions to act for the protection of American citizens, and for the promotion of their welfare, I must call upon you, sir, if not as a matter of right, at least as a matter of justice and of humanity, to withdraw the troops now quartered upon the Island of San Juan; for those troops are not required for the protection of American citizens against British authorities, and the continuance of these troops upon an Island, the sovereignty of which is in dispute, not only is a marked discourtesy to a friendly Government, but complicates to an undue degree the settlement in an amicable manner of the question of sovereignty, and is also calculated to provoke a collision between the military forces of two friendly Nations, in a distant part of the world.

I have the honor to be, sir, your Most Ob't Serv't,

James Douglas.

[Marginal note:] Memo.—General Harney's letter and Governor's Reply returned to Secretary's office. J.P.

(Memorandum. The above are true copies of the letters referred to in the Communication from His Excellency the Governor, dated 23rd Augt.—see page 19—Jos. Porter—Clerk).

Mr. McKay presented a petition from the Commissioners of the Royal Hospital, setting forth their inability to afford relief to the indigent sick, in consequence of their want of funds; and asking the assistance of the House.

Petition read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. McKay, seconded by Mr. Pemberton, "A Bill to provide for the Resignation and Vacating of Seats" was read a third time and passed.

Mr. McKay introduced "a Bill" of which he had given notice "For the passage of an Act to regulate the Interest of Money in Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies", and moved its First Reading, Seconded by Mr. Pemberton and read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time at next meeting.

The House then went into Committee on the subject of the Communications from His Excellency the Governor relating to Lighthouses and Mr. Pemberton's Statement regarding the expenditure for improving Streets &c.

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

At 1 o'clock p.m. the House resumed its sitting.

The Chairman brought up the Report of the Committee, which having been read and agreed to, The House adjourned until Tuesday, September 6th at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Tuesday, the 6th day of September, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. D. Pemberton, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

Three Communications from His Excellency the Governor were received and read (see minutes of 9th September, page 23).⁸

There being no quorum present the House adjourned, until Friday the 9th September, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Friday, the 9th day of September, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A.M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The minutes of last meetings having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker read the following Communications from His Excellency, (which had been received on the 6th instant).

1.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
31st August 1859.

To The Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

1. I have to acknowledge Your Speaker's Communication of 23rd August, relative to the maintenance of the Lighthouses which it is proposed to erect in part at the expense of the Imperial Government on the Race Rocks, and at the entrance of Esquimalt Harbour.

2. The suggestion of the House that the cost of maintaining those Lights should be borne jointly by British Columbia and Vancouvers Island, does not appear objectionable and will be taken into consideration.

3. I observe that the House deems it advisable to defer the consideration of the ways and means of meeting that expense for the present, and until there be a more general representation of the people; suggesting in the meantime that the proportion of the outlay falling to the charge of Vancouvers Island should be defrayed out of the proceeds arising from sales of public land.

⁸ I.e., pp. 131-32.

4. I also think favorably of the suggestion of the House for lighting and improving the entrance of the Harbour of Victoria, a measure which would tend greatly to promote the substantial prosperity of the Country.

5. I have also to thank the House for their Complimentary Message, which I beg to assure them is highly appreciated.

(Signed) James Douglas.

2.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
5th Sepr. 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to communicate for the information of the House, that the "Bill for the passage of An Act legalizing the celebration of Marriages by Bodies of Dissenting Christians in Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies" with the following words expunged, as proposed by the House of Assembly, vizt. "Parties may give what additional remuneration they think fit", passed the Council this day.

(Signed) James Douglas.

3.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
5th September 1859.

To The Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to communicate for the information of the House, that the "Bill for the passage of an Act respecting the property of Religious Institutions in the Colony of Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies" with the addition of Clause 10 as proposed by the House of Assembly, vizt. "That nothing in this Bill shall empower any Trustees of any Religious Body, to construct or occupy or use lands for Burial purposes within Towns or Cities in Vancouvers Island or its Dependencies," passed the Council this day.

(Signed) James Douglas.

Mr. McKay Moved the second reading of "A Bill for the passage of an Act to regulate the Interest of money in the Colony of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies."

Mr. Yates Moved as an amendment "That no more business be taken up by the House until the 'Franchise Bill' is sent down from the Council." He was not opposed to the "Interest Bill", but thought it only right that the important question of the "Franchise" should be settled first.

Mr. Yates' amendment having been seconded by Mr. Skinner, Mr. Pemberton Thought that the "Franchise Bill" would not be in any manner delayed by forwarding the "Interest Bill" a stage, and he should therefore Second Mr. McKay's motion.

Mr. Speaker Said that the House appeared to be unanimous on the two points, and as there really seemed to be no objection to the "Interest Bill" in itself, he should vote in favor of its Second reading.

The Bill was accordingly read a Second time, and ordered to be considered in Committee at next Meeting.

On Motion, the House then adjourned until Tuesday the 13th instant at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Tuesday, the 13th day of September, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker Read the following Communications from His Excellency the Governor,

1.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouver's Island
Sept. 10th 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I have to submit for your consideration with the sanction of Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Copy of a Communication from the Reverend Edward Cridge, Colonial Chaplain of Vancouver's Island, tendering a continuance of his services in that capacity; and I have to request that the House will favor me with their opinion on the subject.

(Signed) James Douglas.

(Copy of a letter from the Revd. Edwd. Cridge).

The Parsonage
Victoria Vancouver's Island
Feby. 24th 1859.

Sir

I beg to draw Your Excellency's attention to the memorandum of agreement entered into between the Honble. the H. B. Company and myself on Sept. 13th 1854 by virtue of which,

1. I undertook "the charge of a District or Parish" at Victoria, coupled with the appointment of Chaplain to the Company.

2. I accepted as a remuneration for my Services

(1) "Of a Parsonage and Glebe of 100 Acres."

(2) "A Stipend of £300 per Annum charged with the Sanction of the Colonial office on the fund arising from the Sales of Land."

(3) "Of £100. a year for Acting as Chaplain to the Company."

3. The engagement was understood to be for five years, after which a free passage home would be granted should the clergyman wish to return; or, on the contrary, a fresh engagement might be entered into. In the event of misconduct the engagement might at any time be cancelled on the recommendation of the Governor, and with the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In conformity with the last paragraph of the agreement, and in view of the approaching expiration of the above mentioned period of five years, I beg, through Your Excellency to signify to the proper authorities (in case of Your Excellency's favorable recommendation) my willingness to enter into a fresh agreement.

Believing also, and assuming that circumstances unforeseen and unprovided for in the memorandum may be found to render necessary some revision of its terms, I shall be most happy, if it will tend to

facilitate or expedite an arrangement, to enter into a preliminary communication with Your Excellency in reference to those terms; or otherwise I will await the enunciation of them from Her Majesty's Government or the Honble. Company.

In either case I should esteem it a favor that the matter should be arranged with as little delay as may be convenient.

I beg to remain
Your Excellency's
obedient Servant
(Signed) Edward Cridge
Colonial Chaplain

To His Excellency The Governor of Vancouvers Island

2.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
Sepr. 10th 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have the honor of transmitting herewith an extract from a Despatch received from Lord Carnarvon, dated 1st June 1859, in reply to my Communication of 8th April in which I transmitted an Address from the House of Assembly praying that Her Majesty's Government would send Commissioners to the Island to investigate the affairs of the Colony before releasing the Hudsons Bay Company from their responsible government.

(Signed) James Douglas.

Extract from a Despatch from Lord Carnarvon, dated "Downing Street, 1st June 1859."

"I have to request that you will state to the House of Assembly that I am unable to entertain the prayer of their Address, and if necessary to take any steps upon it, until I shall be made acquainted with the Specific grounds on which it is preferred, and with the nature of the evidence which would be submitted to such Commissioners on the several questions which the Assembly consider to demand investigation."

(Signed) Carnarvon.

3.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouver's Island
Sepr. 13th 1859.

To The Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speakers communication of 9th September informing me that the House "will meet on Tuesday the 13th instant at 11 o'clock A. M." and hoping then to receive the "Franchise Bill" which was sent up from the House of Assembly on the 4th July last; and in accordance with that wish I now enclose you two Bills having reference to that Subject, vizt.

1. A Bill to increase the number of "Representatives of the People of this Colony in the House of Assembly"

2. A Bill to make provision for the "Registration of Voters, and for other purposes"

Which Bills are now in progress, and will, in all probability, pass the Council this morning.

(Signed) James Douglas.

The two Bills relating to the Franchise were received from the Council.

The proposals submitted by the Revd. Edward Cridge were ordered to be considered on Friday next.

Mr. Skinner Called the attention of the House to the dangerous condition of the Bridges on the Esquimalt Road.

Mr. Yates Gave notice of his intention to move for a select Committee "To enquire as to what has been done with the money voted for the repairs of certain Roads".

The House then went into Committee on the "Bill for the passage of an Act to regulate the Interest on Money &c."

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

At ½ past 12 o'clock the House resumed its Sitting, and the Chairman brought up the Report of the Committee.

On the Question, that the Report be agreed to, Mr. Yates moved for a reconsideration.

The motion being seconded by Mr. Skinner and carried, The House again went into Committee to reconsider Clause 1 of "The Bill for the passage of an Act to regulate the Interest of Money, &c".

At 1 o'clock p. m. The House resumed.

The Chairman brought up the Report, which being agreed to, The House adjourned until Friday the 16th instant at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Friday, the 16th day of September, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

Two Communications were received from His Excellency the Governor

1. Enclosing letter from Revd. E. Cridge Secy. to Hospital.
2. Enclosing Bill to Amend Representation &c. (See Minutes Septr. 20th. pages 32 & 33.)⁹

There being no quorum present The House adjourned until Tuesday 20th instant, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

⁹ I.e., pp. 136-37 below.

Tuesday, the 20th day of September, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker read the following Communications from His Excellency the Governor.

1. Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
Sepr. 14th 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I beg to enclose for Your information the copy of a letter which I have just received from the Reverend Edward Cridge on the Subject of the Royal Hospital.

From that communication it appears that the funds which have been raised for the support of that Institution are completely exhausted, and that relief is immediately wanted; otherwise the patients, nine in number, will be reduced to the most deplorable state of suffering and destitution.

I have to recommend that application to the instant attention of the House, and beg that a sufficient grant of money may be immediately made for the object therein mentioned.

(Signed) James Douglas.

Copy of a letter from the Revd. Ed. Cridge.

Victoria, Sepr. 14th 1859.

Sir.

I beg respectfully to draw Your Excellency's attention to the State of the Royal Hospital.

The funds are entirely exhausted and a considerable debt contracted.

We are entirely at a loss to know what to do with the patients, which are nine in number, sick, destitute and unable to work.

It seems impossible that the poor Creatures can be turned on the streets to die, or be left to the precarious charity of the passers by; and there is no asylum to which they can be consigned but the Hospital.

Your Excellency is therefore earnestly implored to provide, or to ask the House of Assembly to provide, the means of carrying on an Institution so indispensable to the Colony.

I remain
Your Excellencys Obedt. Servt.
(Signed) Edwd. Cridge
Sec. to the Provl. Comttee.

2. Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
September 13th 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have the honor of transmitting herewith, "A Bill to amend the law relating to the Representation of Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies," which passed the Council this day.

The two Bills which accompanied my Communication to the House of Assembly, of even date, and entitled respectively 1. "An Act to increase the number

of Representatives of the People of this Colony in the House of Assembly" and 2. "A Bill to make provision for the Registration of Voters, and for other purposes", Also passed the Council this day.

(Signed) James Douglas.

The Speaker, laid on the table for consideration at next meeting, the copy of an address to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, in reference to a petition received from the inhabitants of Vancouvers Island, regarding the Land System.

On Motion of Mr. McKay, Seconded by Mr. Pemberton, "A Bill for the passage of an Act to regulate the Interest of Money in Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies", Was read a Third time and passed.

Mr. Yates in pursuance of notice, moved, "For a select committee to enquire into the expenditure of the Sums appropriated by the House for the purpose of improving certain Streets, and erecting two Bridges in Victoria; and also to enquire into the Expenditure on the Esquimalt Road, and how the several works are progressing."

The motion having been seconded by Mr. Skinner and carried, The Speaker appointed Messrs. Skinner, McKay and Yates to serve on the Select Committee.

On Motion of Mr. Yates, Seconded by Mr. Skinner "A Bill to increase the number of Representatives of the People of this Colony in the House of Assembly" was read a first time.

On motion of Mr. Skinner, Seconded by Mr. McKay "A Bill to amend the law relating to the Representation of Vancouvers Island and its dependencies" was read a first time.

On motion of Mr. Skinner, Seconded by Mr. Pemberton "A Bill to make provision for the Registration of Voters, and for other purposes" was read a first time.

These three Bills were ordered to be read a Second time on Friday next.

The House then went into Committee to take into consideration His Excellency the Governors' communication requesting the opinion of the House on the subject of Mr. Cridge's proposal for a continuance of his engagement as Colonial Chaplain."

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

At 2 oclock P. M. The House resumed its sitting.

The Chairman brought up the report of the Committee, which was agreed to.

Mr. Skinner Enquired of the Surveyor General if the "Tracing of Surveyed Lands &c." which was moved for on the 12th August last, had been prepared.

Mr. Pemberton Replied that owing to the press of Business in his office, the Tracing had not yet been prepared, but he would take the earliest opportunity of having it made.

On Motion the House then adjourned until Fridy 23rd instant at 11 A. M.

Speaker.

Friday, the 23rd day of September, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock a. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, and Mr. Speaker.

There being no quorum present adjourned until Tuesday 27th instant at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Tuesday, the 27th day of September, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Skinner Gave notice of his intention to introduce at next meeting "A Bill for the Protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies."

On Motion of Mr. McKay, Seconded by Mr. Pemberton "A Bill to increase the number of Representatives of the People of this Colony", was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Thursday next the 29th instant.

On Motion of Mr. Yates Seconded by Mr. McKay, "A Bill To amend the Law relating to the Representation of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies" was read a second time and ordered to be committed on Tuesday 4th October.

On Motion of Mr. Yates Seconded by Mr. Skinner "A Bill to make provision for the Registration of Voters, and for other purposes", Was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Thursday next the 29th instant.

The House then went into Committee to consider the communication from His Excellency the Governor having reference to the Reverend Mr. Cridge's statement of the affairs of the Royal Hospital, and, on the Address to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle regarding the Land System.

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

At ½ past 1 o'clock The House resumed its sitting; The Chairman brought up the Report of the Committee, on Mr. Cridge's communication "regarding the affairs of the Royal Hospital"

That this House is of opinion that it would be right and proper to subscribe the sum of £250. to the Royal Hospital, and that such subscription should be paid out of the General Revenue of the Colony.

The Address to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle was carried; and it was ordered that the Address and Petition be forwarded to His Grace; and that His Excellency the Governor be respectfully asked to support the prayer thereof.

The Report having been agreed to The House adjourned until Thursday the 29th instant at 11 oclock A. M.

Speaker.

Thursday, the 29th day of September, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

There being no quorum, Adjourned until Monday, October 3rd at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Monday, the 3rd day of October, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Skinner Moved the First Reading of "A Bill for the protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies."

Seconded by Mr. McKay, and read a First time.

On the motion "that the House do now go into Committee" Mr. Skinner objected to the House receiving or taking into consideration the "Bill to Provide for the Registration of Voters", on the ground of its being a "Money Bill", and consequently should not have emanated from the Upper House.

Mr. Pemberton and Mr. McKay were in favor of going into Committee.

Mr. Yates objected.

Mr. Speaker should give his casting vote in favor of going into Committee. The Bill had originated in that House, and had been passed and sent up to Council, and returned by that Honorable Body to the House without any alteration of the slightest importance; to be sure, the Council had divided the Bill sent up, into three parts, but this part, the "Registration of Voters Bill" was now almost verbatim in the same condition as when the House passed it, and he did not believe it to be a new Bill.

The House then went into Committee on the "Bill to increase the number of Representatives of the People of this Colony in the House of Assembly", and the "Bill to make provision for the Registration of Voters, and for other purposes relating thereto."

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

At ½ past 12 o'clock The House resumed its sitting.

The Report of the Committee having been brought up and agreed to, The House adjourned, until Tuesday, October 4th at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Tuesday, the 4th day of October, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. D. Pemberton, T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker, Said he had been in error Stating that the two Bills which had passed through Committee yesterday were not new Bills; he had acted on the Supposition that as no new matter had been introduced into them, they were virtually the same Bills as had been sent up from this House; but he had Since learned that the fact of the one Bill sent up, had been divided by the Council into three, constituted those three into three new Bills, and that consequently the proceedings of yesterday would have to be gone through again today.

On motion of Mr. Skinner Seconded by Mr. McKay, "The Bill for the protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouvers Island" &c. was read a Second time.

The House then went into Committee, on the "Bill to amend the Law relating to the Representation of Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies".

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

At 2 o'clock p. m. the House resumed its sitting, The Chairman brought up the Report of the Committee which was agreed to.

Mr. Yates dissenting.

The House then adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday October 5th at 10 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Wednesday, the 5th day of October, 1859

The House met at 10 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, J. D. Pemberton, Speaker.

There being no quorum Adjourned, Until Thursday October 6th at 4 o'clock p. m.

Speaker.

Thursday, the 6th day of October, 1859

The House met at 4 o'clock p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. T. J. Skinner and Speaker.

There being no Quorum, Adjourned until tomorrow Friday October 7th at 3 o'clock p. m.

Speaker.

Friday, the 7th day of October, 1859

The House met at 3 o'clock p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. D. Pemberton, T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Pemberton moved the Third reading of "A Bill to increase the number of Representatives of the People of this Colony in the House of Assembly."

Seconded by Mr. McKay; read a third time, and passed.

Mr. McKay moved the Third Reading of "A Bill to make provision for the Registration of Voters, and for other purposes relating thereto."

Seconded by Mr. Pemberton; read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Pemberton moved the Third Reading of "A Bill to Amend the law relating to the Representation of Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies."

Seconded by Mr. Yates; read a third time, and passed.

The House then went into Committee on the "Bill for the protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouvers Island."

The House resumed its sitting.

The Chairman brought up the Report of the Committee, which was agreed to, and The House adjourned until Tuesday the 11th instant at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Tuesday, the 11th day of October, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A.M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

There being no quorum, Adjourned until Friday October 14th at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Friday, the 14th day of October, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. D. Pemberton, T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read and Confirmed.

Mr. Skinner gave notice of his intention to present at next meeting, a Petition to incorporate the "Victoria Gas Company."

Mr. Skinner Enquired of the Surveyor General, if the "Tracing of Surveyed Lands" moved for on the 12th August last, had been prepared.

Mr. Pemberton said the Tracing was prepared, and would be laid before the House at the next meeting.

On Motion of Mr. Skinner, Seconded by Mr. McKay "A Bill for the protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies" was read a third time and passed.

The House then adjourned until Tuesday October 25th, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Tuesday, the 25th day of October, 1859

The House met at 11 oclock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. D. Pemberton, T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker read the following Communications from His Excellency the Governor;

1.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
21st October 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speaker's Communication of October 7th transmitting the three following bills which had passed the House of Assembly that day.

1. "A Bill to increase the number of Representatives of the People of this Colony in the House of Assembly".

2. "A Bill to make provision for the Registration of Voters, and for other purposes relating thereto."

3. "A Bill to Amend the Law relating to the Representation of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies."

(Signed) James Douglas.

2.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouver's Island
21st October 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speaker's Communication dated October 14th transmitting "A Bill for the protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies" and to inform the House that it will be laid before the Council at an early day.

(Signed) James Douglas.

3.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouver's Island,
21st Oct. 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speaker's Communication of the 20th of September, transmitting "A Bill for the passage of an Act to regulate the interest of Money, in the Colony of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies," and I will take an early opportunity of laying the Act before the Council.

(Signed) James Douglas

4.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouver's Island
21st October 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speaker's Communication dated 27th of September, enclosing a petition from the inhabitants of Vancouver's Island to the House of Assembly, and the Copy of an Address from the House to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle; and I beg to inform the House that I will forward that Petition and Address to His Grace, with such remarks as I may consider suitable on the occasion.

(Signed) James Douglas

5.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouver's Island
21st October 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Speaker's Communication dated 27th of September, conveying the following Resolution of the House, in reply to my Message of September 14th on the subject of the Royal Hospital,

That this House is of opinion that it would be right and proper to subscribe the sum of £250. to the Royal Hospital, and that such subscription should be paid out of the General Revenue of the Colony.

In reply to which, I beg to inform the House that the "General Revenue of the Colony", by which I presume the House means the proceeds derived from the Sales of Public Land, is insufficient to meet the ordinary and indispensable wants of the Country.

The Revenue derived from Spirit Licenses has been already expended by vote of the House, and no funds whatever remain in the Exchequer.

I therefore desire that the House may at once take measures, either by way of loan or otherwise, to provide the Sum of £250. which has been so considerably voted for the relief of the Hospital; otherwise the humane intention of the House cannot be carried into effect.

(Signed) James Douglas

6.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
21st October 1859.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speaker's Communication of the 20th of September conveying a Resolution of the House, in reply to my message of September 10th, relative to a renewal of the engagement of the Reverend Mr. Cridge as Colonial Chaplain of Vancouver's Island.

2. While thanking the House for the consideration given to the Message, I have again to call its attention to the Same Subject.

3. The House being of opinion, as stated in Your reply, that the Reverend Mr. Cridge "was evidently led by the memorandum of agreement dated August 12th 1854, to expect a renewal of his engagement, contingent upon faithful services" I conceive that we are bound in honor and good faith to accept the tender made of his Services as Chaplain; and I beg to be informed if the House concur with me in that opinion.

(Signed) James Douglas.

7.

Council Chamber, Government House
Victoria, Vancouver's Island.
24th October 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor and Legislative Council of Vancouvers Island, to return the Bill Entitled "A Bill to amend the Law relating to the Representation of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies" and to say that the Governor and Council consider all the amendments made by the House of Assembly expedient and proper except the amendments lowering the rental and freehold qualifications, which they still think should be maintained at £20, and £100, respectively.

I am therefore directed to request that you will submit those amendments to the House for reconsideration.

(Signed) Edwd. Cridge
Hon. Sec. to the Council

The Communications numbered 5, 6, & 7 respectively were ordered to be taken into Consideration at next Meeting.

Mr. Skinner, Presented a Petition to incorporate a Gas Company.

Ordered to be considered at next meeting.

The House then adjourned to Friday 28th inst. at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Friday, the 28th day of October, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. Skinner, J. W. McKay, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

Two Communications from His Excellency the Governor were read by Mr. Speaker (see minutes Oct. 29th).

There being no quorum present, The House adjourned until Saturday, October 29th at 10 o'clock A. M.

Speaker

Saturday, the 29th day of October, 1859

The House met at 10 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. D. Pemberton, T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker read the following communications from His Excellency the Governor.

1. Government House,
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
24th October 1859.

To the Speaker & Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to Communicate for your information that the following two Bills, vizt. 1. "A Bill to make provision for the Registration of Voters, and for other purposes relating thereto" and 2. "A Bill to increase the number of Representatives of the People of this Colony in the House of Assembly" finally passed the Council, without amendment, and received my assent this day.

(Signed) James Douglas.

2. Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
26th October 1859

To the Speaker & Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I beg to transmit to the House the following Bills, which with the Amendments thereon respectively made, passed the Council this day.

1. "A Bill to remove doubts as to the Law relating to the Interest of Money in the Colony of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies" and

2. "A Bill for the protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies."

(Signed) James Douglas.

Mr. Pemberton, laid on the table "A Tracing of All Surveyed Lands, &c." moved for on the 12th August last.

The House then went into Committee, on the Communication from His Excellency the Governor (No. 6, Oct. 25th) relating to the Chaplaincy of Vancouver's

Island, On the Communication (No. 5 Octr. 25th) relating to the affairs of the Royal Hospital, and On Communication (No. 7, Octr. 25th) for a reconsideration of the amendments to "Franchise Act 1859" lowering the Rental and Freehold Qualifications of Voters, And the Petition to incorporate a Gas Company.

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

The House resumed its Sitting.

The Chairman brought up the Report of the Committee.

On the Communication relating to the Chaplaincy, The following resolution was agreed to

"This House is of opinion that the Clerical Appointment of the Revd. Mr. Cridge, and all the responsibilities connected with it, rest with the Executive, and not with this House." (Mr. Pemberton).

On the Communication relating to the Hospital the following resolution was agreed to.

The House recommends that the sum of £250. already voted from the 'License fund of 1858' by the House, for a Library, be used as a loan to supply the existing necessities of the Hospital, to be repaid when sufficient funds shall be received from Sales of Land &c.

On the subject of the reconsideration of the reduction in the Rental and Freehold Qualifications of Voters, it was agreed, "That a conference on the subject be requested with the Governor and Council."

The petition to incorporate a Gas Company, was not agreed to, it being too late in the Session for the House to take it into consideration.

"The Bill for the protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies" and "The Bill to remove doubts as to the Law relating to the interest of Money in the Colony of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies" with the amendments proposed in Council were agreed to, and finally passed.

The Report of the Committee having been agreed to, The House adjourned until Thursday November 3rd at 11 o'clock A. M.

Speaker.

Thursday, the 3rd day of November, 1859

The House met at 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. D. Pemberton, T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay and Mr. Speaker and proceeded immediately to meet the Council in Conference on the subject of the proposed reduction of the Rental and Freehold Qualifications of Voters in the "Franchise Bill."

AT ½ PAST 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

The House reassembled, and The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. McKay, rose and informed the House that the Members had just returned from a Conference with the Legislative Council on the subject of certain proposed

Amendments to the "Franchise Act", and the result was, that neither side had been induced to change their views by argument; but had agreed to a compromise vizt. that £12. should take the place of the £20. Rental; and that £50. should take the place of the £100 Freehold; and that the word "Beneficial" in Clause 1, (Qualification b), should be erased.

The Speaker then read the following Communications from His Excellency the Governor.

1.

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
2nd November 1859

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speakers communication dated Octr. 29th, conveying a Resolution of the House, "recommending that the sum of £250. voted from the 'License Fund 1858' for a Library, be used for the relief of the Royal Hospital."

I have to communicate for the information of the House, that all the monies arising from the Sale of Licenses for the fiscal year 1858, were paid, as collected, into the hands of the Hudson's Bay Company, and that I have made application to the Agent of that Company for the sum voted for the relief of the Hospital, which you will observe by the accompanying correspondence has not proved successful.

(Signed) James Douglas

(Enclosure No. 1.)

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
Novr. 1st 1859

Sir

I beg herewith to enclose for your information the Copy of a Resolution which passed the House of Assembly on the 29th day of the past month, granting for the relief of the Royal Hospital, the sum of £250., voted from the "License Fund of 1858" for the purchase of a Library.

As *all* monies arising from the Sale of Licenses to public Houses, were paid, as collected, into the hands of the Hudsons Bay Company, I have to request, in pursuance of the Resolution of the House of Assembly, that you will be kind enough to cause the sum in question, say £250. to be paid at your earliest convenience, into the hands of the Treasurer of this Colony.

I have the honor &c.
(Signed) James Douglas.

A. G. Dallas, Esqre.
Agent of the Hudson's Bay Company.

(Enclosure No. 2.)

Victoria, 2nd November 1859.

H. E. James Douglas Esq. C. B. &c. &c. &c.

Sir

I beg to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's communication of Yesterday's date, in regard to a Sum of £250. License Fund 1858, stated to be in the Hands of the Hudson's Bay Company.

I am not aware of the Hudson's Bay Co. holding any money belonging to the Colony of Vancouvers Island, but on the return of Mr. Finlayson from British Columbia, will make enquiry into the matter.

I have the honor &c.
(Signed) A. G. Dallas

2.

Government House,
Victoria Vancouver's Island,
31st October 1859

To the Speaker & Gentlemen of the House of Assembly

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speaker's Communication of the 29th of October containing the following resolution of the House

That a Conference on the subject of the already proposed reduction in the Rental and Freehold Qualifications of Voters in the "Franchise Act", be requested with His Excellency the Governor and Council, and I have to inform you that the Council will be convened to meet the Members of the House of Assembly in Conference, on Thursday the 3rd of November next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

(Signed) James Douglas.

3.

Government House,
31st Octr. 1859.
Victoria, Vancouver's Island,

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Speaker's communication dated October 29th transmitting two Bills, which, with the amendments proposed in Council, had passed the House of Assembly on that day, vizt.

1. "A Bill for the protection of the Wooden Bridges in Vancouvers Island, and its Dependencies" and
2. "A Bill to remove doubts as to the Law relating to the Interest of Money in the Colony of Vancouvers Island and its Dependencies."

(Signed) James Douglas.

Mr. Skinner presented a Petition to incorporate a Society, to be called "The First Hebrew Victoria Benevolent Society". The House was unanimously opposed to the reception of the Petition at that late period of the Session, and it was accordingly withdrawn.

The House then went into Committee to reconsider the Amendments to the Rental and Freehold Qualifications in the "Franchise Act 1859" which had been returned from the Council.

Mr. Skinner in the Chair.

At 3 o'clock p. m. the House resumed its sitting. The Chairman brought up the Report of the Committee,

"In Clause 1, Qualification 2, at line 4, the figures "£20." to be altered to "£12."

In Clause 1, Qualification 3(b) the words "A beneficial" to be erased, and the word "An" to be inserted in lieu thereof.

In the same Clause, & the Qualification (b), the figures "£100." to be altered to "£50."

The Report having been agreed to, The House adjourned to meet again at the call of the Speaker.

Speaker.

Wednesday, the 7th day of December, 1859

The House met this day at ½ past 11 o'clock A. M. pursuant to a call of the Speaker.

Present: Messrs. J. Yates, J. W. McKay, T. J. Skinner, J. D. Pemberton, and Mr. Speaker.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Speaker, read the following Communication from His Excellency the Governor,

Government House
Victoria, Vancouvers Island
November 3rd 1859

Sir,

I have to communicate to you for the information of the House of Assembly, that the "Bill to amend the Law relating to the Representation of the Colony of Vancouvers Island," with the amendments proposed by the House, finally passed the Council, and received my assent, this day.

(Signed) James Douglas.

To the Speaker of the House of Assembly.

The House, having been summoned to attend the Council, then proceeded to the Council Chamber, where were assembled, His Excellency the Governor; and the following Members of Council, the Honble. John Work, Rodk. Finlayson and Donald Fraser.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the House as follows,

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have summoned you to meet me on this occasion in order to release you from your legislative duties.

A protracted Session extending over a period exceeding three years, has led to many changes in the Colony. The Town and District of Victoria, as well as other Districts of Vancouver's Island, have during that time advanced in wealth and population, with a rapidity surpassing our warmest expectations; and I am, from circumstances, led to entertain the most confident hopes of the future progress of the Colony.

I thank you Gentlemen, for the zeal and diligence, with which you have applied yourselves to your public duties, and for the support which I have received from you.

It is my intention to dissolve this present Assembly without delay, and to summon a new House fully representing the growing Constituencies of the Colony;

and I sincerely hope that in the exercise of the high functions, which according to the free constitution of our Country will devolve upon those constituencies, they may be led to the selection of representatives whose wisdom and patriotism may aid me, in devising and carrying into effect, the measures which appear to be indispensably necessary in promoting the early settlement of the country, the development of its resources, and the general well being and prosperity of the Colony.

It is not my intention to take up the time of the House by entering into a review of those measures at present; but I will nevertheless, remark, that there appears to be an obvious necessity for an early revision of the Land System, which ought to be placed on a sound and liberal basis for the encouragement of settlers.

The records of History prove that Nations must be producers in order to become prosperous and healthy.

I shall therefore recommend that early measures be adopted to encourage agriculture; the raising of stock; and the improvement of sheep and cattle; to stimulate the establishment of fisheries; the working of coal mines; the export and manufacture of ship's masts and timber: sources of wealth with which the Colony abounds.

The repair and construction of Public Roads, and other important works will have the strongest claims upon the attention of the Legislature.

The Legislature will further have to take into early consideration the means of raising a revenue for defraying the necessary expenses of Government, and especially for extending and improving national education as the most certain means of elevating the moral and social conditions of the people.

With those few remarks, I will release you, Gentlemen, from further attendance.

The Secretary to the Council then proceeded to announce the prorogation of the assembly, to Thursday the 2nd day of February next.

The Members of the House of Assembly then withdrew.

Speaker.
