
Monday, the 12th day of March, 1866.

The Council met at 3 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The Hon. Mr. Walkem absent on leave; all other Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read over and confirmed.

The Hon. Mr. Elliott gave notice of motion.

According to Order, the Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider the alterations proposed by His Honor to the Licences Bill.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Brew in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman handed in the following Resolution for the adoption of the Council:

Resolved, That the Officer Administering the Government be acquainted that the Council has agreed to the amendments made by His Honor to the Bill entitled the "Licences Ordinance, 1866."

On the question being put it was carried unanimously and Ordered accordingly.

According to Order, the Hon. Mr. Smith asked leave to bring in the Homestead Bill.

Ordered that leave be granted.

The Hon. Member therefore presented the said Bill, and moved that the same be now read the first time.

Read first time accordingly.

On the motion of the Hon. Member that the Bill be read second time on Friday next,

The Council divided.

Ayes 9, Noes 1,

So it was Resolved in the affirmative and Ordered accordingly.

On the Order of the day being read for the third reading of the Bed Rock Flume Bill,

Ordered that the third reading thereof be deferred till Friday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the third reading of the Sinking Fund Bill.

Ordered that the said Bill be re-committed forthwith for the addition of supplemental matter.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole accordingly.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Elliott in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill complete.

Ordered to be read third time at once.

Bill read third time accordingly,

And Resolved, That this Bill do pass and that its title be the "Sinking Fund Ordinance, 1866."

On the Order of the day being read for the consideration in Committee of the whole of the Petition of Messrs. Brown and Gillis.

The Hon. Attorney General moved that it be considered this day six months.

The Hon. Mr. Smith moved in amendment that it be considered on Monday next.

On the amendment being put the Council divided.

Ayes 10, Noes 2,

So it was Resolved in the affirmative, and Ordered accordingly.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Elliott, the Council adjourned till Friday next, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Friday, the 16th day of March, 1866.

The Council met at 3 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The Hon. Mr. O'Reilly absent with leave; Hon. Mr. Homer absent without leave; all other Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read over and confirmed.

A Message from the Officer Administering the Government, which being read is as follows:

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

Message No. 22.

The Officer Administering the Government acquaints the Legislative Council that he has assented, in Her Majesty's name, to a Bill entitled "No 6. An Ordinance regulating the Sinking Fund of Public Loans."

Government House,

16th March, 1866.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. Cornwall,

Ordered, That strangers do withdraw, including the Press.

According to Order, the Hon. Mr. Elliott asked leave to bring in Small Debts Act Amendment Bill.

Ordered that leave be granted, and that the said Bill be read the first time on Monday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Homestead Bill,

The Hon. Mr. Crease moved, the Hon. Mr. Trutch seconding,

That the Bill be read the second time this day three months.

On the question being put the Council divided.

Ayes 8, Noes 1,

So it was Resolved in the affirmative and Ordered accordingly.

On the Order of the day being read for the third reading of the Bed Rock Flume Bill,

Ordered that the said Bill be re-committed to allow the addition of supplemental matter.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole accordingly.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Haynes in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill complete.

Ordered that the said Bill be now read the third time.

Read the third time accordingly, and Resolved that this Bill do pass, and that its title be the "Williams Creek Flume Ordinance, 1866."

A Message from the Officer Administering the Government, which being read is as follows:

Message No. 23.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The Officer Administering the Government lays before the Legislative Council, copies of Despatches from the Secretary of State, in reference to the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

It is the intention of the Officer Administering the Government to appoint a Committee without delay, and he would suggest that the Council should authorize the expenditure of a certain amount from the Public Funds to enable the Committee to procure and forward as complete a collection as possible of the products and resources of the Colony.

Government House.

16th March, 1866.

Ordered that the same be considered in Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Elliott, the Council adjourned till Monday, the 19th instant, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Monday, the 19th day of March, 1866.

The Council met at 3 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The Hon. Mr. O'Reilly absent with leave; all other Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read over and confirmed.

A letter from the Hon. Mr. Homer, apologizing for his absence at the last Meeting was read aloud by the Clerk.

Ordered that the Hon. Member's apology be accepted.

The Hon. Mr. Crease gave notice of motion.

On the Order of the day being read for the first reading of the Small Debts Act Amendment Bill,

The Hon. the Attorney General moved, the Hon. Mr. Hamley seconding,

That this Bill be read the first time this day six months.

Before any question was put, the Hon. Mr. Cornwall moved that strangers do withdraw, including the Press.

Strangers having withdrawn accordingly,

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved, the Hon. Mr. Homer seconding,
That strangers be re-admitted, including the Press.

A debate here arose.

On a question of order having arisen, the Presiding Member decided that the Hon. Mr. Holbrook's motion could not be put until the Hon. Mr. Cornwall had explained to the House his reasons for moving that Strangers withdraw.

The Hon. Mr. Cornwall explained his reasons to the Council accordingly. The Hon. Mr. Holbrook's motion having been put and carried, it was Ordered that Strangers be re-admitted.

The amendment of the Hon. the Attorney General was then put to the Council. The Council divided.

Ayes 4, Noes 7.

So the amendment was lost, and it was Ordered that the Small Debts Act Amendment Bill be read first time.

Read first time accordingly.

Ordered to be read second time on Wednesday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the Committee of the whole to consider Brown and Gillis' Petition,

The Hon. the Attorney General moved, the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works seconding,

That this Petition be considered this day six months.

On the question being put a debate arose and the Council divided.

Ayes 7, Noes 5,

So it was Resolved in the affirmative and Ordered accordingly.

On the Order of the day being read for the Committee to consider His Honor's Message on the Paris Exhibition of 1867,

The Hon. Mr. Brew moved that it be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

Ordered accordingly.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Franks, the Council adjourned till Wednesday, the 21st instant, at 2 o'clock, p.m.

Wednesday, the 21st day of March, 1866.

The Council met at 2 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The Hon. Mr. Smith absent without leave; all other Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read over and confirmed.

A Message from the Officer Administering the Government, which being read is as follows:

Message No. 24.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The Officer Administering the Government has received the Resolution of the Legislative Council suggesting the abolition of the Toll Gates at Lillooet and Lytton, and the imposition of an equivalent in Tonnage Dues.

The numerous representations made to the Officer Administering the Government since the passing of the Resolution, by those interested in the Lumber trade, in the prosecution of the Coal discoveries on the Coast, and in other enterprises requiring the investment of a large amount of capital before any return can be expected, has convinced him that to impose Tonnage Dues equal to six dollars a ton would act with undue hardship on those undertakings in their present early stage, and possibly prevent the successful development of these sources of wealth.

The Officer Administering the Government is anxious to relieve the burdens of the Upper Country, and equalize taxation as much as circumstances will permit, and with this object the abolition of the Gold Export Tax and the increase in the Trades Licences was proposed.

Under the agreement entered into with Mr. G. B. Wright, the Government in any exercise of the power of reducing or varying the rate of Tolls prescribed by the Ordinance "shall not reduce or vary the same so as to lessen the gross proceeds of such Tolls for the time being."

While the Officer Administering the Government cannot, at the present time, comply with the Resolution of the 8th instant, he is desirous that the Merchants of this Colony shall have every advantage it is practicable to afford in securing the trade of the New Mining District, he therefore proposes to instruct the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to enter into immediate negotiations with Mr. G. B. Wright for the surrender of his right to collect Tolls at Lillooet, and when a satisfactory arrangement has been arrived at the Gates at Lillooet and Lytton will be abolished, and one Gate established at Clinton, in view of further reduction, when the financial state of the Colony will admit.

Government House,
21st March, 1866.

A further Message from His Honor, read as follows:

Message No. 25.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The Officer Administering the Government lays before the Legislative Council, an additional Supplementary Estimate for 1864. The necessity for these Estimates has been occasioned by the Supplementary Estimates for that year having been passed previous to the closing of the Treasury Books.

Government House,
21st March, 1866.

A further Message from His Honor, as follows:

Message No. 26.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The Officer Administering the Government lays before the Legislative Council, the Supplementary Estimates for the year 1865.

The Acting Colonial Secretary and other Official Members of the Council have been instructed to furnish the fullest possible information on the several items.

Government House,
21st March, 1866.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. Ball,

Ordered that the Council do presently resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Supplementary Estimates sent down by His Honor. A letter from the Hon. Mr. Smith, apologizing to the Council for his unavoidable absence, was read aloud by the Clerk.

Ordered that the Hon. Member's apology be accepted.

The Council then went into Committee of Supply.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman handed in the following Resolution for the approval of the Council:

Resolved, That the Council recommend that the following Supplementary Supplies be voted for the service of the years 1864-65:

1864.

ESTABLISHMENTS:		£	s.	d.
Post Office		19	11	11
Gold Commissioners and Stipendiary Magistrates..		107	1	3

EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS:

Charitable Allowances	11	2	2
Conveyance of Mails	150	5	2
Works and Buildings	164	8	11
Drawbacks and Refunds of Duties	10	17	1

1865.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Governor	43	2	8
Colonial Secretary	450	0	0
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works	145	0	0
Post Office	235	0	0
Judicial	47	0	0
Police and Gaols	42	3	4
Gold Commissioners and Stipendiary Magistrates..	1306	12	9

EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

Pensions	150	0	0
Revenue Services	100	0	0
Administration of Justice	425	0	0
Charitable Allowances	540	0	0
Police and Gaols	401	0	0
Rent	10	6	1
Transport	626	0	0
Conveyance of Mails	7496	3	1
Works and Buildings	3486	0	0
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	15420	17	2
Miscellaneous	766	0	0
Interest	156	0	0
Deposits	73	17	5
Colonial Pay and Allowances	22	2	2
Redemption of Treasury Notes	8	0	0

Ordered that the Report of the Committee of Supply be adopted.

The Hon. the Attorney General gave notice of the Cattle Duty Bill.

The Hon. Mr. Walkem gave notice of motion.

The Hon. the Attorney General gave notice of motion.

According to Order, the Attorney General brought in the Gold Export Repeal Bill.

On the question of the first reading of the said Bill being put the Council divided.

Ayes 9, Noes 2.

So it was Resolved in the affirmative, and the Bill was read first time.

Ordered to be read the second time on Friday next.

According to Order, the Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider His Honor's Message No. 23, on the subject of the representation of British Columbia at the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Elliott in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman handed in the following Resolution for the adoption of the Council:

Resolved, That the sum of \$5,000 be placed at the disposal of the Executive, exclusive of any amount which may be expended in the purchase of gold specimens for exhibition, to enable British Columbia to be represented at the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. Brew, the Hon. Mr. Trutch seconding,

That the Report of the Committee be adopted.

The Council divided.

Ayes 7, Noes 4,

So it was Resolved in the affirmative and Ordered accordingly.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the County Court Amendment Bill,

The Hon. Mr. Elliott moved that the said Bill be read second time on Friday next.

The Hon. the Attorney General moved in amendment that it be read second time on Monday next.

On the amendment being put the Council divided.

Ayes 3, Noes 7,

So the amendment was lost.

On Mr. Elliott's motion being put; the Council again divided.

Ayes 7, Noes 3,

So it was Resolved in the affirmative, and Ordered that the said Bill be read second time on Friday next.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Hamley, the Council adjourned till 3 o'clock p.m., Friday next, the 23rd instant.

Friday, the 23rd day of March, 1866.

The Council met at 3 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The Hon. Messrs. Hamley and Smith absent on leave; all other Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read over and confirmed.

A Message from the Officer Administering the Government, which being read is as follows:

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

Message No. 27.

The Officer Administering the Governments acquaints the Legislative Council that he has assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Ordinances:

"An Ordinance to consolidate the Laws relating to Licences;"

"An Ordinance authorizing the sale of the Real Estate of Intestates;"

"An Ordinance for the regulation of Ferries and Bridges."

*Government House,
23rd March, 1866.*

A further Message from His Honor read as follows:

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

Message No. 28.

The Officer Administering the Government lays before the Legislative Council a Bill entitled

"An Ordinance granting a Supplemental Supply of Thirty-two thousand four hundred and fifty-six pounds, seven shillings, and five pence, out of the General Revenue of the Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies, to the service of the years One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four and five respectively."

*Government House,
23rd March, 1866.*

Ordered that the Supplemental Supply Bill be read the first time at once.
Read the first time accordingly.

Ordered that the said Bill be read second time and committed forthwith.
Bill read the second time accordingly.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the said Bill.
The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill gone through without amendment.

Ordered to be read third time at the next sitting of the Council.

According to Order, the Hon. the Attorney General brought in the Cattle Import Bill.

Ordered to be read first time forthwith.

Read first time accordingly.

Ordered to be read second time on Monday next.

According to Order, the Hon. Mr. Walkem asked leave to bring in Currency Adjustment Bill.

Ordered that leave be granted.

The Hon. Mr. Crease moved the following Resolution, the Hon. Mr. Franks seconding:

That the Government be requested to apply a sum not exceeding \$ [blank] towards the provision of direct Steam communication between San Francisco and New Westminster.

The Hon. Mr. Homer moved in amendment, Hon. Mr. Holbrook seconding:

That the Government be requested to appropriate such a sum as they may deem necessary for the purpose of Steam communication between New Westminster and other Ports.

The Hon. Mr. Trutch moved in amendment, Hon. Mr. Elliott seconding:

That the Government be requested to appropriate such a sum as they may deem necessary for the purpose of Steam communication between this Colony and San Francisco, and other Ports.

On the Hon. Mr. Trutch's amendment being put the Council divided.

Ayes 7, Noes 5,

So it was Resolved in the affirmative, and Ordered accordingly.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Gold Export Repeal Bill,

The Council divided.

Ayes 7, Noes 1.

So it passed in the affirmative, and it was Ordered that the said Bill be read second time at once.

Read second time accordingly.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the said Bill accordingly.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Walkem in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill gone through without alteration.

Ordered to be read the third time on Monday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Country Court Amendment Bill, a debate arose.

The Hon. Mr. Homer moved an adjournment till Monday.

On the question being put the Council divided.

Ayes 6, Noes 6.

The Presiding Member gave a casting vote with the Noes, so the motion for adjournment was lost.

The Hon. the Attorney General moved, the Hon. Mr. Holbrook seconding,
That this Bill be read the second time this day six months.

After a lengthened debate on the question, the Hon. Mr. Walkem moved an adjournment till Monday.

The Hon. Mr. Trutch moved for Saturday in amendment.

On the amendment being put the Council divided.

Ayes 7, Noes 3,

So it was Resolved in the affirmative.

The Council accordingly adjourned till to-morrow, Saturday, the 24th instant, at 3 o'clock, p.m.

Saturday, the 24th day of March, 1866.

The Council met at 3 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

All Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read over and confirmed.

The Hon. the Attorney General gave notice of the Pre-emption Amendment Bill.

According to Order, the Supply Bill was read the third time,

And it was Resolved that this Bill do pass and its title be "An Ordinance granting a Supplemental Supply of Thirty-two thousand four hundred and fifty-six pounds, seven shillings, and five pence, out of the General Revenue of the Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies, to the service of the years One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four and five respectively."

According to Order, the adjourned debate on the second reading of the County Court Amendment Bill was resumed.

During the discussion, the Hon. the Treasurer, having been called to order by the Presiding Member, questioned the decision and appealed to the Council.

On the question being put whether it is the pleasure of the Council to support the Chair, the Council divided.

Ayes 12, Noes 1.

So it was Resolved in the affirmative and Ordered accordingly.

On the Hon. the Attorney General's motion "That this Bill be read the second time this day six months" being put, the Council divided.

Ayes 5, Noes 8.

So the amendment was lost.

On the original question being put, the Council again divided.

Ayes 8, Noes 5,

The Clerk having been requested to do so, the names were taken down as follows:

<i>Ayes.</i>	<i>Noes.</i>
The Hon. Messrs. Franks, Trutch, O'Reilly, Brew, Elliott, Haynes, Cornwall, Smith.	The Hon. Messrs. Crease, Hamley, Homer, Holbrook, Walkem.

So the second reading of the said Bill being ordered, it was read the second time accordingly.

Ordered to be committed on Monday next.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Walkem, the Council adjourned till 1 o'clock on Monday, the 26th instant.

Monday, the 26th day of March, 1866.

The Council met at 1 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The Hon. Mr. Walkem absent without leave; all other Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read over and confirmed.

A letter from the Hon. Mr. Walkem, apologizing for his unavoidable absence from the Council was read aloud by the Clerk.

Ordered that the Hon. Member's apology be accepted.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook gave notice of motion.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Cattle Import Bill, the Council divided.

Ayes 7, Noes 5.

So it was Resolved in the affirmative and the Bill was read the second time accordingly.

Ordered to be committed to-morrow.

According to Order, the Gold Export Repeal Bill was read the third time,

And it was Resolved that this Bill do pass and that its title be the "Gold Export Repeal Ordinance, 1866."

On the Order of the day being read for the first reading of the Pre-emption Amendment Bill, the Council divided.

Ayes 11, Noes 1.

So it was Resolved in the affirmative, and the Bill was read the first time.

Ordered to be read the second time to-morrow.

According to Order, the Council went into Committee of the whole on the County Court Amendment Bill.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Haynes in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill gone through with certain amendments.

Ordered to be read the third time to-morrow.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Cornwall, the Council adjourned til 3 o'clock p.m., Tuesday next, the 27th instant.

Tuesday, the 27th day of March, 1866.

The Council met at 3 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

All Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The minutes of the previous Meeting read and confirmed.

According to Order, the Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution, the Hon. Mr. Homer seconding:

That the Government be requested to remove the Tonnage Dues from Home Grown Produce and Manufactures.

The Hon. Mr. Smith moved in amendment, the Hon. Mr. Cornwall seconding:

That the Tonnage Dues be abolished on all goods, foreign or domestic, leaving New Westminster for the Upper Country.

On the amendment being put the Council divided.

Ayes 3, Noes 10.

The Clerk having been requested to do so, the names were taken down as follows:

<i>Ayes.</i>	<i>Noes.</i>
The Hon. Messrs. Brew, Smith, Cornwall.	The Hon. Messrs. Crease, Franks, Trutch, Hamley, O'Reilly, Haynes, Elliott, Holbrook, Homer, Walkem.

So the amendment was lost.

On the original question being put the Council again divided.

Ayes 6, Noes 7.

So it passed in the negative, and the motion was lost.

According to Order, the Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the Cattle Import Bill.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Brew in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill thrown out in Committee.

Ordered accordingly.

According to Order, the Pre-emption Amendment Bill was read the second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole accordingly.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. O'Reilly in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill gone through with slight alterations.

Ordered to be read third time forthwith.

Read the third time accordingly, and Resolved that this Bill do pass, and that its title be the "Pre-emption Ordinance, 1866."

According to Order, the County Court Amendment Bill was read the third time,

And it was Resolved, That the said Bill do pass, and its title be the "County Court Ordinance, 1866."

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Walkem, the Council adjourned till 2 o'clock on Wednesday, the 4th April.

Wednesday, the 4th day of April, 1866.

The Council met at 2 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The Hon. Messrs. Haynes and Franks absent with leave; all other Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read over and confirmed.

A Message from the Officer Administering the Government, which being read is as follows:

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

Message No. 29.

The Officer Administering the Government acquaints the Legislative Council that he has assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Ordinances:

"No. 10. An Ordinance conferring certain privileges on the Williams Creek Bed Rock Flume Company."

"No. 11. An Ordinance granting a Supplemental Supply of Thirty-two thousand four hundred and fifty-six pounds, seven shillings, and five pence, out of the General Revenue of the Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies, to the service of the years 1864 and 1865 respectively."

"No. 12. An Ordinance to Repeal the Ordinance for imposing a Duty on Gold."

*Government House,
4th April, 1866.*

A further Message from His Honor read as follows:

Message No. 30.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The Officer Administering the Government recommends the following alterations in the Bill entitled "An Ordinance amending the procedure of the County Courts of the Colony of British Columbia:"

In Section II., line 2. after "61." insert "14° and 15° Victoria, Chapter 52."

In Section III., erase the words between "shall" and "\$500," and in their place insert " be any sum not exceeding."

For Section VII., substitute the following:

"If either party, in a cause of the amount to which jurisdiction is given to the County Court Judges under this Ordinance, shall be dissatisfied with the determination or direction of any such Judge in point of law, or upon the admission or rejection of any evidence, such party may appeal from the same to the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia, and it shall be lawful for any Judge of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia to hear and determine all such appeals.

It shall be lawful for the Judge of the County Court, in the event of an appeal, to make such orders as to security for debt or costs as he may see fit."

For Section IX., substitute the following:

"It shall be lawful for any County Court Judge of British Columbia to grant a warrant for the arrest of an absconding debtor, in accordance with the provisions of the 14° and 15° Victoria, Chapter 52. Provided, always, that every creditor who shall cause such warrant to be issued shall, within 42 days of the date of such warrant, cause a writ of *habeas corpus* to be issued out of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice of British Columbia, and served on such debtor."

In view of the strong objections raised by the law adviser of the Crown against the enactment, the Officer Administering the Government further recommends the introduction of a clause suspending the operation of the Bill until Her Majesty's pleasure is known.

*Government House,
4th April, 1866.*

Ordered that the Council do go into Committee of the whole at once to consider the alterations proposed by His Honor to the said Bill.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Smith in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman handed in the following Resolution for the adoption of the Council:

Resolved, That the Officer Administering the Government be acquainted that the Council has agreed to the amendments made by His Honor to the County Court Amendment Bill.

Ordered that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

A further Message from His Honor, read as followeth:

Message No. 31.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The Officer Administering the Government acquaints the Legislative Council that he has assented, in Her Majesty's name, to an Ordinance entitled

"No. 13. An Ordinance further to define the law regulating the acquisition of Land in British Columbia."

*Government House,
4th March, 1866.*

A further Message from His Honor, as follows:

Message No. 32.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

To allow sufficient time for the due publication of the Rules and Regulations to be made and adopted by the Governor in Council, under the provisions of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance for the Regulation of Pilotage," the Officer Administering the Government recommends the following alterations:

In Clause I, line 3, erase the words "are hereby repealed," and in their place insert the following: "shall be and be deemed to have been repealed as and from the 1st day of July now next ensuing."

Clause II, shall read "From and after the 1st day of June now next ensuing it shall be lawful," &c.

Clause III, line 2, erase the word "hereafter," and in place thereof insert the following: "after the 1st June now next ensuing."

*Government House,
4th April, 1866.*

Ordered that the Council do go into Committee of the whole at once to consider the alterations proposed by His Honor to the said Bill.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Homer in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman handed in the following Resolution for the adoption of the Council:

Resolved, That the Officer Administering the Government be acquainted that the Council has agreed to the alterations proposed by His Honor to the Pilotage Bill.

Ordered that the Report be adopted.

The Hon. the Attorney General gave notice of motion.

According to Order, the Currency Adjustment Bill was read first time.

Ordered to be read second time at once and committed.

Read second time accordingly.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the said Bill.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Homer in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill gone through with slight amendments.

Ordered to be read the third time to-morrow.

A further Message from His Honor, which was read as follows:

Message No. 33.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The Officer Administering the Government lays before the Legislative Council for their consideration, a Bill to define the jurisdiction of County Courts, under the Small Debts Act, 1859.

*Government House,
4th April, 1866.*

Ordered that the said Bill be now read the first time.

Read first time accordingly.

Ordered to be read second time to-morrow.

The Hon. the Presiding Member acquainted the Council that it was His Honor's intention to come down to prorogue the Council to-morrow, the 5th instant.

Then, on the motion of the above Hon. Member, the Council adjourned till to-morrow, at 1, p.m.

Thursday, the 5th day of April, 1866.

The Council met at 1 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

The Hon. Messrs. Franks, Brew, and Haynes, absent on leave; all other Members present.

The Hon. Mr. Ball in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were read and confirmed.

A Message from the Officer Administering the Government, which being read is as follows:

Message No. 34.

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The Officer Administering the Government acquaints the Legislative Council that he has assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the following Bills:

"No. 14. An Ordinance amending the procedure of the County Courts of the Colony of British Columbia;"

"No. 15. An Ordinance for the regulation of Pilotage."

*Government House,
5th April, 1866.*

The Hon. Mr. Crease, from the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the Petition from the Miners of Cariboo, handed in a Report, which was read as follows:

Your Committee appointed to consider the Petition of numerous Miners, Merchants, and Traders in Cariboo, beg to report that, in view of the great injury accruing to all mining interests by prolonged and complicated litigation, they have given the present Petition mature consideration, without, however, being able to advise any alteration in the existing law.

In the present state of the Colony the Appeal Courts can only sit for limited periods, and at limited intervals, but as population and revenue increase the facilities for reviewing the decisions of the inferior Courts will be proportionately enlarged.

Your Committee are of opinion that the relief desired is rather to be found in this direction than in the further extension of the existing powers of the local Mining Courts.

Your Committee are impressed with the conviction that however desirable finality in law proceedings may be, a limitation or suppression of the existing

power of appeal from Gold Commissioner's decisions will be productive of far more serious injury to the mining community, and consequently to the public interest, than the evil which the petitioners seek to cure.

The recent alterations in the law and practice regulating suits in Chancery, and the facilities afforded by the legislation of the present Session to companies in the regulation of their affairs and settlement of disputes, in the opinion of your Committee, offer additional and, it is hoped, sufficient security for the speedy and satisfactory administration of justice, without intrenching upon what the miner may fairly deem his constitutional safeguard against injustice or oppression—the unrestricted right to appeal.

Ordered that the Report be adopted and the Committee discharged.

According to Order, the Currency Adjustment Bill was read third time,

And it was Resolved that this Bill do pass, and that its title be “The Currency Adjustment Ordinance, 1866.”

According to Order, the County Court Jurisdiction Bill was read a second time, and

Ordered to be committed at once.

The Council resolved itself into a Committee of the whole accordingly.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Hamley in the Chair of the Committee.

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose and the Chairman reported the Bill gone through with amendments.

The Council being unanimous on the question of the third reading, the Bill was read the third time,

And Resolved, That this Bill do pass and that its title be the “County Court Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1866.”

The Council then adjourned during pleasure.

On the Council resuming its sitting, His Honor A. N. Birch, the Officer Administering the Government, entered the Council Chamber, attended by his Private Secretary, and, being seated in the President's Chair, notified his assent, in Her Majesty's name, to the following Bills:

“An Ordinance respecting the conversion of Sterling Money into Decimal Currency in certain cases;”

“An Ordinance to define the jurisdiction of the County Courts, under the Small Debts Act, 1859.”

His Honor then made the following Speech proroguing the Council:

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

The time has arrived when I am able to release you from further attendance on your Legislative duties.

I have assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the seventeen Ordinances which have been passed. Circumstances have prevented this Session from being as fertile in Acts relating to Public Affairs as previous Sessions. I have considered it advisable to defer bringing forward several measures it was my intention to introduce, preferring rather to allow matters, not of pressing importance, to remain in abeyance until the

Imperial Government had arrived at a decision as to the future relations of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, a decision which must so materially affect our legislation.

In regard to your Resolution on the subject of the Postal Service for the Interior, I agree with you that a more frequent communication with our Northern Mines would be of advantage to the Colony, if the amount of subsidy named in the tenders placed before you could have been reduced, and with this object in view fresh tenders were called for and further negotiations entered into with the former contractors, but without the desired result. A contract has therefore been made for a weekly service to Cariboo and the intermediate Districts, as the present population of the Colony does not justify the very large additional subsidy required for the increased service. The Telegraph, now in working order to Quesnelmouth, will to a great extent supply the want of more frequent Postal communication, and it will always be in the power of the Government to make further arrangements as the requirements of the public demand.

Your Resolution in reference to the Ocean Mail Service, shall receive the careful consideration of the Government. I concur with you in the advantage of continuing direct communication with San Francisco. The present contract with the California Steam Navigation Company remains in force until July. Further arrangements will then be made; and it is to be hoped that the sister Colony will consider it advantageous for both Colonies to unite in subsidising one line of steamers to perform the service required in the interests of each Colony.

You have adopted a Resolution in Committee of Supply, recommending additions and increases to be made in the Estimates for the erection of a Court House at Yale, a Jail at Lillooet, and for further expenditure on the Yale-Clinton Road. I am aware from personal observation that the buildings referred to are much required. I am also of opinion, that further expenditure on road repairs, beyond the amount set down in the Estimates, could be incurred with advantage to the public. I shall take your recommendations as authority to apply the amount named in the manner specified, should the Revenue justify this further expenditure.

The sum you have placed at the disposal of the Executive to enable British Columbia to be represented at the Paris Exhibition, I gladly accept, considering it of importance that every opportunity should be taken to advertise the numerous resources of this young Colony, and I shall do my utmost to assist the Committee in procuring a complete collection.

The Petition from the labourers employed in constructing the Waggon Road from Quesnelmouth to Richfield, forwarded in your Resolution of the 25th February, shall receive my careful attention. While I extremely regret the hardships these workmen have undergone, I cannot admit that the Revenue should suffer by the failure of a Public Contractor to fulfil his engagements. I trust, on the completion of the road, a balance may remain sufficient to liquidate the claims of these men, who are fairly entitled to every consideration at the hands of the Government.

I specially thank you for the liberal sum you have recommended to be offered as a premium on the erection of a Quartz Mill in Cariboo. I hope it will prove an inducement to capitalists to commence an undertaking which would at once give a permanent character to mining operations in that extensive Gold District. I confidently look forward to a season of unusual success in that portion of our Gold Fields. The privileges you have considered it advisable to grant to the Bed Rock Flume Company will, I believe, enable the company successfully to complete their important undertaking without further delay, and thus open up for mining operations a large portion of Williams Creek known to be rich, but which it has hitherto been found impossible to work.

The Return asked for by your Resolution of the 25th January, showing the Expenditure incurred during the past year on account of the Hospitals at Williams Creek and at New Westminster, could not be correctly furnished without reference to the Magistrate of the Cariboo District. When the Return is received, it shall be published in the *Government Gazette*.

The opening of trails and roads to the several Mining Districts has commenced, and will be prosecuted with the utmost vigour and dispatch. The snow has been removed from the main waggon roads. The trail to the new Mining District on Bridge River is in course of construction. A party under the superintendence of Mr. Moberly has left for Seymour, with instructions to use every exertion to improve,

without delay, the existing trail to the Columbia River, and to continue the same to the centre of the present Mining District. The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works will, in the course of a few days, proceed to Cache Creek, to inspect and take over the road already completed for waggon traffic from that point to Savana's Ferry, and will be authorized to enter into negotiations with Mr. G. B. Wright, in view of an immediate alteration in the position of the Upper Toll Gates.

I trust during the present season we shall be enabled to continue the Exploration of the Selkirk Range of Mountains, and thus, connecting our own Explorations with those of Captain Palliser, remove all doubt of the practicability of a route for Road or Railway from Canada, through British Territory, to the Shores of the Pacific.

I have directed the accounts of the Explorations undertaken last year to be printed and laid before you.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

I thank you for the manner in which you have discharged the business of the Session.

It now only remains for me to prorogue this Council, and the same is hereby prorogued accordingly.
