
Saturday, the 20th day of August, 1864

The Council met this day pursuant to a Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Treasurer, Honbles. Donald Fraser, Roderick Finlayson, Henry Rhodes.

The Governor having entered the Council Chamber and the Clerk of the Council having summoned the Members of Assembly—His Excellency delivered the following Speech.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

The discovery of a gold field within the last few weeks having so much altered the circumstances and enlarged the prospects of this colony, I have deemed it my duty to call you together to aid me with your advice.

It is unnecessary for me to recapitulate to the Legislature, already so well informed on the subject, the position in which the Crown Lands and Crown Revenue of the Colony now stand; and I feel confident that you will concur with me in the opinion that under the altered prospects of the colony it is anomalous and inexpedient that it should be continued.

The management of Crown Lands and the expenditure of Crown Revenue freed from the control of the Legislature is a responsibility I do not desire to incur unless devolving upon me as a necessary duty.

The mining interests bid fair to rival any other in importance, and the Colonial Legislature is, in my opinion, the proper power to frame laws and regulations for their development and guidance.

The adoption of any other course must, I fear, lead to complications, which may prove detrimental to the best interests of the colony.

A large number of miners have already taken out licenses and registered their claims, and the number being daily on the increase, I desire if possible to have the advice and assistance of the Legislature in framing wise and just laws for their encouragement and protection.

The rules and regulations now in force have been issued subject to modification or alteration, pending the enactment of permanent laws. Intended to meet an emergency, and as a preliminary protection to miners only, they are manifestly inadequate to the rapidly increasing importance of the subject.

There are doubtless difficulties in the way of a prompt adjustment of this question, but none so formidable that they cannot be surmounted by the cordial co-operation of the Legislature and the Executive, which it is no less my desire than duty to afford.

The unforeseen necessity which has compelled me to require your attendance at this unexpectedly early period will prevent me bringing other measures of importance under your immediate consideration, but there is one which I think the public interests require to be settled without unnecessary delay, that of re-union with the colony of British Columbia.

The prolonged agitation of this question cannot fail to aggravate any evils which are alleged to have resulted from separation and interpose obstacles to its calm consideration hereafter.

The union or separation of these Colonies is a matter of secondary importance to the maintenance of a cordial co-operation and good understanding between them; and it is, therefore, I think, incumbent upon the people, through their representatives, to set this matter at rest for the present.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

The financial condition of the Colony will require your consideration. Being contingent upon the decision of the Legislature on the subject of Crown Lands and Revenue, it will be brought under your consideration in a specific form.

The Blue Book for 1863, being the first compiled for this Colony, will be laid before you.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

I have now to commit these important questions for your consideration with an earnest prayer that your deliberations may be conducive to the honor of our Sovereign and the prosperity of her subjects, whose interests are in your keeping.

The Chief Justice having administered the Oaths of allegiance to the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Rhodes.

The Colonial Secretary moved that the Council do now adjourn till Tuesday the 23rd Instant then to take into consideration the Governor's Speech.

2nd by the Hon. Donald Fraser.

The Council then adjourned.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Tuesday, the 23rd day of August, 1864

The Council met this day at 2 O'clock pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer, The Hons. Donald Fraser, Roderick Finlayson, Henry Rhodes.

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

The Honble. Henry Rhodes moved that a Committee be appointed to draft an Address in reply to H.E. Speech.

2nded by Hon. R. Finlayson & agreed to.

The President nominated the following Gentlemen: Mr. Fraser, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Watson.

The Council then adjourned till 2 O'clock on Thursday next.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Thursday, the 25th day of August, 1864

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Hons. Donald Fraser, Henry Rhodes.

The Acting Attorney General having taken the oath of allegiance.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Honble. Donald Fraser brought up the Report from the Committee appointed to draw up an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the Session.

Mr. Fraser moved that the Address be adopted.

Mr. Watson 2nded the motion and the address was agreed to unanimously.

The Acting Colonial Secretary having ascertained that His Excellency would be prepared to meet the Council tomorrow at noon the Council adjourned till half past Eleven tomorrow Friday the 26th Instant.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Friday, the 26th day of August, 1864

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, Hons. H. Rhodes, D. Fraser.

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

The Members of the Council proceeded to Government House and His Honor the President delivered the following Address, which had been agreed to at the last meeting of the Council.

To His Excellency Arthur Edward Kennedy, Esq., Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the colony of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies, &c., &c.

May it Please Your Excellency.—

We, the Legislative Council have heard with much pleasure your Excellency's speech on the opening of the present session of Parliament. The Legislative Council desire most respectfully to express to your Excellency their gratification at the recent discovery of the gold fields referred to in your Excellency's speech, and their hope that this discovery will conduce to the permanent prosperity of the colony.

The Council, on offering their congratulations on this discovery, deem it their duty in justice to your Excellency, to record their conviction that the merit of this discovery is primarily due to your Excellency's earnest and energetic advocacy of the exploration of the Island, and to the continued support and encouragement afforded by your Excellency to the efforts of the explorers who have made the discovery. And the Council would beg also to mark their appreciation of the promptness with which your Excellency organized a legal system over the gold fields to meet the emergency, by the immediate passing of rules and regulations, and by the appointment and despatch of a Gold Commissioner to administer the same.

The Council beg respectfully to assure your Excellency that they are desirous to give their earnest and prompt attention to the serious consideration of the several subjects mentioned in your Excellency's speech, provided it is competent to them to exercise their functions, of which a doubt has arisen, from the fact that the Legislature has been assembled on a shorter notice than required by the law of England, and by the practice of the Imperial Parliament, by which the Legislature has hitherto been guided; and the Council earnestly respond to your Excellency's prayer, that their deliberations may conduce to the honour of Her Majesty, and to the prosperity of the country.

His Excellency having graciously received it at the hands of the President, thanked the Council for the address, and stated that it was not within the province of his duty to discuss the legality of convening the Legislature within a shorter period than fourteen days. His Excellency expressed his gratification at finding that the Council adopted the practice of the Imperial Parliament as their guide, and felt assured that such a course carried out in spirit and in letter would be conducive to the public good.

His Excellency said he might not agree with all the opinions expressed regarding the legality of the notice, or that their actions would have been liable to be set aside had they proceeded to legislate—but he deemed it due to himself to state that the Legislature had no reason to fear any encroachment on its privileges, or upon the rights of the people, at his hands.

His Excellency assured them that the address should receive his best and earliest attention.

The Council then adjourned sine die.

Monday, the 12th day of September, 1864

The Council met this day at 12.30.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, Hons. R. Finlayson, D. Fraser, H. Rhodes.

His Excellency the Governor having entered the Council Chamber and the Members of the Legislative Assembly having attended in accordance with His Excellency's Commands.

The Governor delivered the following Speech.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

I have called you together for the consideration of subjects recently brought under your notice, and which have acquired additional importance since I last addressed you.

A despatch from the Governor of British Columbia will be laid before you, informing me that he has been called upon by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to report upon a suggestion made by the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island, that the two English colonies west of the Rocky Mountains, should be united under one governor, and inviting early communication with me on the subject. It is desirable, therefore, that I should be in possession of the views of the Legislature of this Colony, to enable Her Majesty's Government to consider them in connection with the report of the Governor of British Columbia and my own.

The important subject of schools for the training of children whose parents are unable to afford them a high class education, will doubtless receive your careful consideration.

The relations between white men and the Indian tribes, become daily more complicated, affording indications of future difficulties, which it will be well to obviate by the adoption of timely precaution and suitable laws.

The early consideration of an Incorporation Act for the City of Victoria, is pressingly necessary in a moral as well as a sanitary point of view. The city possesses ample resources both in property and intelligence, for the purpose of

municipal government, with which I think it is so desirable to invest it, and I feel confident that the local knowledge of the Legislature will enable them to deal with this question speedily and satisfactorily.

The postal communication within and without the Colony demands earnest attention. I propose to submit measures for the better conduct of this department at an early period.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It is necessary for the regular administration of the Finances of the Colony that the annual estimates should be agreed to prior to the period from which they are to take effect. I will therefore have them submitted for your consideration as soon as circumstances will permit.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I beg to assure you of my earnest desire to co-operate with you in all measures calculated to promote the public good, and the prosperity of the people.

His Excellency having retired. The Clerk read the Speech together with the following Communication from His Excellency:

Vancouver Island, Victoria
12 September 1864

To The Honorable The President & Members of the Legislative Council—
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to transmit the copy of a Despatch received from the Governor of British Columbia on the subject of union between Vancouver Island and that Colony.

I have &c. &c.
(signed) A. E. Kennedy
Governor

British Columbia, New Westminster
31 August, 1864

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have received a despatch from the Secretary of State directing me to report upon a suggestion made by the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island that the two English Colonies west of the Rocky Mountains should be united under one Governor though with some distinct administrative Departments.

The Secretary of State expresses a wish that before sending in my report I should consult freely with Your Excellency. As the proposal for union originated with the Legislature of the Colony under your Government, I beg leave to know if I may soon expect to receive any Communication from Your Excellency on the subject.

I have &c. &c.
(signed) Frederick Seymour

Hon. Donald Fraser moved that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech.

Hon. Henry Rhodes 2nd the motion.

The President nominated the following Gentlemen: Hons. the Treasurer, R. Finlayson, H. Rhodes.

The Council then adjourned till Wednesday next at 3 O'clock.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Wednesday, the 14th day of September, 1864

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, Hons. the Treasurer, R. Finlayson, H. Rhodes.

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

The Treasurer from the Committee appointed to draw up an Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech brought up the following reply.

To His Excellency Arthur Edward Kennedy Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Colony of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies &c. &c. &c.

May it please Your Excellency

We the Legislative Council having with much interest and attention heard Your Excellency's Speech at the opening of the present Session of Parliament desire most respectfully to assure Your Excellency that the subjects recently brought under our notice and alluded to in Your Excellency's Speech and the further various and important subjects to which Your Excellency has done us the honour to direct our attention shall receive our earnest and careful consideration.

The Council beg to thank Your Excellency for the expression of your desire to co-operate with the Legislature in all measures calculated to promote the public good and the prosperity of the people.

Hon. R. Finlayson moved—2nd by Hon. H. Rhodes that the Address be agreed to.

Address agreed to accordingly.

The Acting Colonial Secretary gave notice that on Friday next the 16th Inst. he would move that a Committee be appointed on Standing Orders.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved 2nd by Hon. R. Finlayson that the Council adjourn to Friday next at one O'clock which was agreed to & the Council adjourned accordingly.

David Cameron C.J.

Monday, the 19th day of September, 1864

The Council met this day at 1 O'clock.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, Hon. Henry Rhodes.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and agreed to.

The President and Members of the Council waited on His Excellency the Governor and delivered the Address adopted at the last meeting of the Council.

On the return of the Members to the Council Chamber The Acting Colonial Secretary pursuant to notice moved that a Committee be appointed to draw up certain Standing Orders for the Council.

The President nominated the following Gentlemen: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Hon. the Treasurer, & Hon. H. Rhodes.

Two of whom to be a quorum.

The Council then adjourned to Wednesday next at 3 O'clock.

David Cameron. C.J.
President

Wednesday, the 21st day of September, 1864

The Council met this day at 3 P.M.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, Hon. H. Rhodes.

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

The Acting Colonial Secretary presented the following Communication from the Governor and moved that it be taken into consideration on Friday next the 23rd Instant.

Vancouver Island. Victoria
21st Sept. 1864.

To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council;
Gentlemen,

I have the honor to submit the following remarks relative to postal communication between British Columbia, Vancouver Island and the Mother Country, for the consideration of the Legislature and people of this colony.

I have been in personal communication with many distinguished and energetic men of business in England who are deeply interested in the colonies.

The present appears to be a most opportune time for re-opening the question, inasmuch as we have a distinguished colonist, Mr. Hugh Childers, M.P., occupying an influential post at the Admiralty, and who is well known to be thoroughly acquainted with our requirements, and favorable to the establishment of a British line of mail steamers to connect these colonies with Panama. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer is believed to be favorable to the undertaking, provided a good case can be shown; and there is a good reason to believe that the Postmaster General will recommend any practicable measure for extending postal communication to this part of Her Majesty's dominions.

A settled form of government having been established in Mexico is another and new inducement to those contemplating the establishment of a line of steamers which would now have Acapulco and Mazatlan open to them as profitable places of call.

A weighty reason for again bringing forward this question is to be found in the fact that the present means of communication from Panama along the North Pacific coast is admittedly inadequate to the growing trade. All statistics go to prove this. The increased and increasing production of gold in British Columbia and California, three-fourths of which is sent to England direct, furnishes additional reason for the adoption of a British line in the North Pacific.

The progress of these colonies renders it a matter of importance to England, as well as to them that an improvement in the communication for passengers, mails and merchandise, should be at once established. A British line from Panama to Vancouver Island would doubtless lead to an extension to China and Japan as being the cheapest and most expeditious route between England and those countries, and confer incalculable benefit on this colony.

Having briefly alluded to some of the reasons which render it expedient to bring this question again before the Legislature, it is desirable that the public of these colonies should at the same time understand some of the disadvantages they at present labor under, and which I believe are without a parallel in any of Her Majesty's dominions. For a fortnightly service irregularly and most inconveniently carried out, this colony at present pays \$9,000 per annum, together with a loss of revenue amounting to \$80 per trip, for the carriage of letters between Victoria and San Francisco. The charge of each single letter between England and Vancouver Island, *via* Panama, has been lately altered to equal the rate charged *via* New York, letters from England *via* Panama being formerly charged double those sent *via* New York. Each *Times* newspaper costs 4d postage, thus practically excluding that and other English newspapers from circulation here. A book-post has been established between England and the United States, extending to all parts of the latter, but not including British Columbia or Vancouver Island. The consequence is that the charge for books per post to and from either of these colonies is entirely prohibitory. A Colonial Almanac may be sent from Oregon to England for thirty pence, which would if sent from British Columbia or Vancouver Island cost as many shillings. The evils arising from this anomalous state of the Postal Law practically excluding English books are too numerous and too obvious to require comment.

The San Francisco United States steamers receive no subsidy from their own Government which precludes the possibility of the mails being carried with punctuality or security, or regulated by International Treaty. The time occupied in transit between San Francisco and Victoria is generally seven and a half days, and in one instance lately mails and passengers for Vancouver Island were detained seventeen days at San Francisco, while the steamers under contract to carry the mail to Vancouver Island were employed on other services more profitable to their owners.

In case of any international difficulty with America these colonies would be immediately cut off from all postal communication with Great Britain.

The short stay of steamers arriving at Victoria does not afford sufficient time to reply to letters satisfactorily by return mail, and in the case of British Columbia it is altogether impossible.

The disadvantage which Her Majesty's Naval Forces in the North Pacific must labor under in the absence of a line of British steamers is obvious.

The great distance *via* Cape Horn practically precludes emigration from the Mother Country to these colonies, and without which they can have no sound or satisfactory progress.

There are at present no less than six different lines of European steamers running to Panama, and none but American lines running northward from it in the Pacific Ocean. The mail from Panama to Vancouver Island, or British Columbia, might be easily conveyed in fifteen days, which now occupies twenty-three to twenty-five days.

I now turn to the best and speediest mode of bringing this all important question to a practical issue. It is obviously one which closely concerns the best interests of the Mother Country as well as these colonies, and the interests of British Columbia and Vancouver Island are equally at stake.

The amount of subsidy required to enable a British line to compete successfully against the exclusive Navigation Laws of the United States is variously estimated—from £25,000 to £50,000 per annum. But whatever the required amount may be, it seems but equitable that the respective Legislatures of these Colonies should contribute according to their means, and this done, bring the case under the notice of her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, who will doubtless advocate a cause which so nearly concerns the settlement and commercial progress of the colonies committed to his charge.

I would wish the honorable the Legislative Council to take this subject into their consideration with a view to the correction of an evil which so seriously retards the progress of Vancouver Island and the neighboring Colony of British Columbia.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed,) A. E. Kennedy,
Governor.

The Council then adjourned till Friday next the 23 Instant at 2 O'clock.

Friday, the 23rd day of September, 1864

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, Hon. Henry Rhodes.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and agreed to.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved the following Resolution 2nded by the Acting Attorney General and agreed to unanimously:

That this Council having had under consideration the Message of His Excellency the Governor relative to postal communication with England is of opinion that it will be most desirable that His Excellency should communicate with the Government of British Columbia with a view to obtain the co-operation of that Colony and in order to ascertain what amount that Colony would contribute toward subsidizing a British Line of Mail Steamers between Panama and Vancouver Island, and further that His Excellency should take such other steps as he might think fit to secure the important object in view.

The Council then adjourned subject to the call of the President.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary

Wednesday, the 5th day of October, 1864

The Council met this day at 3 P.M.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Hon. Henry Rhodes.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and agreed to.

A Communication from the Legislative Assembly was read forwarding A Bill Entitled An Act respecting Barristers and Attorneys at Law.

The Hon. the Treasurer moved the 1st reading of the Bill.

2nd by the Hon. Henry Rhodes.

Bill read a 1st time.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved that Bill come up for 2nd reading at next meeting of Council.

The Acting Attorney General gave notice of motion that at the next meeting of Council he would move the following Resolutions. That this Council is of opinion

That the Establishment and maintenance of Common Schools at the Public charge for the education of the children of those Members of the Community whose means do not allow them to pay the cost of Established Schools is a primary duty in every State and has a direct application to this Colony.

2. That secular and moral education and instruction in the tenets of any particular doctrine or faith are matters distinct and separable one from the other and do not require to be imparted by the same Instructor or under the same roof.

3. That works and writings of a religious character however elementary and incontrovertible cannot in themselves form part of the course of education at any School without causing well founded misgivings of their being expounded by the Instructors in accordance with their known convictions in matters of faith.

4. That Common Schools in this Colony should in justice to the known variety of Religious persuasions here existing be confined to secular and moral instruction only and that religious instruction and religious works and writings of every description should not be permitted to form any part of their discipline.

5. That resolutions such as the above enunciating definite principles are sufficient to guide the Executive in the Employment of such sums as may from time to time be voted for the purposes of education and that the subject is not one which requires any other form of Legislative action.

The Hon. the Treasurer moved that the Council adjourn till 3 O'clock on Friday next.

2nd by Hon. H. Rhodes.

The Council then adjourned accordingly.

David Cameron C.J.

Tuesday, the 11th day of October, 1864

The Council met this day at 3. P.M.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Surveyor General (Acting), Hons. R. Finlayson, Henry Rhodes.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and agreed to and the Acting Surveyor General having taken the Oath of Allegiance.

The Chief Justice gave notice of a Bill to obtain a Declaration of Title.

The Acting Attorney General requested permission of the Council to withdraw the resolutions brought in by him at the meeting of the Council on the 5th Instant in regard to Education.

Hon. R. Finlayson 2nded the motion & the Resolutions were withdrawn.

The Treasurer moved that the Bill respecting Barristers & Attorneys be read a 2nd time.

Hon. R. Finlayson 2nded & the Bill was read a 2nd time.

The Treasurer moved that the consideration of the Bill in Committee be postponed till the Bill be printed which was agreed to. Mr. Finlayson non content.

Moved by the Chief Justice that the Council adjourn till Monday next at 3 P.M.

2nded by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Council then adjourned accordingly.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Monday, the 17th day of October, 1864

The Council met this day at 3 P.M.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Hon. R. Finlayson.

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

The Barristers and Attorneys Bill came up in Committee.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved that its consideration in Committee be deferred till next meeting of Council.

The Council thereupon adjourned to Friday next the 21st Instant at 3 O'clock.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Friday, the 21st day of October, 1864

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer, The Acting Attorney General, The Acting Surveyor General, The Hons. R. Finlayson, Henry Rhodes.

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

A message from the House of Assembly was read transmitting a Bill to appropriate the sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Sterling per annum from the General Revenue of the Colony for the salary of a Chief Justice.

The Acting Colonial Secretary presented the following Message from His Excellency the Governor—

Vancouver Island
Victoria 21st October 1864

To the Honble. the President and Members of the Legislative Council
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of certain Resolutions agreed to by the Legislative Assembly relative to the question of uniting the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

I have &c. &c. &
(signed) A. E. Kennedy
Governor

RESOLUTIONS

Passed by the Legislative Assembly in Committee of the Whole House Octr. 13th 1864. Confirmed by the House Octr. 14 1864.

Resolved that this House is of opinion

1. That there should be a Federal union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.
2. That the Federal Government should be vested in a Governor and Federal Legislative Council.
3. That the Legislative Council be composed of an equal number of persons from each Colony.
4. That there shall be one Governor for both Colonies.
5. That the Governor and Federal Legislative Council should have jurisdiction over all public questions in which both Colonies have a Common interest.
6. That the local Legislative Institutions in each Colony remain as they are.
7. That each local Legislature should have the right to determine the mode of taxation within its jurisdiction for Federal as well as local purposes.
8. That the Crown Revenues be the property of the Federal Government.
9. That all laws, usages, and liabilities of each Colony, except where altered by Act of Federal Union remain as they are till changed by the Federal or local Legislatures respectively.

Resolved that His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to enter into negotiation with His Excellency the Governor of British Columbia with the object of establishing a Federal Union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia based on the provisions of the previous Resolution.

That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully urged to submit any question of difference not affecting our free port trade policy between himself and the Governor of British Columbia respecting the proposed federal union to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies for final decision binding on both Colonies.

That a Committee of three be appointed to explain the views of this House as embraced in the foregoing Resolutions to His Excellency the Governor.

That the foregoing Resolutions be transmitted to His Excellency the Governor.

(signed) R. W. Torrens
Clerk of the House

The Resolutions were ordered to be laid upon the table.

A Bill for obtaining a Declaration of Title was read a 1st time.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill respecting Barristers and Attorneys.

The Treasurer in the Chair.

The Chief Justice having resumed the Chair.

The Treasurer reported progress in the Bill & asked leave to sit again.

Leave granted & the Council adjourned till Monday next the 24th Inst. at 3 O'clock.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Wednesday, the 26th day of October, 1864

The Council met this day at 3 P.M.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Acting Surveyor General, Hons. R. Finlayson, H. Rhodes.

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

The Council went into Committee on A Bill respecting Barristers and Attorneys.

The Treasurer in the Chair.

The Chief Justice having resumed the Chair.

The Treasurer reported progress in the Bill and asked leave to sit again which was granted.

The Council then adjourned till Friday the 28th Instant at 3 P.M.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Friday, the 28th day of October, 1864

The Council met this day at 3 P.M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Surveyor General, Hons. R. Finlayson, Henry Rhodes.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and agreed to.

A Message from the House of Assembly was read transmitting a Bill entitled An Act to provide for the election of a Mayor and Councillors for the City of Victoria on the 8th day of November, A.D. 1864.

The Bill was read a 1st time.

The Acting Attorney General moved that the Standing Orders of the Council be suspended and the Bill read a 2nd time. 2nded by the Hon. R. Finlayson and agreed to nem. con.

The Treasurer moved that the Council go into Committee on the Bill on Monday next. 2nded by Hon. the Acting Attorney General and agreed to nem. con.

The Hon. R. Finlayson moved 2nd reading of the Chief Justice's permanent salary Bill. The Hon. H. Rhodes 2nd & the Bill was read a 2nd time.

A Bill for obtaining a declaration of Title was read a 2nd time.

Chief Justice moved and the Acting Attorney General 2nded.

The Council then went into Committee for the Continued Consideration of a "Bill respecting Barristers and Attorneys at Law."

The Treasurer in the Chair.

The Chief Justice having resumed the Chair.

The Treasurer reported the Bill complete with amendments.

The Council then adjourned till Monday next at 3 O'clock.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Monday, the 31st day of October, 1864

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Acting Surveyor General, The Hon. Henry Rhodes.

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

The Council went into Committee on a Bill entitled An Act to provide for the election of a Mayor and Councillors for the City of Victoria on the 8th day of November 1864.

The Attorney General in the Chair.

The Chief Justice having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported the Bill complete with Amendments.

The Chief Justice moved that the Standing Orders be suspended and the Bill be read a 3rd time and passed.

2nded by the Hon. Henry Rhodes and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Bill respecting Barristers and Attorneys at Law was read a third time and passed.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill entitled An Act to appropriate the sum of £1200. from the General Revenue of the Colony for the salary of a Chief Justice.

The Acting Colonial Secretary in the Chair.

The Chief Justice having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Colonial Secretary reported the Bill complete with amendments.

The Treasurer gave notice that he would move at the next meeting that the Bill be recommitted.

The Council then adjourned till Wednesday at 3 O'clock.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Wednesday, the 2nd day of November, 1864

The Council met this day at 3 P.M.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, Hons. R. Finlayson, H. Rhodes.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and agreed to.

A message from the House of Assembly was read agreeing to the Amendments of the Council to the Provisional Act for the election of Mayor and Councillors 1864.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill Entitled An Act for obtaining a Declaration of Title.

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The Chief Justice having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported progress in the Bill and asked leave to sit again—leave granted.

A message from the House of Assembly was read requesting a Conference with the Council on the subject of the amendments to the Barrister's and Attorney's Bill.

The Council agreed to have a Conference accordingly and appointed Monday the 7th November at 3 O'clock for the purpose.

The Treasurer moved the recommittal of the Chief Justices permanent salary Bill—no seconder.

Mr. Finlayson moved Bill be read a 3rd time. Acting Colonial Secretary 2nded.

Bill read a 3rd time accordingly and passed. The Treasurer non content.

The Council then adjourned till Monday at 3 O'clock.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Monday, the 7th day of November, 1864

The Council met this day in conference with the Legislative Assembly on A Bill entitled An Act respecting Barristers and Attorneys at Law.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Surveyor General, Hons. R. Finlayson, H. Rhodes.

The President of the Council having stated the objects of the Conference.

Mr. De Cosmos from the House of Assembly explained the views of the House.

Mr. C. B. Young & Dr. Dickson also addressed the Council in regard to their proposed amendments to the Barristers & Attorneys Bill and the Conference then adjourned till tomorrow week the 15 Instant.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Tuesday, the 15th day of November, 1864

The Council met this day to resume the consideration in Conference of the amendments made by the Legislative Council to a Bill entitled An Act respecting Barristers and Attorneys at Law.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Acting Surveyor General, The Hons. R. Finlayson, Henry Rhodes.

After some discussion on the Amendments the President of the Council informed the Members of the House that the Council would Communicate its decision to the House in writing.

The Council then adjourned sine die.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Friday, the 25th day of November, 1864

The Council met this day at 2.30.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Hon. H. Rhodes.

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

A message from the House of Assembly was read agreeing to the Amendment of the Council to the Chief Justice's Salary Bill.

The Acting Attorney General moved the following Resolution in reference to the recent conference on the subject of the amendments to the Barristers & Attorneys Bill—

That it is the opinion of this Council that the amendment following will meet the wishes of the Honble. the Legislative Assembly; viz;

In clause I Insert between the words "admit" and "to act" "And the said Supreme Court shall approve and admit."

2nd by the Chief Justice and agreed to.

In reference to the 8th clause of the Bill, the Council agreed to insist on its being struck out.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill for obtaining a Declaration of Title.

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The Chief Justice having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported progress in the Bill and asked leave to sit again.

Leave granted and the Council adjourned till Wednesday next at 3 o'clock.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Wednesday, the 30th day of November, 1864

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer.

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

A message from the Legislative Assembly was read transmitting a Bill entitled An Act relating to the office of Coroner, and A Bill Entitled an Act to amend the Land Registry Act, 1860, which were read a 1st time and ordered to be printed.

The Council then resumed the consideration in Committee of a Bill entitled An Act for obtaining a Declaration of Title, at clause XXIX.

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The Chief Justice having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported progress in the Bill and asked leave to sit again, and the Council adjourned to Monday next at 3 O'clock.

Monday, the 5th day of December, 1864

A quorum of Members not being present there was no meeting.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Thursday, the 5th day of January, 1865

The Council met this day pursuant to a notice by the President.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, Hon. H. Rhodes.

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

Messages from the Legislative Assembly were read Transmitting

1. A Bill entitled An Act respecting Barristers and Attorneys at Law with certain of the Amendments of the Council thereto agreed to.
2. A Bill to increase the jurisdiction of Inferior Courts of Civil Justice to the sum of Two Hundred Pounds.
3. A Bill respecting the Medical Board and Practitioners in Medicine and surgery.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill for obtaining a Declaration of Title.

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The President having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported progress in the Bill and asked leave to sit again—which was granted.

The Hon. H. Rhodes presented a Petition signed by the Mayor and Councillors and others of the City of Victoria against the passing by the Legislative Council of the Coroner's Bill, which was ordered to be laid upon the Table.

The Coroner's Bill then came up for a 2nd reading and on motion of the Acting Attorney General seconded by the Acting Colonial Secretary was ordered to be read this day six months nem. con.

The Chief Justice having informed the Members of Council that the order of the next day's meeting would be the 2nd reading of the Land Registry Bill.

The Council adjourned to Monday next the 9th Inst. at 3 O'clock.

David Cameron C.J.
President

Monday, the 9th day of January, 1865

The Council met this day at 3. P.M.

Present: The Chief Justice, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Hons. Henry Rhodes, R. Finlayson.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and agreed to.

A message from the Legislative Assembly was read transmitting A Bill for taking a Census.

A Bill to amend the Land Registry Act 1860 was on motion of the Acting Attorney General 2nded by the Treasurer read a 2nd time—nem. con.

A Bill for taking a Census was read a 1st time.

A Bill respecting the medical Board and Practitioners in Medicine and surgery was read a 1st time.

A Bill to increase the Jurisdiction of Inferior Courts was read a 1st time.

A message from the Legislative Assembly was read forwarding further amendments to a Bill respecting Barristers and Attorneys at Law which were agreed to on motion of the Treasurer 2nded by the Acting Attorney General, nem. con.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill to obtain a Declaration of Title.

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The President having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported the Bill complete with amendments. Bill ordered to be engrossed and brought up for a third reading.

Hon. Henry Rhodes presented a Petition against A Bill Entitled An Act respecting the medical Board and Practitioners of Medicine and Surgery which was ordered to be laid upon the Table.

The Council then adjourned to Thursday next at 3 O'clock.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President

Tuesday, the 17th day of January, 1865

The Council met this day at 3 P.M.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Hons. Henry Rhodes, R. Finlayson.

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

A Bill entitled An Act for obtaining a Declaration of Title was read a third time and passed.

The Acting Attorney [General] asked leave to bring in a Bill to repeal a portion of the First Telegraph Act which was granted.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill to amend "the Land Registry Act 1860."

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The President having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported progress in the Bill and asked leave to sit again.

Leave having been granted.

The Council adjourned sine die.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President

Monday, the 23rd day of January, 1865

The Council met this day at 3 P.M.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, Hons. R. Finlayson, H. Rhodes.

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

A message from the Legislative Assembly was read transmitting the following Bills

viz.

A Bill respecting Common Schools and A Bill entitled "the Vancouver Island Mercantile Law amendment Act 1865."

The Acting Attorney General pursuant to notice brought in a Bill to repeal a portion of the 1st Telegraph Act 1864, which was read a 1st time.

The Acting Attorney General asked leave to bring in Bill in regard to the Postal Service of the Colony.

Leave granted.

A Bill Entitled the Medical Registration Act 1865 came up for a 2nd reading and on motion of the Acting Colonial Secretary the consideration was postponed to this day fortnight.

2nded by the Treasurer.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill entitled An Act to amend the Land Registry Act 1860.

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The President having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported progress with the Bill.

The Acting Attorney General moved 2nded by Mr. Finlayson that a Committee of the whole Council be appointed to confer with Mr. Alston on the Land Registry Bill which was agreed to nem. con.

The Council then adjourned sine die.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President

Tuesday, the 31st day of January, 1865

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Hons. R. Finlayson, Henry Rhodes.

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

The Acting Attorney General pursuant to notice brought in a Bill to provide for the Postal Service which was read a 1st time.

The Acting Attorney General moved that a Bill to repeal a portion of the First Telegraph Act 1864 be read a 2nd time.

The Treasurer seconded the motion and the Bill was read a 2nd time nem. con.

The Acting Attorney General moved that the Standing orders of the Council be suspended and the Council go into Committee on the Bill. 2nded by the Treasurer & agreed to nem. con.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill accordingly.

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The President having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported the Bill Complete with Amendments.

The Bill was then ordered to be Engrossed and brought up for a third reading at next meeting of the Council.

The Council then adjourned to Friday next the 3rd Inst. at 3. O'clock.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President

Friday, the 3rd day of February, 1865

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment, at 3. P.M.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Hons. Henry Rhodes, R. Finlayson.

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

The Acting Attorney General gave notice of motion to be allowed to withdraw A Bill Entitled An Act to regulate the Postal Service.

A Bill entitled An Act to repeal a portion of "the First Telegraph Act 1864" was then read a third time and passed.

The Council then went into Committee on a Bill Entitled "An Act to amend the Land Registry Act 1860."

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The President having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported the Bill complete with amendments, which were ordered to be engrossed and the Bill brought up for a 3rd reading at the next meeting of the Council.

The Council then adjourned till Tuesday next at 3 O'clock.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President

Wednesday, the 15th day of February, 1865

The Council met this day at 3 P.M.

Present: The [Acting] Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Hon. R. Finlayson.

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

The Acting Attorney [General] moved 2nded by the Colonial Secretary the 3rd reading of a Bill entitled "An Act to amend The Land Registry Act 1860," which was agreed to nem. con. and the Bill read a 3rd time and passed.

The Acting Attorney General introduced a Bill to regulate the Postal Service.

The Standing Orders of the Council were then suspended and the Bill read a first time, nem. con.

The following Bills were then read a 1st time:

A Bill respecting Common Schools.

A Bill to provide for taking the Census of the Colony and for obtaining other statistical information.

A Bill entitled The Mercantile Law Amendment Act.

A Bill respecting the Medical Board and Practitioners in Medicine and Surgery then came up for a 2nd reading on Motion of the Acting Attorney General 2nded by The Hon. R. Finlayson.

The President having put the motion

Ayes—The Acting Attorney General, Hon. R. Finlayson.

Noes—The Treasurer and Acting Colonial Secretary.

Motion lost.

The Council then adjourned to Tuesday next at 3 O'clock.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President

Tuesday, the 21st day of February, 1865

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Treasurer, The Hons. Henry Rhodes, R. Finlayson.

The Minutes of the last meeting having been read and agreed to.

The Acting Colonial Secretary stated that he was Commanded by His Excellency the Governor to lay before the Council the following Resolutions of the Legislative Assembly:

Vancouver Island

Resolutions Confirmed by the House 27th January 1865

Resolved, That this House after having taken into consideration the present state of the Colony is firmly convinced that it is expedient at the present time to observe the strictest economy in the public expenditure compatible with the efficiency of the public service, and that the immediate Union of this Colony with British Columbia under such Constitution as Her Majesty's Government may be pleased to grant is the means best adapted to prevent permanent causes of depression, as well as to stimulate trade, foster industry, develop our resources augment our population and ensure our permanent prosperity.

And this House pledges itself, in case Her Majesty's Government shall grant such union to ratify the same by Legislative enactment if required.

Resolved, That the above Resolution be transmitted to His Excellency the Governor with the respectful request that he may take the same into his earnest and immediate consideration.

(signed) R. W. Torrens
Clerk of the House

The Resolutions were ordered to be laid upon the table.

The Acting Colonial Secretary brought in a Bill to amend "the City of Victoria Incorporation Act 1862" and moved that the Standing orders of the Council be suspended and the Bill read a 1st time.

The Treasurer seconded the motion which was agreed to *nem. con.* and the Bill read a 1st time.

The Bill was then ordered to be brought up for a 2nd reading at the next meeting of the Council.

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved 2nd reading of "the Medical Registration Act 1865."

Hon. Henry Rhodes moved that the second reading be postponed.

Agreed to *nem. con.*

The School Bill came up a 2nd reading and on motion of the Acting Colonial Secretary 2nded by Hon. H. Rhodes and agreed to *nem. con.* was ordered to be referred to a select Committee.

The Bill for taking a Census of the Colony came up for a 2nd reading and on motion of the Hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary 2nded by Hon. H. Rhodes was ordered to be referred to a select Committee.

"The Mercantile Law Amendment Bill" was on motion of the Treasurer 2nded by Hon. H. Rhodes read a 2nd time—*nem. con.*

A Bill to regulate the Postal Service of the Colony came up for a 2nd reading on motion of the Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary.

2nded by The Treasurer.

2nd reading deferred till Attorney General be present.

The Council then adjourned till Friday next at 3 O'clock.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President

Friday, the 24th day of February, 1865

The Council met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Treasurer, The Acting Surveyor General, The Hons. R. Finlayson, H. Rhodes.

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

The Acting Colonial Secretary moved the 2nd reading of A Bill entitled "An Act to explain and amend the Victoria Incorporation Act, 1862."

2nded by the Hon. H. Rhodes and the Bill was read a 2nd time.

The Acting Attorney General moved that the Standing Orders of the Council be suspended and the Council go into Committee on the Bill. Agreed to nem. Con.

The Council then went into Committee on the Bill.

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The President having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported progress in the Bill and asked leave to sit again.

Leave granted.

The Council then adjourned till Monday next at 3 O'clock.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President

Monday, the 27th day of February, 1865

The Council met this day at three O'clock.

Present: The Acting Colonial Secretary, The Acting Attorney General, The Acting Surveyor General, The Hons. R. Finlayson, Henry Rhodes.

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

The Council resumed the consideration in Committee, of a Bill entitled "An Act to explain and amend 'the Victoria Incorporation Act, 1862'."

The Acting Attorney General in the Chair.

The President having resumed the Chair.

The Acting Attorney General reported progress in the Bill and asked leave to sit again.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. Finlayson gave notice that he would move at the next meeting that the Council take into consideration the Resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly on the state of the Colony and laid on the Council Table by Command of His Excellency on the 21st instant.

The Council then adjourned till Wednesday next the 1st March 1865.

Henry Wakeford
Acting Colonial Secretary
in the absence of the President