
Friday, the 1st day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. Messrs. O'Reilly, Ball, Holbrook, Orr, and Black.

The Attorney General in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

The Presiding Member read a communication from His Excellency, returning to the Council for consideration their Resolution for a Gold Export Duty.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved that this communication be considered a fortnight hence.

Hon. Mr. Black moved that the Council go at once into Committee of the whole on the subject.

On the amendment being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 3. Noes, 2.

So it passed in the affirmative, and

Resolved, That the House do now go into Committee of the whole on His Excellency's communication relative to the Export Duty on Gold.

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

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

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

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Committee rose, and the Chairman handed in a Resolution for the adoption of the House.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. Orr,

Resolved, That, in the opinion of the Council, it is inexpedient to impose an Export Duty on Gold, since the high rate of Registration Fees has been imposed on the transfer of Mining Claims.

Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency be requested to appropriate the sum of £150 out of the General Revenue for the purpose of defraying the travelling expenses of the two Members of Council for Cariboo East and West.

On the question being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 4. Noes, 1.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Orr presented a Petition from the inhabitants of Hope.

Received and read.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. Orr,

Ordered, To be sent for His Excellency's consideration.

Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved for the Return of Expenditure for 1863, laid on the table, to be printed.

Ordered, To be printed.

Hon. Mr. Holbrook asked the Hon. The Attorney General if Mr. Nind had been appointed County Court Judge at Douglas?

The Hon. The Attorney General replied.

Hon. Mr. Orr moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency be requested to appropriate the sum of Thirty thousand pounds (£30,000) for the purpose of constructing roads in the District of Cariboo.

Hon. Mr. Ball moved that the words £30,000 be altered to £40,000.

On the amendment being put it was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Mr. Orr, gave notice of motion.

The Hon. The Attorney General gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. Black, the Council adjourned till Monday next, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Monday, the 4th day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. The Collector of Customs, The Hon. Messrs. O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Smith, Holbrook, Orr, and Black.

The Hon. The Collector of Customs in the Chair as Presiding Member.

R. T. Smith, Esquire, having been introduced to the Presiding Member, was duly sworn and took his seat at the Council.

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

The Hon. Mr. Ball, from the Select Committee for drawing up a congratulatory address to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, on the birth of a son and heir, brought up a Report, and the same was read as follows:

Your Committee recommend the adoption by the Council of the following address:

May it please Your Royal Highness:

We, the Members of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Columbia, desire humbly to offer to Your Royal Highness our earnest congratulations on the occasion of the birth of the Prince, your son.

We beg, also, to offer to Your Royal Highness, the fervent expression of our loyalty to our beloved Sovereign, which in this distant part of Her Majesty's dominions makes Her faithful subjects participate in the joy diffused through the Empire at an event which has added to the happiness of Her Majesty, and of Your Royal Highness and your illustrious Consort.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. Orr, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Holbrook, *nemine contradicente*,

Resolved, That the said address be now adopted and forwarded to His Excellency for transmission through the proper channel.

Hon. Mr. Holbrook presented a Petition from the inhabitants of Clinton.

The Presiding Member objected to receive the said Petition, on the ground that it had been altered, and that interlineations had been made evidently after the Petition had been signed, and asked the Hon. Mr. Holbrook if such alterations were not in his (Mr. Holbrook's) handwriting?

Hon. Mr. Holbrook admitted the alterations to be in his handwriting.

A debate arose on this question.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. O'Reilly,

Hon. Mr. Smith seconding,

The following Resolution was put to the Council:

Resolved, That the Petition from the inhabitants of Clinton should not be received in its present form, and that this Council expresses its disapprobation of any Petition being altered otherwise than by the original signers,

Being an amendment to the following Resolution moved by the Hon. Mr. Holbrook.

Resolved, That the Petition from the inhabitants of Clinton be forwarded to His Excellency with the request that the prayer of the Petition may be taken into consideration.

A debate arose, and on the amendment being put the Council divided.

Ayes, 4. Noes, 3.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Petition be not received.

A Petition from the settlers of Williams Lake came up for consideration.

Hon. Mr. Black moved for a Committee of the whole to consider the subject.

Hon. Mr. O'Reilly moved as an amendment that it lie on the table for consideration this day six months.

On the amendment being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 4. Noes, 3.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

Ordered, To lie on the table for consideration this day six months.

Hon. Mr. Orr moved for a Select Committee to draw up an address to His Excellency, on his retirement from the Government of this Colony. The Committee to consist of Hon. Mr. Smith, Hon. Mr. Ball, Hon. Mr. Holbrook.

On the question being put it was carried *nemine contradicente*.

The Hon. Mr. Crease's motion, for leave to bring in certain Bills, deferred till to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. Ball, the Council adjourned till Tuesday, the 5th April, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Tuesday, the 5th day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. Messrs. O'Reilly, Sanders, Ball, Homer, Smith, Holbrook, Orr, and Black.

The Attorney General in the Chair as Presiding Member.

Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That His Excellency be asked to appropriate the sum of £100 to assist the inhabitants of Clinton in erecting a building for public purposes.

On question being put the Council divided,

Ayes. 6. *Noes*, 2.

So it was *Resolved*, in the affirmative.

2. *Resolved*, That His Excellency be requested to instruct the Stipendiary Magistrate to hold a County Court once a month at Clinton.

On question being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 5. *Noes*, 3.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

3. *Resolved*, That His Excellency be requested to appoint a resident unpaid Justice of the Peace at Clinton and one paid Constable.

On question being put, it was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Mr. Smith, from the Select Committee for drawing up an address to His Excellency on his retirement from the Government of the Colony of British Columbia, brought up a Report and the same was read as follows:

Your Committee recommend the adoption by the Council of the following address:

The humble address of the Legislative Council of British Columbia.

His Excellency Governor Sir James Douglas, K.C.B.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the Legislative Council of British Columbia, in Parliament assembled, desire to seize the present opportunity, before your departure from this Colony, to express to Your Excellency our strong feeling of personal respect and regard, and our recognition of the ability and energy with which you have for so many years administered the high office committed to you by our Gracious Sovereign.

The period at which Your Excellency assumed the Government of this Colony, was a time of peculiar difficulty, calling for the exercise of unusual prudence and determination.

By the vigor and sagacity of the measures then and since adopted, the Natives of the land have remained at peace, and contented; a foreign population has been conciliated; the supremacy of the Laws of our country secured; and principles firmly inculcated of fidelity to our institutions, and hearty allegiance to the Crown.

Having been but lately called together as a Legislative body, sufficient time has not elapsed for the development of the principles of Representative Government; but it will not be forgotten by posterity, that it was under your administration, that the first foundations of the edifice were securely laid; and that there has been shadowed forth, in the future to receive full completion; a semblance of that constitution which has been for so many ages at once the pride and happiness of our race.

In bidding Your Excellency farewell, we desire to assure you, that you will carry with you our warmest wishes for the welfare of yourself and family, and our prayers that, to whatsoever station of life by God's providence you may be called, you may be spared for many years to render good service to the State, and to obtain the choicest blessings of him who is the giver of all good things.

On the motion of The Hon. Mr. Smith,

Hon. Mr. Ball seconding,

The question of this address being adopted was put, and the Council divided.

Ayes, 7. Noes, 1.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative, That the said address be now adopted, and presented to His Excellency by the Council when convenient.

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

The Hon. The Attorney General asked leave to bring in Bank Note Bill.

Ordered, That leave be granted.

The Bill having been presented and received, on the motion of The Hon. Attorney General,

Ordered, To be read first reading forthwith.

Bill read first time accordingly.

Ordered, Second reading for Wednesday next.

The Hon. The Attorney General asked leave to bring in Inland Navigation Bill.

Ordered, That leave be granted.

On the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Ordered, To be read first time accordingly.

The Hon. The Attorney General asked leave to bring in Joint Stock Companies' Bill.

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Ordered, To be read the first time to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Sanders gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Orr gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. Orr, the Council adjourned till Wednesday, the 6th instant, at 3 o'clock.

Wednesday, the 6th day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. Messrs, Homer, Smith, Holbrook, and Black.

The Hon. Mr. Homer being the Senior Member present, took the Chair, as Presiding Member, and on the House being counted it appeared that Five Members were not present, although it was past 3 o'clock.

After the lapse of half an hour the Presiding Member again counted the Council, and Five Members not being present, the Council was adjourned by The Hon. The Presiding Member, till Wednesday, the 13th instant, at 3 o'clock, without a question first put.

Wednesday, the 13th day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. Mr. Crease, The Hon. Messrs. Homer, Holbrook, and Black.

The Attorney General in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Presiding Member having counted the House, it appeared that Five Members were not present, and it being half past 3 o'clock, the Council was adjourned by The Hon. The Presiding Member till 3 o'clock to-morrow, without a question first put.

Thursday, the 14th day of April, 1864.

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

The Attorney General in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Presiding Member counted the Council, it being half past 3 o'clock, and on finding that Five Members were not present, the Council was adjourned by the Presiding Member till 3 o'clock on Monday next, the 18th instant, without a question first put.

Monday, the 18th day of April, 1864

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

The Attorney General in the Chair as Presiding Member.

The Presiding Member counted the Council, it being 4 o'clock, and on finding that five Members were not present, the Council was adjourned by the Presiding Member till 3 o'clock on Friday next, without a question first put.

Friday, the 22nd day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—His Excellency Frederick Seymour, Esquire, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. The Collector of Customs, The Hon. Messrs. Brew, O'Reilly, Sanders, Homer, Smith, Holbrook, Orr, and Black.

His Excellency the Governor in the Chair as President.

Arthur N. Birch, Esquire, the Colonial Secretary, being entered within the Council Chamber, and having taken the Oath prescribed by law, took his seat as a Member of the Council.

The Minutes of the five previous Meetings were read over and confirmed.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook presented a Petition from Mr. Newton.

Ordered, To be received and read.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Crease,
Mr. Holbrook seconding,

Ordered, That this Petition be considered on Tuesday next.

The Hon. Mr. Sanders moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to instruct the Surveyor General to define the boundaries of the Districts of this Colony.

On the question being put, carried *nemine contradicente*.

The Hon. Mr. Orr moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency be respectfully requested to appoint a competent person to make the necessary survey and estimate the cost of a waggon road from the Mouth of Quesnel to Camerontown, Williams Creek.

On the question being put,

Ordered, That this Resolution be again brought forward on Tuesday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the first reading of the Joint Stock Mining Companies' Bill,

Ordered, That the Bill be read the first time.

Read accordingly.

Ordered, To be read a second time on Tuesday next.

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

A debate arose.

The Hon. Mr. Orr moved,

The Hon. Mr. Black seconding, and on the question being put it was

Resolved, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider the Ordinance respecting the issue of Bank Notes. The Committee to consist of the Hon. Messrs. Orr, Crease, Hamley, Homer, Holbrook, and Smith.

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

A debate arose.

The Hon. the Attorney General moved that this Bill be now read a second time.

The Hon. Mr. Orr moved as an amendment,

That the second reading of this Bill be deferred till Monday next.

On the amendment being put,

Ayes, 5. Noes, 6.

So it passed in the negative.

On the Original motion being put,

Ayes, 6. Noes, 5.

So it was *Ordered*, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Read the second time accordingly.

Ordered, To be committed on Monday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the consideration, in Committee of the whole, of the Mint question,

Ordered, That the consideration be deferred till Friday next, the 29th instant.

The Hon. Mr. Orr gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook gave notice of motions.

The Hon. Mr. Crease gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Black gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. O'Reilly, the Council adjourned until Monday the 25th instant, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Monday, the 25th day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. The Collector of Customs, The Hon. Messrs. Brew, O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Holbrook, Smith, Orr, and Black.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

The Hon. The Attorney General laid on the table, by order of His Excellency, papers connected with the appointment of Mr. Trutch as Commissioner of Lands and Works.

A debate arose thereupon.

The Hon. Mr. Brew proposed the following Resolution, Hon. Mr. Orr seconding:

Resolved, That this Council disapproves of Mr. Trutch's holding a public office of great importance while he holds interests in speculations not unconnected with the Department superintended by him in the Colony.

The Hon. Mr. Homer moved that the following words be added to the above Resolution:

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook seconding:

“Or while he holds large interests, whether private or public, in Vancouver Island.”

A debate arose thereupon.

On the amendment being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 2. Noes, 8.

So it passed in the negative.

On the original motion being put,

Ayes, 8. Noes, 2.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

The Hon. Mr. Orr moved the following Resolution,

The Hon. Mr. Brew seconding:

Resolved, That His Excellency be requested to appoint a competent person, and that Mr. Trutch appoint another, and that in case they disagree that they should appoint a third (all residents in this Colony), for the purpose of ascertaining what remuneration shall be paid to Mr. Tutch for transferring to Government all the interests which he now holds in any public works, or private contracts, or charter, either held in his own name or by any other person in his behalf.

The Hon. Mr. Ball moved the following amendment,

The Hon. Mr. Hamley seconding:

That as Mr. Trutch has been appointed Surveyor General of this Colony, and as he is the proprietor of the Alexandra Bridge, that the Government enter into arrangements to purchase the said bridge from Mr. Trutch, and that a Select Committee be appointed to agree with Mr. Trutch as to the amount to be given for the bridge, and to arrange with him for his interests in other public works, as implied in Mr. Trutch's letter to the Colonial Secretary of the 22nd April instant.

On the amendment being put the Council divided.

Ayes, 6. Noes, 4.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative, and

Ordered, That the Hon. Messrs. Crease, Hamley, Brew, Holbrook, Smith, and Orr, do form the above Committee.

The Hon. Mr. Orr moved for a Return of Sheriff's Fees, collected in Cariboo East, from 1st January, 1863, to 10th April, 1864.

On the question being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 5. Noes, 5.

The Hon. The Presiding Member being called upon for a casting vote, gave it in the negative.

So it passed in the negative.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That a day be named for a second reading of the Telegraph Regulation Bill.

The Hon. the Attorney General moved the following amendment:

Resolved, That the Resolution of the Hon. Mr. Holbrook be postponed till to-morrow, and that the Hon. The Colonial Secretary be requested by that time to ascertain the powers of individual Members to introduce Bills not coming from the Government.

On the amendment being put, carried *nem. con.*

Ordered, That this Resolution be brought on to-morrow.

The Hon. The Attorney General asked leave to bring in Postal Bill.

Ordered, That leave be granted, and that the Bill be read a first time on Wednesday next, the 27th instant.

The Hon. The Attorney General asked leave to bring in Legal Interest Bill.

Ordered, That leave be granted, and that the Bill be read a first time to-morrow.

The Hon. The Attorney General asked leave to bring in Land Registry Amendment Bill.

Ordered, That leave be granted, and that the Bill be read a first time to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook's motion for leave to bring in Barrister's Practice Amendment Act,

Ordered, To be deferred till to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Black asked the Hon. The Colonial Secretary if any information had been received officially respecting the irregularities said to have been committed by some Government Officials at Richfield?

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary replied.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook gave 3 notices of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Homer gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. Hamley, the Council adjourned till Tuesday, the 26th inst., at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Tuesday, the 26th day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. Messrs. O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Holbrook, Smith, Orr, and Black.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

The Hon. Mr. Orr's motion, deferred till this date by order of the Council on the 22nd instant, was brought forward.

On the question being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 6. Noes, 1.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative, That His Excellency be respectfully requested to appoint a competent person to make the necessary Survey, and Estimate the cost of a waggon-road from the mouth of Quesnel to Cameron-town, Williams Creek.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook's motion for second reading of Telegraph Regulation Bill withdrawn.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution,
Hon. Mr. Black seconding.

Resolved, That a Select Committee of five be formed from this Council to draw up an address of congratulation to His Excellency Governor Seymour, on his arrival in the Colony, such Committee to be named by the Presiding Officer.

On question being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

Ordered, That The Hon. Messrs. Hamley, Holbrook, Homer, Orr, and Black, form the above Committee.

The Hon. Mr. Homer asked the Colonial Secretary, "What are the intentions of the Government in reference to the Tariff Bill and Light Ship, which was recommended by this Council?"

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary replied.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook's motion, for leave to bring in Barrister's Practice Amendment Act, dropped.

On the Order of the day being read for the consideration of Mr. Newton's Petition, The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution,

Hon. Mr. Homer seconding:

Resolved, That the Petition of Mr. W. H. Newton be forwarded to His Excellency, with a respectful request that he will deal with the subject matter thereof as he may deem just and expedient.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Joint Stock Mining Companies' Bill.

Ordered, To be read second time accordingly.

Bill read second time.

On the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Ordered, To be committed to a Committee of the whole Council forthwith.

The Council resolved itself into the said Committee accordingly.

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 passed with certain amendments.

On the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Ordered, To be read a third time to-morrow.

On the Order of the day being read for the first reading of the Legal Interest Bill,

Ordered, To be read first time.

Read first time accordingly.

Ordered, To be read second time to-morrow.

On the Order of the day being read for the first reading of the Land Registry Extension Bill,

Ordered, To be read the first time.

Read the first time accordingly.

Ordered, To be read a second time to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Homer gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Orr gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Smith gave notice of motion.

The Hon. The Attorney General gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. Orr, the Council adjourned till Wednesday, the 27th instant, at 3 o'clock.

Wednesday, the 27th day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. Messrs. Brew, O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Holbrook, Smith, Orr, and Black.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

The Hon. The Attorney General laid on the table, by order of His Excellency, papers connected with the matter of Captain Houghton's Petition.

The Hon. Mr. Homer asked leave to withdraw his Resolution in regard to imposing a tax of 3d. per acre on unoccupied land.

Ordered, That leave be granted.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution, Hon. Mr. Homer seconding:

Resolved, That His Excellency The Governor be respectfully requested to bring in a Bill for the Regulation of the Telegraph, and to secure secrecy and fidelity in the transmission of telegraphic messages.

On question being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 6. *Noes*, 1.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

The Hon. Mr. Orr moved the following Resolution:

That the Government be requested to lay before this House, Ordinances for the regulation of the following matters:

1. To determine the right of drovers and stock-raisers to pasture their stock on unenclosed lands.
2. To regulate the running at large of stallions.
3. To impose a tax upon all unimproved lands bought or pre-empted from Government.
4. To allow spirits manufactured in the Colony to be exported free of excise duty.
5. To regulate the killing of game.
6. To regulate the fisheries of the rivers and coast of this Colony.

On the question being put, *Ordered*, That a separate vote be taken on each subject in order.

On question No. 1 being put the Council divided.

Ayes, 4. Noes, 5.

So it passed in the negative.

On question No. 2 being put, it was carried *nemine contradicente*.

On question No. 3 being put, The Hon. Mr. Ball moved that the words "[or] pre-empted" be left out.

On the amendment being put, the Council divided,

Ayes, 2. Noes, 6.

So it passed in the negative.

On the original motion being put, the Council divided,

Ayes, 3. Noes, 6.

So it passed in the negative.

On question No. 4 being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

On question No. 5 being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

On question No. 6 being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

The Hon. Mr. Smith asked the Hon. The Colonial Secretary whether or not any action has been taken with reference to the Petition from the inhabitants of Hope, viz: that the additional duty of one half cent per pound, at present collected on all goods leaving that place, viâ Similkameen, be taken off?

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary replied.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution, the Hon. The Attorney General seconding:

Resolved, That a Select Committee of the House be formed to consider how an Assisted Emigration from Great Britain, either by paying part of the passage money or giving grants of land, can be made available for the Colony.

On the question being put, it was carried *nemine contradicente*.

Ordered, That the Hon. Messrs. Holbrook, Crease, Hamley, Birch, Nind, and Orr form the above Committee.

The Hon. The Attorney General asked leave to bring in a Bill for the relief of certain Military and Naval Settlers.

Ordered, That leave be granted.

So the Bill was presented.

On the motion of the Hon. The Attorney General,

Ordered, To be read a first time forthwith.

Read first time accordingly.

Ordered, Second reading for Monday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the first reading of the Postal Bill,

Ordered, That the Bill be now read the first time.

Read first time accordingly.

Ordered, To be read a second time forthwith.

Read second time accordingly.

Ordered, To be committed on Friday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the committal of the Inland Navigation Bill,
The House resolved itself into said Committee.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

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

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Chairman of Committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered, That leave be granted for to-morrow.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Legal Interest Bill,
Ordered, To be read second time presently.

Read second time accordingly.

Ordered, To be committed to-morrow.

On the Order of the day being read for the third reading of the Joint Stock Mining Companies' Bill,

Hon. Mr. Orr moved that it be re-committed.

On question being put, the Council divided,

Ayes, 2. Noes, 7.

Ordered, To be read third time forthwith.

Read third time accordingly.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. The Attorney General,

Resolved, That the Bill do pass, and that its title be the "Mining Joint Stock Companies' Ordinance, 1864."

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Land Registry Amendment Bill,

Ordered, To be read second time presently.

Read second time accordingly.

Ordered, To be committed to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Smith gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Orr, the Council adjourned till Thursday, the 28th instant, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Thursday, the 28th day of April, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. The Collector of Customs, The Hon. Messrs. Brew, O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Holbrook, Smith, Orr, and Black.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

Two Messages from His Excellency the Governor to the Council were delivered by The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, who read the same, which are as followeth:

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

Message No. 1.

The Governor has received from his predecessor the Resolution, passed by the Legislative Council on the 29th of February, requesting him to appoint Justices of the Peace, resident in the Colony of British Columbia, with such power as he may deem necessary.

The Governor concurs in opinion with the Council, that a few unpaid Magistrates might with advantage be appointed. He will give his best attention to the subject as soon as his local knowledge shall be sufficient to enable him to make appointments satisfactory to the community.

Government House, 28th April, 1864.

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

Message No. 2.

The Governor has received from his predecessor the Resolution of the Legislative Council, passed on the 18th of February, requesting the Governor to frame a Customs Tariff Bill, based upon the suggestions of The Hon. Mr. Homer, and submit the same to the Council at an early date.

The Governor is of opinion that he does not as yet possess sufficient local knowledge to justify his interfering with the fiscal arrangements he finds in force. He is therefore unable to comply with the Resolution of the Council during the present Legislative Session. He will however consider with care The Hon. Mr. Homer's suggestions during the approaching recess.

The Governor is strengthened in the opinion that it would be imprudent in him to attempt at present to re-model the Tariff, by the belief that the Resolution of the 18th of February would not have been readily concurred in by his predecessor.

Government House, 28th April, 1864.

The Hon. The Attorney General, from the Select Committee appointed to enquire into Mr. Trutch's matter, brought up a Report and the same was read as followeth:

Your Committee report that they are unable to come to any decision on the matters of Mr. Trutch, from want of the means of arriving at the amount which should form the basis of negotiation, Mr. Trutch being unwilling to name a price himself or supply the details of the cost of construction; and therefore recommend that the subject be referred back to His Excellency, with a request that he will take such action in the matter as he may deem expedient for the public interest.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,
Ordered, That the above Report be transmitted to His Excellency.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook, from the Select Committee appointed to draw up an address to His Excellency on his arrival in the Colony, brought up a Report, and the same was read as followeth:

Your Committee recommend the adoption by the Council of the following address:

To His Excellency Frederick Seymour, Esquire,
Governor of British Columbia and its Dependencies.
The humble Address of the Legislative Council of British Columbia.

May it please Your Excellency:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of British Columbia, beg most respectfully to offer our congratulations to Your Ex-

cellency upon your assuming the duties of your important office, over the Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies.

A Gold Colony, possessing an area over 250,000 square miles, yet in its infancy, will require many and various enactments to meet the necessary purposes of a young Country, and while we are prepared to devote our time and best energies, as loyal and dutiful subjects, to the cause, we are happy in having the benefit of Your Excellency's long Colonial experience to aid and guide us in our duties.

It affords us, the Members of the Legislative Council of British Columbia, much pleasure to offer to Your Excellency our warmest support, and, through you, to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, a pledge of our devoted loyalty.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Holbrook,

Ordered, That this Address be adopted, and that it be presented to His Excellency by the Hon. The Presiding Member, accompanied by such Members of the Council as shall see fit so to do.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution,

Hon. Mr. Homer seconding:

Resolved, That His Excellency be respectfully requested to appoint, or recommend for appointment, Notaries Public for this Colony.

On the question being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

The Hon. Mr. Smith laid before the Council a statement from certain of the inhabitants of Yale, in regard to the lease of the water frontages at Yale, and asked that no further leases might be granted.

Ordered, That the discussion of this question be deferred until next sitting of the Council.

On the Order of the day being read for the further consideration of the Inland Navigation Bill in Committee,

The Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

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 reported the Bill gone through with certain amendments.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a third time to-morrow.

On the Order of the day being read for the committal of the Legal Interest Bill,

The Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

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 with certain amendments.

Ordered, To be read third time forthwith.

Read third time accordingly.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Resolved, That this Bill do pass, and that its title be "The Interest Ordinance, 1864."

On the Order of the day being read for the committal of the Land Registry Extension Bill,

The Council resolved itself into the said Committee 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 certain amendments.

Ordered, To be read a third time forthwith.

Read third time accordingly.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Resolved, That this Bill do pass, and that its title be "The British Columbia Land Registry Extension Ordinance, 1864."

The Hon. The Attorney General gave notice of motion.

Hon. Mr. Homer gave 6 notices of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Orr gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Orr, the Council adjourned till Friday, the 29th instant, at half-past 12 o'clock in the afternoon.

Friday, the 29th day of April, 1864.

The Council met at half-past 12 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

Present.—The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. The Collector of Customs, The Hon. Messrs. Brew, O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Holbrook, Smith, Orr, and Black.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

The Council adjourned during pleasure.

At 3 o'clock the Council resumed its sitting.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary reported that the Council did this day wait on His Excellency The Governor, with a congratulatory address on his arrival in the Colony, to which His Excellency was pleased to return the following most gracious reply:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

I receive with great gratification the address which your loyalty to the Queen has induced you to present to Her Majesty's representative.

You by no means over-estimate the importance of the duties belonging to you—to us—as the present Legislature of this vast territory. Every assistance in my power shall be afforded to you, and you will at all times find in me great deference for your wishes and opinions.

The present immature Legislative constitution gives to the Governor great power in the initiation of laws. I am pleased to believe that I am not immediately called upon to make any large exercise of that power, but that I may by an early

prorogation enable myself to become personally acquainted with the wants of the different districts of the Colony. I trust that I shall be able to lay before you measures of considerable importance when next we meet for the transaction of business.

I am greatly obliged to you for your promise of support, and I shall not fail to make known to Her Majesty's Government the loyal spirit by which you are actuated.

The Hon. The Attorney General asked leave to bring in Patents Bill.

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Ordered, That the Bill be now read the first time.

Read first time accordingly.

Ordered, Second reading for Monday next.

The Hon. Mr. Orr moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency be respectfully requested to appoint a Deputy Registrar for the registration of transfers of land, mortgages on land, &c., in the district of Cariboo East.

On the question being put, the Council divided,

Ayes, 5. Noes, 5.

The Presiding Member gave a casting vote in the affirmative.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

The Hon. Mr. Homer's motion to consider His Excellency's message on the Tariff question, was withdrawn by consent of the Council.

The Hon. Mr. Homer moved a Resolution for increasing the premium for the first Grist mill erected in the Colony.

On the question being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 5. Noes, 5.

The Presiding Member gave a casting vote in the negative.

So it passed in the negative.

The Hon. Mr. Homer moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be recommended to make, as soon as practicable, an appropriation of public money sufficient for the purpose of subsidizing a line of Ocean Steamers to convey Mails between San Francisco and New Westminster. The said Steam-ship not to be less than 1000 tons register.

On the question being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

The Hon. Mr. Homer moved a Resolution praying for a Legislative Assembly. The question being put, the Council divided.

Ayes, 5. Noes, 5.

The Presiding Member gave a casting vote in the negative.

So it passed in the negative.

The Hon. Mr. Homer moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to repeal that portion of the Customs Act, dated 2nd June, 1859, which allows Customs

duties for the North Coast of British Columbia, to be collected in Vancouver Island. Also the repeal of the duties on ship building material, machinery for steam-boats, grist mills, and quartz mills.

On the Order of the day being read for the consideration of the Mint question in Committee.

On the motion of The Hon. Mr. Homer,

Ordered, That the consideration stand over *sine die*.

On the Order of the day being read for the committal of the Postal Bill,

The Council resolved itself into said Committee.

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 with amendments.

Ordered, To be read the third time.

Read the third time accordingly.

Ordered, To be passed on Monday next.

On the Order of the day being read for the third reading of the Inland Navigation Bill,

Hon. Mr. Orr moved a re-committal,

Ordered, To be re-committed.

The Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

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 certain amendments made.

Ordered, That this Bill be read a third time forthwith.

Read third time accordingly.

Resolved, That this Bill do pass, and that its title be "The Inland Navigation Ordinance, 1864."

The Hon. Mr. Brew gave notice of motion.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. Orr, the Council adjourned till Monday, the 2nd May, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Monday, the 2nd day of May, 1864.

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

Present.—The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. The Collector of Customs, The Hon. Messrs. Brew, O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Holbrook, Smith, Orr, and Black.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary informed the Council that it was His Excellency's intention to adjourn them on Wednesday, the 4th instant, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

The Hon. Mr. Brew moved the following Resolution,

Hon. Mr. O'Reilly seconding:

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be requested to increase the Salary of the Postmaster General to £500 a year.

On question being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 5. *Noes*, 5.

The Presiding Member gave a casting vote in the affirmative.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

On the Order of the day being read for the first reading of the Military and Naval Settlers Relief Bill,

The Hon. The Attorney General moved that the Bill be read first time to-morrow.

Ordered, To be read first time to-morrow.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of Patents Bill.

Ordered, To be read second time.

Read second time accordingly.

Ordered, To be committed forthwith.

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 Chairman reported certain amendments made in the Bill, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered, That leave be granted for to-morrow.

On the Order of the day being read for the passing of the Postal Bill,

On the motion of The Hon. Mr. Orr,

Ordered, To be re-committed at once.

The Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

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 with amendments.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Resolved, That this Bill do pass and its title be the "Postal Ordinance, 1864.

The Hon. Mr. Orr, Chairman from the Select Committee to consider the Bank Note Bill, handed in their Report in the shape of an amended Bill.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read the second time.

Read second time accordingly.

Ordered, To be committed to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. Orr gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Black, gave notice of motion.

The Hon. Mr. Smith gave 2 notices of motion.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. Mr. O'Reilly the Council adjourned till 11 o'clock in the forenoon to-morrow, the 3rd instant.

Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 1864.

The Council met at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to adjournment.

Present.—The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. The Collector of Customs, The Hon. Messrs. Brew, O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Holbrook, Smith, Orr, and Black.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

Hon. Mr. Orr presented a Petition from Frank Richards.

Ordered, That the same be received and read.

Petition read accordingly.

Hon. Mr. Orr moved that this Petition be transmitted to His Excellency.

Hon. Mr. Ball moved as an amendment, that it be considered this day six months.

On the amendment being put the Council divided,

Ayes, 8. Noes, 2.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Orr presented a Petition from John T. Scott.

Ordered, To be received and read.

Petition read accordingly.

Hon. Mr. Orr moved that this Petition be transmitted to His Excellency.

Hon. Mr. Homer moved as an amendment that it be considered this day six months.

On the amendment being put, the Council divided,

Ayes, 8. Noes, 1.

So it was *Resolved* in the affirmative.

The Hon. Mr. Black presented the Petition of George Transfield [Tranfield].

Ordered, To be received and read.

Read accordingly.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. Black,

Ordered, To be laid before His Excellency for consideration, and for him to deal with as the justice of the case may call for.

The Hon. Mr. Orr moved the following Resolution,

The Hon. Mr. Black seconding:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Council, representing as it does the unanimous voice of the people of this Colony, the union of British Columbia with Vancouver Island would be detrimental to the best interests of both; and that His Excellency be requested to transmit this Resolution to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

On the question being put, it was carried *nemine contradicente*.

The Hon. Mr. Holbrook moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Governor be respectfully requested to take into consideration the propriety of fixing a new site for public buildings at Lillooet.

On the question being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

The Hon. Mr. Black's motion withdrawn by permission of the Council.

The Hon. Mr. Smith moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That whereas certain reservations in the valley of Chilwayhook and elsewhere throughout the Colony are being made for the benefit of the Indians, and whereas said reservations are considered to be unnecessarily large (10 acres to each family), and in several instances including lands already pre-empted and improved by actual settlers, thereby seriously interfering with the development of the agricultural resources of the Colony; be it resolved that His Excellency be respectfully requested to give the matter his consideration at as early a date as convenient, in order to avoid difficulties between the Settlers and the Indians.

On the question being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

The Hon. Mr. Smith moved the following Resolution:

Resolved, That His Excellency be respectfully requested to consider the growing necessity of appointing a Gold Commissioner and Stipendiary Magistrate for the Shuswap and Similkameen Country.

On the question being put, it was carried *nem. con.*

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Naval and Military Settlers' Relief Bill,

Ordered, To be read second time and committed forthwith.

Read accordingly second time.

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

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

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

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

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

Then, on the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Ordered, To be read third time at once.

Read third time accordingly.

Then, on the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General,

Resolved, That this Bill do pass, and that its title be "The Naval and Military Settlers' Relief Ordinance, 1864."

On the Order of the day being read for the committal of the Bank Note Bill,

On the motion of The Hon. Mr. Crease,

Ordered, That the Standing Orders of the Council be suspended, to enable the Customs Amendment Bill to be read first, second, and third times, and passed this day, and that the Order of the day just now read do stand as the next Order after Customs Amendment Bill.

Ordered, That leave be granted for the Customs Amendment Bill, and that it now be read the first time.

Read first time accordingly.

Ordered, That the said Bill be now read the second time, and committed forthwith.

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. Holbrook 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.

Ordered, To be read a third time forthwith.

Read third time accordingly.

On the motion of The Hon. The Attorney General, *Resolved*, That the Bill do pass, and that its title be "The Customs Amendment Ordinance, 1864."

On the Order of the day being again read for the committal of the Bank Note Bill.

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

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

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

The Presiding Member resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported some progress made with the Bill, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered, That leave be granted presently.

The Council then adjourned during pleasure.

After the lapse of half an hour the Council resumed its sitting.

On the motion of the Hon. The Attorney General,

Ordered, That the consideration of the Bank Bill in Committee be resumed.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Orr 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 made and new clauses added.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That this Bill be now read a third time.

Read third time accordingly.

On the motion of the Hon. The Attorney General,

Resolved, That this Bill do now pass, and that its title be "The Bank Ordinance, 1864."

On the Order of the day being read for the resumed consideration in Committee of the Patents Bill.

The Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

The Presiding Member left the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Orr 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 made.

Report adopted.

Ordered, To be read the third time.

Read third time accordingly.

On the motion of the Hon. The Attorney General,

Resolved, That this Bill do pass, and that its title be "The Patents Ordinance, 1864."

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Black, the Council adjourned till to-morrow, the 4th inst., at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Wednesday, the 4th day of May, 1864.

The Council met at 11 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

Present.—The Hon. The Colonial Secretary, The Hon. The Attorney General, The Hon. The Collector of Customs, The Hon. Messrs. Brew, O'Reilly, Ball, Homer, Holbrook, and Black.

The Hon. The Colonial Secretary in the Chair as Presiding Member.

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

His Excellency Frederick Seymour, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia, &c., &c., having been announced, entered the Council Chamber, and being seated in the President's Chair, made the following Speech to the Council:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

The period of the year has now arrived when most of you would wish to leave New Westminster, to attend to the duties of your offices or to the interests of your business, and I am happy to think that I can, without detriment to the public welfare, release you from further attendance in your Legislative capacities.

2. The Session which closes to-day has been productive, in my opinion, of considerable benefit to the community. It would probably have been even more useful, had not a change in the administration of the Government occurred during its progress. On entering the office—not yet a fortnight ago—I found myself obliged to consider a measure involving the whole financial arrangements of the Colony; another proposing to regulate its paper currency; a third affecting the internal Navigation of the Country; together with several others of minor importance. In addition to these projects of law, there were awaiting my decision more than twenty resolutions, passed by your Honorable Council at various times, many of them of grave importance, sanctioning in the whole an expenditure falling little short, if at all, of Eighty thousand pounds. The advance of the spring allowed of no delay. An early decision was required, so, with means of information still imperfect, I have decided as follows:

3. I have assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Ordinances: An Ordinance to increase the facilities for registering documents relating to real property.

An Ordinance to declare the lawful rate of interest in the Colony.

An Ordinance relating to Patents.

An Ordinance to facilitate the formation of Mining Joint Stock Companies.

An Ordinance for regulating the Postal Service.

An Ordinance for the relief of certain Naval and Military Settlers.

An Ordinance to amend Customs Duties.

An Ordinance for the regulation of the Inland Navigation of British Columbia.

I might have hesitated in assenting, at once, to this last, prudent but cumbrous and perhaps vexatious measure, were it not that the Act contains a clause suspending its operations until Her Majesty's pleasure be signified. The Ordinance will therefore be subjected again to my consideration, when reporting to the Secretary of State on its provisions.

4. I have reserved for Her Majesty's consideration, the somewhat complicated Ordinance proposing to regulate the issue of Bank Notes in the Colony. Understand that I have not absolutely disallowed it. The measure may offer considerable advantages, but in a new country where capital is required, it is not always desirable to Legislate in a manner which may impair individual credit, or restrict the circulating medium. The suddenly making penal an act, innocent in itself, is likewise to be avoided. A knowledge on the part of the public, that such a measure as the Bill now reserved will probably soon become law, will tend to cure the evil against which you wish to legislate.

5. The resolutions your Honorable House has placed before my predecessor and myself are of various descriptions. Some of them have already been replied to by message. The remainder I shall now notice.

I assure you that all those having for their object the initiation, on my part, of new laws shall have my earnest consideration during the recess, and that the measures you propose, and of which I see the necessity, shall be put in proper shape for your consideration before we next meet.

6. Some other of your resolutions relate to questions of Executive Administration, such as the appointment of unpaid Justices of the Peace, Notaries Public, an additional Stipendiary Magistrate for the Shuswap and Similkameen districts, and the separation of the Office of Auditor from that of Colonial Secretary. I concur with you in the two first, and shall give due attention to the third and fourth resolutions. I may, however, intimate as regards the last, that the time is possibly not very far distant when a Legislative Body with a larger elective element will, periodically, appoint its own Committees to examine the public accounts.

7. I come now to the most important resolutions of the Session; those which request that vast sums of money, to be expended on public works, be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates, and then embodied in a second Appropriation Act. I see reasons, which appear to me of great importance, for delaying the introduction of the new Appropriation Act, until I am able to call you together again in November. One of these reasons, I may mention, is that the money you propose to expend is not yet in our possession. Another is that I am reluctant to refuse, without more information than I can now possibly possess, certain petitions, which come before me with the great weight of your recommendation, while, on the other hand, I am almost equally reluctant to give a legal sanction to any expenditure of money, of the necessity of which I am not satisfied. I propose, therefore, to adopt the course of considering each of the resolutions of your Honorable Council, passed as they were freely, without solicitation from the Governor, as an authority for him to expend the amount therein mentioned, in the manner therein specified, in anticipation of the Supplementary Appropriation Act.

Full explanation of all that has been done in the recess shall be laid before you at your next meeting.

8. And here I must warn you that the progress of the public works will not, in all probability, be as rapid as we could desire. The resources on which we depend, the proceeds of the loan of £100,000 to be raised in London, can hardly be available until late in the year.

The Act only left this Colony towards the end of March, and will not, therefore, reach England till late in May. We can hardly assume that less than a month will suffice for the various operations necessary for placing the funds at our disposal, and then another period of six weeks or two months will probably elapse before we are acquainted with the results.

9. I have to announce my entire concurrence in the Resolutions for the Survey of a road from Quesnel Mouth to Cariboo, and for the expenditure of £40,000, in addition to the amount already granted, for the improvement of communication in the district in question. I look upon the facilitating of access to the rich gold fields of the North-east as at present the paramount duty of the Governor and Council of this Colony; indeed so convinced am I of the importance of this work, that I may perhaps, in anticipation of the proceeds of the Loan, divert for its prosecution, from the ordinary Revenue, certain sums voted for other purposes. Should I do so, and any unexpected impediment prevent the early success of the Loan, I shall lay before you an Indemnity Act at your next session.

10. A consideration of the manner in which the Country is to be opened, leads me to allude to a question of administration which, as it appeared to be connected with a money vote, has been already placed before you. A gentleman has been nominated, by the Secretary of State, to be Surveyor General of this Colony. That gentleman is at present disqualified from holding the office, by his possession of property on one of the competing roads to the diggings, which would lose value by the improvement of the rival route. Mr. Trutch, the gentleman in question, shall be again invited to qualify himself to fill the post he would suit so well, by divesting himself of all interest in this Colony, which might expose his public acts to suspicion and unfavorable comment. Should any arrangement be made by the Government for the purchase of Mr. Trutch's rights—an arrangement better avoided—full particulars shall be laid before you early next session.

11. You have placed £8,000 at the disposal of the Government for the formation of a wagon road from Hope to Yale. This work is desirable, though not indispensable. If the road were not completed, the vast majority of the up-country traffic would still, during the greater part of the year, give a preference to the river over the road; the performing of this work, however, is only a question of time. It will surely come should the Colony continue to progress at its present rate. I should, however, wish to state that instructions have been already given by me for placing the communication on the most important portion of this line—that between Yale and Emory's Bar—in good condition.

12. I see £10,000 given for the erection of public buildings in New Westminster. Unquestionably our present public buildings are shabby and inconvenient, and others must ere long be erected. In a young Colony like this, good accommodation for our public officers is not the primary necessity. The first duty is to improve our communications and develop the resources of the land, and I consider that I am doing more for New Westminster in sanctioning, as I most willingly do, the establishment of a Light Vessel at the mouth of the Fraser, than if I at once commenced the erection of public buildings. Our Capital will likewise receive great benefit should we succeed in obtaining Steam Communication between it and San Francisco. I concur in your resolution on this subject, and shall take early steps in furtherance of it.

13. The formation of roads in and about New Westminster, for which you have voted £10,000, shall be attended to. I accept the additional £3,000 for the repair of the Yale and Clinton road, and generally the smaller sums included in the same resolution of the 4th of February. I specially thank you for the additional sums you have given for Schools and Hospitals. The donation for the latter purpose shall, as you desire, be equally divided between Cariboo and New Westminster.

14. The offering of prizes, to encourage exploration and a more thorough development of the resources of the Colony, proposed in your resolution of the 24th February, is sanctioned by me, and a notice thereof shall be duly published in the newspapers of this and the neighbouring Colony of Vancouver Island.

15. And now I must notice your resolution, of yesterday's date, protesting against any union with the Colony just named. I shall forward that resolution to His Grace the Secretary of State, and strongly express my opinion that British

Columbia has grown too large for a return to the old system to be possible. Whether union under other conditions might hereafter be acceptable, I am at present unable to say. I would however observe that, from my short experience, I am inclined to think that an efficient administration of the affairs of British Columbia, alone, would be enough to engross the whole attention of a Governor.

16. Your resolution of yesterday's date—message No. 40—respecting the Indian Reserves, shall have, as it deserves, my anxious consideration. I have not yet sufficient experience to deal with the question.

17. The choice of a good site for the Public Buildings at Lillooet shall at once be made.

18. The Petition of the people of Hope, dated March 18th, and forwarded in your resolution of the 4th of April, cannot be granted without an alteration in the law, which it is now too late to effect.

19. I am not yet impressed with the necessity for increasing the salary of the Postmaster General. I shall consider the question during the recess.

20. Most of you Honorable Gentlemen are about to resume your public or private duties in the Country districts. I trust you will find there tranquillity and prosperity existing among the heterogeneous population, which the attractions of our Gold has drawn to the Colony. It will be through no fault of mine, if you do not soon see the Surveyor's gangs upon your roads, and public energy beneficially following close upon the footsteps of private enterprise.

21. With full acknowledgment of the zeal and ability you have shewn during this important Session, it now only remains for me to bring it to a close. I now therefore, in Her Majesty's name, prorogue this Legislative Council; and the same is hereby prorogued accordingly.
