
MINUTES OF THE THIRD HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF VANCOUVER ISLAND—FIRST SESSION

Wednesday, the 2nd day of September, 1863

The House met at 1. P. M. in accordance with the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor.¹

The Clerk of the House having called over the names of the Members elected to serve in Parliament for the various Districts of the Colony, His Honour the Chief Justice said,

Gentlemen, I have the honor to inform you that, in virtue of my Office of Chief Justice, I have been authorised, and empowered by His Excellency The Governor, to acquaint both Houses that, as soon as the Members of both bodies shall be sworn, His Excellency will declare the cause of his calling this Parliament.

And it being necessary that a Speaker of The House of Assembly should be first chosen, You, Gentlemen, of the House of Assembly, will proceed to the appointment of a proper person to be your Speaker, and you will present such person whom you shall so choose, for His Excellency's approbation, on the day following his Election at 1. o'Clock.

The House then proceeded to elect a Speaker.

Colonel Foster, after alluding to his past services, and dwelling on his great Parliamentary experience, proposed Dr. Helmcken.

Mr. Young seconded—and, On the motion being put by the Clerk of the House, Dr. Helmcken was elected unanimously Speaker of the House; and having taken his seat, Addressed the House amidst great applause, thanking it for the honor it had conferred on him; and adjourned the House to One o'Clock P. M. tomorrow.

Thursday, the 3rd day of September, 1863

The House met this day, pursuant to adjournment at 1 o'clock P.M.

Present:

Mr. Speaker

Messrs. Wm. A. G. Young

„ Amor De Cosmos

„ Israel Wood Powell

„ Jos. Chs. Ridge

Colonel George F. Foster

[Messr.] John S. Helmcken

} For Victoria City

} Esquimalt Town

} Esquimalt & Metchosin

¹ See *Victoria Daily Chronicle*, 20 August 1863 for James Douglas' proclamation dated 19 August 1863.

Messrs. James Duncan	Lake District
„ Edward Henry Jackson	} Victoria District
„ Wm. Fraser Tolmie	
„ James Trimble	
„ Charles Street	Saanich
„ James Carswell	Sooke
„ John T. Pidwell ²	Salt Spring Island & Chemanis
„ Alfred Bayley	Nanaimo

The Speaker elect, Dr. Helmcken, accompanied by a Deputation of Members proceeded to Government House, and was presented to His Excellency the Governor who was graciously pleased to express his entire approval of his election as Speaker of the House.

On returning to the House Mr. Speaker took the Oath, and subscribed the appointed declarations in which he was followed by all the Members present; and, at two O'clock, His Excellency, who was attended by his suite, entered the chamber, and in a clear voice spoke as follows:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, & Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

In opening the Third General Assembly of Vancouver Island, I have great pleasure in observing that among the events of national importance which have marked the period since the last meeting of Parliament, none have excited a more general degree of public interest than the marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; that event has called forth expressions of the warmest sympathy and attachment from every part of the Empire, and I regret that you have not had an opportunity since that auspicious occasion, so intimately connected with the happiness of our Sovereign, and her family, of manifesting in your public character, the loyalty and devotion of this Colony.

I shall soon lay before you a copy of a communication which I lately received from Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, containing proposals on the part of the Atlantic, and Pacific Transit, and Telegraph Companies, for establishing Telegraphic, and Postal communication between British Columbia and the head of Lake Superior, and also of the answer returned by Her Majesty's Government to these proposals.

By this contemplated arrangement it is proposed that Canada, British Columbia, and Vancouver's Island, should guarantee to the Company a profit on capital expended at the rate of not less than four per cent, nor more than five per cent, per annum, it being, however provided, that the total annual payment to be made by Vancouver Island, and British Columbia, jointly, shall in no case exceed the sum of £12,500 to be borne, if necessary, by the respective colonies, as may be agreed upon.

I have to recommend this project to your favorable attention, as the conditions are not unreasonable considering the magnitude of the undertaking and the advantages which this Colony will reap from the faithful execution of the enterprise.

Before concluding any arrangement on the terms proposed it should, however, be stipulated as an express condition of the guarantee that the Telegraph and Postal communication shall be extended to Vancouver Island.

I will also cause to be laid before you a dispatch containing the decision of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the form of government to be adopted in the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island—a measure which will be carried into effect, and the colonies be placed under different Governors so soon as the proper financial arrangements are made for the permanent support of the Government.

² The following note appears in the margin next to Pidwell's name: "Unseated on Petition, G. E. Dennes." See minutes for Monday, 12 October 1863.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that a permanent Act of the Legislature should be passed securing to the principal officers of the Colony salaries at the rates suggested in the aforesaid despatch; and, also that the initiation of all money votes should be secured to the Government.

When this is done Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to hold the Crown Revenue of Vancouver Island at the disposal of the Legislature of the Colony, retaining only such temporary power over the land as will enable Her Majesty's Government to close its transactions with Hudson Bay Company. When this is effected, Her Majesty's Government will be ready to transfer the management of the Revenue to the Colonial Legislature.

In concluding this subject I desire to call the attention of the Legislature to the opinion so impressively given in this despatch by the able statesman at the head of the Colonial Department in favor of a union of the Colonies under one Government, an opinion which comes with the weight of a wide experience in the workings of Colonial Institutions, and which will, I trust, exercise a due influence in your deliberations.

I have great satisfaction in stating that the native Indian tribes continue to evince a friendly disposition, and that nothing has occurred to disturb the peace of the outlying settlements, which will be protected by the occasional visits of Her Majesty's ships.

I have to congratulate you, Gentlemen, on the state of the public revenue for the half year ending the 30th June last. You will observe by the return which will be laid before you, a remarkable increase for that period, representing a sum more than equal to the whole amount of revenue collected for the corresponding six months of the year 1862.

The half yearly Reports from the Treasurer and Harbor Master, which I have had prepared for your information, will exhibit that and other facts connected with the trade and financial condition of the Colony.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—

I will cause to be prepared, and in due time submitted to you the Estimates for the year 1864, and in the mean time I have to call your attention to the importance of continuing the improvement of the Public Roads as recommended by the road commissioners, and of providing for the exploration of certain Districts, where valuable minerals are believed to exist.

Assistance will be asked for carrying these objects into effect, and also for establishing elementary schools in the country districts where the settlers have at present no means of educating their children. This latter object will not involve a present outlay of more than a few hundred pounds, to aid in the erection of school houses and of suitable residences of their teachers. The salaries of the teachers may be provided for, as required, in the annual Estimates.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, & Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly

A Bill for restraining the issue of Writs of Capias in the case of actions accruing in a Foreign Jurisdiction, unless the defendant has been resident in the Colony for a term of 30 days; and also a Bill to alter and amend the Act for Incorporating the Town of Victoria, and Bill to facilitate the collection of Small Debts, and to reduce the costs, and modify the present procedures will, with other matters, be introduced and submitted in the course of the session for your consideration.

It being desirable that the Fire Department of Victoria should be placed under the control of the Mayor and Corporation, and that members of this institution should, in consideration of their valuable and efficient services, be exempted from doing duty on juries, measures having these objects in view will be submitted to you.

In the settlement of all these matters for the prosperity and happiness of the Colony much must depend upon your wisdom and foresight, and, in conclusion, I can but express the fervent hope that the blessings of the Almighty may ever rest upon your labors.

His Excellency then took his leave, and His Honor David Cameron, Esquire, Chief Justice, declared the House duly opened.

The Governor's speech was listened to with profound attention.

The Speaker then took the Chair. Mr. De Cosmos read pro forma a Bill entitled an Act to promote the security of Vessels entering the Harbor of Victoria. Mr. Ridge moved, and Mr. Duncan seconded, that the House adjourn to 3 o'clock tomorrow, to consider the reply to the Governor's Speech.

Motion carried, and House adjourned accordingly.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Friday, the 4th day of September, 1863

The House met at 3 P. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Mr. Speaker, Colonel Foster, Messrs. Burnaby, Ridge, Pidwell, Bayley, De Cosmos, and Drs. Trimble, Powell.

The former minutes having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Burnaby having taken the Oath, and his seat, rose to give notice of motion.

That at the next meeting of the House he would ask Honble. Member for Victoria Town (Mr. Young) whether he is sitting in this House as representing the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. De Cosmos gave notice of motions (*see* Motion Book) for next meeting.³

Mr. Speaker informed the House that Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake has been appointed examiner of Recognisances to the House.

Mr. Ridge, by permission, presented a Petition from certain Auctioneers of Victoria Town, praying for a reduction of the amount of Tax levied on them by present Act.

Ordered to lie on Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker read the Governor's Address.

Mr. Ridge moved the following Reply thereto, which was seconded by Mr. Powell, and after discussion, carried unanimously.

May it please Your Excellency

The House of Assembly of Vancouver Island and its dependencies, has received with satisfaction Your Excellency's Address at the opening of this session, for which they have to tender their respectful thanks.

The House fully appreciates the great importance of the topics alluded to, and the measures suggested in the Speech of Your Excellency, and beg to say, that they will devote their earliest and best attention to their consideration—as soon as they are put in possession of the requisite data to enable them to do so.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

³ Vancouver Island, House of Assembly, Motion Book, March 1860–June 1865, Provincial Archives of British Columbia, p. 29, hereafter cited as Motion Book:

"I will move at next Sitting of the House, That this House proceed to the Election of a Clerk.

"I will move at next Sitting for a Committee to draw up an Address to the Prince of Wales congratulating him on his marriage with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

"I will move at next meeting that the House go into a Committee of whole in order that a Committee be appointed with power to erect a Reporters Gallery or make such other provision as will ensure better accommodation to the reporters than exists at present."

Monday, the 7th day of September, 1863

The House met pursuant to adjournment at 3 o'clock P. M.

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. De Cosmos, Jackson, Powell, Street, Young, Ridge, Pidwell, Duncan, Bayley, Carswell, Drs. Tolmie, Trimble.

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

Mr. Speaker proceeded to appoint the following Committee on Private Bills: Colonel Foster, Dr. Trimble, Messrs. Street, Ridge, De Cosmos.

Second Reading of Reply to the Address of His Excellency The Governor.

Moved by Mr. De Cosmos seconded by Dr. Trimble "That the 2nd Reading of the Reply to His Excellency's Speech be postponed to Wednesday next."

Dr. Powell moved as an amendment, that it be postponed to Friday.

Amendment carried.

Mr. De Cosmos moved that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address of congratulations to H. R. H. The Prince of Wales on His marriage with the Princess Alexandra.

Seconded by Mr. Jackson, and Carried unanimously.

The following Members were appointed to form the Committee: Messrs. De Cosmos, W. A. G. Young, Dr. Trimble.

Moved by Mr. De Cosmos, seconded by Mr. Street, "That a Committee be appointed to enquire what better accommodation can be afforded to the Press."

Motion carried and, the following Members appointed a Committee: Messrs. De Cosmos, Street, Carswell.

Mr. De Cosmos moved, & Mr. Pidwell seconded, "That the House do proceed to elect a Clerk."

Motion put.

Ayes: 4.
Messrs. De Cosmos
Pidwell
Duncan
Carswell

Noes: 6.
Messrs. Powell
Street
Young
Ridge
Jackson
Dr. Tolmie

Motion lost.

The House then adjourned to Friday next at 3 o'clock P. M.⁴

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

⁴ The House also received this day, although omitted from the minutes, a message from Governor Douglas dated 7 September 1863 transmitting the following documents:

"1st. Papers connected with proposals for Establishment of Telegraph and Postal Communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific through British Territory.

"2nd. Extract from a Despatch from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, dated the 15th June, 1863, respecting matters of Government in British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

"3rd. Comparative statement of the Revenue received during six months, ending 30th June, 1862, and six months, ending 30th June, 1863.

"4th. Report of Harbor Master with comparative statement of the Imports and Entrances and Clearances of Vessels into the Port of Victoria for the half year ending 31st December, 1862, and 30th June, 1863." *Victoria British Colonist*, 8 September 1863.

See also *Despatches and Correspondence transmitted to the House of Assembly in Governor Douglas' Message of 3rd September 1863* (Victoria: "Daily Chronicle" Office, 1863).

Friday, the 11th day of September, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, A. De Cosmos, Street, Ridge, Bayley, Pidwell, Carswell, Jackson, Colonel F. Foster, and Drs. Trimble, Tolmie, Powell.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Speaker read message from His Excellency the Governor transmitting Copies of three Orders in Council dated as per margin,⁵ and confirming certain Acts therein enumerated passed by the Legislature for Vancouver Island.

Mr. Ridge gave notice of motion for Thursday next.

Mr. W. A. G. Young—Notice for appointment of Committee at next meeting.

Mr. De Cosmos—Notice for Returns at next meeting.

Business of the day.

Second reading of Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

Moved by Mr. Carswell Seconded by Mr. De Cosmos "That the House go into Committee of the whole to take into consideration His Excellency's Speech."

Motion put and lost.

Address agreed to.

Dr. Trimble gave notice of Motion for Friday next 18th Instant.⁶

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Tuesday, the 15th day of September, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Young, De Cosmos, Jackson, Ridge, Street, Pidwell, Bayley, Carswell, Duncan, and Drs. Trimble, Powell.

The minutes of last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. Ridge—Notice of Motion on Union of the Colonies—Monday 28th Instant.⁷

⁵ Marginal note: "Jany. 9th, April 28th, June 11th 1863. For Acts Vide Letter Book." See Vancouver Island, House of Assembly, Correspondence Inward, 27 July 1860 to 11 March 1864, PABC, pp. 101-02.

⁶ Motion Book, p. 31: "I beg to give Notice that I will, on Monday 28th Inst., bring in a Bill to amend the 'Alien Act'." See minutes for Tuesday, 22 September 1863.

⁷ Motion Book, p. 32: "I beg to give notice that on Monday 28th Inst. I shall move that a Committee of the whole House be appointed to discuss the important Question of the Union of the Two Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia."

Mr. De Cosmos—Notice of Motion on Friday next—Harbor Improvements.

Mr. Street—Notice of Motion on Roads, on Friday next.

Mr. Duncan—On education—Friday [Monday] next.⁸

Mr. De Cosmos—Friday next—Notice for Returns on H.B. Co.'s affairs.⁹

Mr. Street—On Friday next—for Copies of Statutes of the Colony.

Mr. De Cosmos—Friday next—Mineral Resources.

Mr. De Cosmos—Friday next—Offers of Seats in the Legislative Council &c.

Mr. De Cosmos—Friday next—Cowichan & Comax to elect Representatives¹⁰—also, To alter and amend Fireman's Protection Act, 1860, also, To bring in an Act for establishment of Pilots for Port of Victoria—also, To repeal Vancouver Island "Stamp Act 1862," also, Respecting Barristers, and Attorneys at Law.

Mr. Pidwell—On Friday next—Despatches of H. G. Duke of Newcastle.

Mr. Young—Appointment of Committee on Public Accounts of the Colony.

That a Committee be appointed to enquire into the Accounts of the Colony as kept by the Treasurer and to report the result, and their opinion as to the sufficiency or otherwise, of the means of check adopted in the receipt and expenditure of the public Money.

Mr. De Cosmos Seconded.

Carried.

Committee appointed: Messrs W. A. G. Young, De Cosmos, Jackson, Street, Ridge.

Mr. De Cosmos Moved Resolution on Executive Council.

That His Excellency The Governor be respectfully requested to lay before this House for their information, Copies of any Despatches that may have passed between His Excellency and Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State

⁸ Motion Book, p. 35: "On Monday Sept. 21 I will move for a Committee on Education to report on the adaptability of the System as now organized, to the present wants & views of the Colony—& also to report what Districts need the introduction of Public Schools." See minutes for Tuesday, 22 Sept. 1863.

⁹ Motion Book, pp. 32–33: "On Friday next I will move 'That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to lay before this House Copies of all Despatches that may have passed since 1858—between His Excellency & Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting the Settlement of the Rights of the Hudson Bay Company claimed under the Crown License of Exclusive Trade with the Indians in Vancouver Island, and under the Crown Grant of Vancouver Island in 1849 and under the Treaty of 1846 between His Excellency, & the Officers of the Hudson Bay Co. respecting the Rights of the said Company in Vancouver Island; also a breviat of all legal Proceedings, taken by Her Majesty's Govt. or by H. Ecy.'s Government, against, the Hudson Bay Co. since 1858 with the object of restraining the said Company from selling Land in Vancouver Island; or with object of concluding a final settlement between Her Majesty's Government and the Hudson Bay Company with respect to Vancouver Island'."

¹⁰ Motion Book, p. 35: "On Friday next Sep. 18—I will ask leave to bring in a Bill entitled an Act to enable the Districts of Cowichan & Comax to elect Representatives to the House of Assembly." See minutes for Tuesday, 22 Sept. 1863.

for the Colonies, respecting the formation of an Executive Council in this Colony, and also in respect to members of such Executive Council holding Seats in the Legislative Council, and House of Assembly.

Mr. Pidwell Seconded.

Carried.

House adjourned to Friday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Friday, the 18th day of September, 1863

The House met at 3. p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Mr. Speaker, Colonel Foster, and Messrs. Young, Trimble, Burnaby, Ridge, Duncan, Pidwell, Carswell, De Cosmos, Powell, Tolmie, Bayley.

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

The following members were appointed a Committee on Elections: Messrs. Powell, Tolmie, Burnaby, Duncan, Bayley.

Mr. Burnaby in accordance with notice previously given, asked the Honble. the Member for Victoria Town (Mr. Young) whether he sits in this House as representing the views of H. M.'s Government.

Mr. Speaker ruled the Question out of Order.

Mr. Young gave notice of a Bill on Writs of Capias for next meeting of the House.¹¹

Mr. Burnaby gave notice of Motion for an early day, on appointment of a Ministerial Council.¹²

Mr. Street in pursuance of Notice, moved "That each Member of the Legislative Assembly be supplied with the Statutes of the Colony."

Seconded by Mr. Pidwell and Agreed to.

Mr. De Cosmos—in pursuance of previous notice, moved, "That His Excellency The Governor be respectfully requested to lay before this House, any official correspondence containing offers of Seats in the Legislative Council, and the Replies thereto."

Seconded by Mr. Pidwell and carried unanimously.

Mr. De Cosmos—By consent, withdraws his Notice of Motion on The Hudson Bay Co.'s affairs.

¹¹ Motion Book, p. 37: "I give notice that at next meeting of this House I will ask leave of the House to bring in a Bill to restrain the issue of Writs of Capias within the jurisdiction of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies upon Debts or Causes of Action contracted or accruing out of the said jurisdiction."

¹² Motion Book, p. 37: "That at an early day I shall move That a Petition be presented to His Excellency the Governor by this House praying him to appoint a Ministerial Council for initiating and carrying on the Public business in the Legislature."

Dr. Trimble, pursuant to Notice, moved "That a Committee be appointed to investigate the present condition of the Crown Lands of this Colony, with reference to the proposition in the Despatch, recently laid before this House, of the Secretary for the Colonies, for handing over the Crown Lands to the Legislature."

Seconded by Mr. Ridge.

Mr. De Cosmos moved that after the word Committee the words "of seven" be inserted.

Seconded by Mr. Carswell.

Mr. Burnaby seconded by Dr. Tolmie, moved as an amendment to Mr. De Cosmos's amendment, "That the words 'of five' be inserted."

On being put, the last amendment was lost, and the words "of Seven" were ordered to be inserted.

Committee appointed: Messrs. De Cosmos, Burnaby, Ridge, Duncan, Drs. Trimble, Tolmie, and Colonel Foster.

Mr. De Cosmos—(pursuant to Notice)—Seconded by Mr. Street moved "That a Committee be appointed to report 1. On the mineral resources of the Colony—their character, extent, and location, so far as may be generally known. 2. What regulations may be deemed necessary to facilitate the development of the mineral wealth of the Colony."

Carried unanimously, and Committee appointed viz.: Messrs. Pidwell, Bayley, Powell.

Mr. Pidwell pursuant to notice brought forward his motion, "That The House go into Committee to consider the Despatch of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle dated June 15th 1863."

Motion not seconded.

Mr. Street brought forward the following resolution.

That a Committee be appointed to report on the extent, and condition of the Public Roads, throughout the Colony.

2. What improvements ought to be made in the Public Roads, specifying the particular Road.

3. What new Roads ought to be opened.

4. By whom Road appropriations may be best expended.

5. Whether it is not desirable to incorporate in the appropriations for Roads, the Amount to be expended in each District, and particularise what Roads are to be improved.

Seconded by Mr. Duncan.

The following Amendment was moved by Colonel Foster, and Seconded by Mr. Burnaby.

That a Committee be appointed to report on the State of Roads in this Colony, and to recommend such improvements and extensions to such Roads as may be thought advisable.

Mr. Street withdrew his motion, in favor of the amendment, which became the Resolution and was so carried, and

The following Members were appointed a Committee: Colonel Foster and Messrs. Street, Carswell, Burnaby, Jackson.

Mr. De Cosmos pursuant to notice, brought forward the following Resolution.

That a Committee be appointed to report

1. What improvements ought to be made in Victoria Harbor.
2. What improvements the Executive design making in Victoria Harbor.
3. At what time The Executive expect to commence the Improvement of Victoria Harbor, and why the improvements are delayed.
4. What funds are at hand at the disposal of the Executive to be expended in Harbor improvements.
5. From what source funds are raised, or purposed to be raised, for Harbor improvements.
6. Whether the funds in hand, or expected, be sufficient to make the necessary improvements, and if not, what is the deficiency?
7. Such Suggestions, or remarks as the Committee may think proper, in order to lay before this House the fullest information respecting the Improvement of Victoria Harbor.

Seconded by Mr. Duncan, and Agreed to.

The following Committee was then appointed viz.: Messrs. W. A. G. Young, A. De Cosmos, I. W. Powell, J. C. Ridge.

Mr. De Cosmos—from the Committee of the House appointed on the Address to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, reported the same, which was read a first time.

The House then adjourned to Monday the 21st Instant at 3. p. m.

Speaker

Address.

To His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
May it please Your Royal Highness.

We the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island in Parliament assembled, desire as the first Act of our Session, to approach Your Royal Highness, to present our sincere, and hearty congratulations, upon the marriage of Your Royal Highness with Princess Alexandra of Denmark; and earnestly pray that this Union, auspicious outwardly in its relations, ratified by the Nation, and consecrated inwardly by affection, may be blessed by the Almighty Disposer of all human events to the true and lasting happiness of Your Royal Highness, and the Princess, to the peace and prosperity of the Empire, and to the comfort of our Most Gracious, and beloved Queen.

Tuesday, the 22nd day of September, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker and Messrs. Young, De Cosmos, Trimble, Duncan, Street, Ridge, Pidwell, Bayley, Powell, Carswell.

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

Mr. Speaker read a communication from His Excellency The Governor, touching certain correspondence between His Excellency, and His Grace the Duke of

Newcastle, in regard to the formation of an Executive, and Legislative Council for this Colony.

Notices of Motion (next meeting).

Mr. Pidwell—Committee on Public Accounts.

Mr. Duncan—Present state of Probate Court.

Mr. Pidwell—Conveyance of Mails &c.¹³

Business of the day.

Address to His R. H. the Prince of Wales read a 2nd time and agreed to.

Mr. Duncan moved for a Committee on Education.

Mr. Street seconded.

Agreed to.

Committee appointed: Messrs. Duncan, Street, Tolmie, Carswell, Powell.

Mr. Ridge withdrew his motion to repeal the Alien Act 1862 by permission of the House.

Mr. De Cosmos Asked leave to bring in a Pilot Bill.

Seconded by Mr. Young and agreed to.

Mr. Young asked leave to bring in a Bill on "Writs of Capias."

Mr. Duncan seconded.

Leave granted.

Mr. De Cosmos—A Bill to alter and amend the Fireman's protection Act 1861.

Mr. Pidwell seconded.

Agreed to.

Mr. De Cosmos—A Bill to enfranchise the Districts of Cowichan and Comax.

Mr. Duncan 2nded.

Agreed to.

Mr. De Cosmos—A Bill respecting Barristers, and Attorneys at Law.

Mr. Young 2nded.

Agreed to.

Mr. De Cosmos—A Bill to repeal the "Vancouver Island Stamp Act 1862."

Mr. Young 2nded.

Agreed to.

Mr. De Cosmos brought up Report of the Committee on accommodation to the Press.

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. P. M.

Speaker

¹³ Motion Book, pp. 37-38: "At next meeting of the House to ask that An Address be presented to His Excy. the Govr. respectfully asking His Excy. to authorize that Tenders be called for, for the conveyance of the Mails semimonthly to Chemainus, and Salt Spring, Nanaimo, & the Comax Districts."

Wednesday, the 23rd day of September, 1863

The House met this day pursuant to adjournment at 3. o'clock P. M.

Present: Mr. Speaker and Messrs. De Cosmos, Street, Pidwell, Duncan.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Report of the Election Committee on the Salt Spring Island Election Petition was confirmed.

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

To The Speaker, and Gentlemen of The House of Assembly;
Gentlemen,

In reply to the request of the House contained in Mr. Speaker's Letter of the 18th instant asking for copies of any official correspondence containing offers of Seats in the Legislative Council, and the replies thereto, I have the honor to inform you that no such correspondence exists.

I have the honor to be
Sir &c. &c.

(Signed) James Douglas

In the absence of Mr. Young, Mr. Pidwell moved 1st reading of the "Writs of Capias, and ne exeat regno, Bill."

Bill read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Monday, the 28th day of September, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Duncan, Street, Ridge, De Cosmos, Pidwell, Carswell, Jackson, Bayley, and Drs. Trimble, Powell.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from His Honor Chief Justice Cameron giving cover to a Copy of General Rules, and Orders for, and concerning the Practice, and Procedure of the Court of Bankruptcy.

Mr. Duncan gave Notice of Motion for next meeting.¹⁴

Mr. Pidwell—notice of motion at next meeting.¹⁵

¹⁴ Motion Book, p. 39: "Mr. Duncan to move That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to inform this House who are the sureties for the Heads of Departments of this Colony, and to what amount Bonds have been taken."

¹⁵ Motion Book, p. 39: "At the next meeting of this House I intend to move that His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to inform this House what steps if any, have been taken towards the settlement of the Indian Claims in those Settlements where many of Her Majesty's loyal Subjects have taken up Land."

Mr. Ridge—That the House go into a committee of the whole on Wednesday next on the Union of the Colonies.

So ordered.

Mr. Pidwell moved for a Committee on Public Expenditure—(in pursuance of Notice).

Mr. Duncan seconded.

Agreed to.

Order to be referred to Committee on Public Accounts.

Mr. Duncan moved for a Committee to enquire into present state of the Probate Court and to report thereon.

Dr. Trimble seconded.

Agreed to.

Ordered to be referred to Committee on Public Accounts.

Dr. Trimble on behalf of the Committee on Crown Lands, requested that said Committee be empowered to send for persons, papers, and records.

On the suggestion of the Honble. The Speaker Dr. Trimble moved "That the Committee on Crown Lands be empowered to send for Papers, persons, and Records."

Mr. Ridge seconded.

Motion carried.

Bills Read a second time.

Writs of Capias restriction Act 1863.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

Mr. Street in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Report received and Leave granted.

[Bills] Read a first time.

Mr. De Cosmos—2nded by Mr. Ridge—Bill entitled an "Act respecting Barristers, and Attorneys at Law."

Mr. De Cosmos—2nded by Mr. Duncan—A Bill entitled "an Act to repeal the Vancouver Island Stamp Act 1862."

Mr. De Cosmos—seconded by Dr. Powell—"To alter, and amend The Fireman's Protection Act 1861."

Mr. De Cosmos—2nded by Dr. Powell—To enable the Districts of Cowichan, and Comax, to send one Representative each to the House of Assembly."

Mr. De Cosmos—seconded by Mr. Duncan—"For the establishment of Pilots for the Port of Victoria."

On the motion of Mr. W. A. G. Young "It was ordered that these Bills be printed."

The House then adjourned to Wednesday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Thursday, the 1st day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Colonel Foster, Drs. Trimble, Tolmie, Powell, and Messrs. De Cosmos, Burnaby, Ridge, Street, Duncan, Pidwell, Bayley.

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

It was moved and seconded, that The House go into Committee of the Whole, on the extremely important subject of the Union of the Colonies of British Columbia, and Vancouver Island, with a view to an early settlement of the same; and that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Carried.

Mr. Burnaby in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That the Report be accepted, and leave granted.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

Speaker

Monday, the 5th day of October, 1863

The House met this day at 3. p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Burnaby, Street, Duncan, Bayley, Jackson, Pidwell, De Cosmos, Carswell, and Drs. Tolmie, Trimble, Powell.

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

The House went into Committee of the whole on the Question of the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island, and British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Jackson in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That the Report be received, and leave granted.

The House then adjourned to 3. P. M. tomorrow.

Speaker

Tuesday, the 6th day of October, 1863

The House met this day at 3. o'Clock. P. M. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Burnaby, Duncan, De Cosmos, Jackson, Street, Pidwell, Carswell, Bayley, Ridge, Col. Foster, and Drs. Tolmie, Trimble, Powell.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Question of the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island, and British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Burnaby in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That the Report be received, and leave granted.

The following members were then ballotted to compose the Committee on the Salt Spring Island Election Petition—viz.: Dr. Tolmie, Chairman, Dr. Trimble, Col. Foster, and Messrs. Duncan, Jackson, members.

And, Thursday next, at 11. o'clock A. M. was appointed as the time for the meeting of the Committee.

The House then adjourned to Wednesday the 7th Instant at 3. p. m.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Thursday, the 8th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Drs. Tolmie, Powell, and Messrs. Ridge, W. A. G. Young, Street, De Cosmos, Bayley, Pidwell, Carswell.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, on the Question of the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island, and British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Dr. Tolmie in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The chairman reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That the Report be received, and leave granted.

House adjourned to tomorrow.

Speaker

Friday, the 9th day of October, 1863

The House met this day pursuant to adjournment, at 3 p. m.

Present: Dr. Helmcken, Speaker, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Street, Pidwell, Bayley, Jackson, Carswell, Burnaby, De Cosmos, Duncan, Drs. Tolmie, Powell, and Colonel Foster.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. De Cosmos gave Notice of Motion for next meeting (Notice Book Page 40.) relative to providing for a Mayor and Councillors for the City of Victoria &c. &c.¹⁶

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Question of the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported Progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That the Report be received, and leave granted.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

Speaker

Monday, the 12th day of October, 1863

The House met this day at 3. p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Mr. Speaker, Drs. Trimble, Tolmie, Powell, Col. Foster, and Messrs. W. A. G. Young, C. Ridge, Street, Bayley, Carswell, De Cosmos, Jackson, Duncan.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Dr. Tolmie from the Select Committee on the late Salt Spring Island and Chemainos Election, reported as follows.

1. It is the Decision of this Committee That John Trevasso Pidwell, the sitting member is not duly elected to serve in this present House of Assembly, for the District of Salt Spring Island, and Chemainos.

2. That George Edgar Dennes the Petitioner, is duly elected a member of this present House of Assembly for the District of Salt Spring Island, and Chemainos.

3. That the opposition of the said John Trevasso Pidwell to the Petition of the said George Edgar Dennes is frivolous, and vexatious, and that the said John Trevasso Pidwell pay the costs.

(signed) W. F. Tolmie
Chairman

Also That it is the unanimous Resolution of the Special Committee on the Election Petition of George Edgar Dennes against John Trevasso Pidwell—

¹⁶ Motion Book, p. 40: "On Monday next October 12th I will ask leave to bring in a Bill entitled an Act to provide for the Election of a Mayor & Councillors for the City of Victoria at the expiration of the period for which the present Mayor & Councillors are elected and That I will move that the Standing Orders of the House shall be suspended so far as the carriage of the said Bill is concerned."

That J. P. M. Biggs Esquire, Returning Officer at the last Election held at Salt Spring Island, has been guilty of gross neglect in the performance of his duty at said Election.

(signed) W. F. Tolmie
Chairman

Ordered That the Report be received.

Mr. De Cosmos, pursuant to notice, having obtained leave, introduced a Bill providing for the Election of a Mayor and Town Councillors for Victoria for the year 1863 and The Standing Orders being suspended the Bill was read a first time, and Ordered to go to a Second Reading tomorrow.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Jackson in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Ridge with leave, withdrew his Resolution¹⁷ in favor of Dr. Powell's amendment "That the Honble. The Legislative Council be asked to meet this House in joint Session to consider an Address to Her Majesty with respect to a Union of Vancouver Island with British Columbia."

Mr. Burnaby presented a Petition from the Chamber of Commerce against the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia which was read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Mr. De Cosmos gave Notice of Motion for next meeting.¹⁸

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. p. m.

Speaker

Tuesday, the 13th day of October, 1863

The House met this day at 3 p. m. pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Mr. Speaker, Drs. Trimble, Tolmie, Powell, and Messrs. Burnaby, Dennes, Young, Ridge, De Cosmos, Jackson, Street, Bayley.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Dennes presented himself to the Speaker, who administered the usual Oaths to Mr. Dennes as the Member duly elected to sit in the House of Assembly as Representative for Salt Spring Island and Chemainos.

Mr. Dennes then took his Seat within the Bar of the House.

¹⁷ Motion Book, p. 39: Mr. Ridge proposed in Committee on 1 October 1863 "That a Memorial from this House be sent to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle requesting that The Colonies of British Columbia & Vancouver Island be United & placed under one Government."

¹⁸ "Mr. De Cosmos said that on Monday next, Oct. 19, he would move that the House go into Committee of the Whole on a request to His Excellency to offer a bounty of £1000 to every one who would erect a flouring mill or carding mill of certain capacities, in any of the agricultural districts of the colony." *Colonist*, 13 October 1863.

Mr. De Cosmos Presented a Petition from certain Settlers of Somenos and Cowichan Districts.

Ordered to be referred to the Committee on Roads.

“Bill to provide for the Election of a Mayor and Councillors for the City of Victoria at the expiration of the period for which the present Mayor and Councillors are elected” was read 2nd time, and Committed.

House in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Burnaby in the Chair of the Committee.

Dr. Helmcken gave notice that he would move certain Resolutions at next meeting of the Committee on the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

The Committee then took up the “Provisional Act for the Election of a Mayor and Councillors 1863.”

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Chairman reported “That the Committee having the Bill referred to them under their consideration had amended, and agreed to the same.”

Ordered to go to a 3rd Reading.

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. p. m.

Speaker

Wednesday, the 14th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Messrs. Jackson, De Cosmos, Ridge, Young, Street, Carswell, Dennes, Bayley, Burnaby, Drs. Tolmie, Trimble, Powell, and Col. Foster.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Dr. Trimble, from the Committee on the Public Lands of the Colony, reported that said Committee were unable to proceed with the business before them without the services of a Messenger.

After some remarks by Mr. Speaker Mr. Burnaby gave Notice of Motion on the appointment of a messenger of this House for service on Committee &c.

“The Provisional Act for the Election of Mayor and Councillors 1863” was read a 3rd time.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on “Capias restriction Act 1863.”

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Jackson in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that the Committee having the Bill referred to them under their consideration had agreed to the same with alterations and additions.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Question of the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Jackson in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That the Report be received, and Leave granted.

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. p. m.

Speaker

Thursday, the 15th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Drs. Trimble, Tolmie, Powell, Messrs. Young, De Cosmos, Street, Ridge, Burnaby, Duncan, Jackson, Dennes, Carswell, and Col. Foster.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Burnaby moved that the Speaker be requested to appoint a messenger of this House for service on Committees or other purposes in connection with the duties of this House.

Motion put and carried.

The following Bills were read a second time and Committed.

Fireman's Protection Act 1863.

Legal Profession Act 1863.

Cowichan, and Comax Registration Act 1863.

An Act to Repeal the Vancouver Island Stamp Act 1863.

Mr. Bayley gave notices of motion for next meeting—(vide motion book).¹⁹

Speaker

Monday, the 19th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Drs. Tolmie, Trimble, Powell, and Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Burnaby, Dennes, De Cosmos, Jackson, Bayley, Carswell.

The last minutes having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Speaker appointed Thursday next for the 3rd Reading of the "Capias restriction Bill 1863."

Mr. Burnaby obtained leave to bring in a Petition for an Act to Incorporate the Chamber of Commerce of Victoria, Vancouver Island.

Petition read, and referred to Private Bills Committee.

¹⁹ Motion Book, p. 41: "That at next meeting of this House I shall ask that the Receipt & Expenditure for the Judicial Department of the District of Nanaimo be laid before this House.

"I give notice that at next meeting of this House I shall ask for information in regard to any scheme for the carrying of the Mails between Victoria & intermediate Ports—and Nanaimo, & Comax."

Mr. De Cosmos—Pursuant to notice, moved “That the House fix this day week to go into Committee on his Resolution regarding the offering of bounties for the Erection of Grist Mills &c., in various Districts.”

Mr. Burnaby moved an Amendment to the effect that in lieu of the words “this day week” “this day six months” be substituted.

For the original motion 2. For the Amendment 7.
Amendment carried.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, on the Question of the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island, and British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Dr. Tolmie in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That the Report be received, and Leave granted.

Mr. Bayley moved his resolutions, of which he had given notice at last meeting viz.:

1. At next meeting of this House I shall ask for information to be laid before this House, regarding the Receipts, and expenditure for the Magisterial Department of the District of Nanaimo.

2. At next meeting of this House I shall ask for information in regard to any Scheme for the carrying of the Mails between Victoria and intermediate Ports, and Nanaimo and Comax.

Which were seconded, and carried.

[Mr. Bayley gave notice of motion for next meeting.]²⁰

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. oClock P. M.

Speaker

Tuesday, the 20th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Dr. Trimble, and Messrs. Dennes, De Cosmos, W. A. G. Young, Carswell, Burnaby, Duncan, Bayley, Ridge.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. De Cosmos presented a Petition from the “Albert Lodge of good Templars of Victoria,” which having been read, was referred to the Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. Bayley Brought forward his Resolution on the Vancouver Island Coal Company’s Property at Nanaimo which was carried.

²⁰ *Colonist*, 20 October 1863: “Mr. Bayley gave notice that he would move for returns in regard to the extent of the lands of the [Vancouver Island Coal] company in payable acres, the extent, if any, of the government school and Indian reserves, and as to whom the magistrate’s residence at Nanaimo belongs.”

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Question of the Union of the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Burnaby in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. De Cosmos brought forward his Resolutions as follow.

That this House is favorable to the Union of Vancouver Island with British Columbia, provided an Act of Union can be framed that will not endanger the existence of our Free Port.

That in order to frame such an Act of Union we deem it to be necessary that a Delegation be appointed from each Colony, to confer on the Subject of the Union and report the Result of their deliberations to their respective Governments.

Resolutions put seriatim, and agreed to.

Dr. Helmcken then moved the following amendment—To add to the 1st resolution “and free trade; and that the mode of Taxation in Vancouver Island shall be left in the hands of its own Representatives.”

Amendment agreed to.

The question was then put on the Resolutions as a whole.

<i>Ayes:</i>	<i>Noes:</i>
Messrs. De Cosmos	Drs. Helmcken
Dennes	Trimble
Duncan	Messrs. Bayley
Ridge	Young

The votes being equal the Chairman gave his vote against the Resolutions which were accordingly lost.

The Committee then rose.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Bayley gave a notice of motion for next meeting touching the erection of a Light House at Nanaimo.²¹

The House then adjourned to Thursday next at 3. P. M.

Speaker

Thursday, the 22nd day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tolmie, and Messrs. Street, Burnaby, Duncan, Bayley, De Cosmos, W. A. G. Young, Dennes, Carswell.

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

Dr. Tolmie gave notice of motion at next meeting of the House.²²

²¹ Motion Book, p. 41: “At next meeting of this House I shall ask for information and any correspondence relative to the erection of a Light House for the Port of Nanaimo.”

²² Motion Book, p. 42: “I will ask at next meeting That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Govr. praying for a Return shewing the Amount of Installments yet due on Land sold, and the periods when such instalments are payable.”

Mr. De Cosmos moved the Second Reading of the "Pilot Bill for the Port of Victoria."

Bill read a 2nd time, and committed.

The "ne exeat Regno" Bill was brought up for a 3rd Reading—but on the motion of Mr. Burnaby, seconded by Mr. Dennes—this Bill was recommitted.

Mr. Bayley brought up his resolution touching the Erection of a Light House at Nanaimo—which was seconded by Mr. De Cosmos, and carried.

Mr. Burnaby gave notice of Motion for next meeting touching the Appointment of a separate Governor for Vancouver Island &c.²³

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. P. M.

Speaker.

Friday, the 23rd day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Burnaby, Dennes, Ridge, Carswell, Bayley, Duncan, De Cosmos, C. Street, Col. Foster, and Drs. Tolmie, Powell.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. De Cosmos from the Committee on the Public Lands of the Colony, called attention to the repeated absence of members of this Committee.

Ordered That the Committee on the Public Lands of the Colony do meet on Monday next at 2. o'Clock P. M.

Mr. De Cosmos gave Notice of Motion for Monday next (Light House Dept.).²⁴

Mr. Ridge gave notice of motion to amend the Naturalization Act.

Dr. Tolmie Brought up his Resolution for Returns of Amounts due on Lands purchased &c., which was seconded by Mr. De Cosmos, and carried.

Mr. Burnaby brought up his Resolution touching the Appointment of a Separate Governor for Vancouver Island which was seconded by Mr. Ridge and carried.

²³ Motion Book, p. 42: "At next meeting of the House That an Address be presented to His Excy. the Govr. praying that he will inform this House whether he has received any Official intimation from H.M.'s Govt. of the Actual appointment of a separate Governor for the Colony of Vancouver Island or whether he has received any further communication expressing the intention of H. M. Government in that respect more definitely than in the Despatch of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle already laid before this House—such information being necessary to enable this House practically to deal with the question of the Civil List."

²⁴ Motion Book, p. 43: "On Monday Oct. 26:h I will move That Returns from LightHouse Department be laid before the House Showing.

"1. Who constitute LightHouse Commissioners?

"2. Who is the Clerk of LightHouse Board?

"3. Who are the Keepers?

"4. What Salaries are paid & to whom?

"5. What is the expenditure of the Department for the Current fiscal year?"

Mr. Speaker then left the Chair and The House went into Committee of the Whole on "A Bill respecting Barristers and Attorneys at Law."

Mr. Street in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported the Bill agreed to with certain amendments and additions.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

Speaker

Monday, the 26th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Col. Foster, Drs. Tolmie, Powell, Trimble, and Messrs. Young, Street, Duncan, Ridge, De Cosmos, Dennes, Carswell.

The minutes of last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

Dr. Tolmie gave Notice of Motion—(vide Motion Book Page 43).²⁵

The House then went into Committee on the following Bills.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

The Cowichan and Comax Representation Act 1863.

It was moved by Mr. De Cosmos, seconded by Mr. Dennes, and carried that the word Comax be altered to Comox.

Moved by Dr. Helmcken Seconded by Mr. Duncan "That a Clause be added to the Bill enabling 'Alberni' to send a member to the House of Assembly."

[Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.]

The Chairman then reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered that the Report be received, and Leave granted.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on A Bill entitled "An Act to repeal the Vancouver Island Stamp Act, 1863."

Mr. Speaker then left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported the Bill complete.

Mr. Burnaby from the Committee on Private Bills reported favorably of the Petition of the Chamber of Commerce.

Ordered That said Petition be received.

Mr. De Cosmos presented a Petition from Mr. John Copland.

Ordered to be referred to Committee on Private Bills.

²⁵ Motion Book, p. 43: "I will at our next meeting move That an Address be presented to H. E. The Governor praying that this House may be prorogued for 24 hours in Order that the question of Union with British Columbia may be again taken up."

Mr. Ridge brought in a Bill to amend "An Act to provide for the naturalization of Aliens, 1862."

Mr. De Cosmos moved his Resolution praying for Returns from the Light house Department which was carried.

The House then adjourned to Wednesday next at 3. P. M.

Speaker.

Wednesday, the 28th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Col. Foster, Drs. Trimble, Powell, Tolmie, and Messrs. Ridge, Street, Duncan, Dennes, Burnaby, De Cosmos, Bayley, Carswell, W. A. G. Young.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

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

Vancouver Island—Victoria 27th Oct. 1863.

To, The Speaker and Gentlemen of The House of Assembly
Gentlemen,

I have the honor to inform The House with reference to its Resolution of the 23rd Instant That I have not received any Official information of the Appointment of another Governor for Vancouver Island; but I feel assured from private communication from Official Sources, that the Appointment has been made.

I have the honor to be &c. &c.

(Signed) James Douglas.

Vancouver Island

Victoria, Octr. 28th 1863

To The Speaker and Gentlemen of The House of Assembly
Gentlemen,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a Return of the Receipts, and Expenditure for the Magisterial Department of the District of Nanaimo for the period from 1st Jany. 1861 to 30th Sepr. 1863 as requested in the Resolution of the House of the 20th Instant.

I have the honor to be &c. &c.

James Douglas

Colony of Vancouver Island

Return of the Receipts and Expenditure for the Magisterial Department of the District of Nanaimo from 1st Jany. 1861 to 30th Sepr. 1863.

I. Receipts Nil.

II. Expenditure

Fees to Justice for year 1860.	243.90
Salary to Magistrate year 1861.	658.53
Do. Do. Do. Do. 1862.	609.75
Rent of Court House and Gaol to 31st Decr. 1862.	97.00
Salary to Magistrate year 1863.	921.25
Total Expenditure	2,530.43

(This amount includes \$121.25 arrears of 1862.)

(signed) A. W. Watson, Treasurer

Vancouver Island Treasury
23rd Octr. 1863.

Vancouver Island

Victoria, 26th Octr. 1863.

To, The Speaker and Gentlemen of The House of Assembly
Gentlemen,

In compliance with the Resolution of the House dated the 25th Instant, I have the honor to transmit herewith a Return of the Vancouver Coal Company's Land at Nanaimo, and of the Lands reserved for public purposes.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen &c. &c.

(Signed) James Douglas

Vancouver Island

Victoria 26th Octr. 1863

To The Speaker, and Gentlemen of The House of Assembly—
Gentlemen

With reference to the following Resolution of the House "That His Excellency The Governor be respectfully requested to lay before This House any information or correspondence relating to the erection of a Lighthouse for the Port of Nanaimo" I have the honor to acquaint you that no correspondence has taken place with reference to that object: the question of the erection of a Lighthouse at Nanaimo never having, to the best of my recollection, been under the general consideration of this Government.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen &c. &c.

(Signed) James Douglas.

Mr. Speaker read the following Message from the Legislative Council.

To The Speaker and Gentlemen of The House of Assembly
Gentlemen,

I have the honor to return herewith to Your Honble. House a Bill intituled "An Act for the Election of a Mayor and Councillors for the city of Victoria at the expiration of the period for which the present Mayor & Councillors are Elected," which, with the amendment, attached thereto has this day passed The Legislative Council.

I have &c. &c.

E. J. Nesbitt

Clk. of the Council

Dr. Trimble from the Committee on the Public Lands of the Colony reported "That B. W. Pearse Esqre. Acting Surveyor General refused on the 27th Inst. to produce on the Chairman's order, the Maps of the Colony before the Committee, and that he also absented himself with the consent of the Committee for about ten minutes but did not afterwards return."

Mr. De Cosmos then proposed the following Resolution.

That the Speaker's Warrant be issued forthwith to the Sergt. at Arms to take into Custody the Acting Surveyor General and to bring the Acting Surveyor General to the Bar of the House at 3. o'Clock tomorrow on a charge of not producing certain Maps ordered by the Committee on Crown Lands—and for non-appearance at the sitting of the said Committee, after being granted leave to retire for about ten minutes.

2ded by Dr. Trimble.

Col. Foster moved the following Amendment.

That the Report of Committee be referred back to the said Committee on Crown Lands for reconsideration,
2ded by Mr. Burnaby.

Mr. Speaker put the Resolution of Mr. De Cosmos, which was carried.

<i>Ayes</i> 7:	<i>Noes</i> 6:
Messrs. Bayley	Col. Foster
Dennes	Messrs. Ridge
De Cosmos	Young
Carswell	Burnaby
Duncan	Drs. Powell
Street	Tolmie
Dr. Trimble	

Dr. Tolmie, by permission, withdrew his motion on the Union of the Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

Mr. Burnaby applied for 3 weeks' leave of absence—which was granted.

Read 1st time Bill entitled the "Alien Act 1863."

Thursday, the 29th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Drs. Trimble, Tolmie, Powell, and Messrs. Street, Duncan, Bayley, Dennes, W. A. G. Young, Carswell.

The Minutes of last Meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Speaker said that he wished to explain to the House a circumstance affecting the Action proposed to be taken by the House in the matter of the alleged contempt on the part of the Honble. the Acting Surveyor General.

On the motion of Mr. Bayley The House was cleared of Strangers.²⁶

And after some discussion Mr. De Cosmos moved "That an humble Address be presented to H. Excy. The Governor asking that this House may be informed when B. W. Pearse Esqre. Acting Surveyor General was sworn in as a Member of the Legislative Council, stating the day, hour, and minute, and by whom he was sworn in."

Mr. Carswell seconded the motion—which was carried.

Mr. Ridge rose to explain that he had been misrepresented by the Press as having voted on the previous day on Col. Foster's amendment—the fact being that he did *not* vote [in the affirmative] on the occasion.²⁷

Dr. Tolmie moved "That the Resolution arrived at yesterday to bring before This House Mr. B. W. Pearse, Acting Surveyor General in the custody of the

²⁶ Marginal note: "Mr. Speaker here informed The House that since the Decision arrived at on the previous day by The House he had learned that B. W. Pearse Esq. Dep. Surveyor Genl. was a Member of the Legislative Council & that he had consequently not put his Warrant in force pending further reference to Honble. Members of this House. T. W. Horne Clerk H.A. Octr. 28th. 1863."

²⁷ The *Colonist*, 29 October 1863, incorrectly reported that Ridge had voted in the affirmative.

Serjeant at Arms under Warrant from the Speaker be rescinded, inasmuch as the House has been informed by Mr. Speaker that the Surveyor General is a member of the Upper House.”

Seconded by Mr. Young.

Mr. Bayley moved that the following words be added viz.:

And this House ask B. W. Pearse Esqre. to appear before this House, to explain.

Seconded by Mr. Tolmie and carried.

Positives:

Messrs. Tolmie
Young
Ridge
Powell
Street
Bayley

Negatives:

Messrs. De Cosmos
Carswell
Duncan
Dennes
Dr. Trimble

The Clerk of the House was then directed by the Speaker to request the presence of the Acting Surveyor General to explain.

Shortly afterwards Mr. B. W. Pearse made his appearance at the Bar of the House and by direction of Mr. Speaker was accommodated with a chair—and Having explained—Mr. De Cosmos moved “That the explanation of the Acting Surveyor General be accepted”—which was carried—and The Honble. The Acting Surveyor General retired.

Mr. Ridge gave notice of motion for tomorrow.²⁸

The House then adjourned to tomorrow Octr. 30th at 3. P. M.

Speaker

Friday, the 30th day of October, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Street, Ridge, Bayley, Dennes, Carswell, De Cosmos, Col. Foster, and Drs. Trimble, Tolmie, Powell.

Dr. Trimble from the Committee on the Public Lands of the Colony asked that the Committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place.

Mr. Speaker ruled that as Dr. Trimble did not make the request in consequence of any decision arrived at by the Committee, it would be more regular that, on the next meeting of the Committee, a resolution of that body should be made the basis of an application to the House.

²⁸ Motion Book, p. 43: “That a Humble Address be presented to H. E. the Govr. praying that he will be pleased to instruct the Acting Surveyor Genl. to place at the disposal of the Committee on Crown Lands all Maps Documents & Papers they may require to carry out the duties relating to inquiries on Crown Lands.”

Notices. Col. Foster gave notice of motion for next meeting—(remaining Despatches of H. G. the Duke of Newcastle.)

A Bill intituled the "Provisional Act for the Election of Mayor and Councillors 1863" was agreed to as amended by the Council.

Mr. Bayley gave notices of motion for next meeting (vide motion Book).²⁹

Mr. De Cosmos gave notice of his intention to move an Address at next meeting for Returns &s.

Mr. De Cosmos—That he would bring in a Bill on Thursday next, to amend "An Act to provide for the Administration of Oaths in the House of Assembly, and the production of Evidence before Committees of the same."

Ordered 3rd Reading of an "Act to repeal the Vancouver Island Stamp Act 1862" [and] "An Act respecting Barristers and Attornies at Law" on Monday next.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

The Committee took up the "Cowichan & Comax Bill."

After much discussion Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that the Committee having the Bill referred to them under their consideration, had agreed to the same as altered and amended.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Monday, the 2nd day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Drs. Trimble, Powell, Tolmie, Col. Foster, and Messrs. Young, Street, Duncan, Carswell, Ridge, De Cosmos, Bayley, Dennes.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

²⁹ Motion Book, p. 44: "On Monday next (Novr. 2nd) To ask for information regarding the Appointment of Postmaster for Nanaimo, and Returns from that Branch of the Revenue of this Colony.

"At next meeting of this House to ask for Information regarding the Appointment of the Acting Constable at Nanaimo; from whom he received his Authority and the Amount of Salary attached to his office (if any).

"At next Meeting of this House to ask for Information regarding the Burial Ground at Nanaimo whether any Land is set apart for such purpose—whether the Land in which now lie buried some thirty persons is consecrated ground or otherwise.

"At next Meeting of this House To ask that the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Magisterial Department of Nanaimo be laid before this House.

"At next meeting of this House to ask for Information regarding the Passage of a Bill constituting the Port of Nanaimo a Port of Entry."

Mr. De Cosmos gave notice of motion for Thursday next the 5th Inst.³⁰

Mr. De Cosmos—On Monday 16th Instant to move An Address to His Excy. the Governor (on mines of Vancouver Island).³¹

Mr. Bayley brought forward his Resolution

That An humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that information may be afforded to This House regarding the appointment of the Acting Constable at Nanaimo from whom he received his Authority, and the amount of Salary attached to his office (if any).

Seconded by Mr. De Cosmos and carried.

Mr. De Cosmos Brought up his Resolution.

That an Address be presented to His Excy. The Governor, praying that a Copy of the Letter of the Colonial Secretary sent by command of his Excellency the Governor to the Acting Surveyor General relative to the non-production of the Maps before the Committee on Crown Lands, be laid before the House.

2nded by Mr. Ridge, and carried.

Mr. Bayley Brought up his Resolution.

That His Excellency the Governor be prayed to cause to be laid before this House the minutes of the Proceedings of the Magisterial Department of Nanaimo for the last two years.

2nded by Mr. Dennes.

Mr. De Cosmos proposed as an Amendment "That a List of the cases tried, and fines and fees collected" be substituted.

Mr. Bayley accepted the Amendment which was put, and carried.

Mr. Bayley Brought up the following Resolution which was seconded by Mr. De Cosmos and carried.

That His Excellency The Governor be respectfully prayed to cause to be laid before this House, information regarding the Appointment of Post Master for Nanaimo, and Returns from that Branch of the Revenue of this Colony.

Mr. Bayley Brought up the following Resolution.

That His Excellency be prayed to cause to be laid before this House information regarding the Burial Ground at Nanaimo, whether any Land is set apart for such purpose Whether the Land in which now lie buried some 30 persons is consecrated ground or otherwise.

2nded by Mr. Dennes and carried.

Dr. Trimble from the Committee on Crown Lands reported, that The Committee asked leave to adjourn from time to time, and from place to place.

The question "that leave be granted," was put, and carried unanimously. Leave granted.

³⁰ Motion Book, p. 46: "On Thursday next 5th Novr. I will ask leave to bring in a Bill entitled 'An Act to Amend the Bills of Sale Act 1861'."

³¹ Motion Book, p. 46: "On Monday Novr. 16th I will move that An humble Address be presented to H. E. the Govr. Praying that he will be pleased to issue a Proclamation as early as possible setting forth Conditions on which Gold Copper in Quartz, or other veinstone may be taken up, held, and worked; and also the conditions on which placer gold diggings may be taken up, & worked."

Colonel Foster brought up his Resolution.

That this House, in Committee of the Whole, at an early day take into consideration the Despatches of H. Grace the Duke of Newcastle alluded to in His Excellency's opening Speech to this House, which have been submitted to our consideration by His Excellency the Governor.

Which was seconded by Mr. De Cosmos and carried.

Mr. Speaker named Monday next as the day for going into Committee of the Whole on the above.

On the motion of Mr. De Cosmos The "Representation Extension Bill" was recommitted.

Bills read a 3rd time and passed.

The Legal Profession Act 1863.

Act to repeal Vancouver Island Stamp Act 1862.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Pilot Bill.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Leave granted.

"A Bill to incorporate the Chamber of Commerce" was read a 1st time, and referred to the Committee on Private Bills.

The House then adjourned to tomorrow Novr. 3rd at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Dennes, Street, De Cosmos, Bayley, Carswell, W. A. G. Young, and Drs. Tolmie, Powell.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Street from the Committee on the Roads of the Colony asked

1. That power be given to the Committee on Roads, to enquire into the Expenditure on Roads, commencing from the Estimates for 1861.
2. Power to enquire into all contracts entered into, and carried out on the Roads in the Colony, and all payments made thereon.
3. Power to call for persons, papers and documents.
4. That power be granted to adjourn from place to place.

Question put and carried.

Leave granted.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Pilot Bill.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That leave be granted.

Speaker.

Thursday, the 5th day of November, 1863

There being no Quorum There was no House this day.

Friday, the 6th day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Dr. Powell, and Messrs. Young, Bayley, De Cosmos.

Mr. Speaker read a Letter from His Excellency The Governor recommending the Appropriation of one Thousand Dollars to cover the expense of internal fittings necessary to render the New Court House fit for occupation, said appropriation to be included in a Supplemental Estimate.

Also Copy of a Letter addressed by the Colonial Secretary to the Acting Surveyor General, touching the production of the maps of the Colony &c. before the Committee on Crown Lands, transmitted by H. E. The Governor in compliance with the request of the House contained in its Resolution of the 2nd Instant.

Also A Letter from His Excellency The Governor in reply to Mr. Speaker's Letter of 28th ultimo (requesting information in reference to certain Proceedings of the Legislative Council) informing the House that He had caused a Copy of Mr. Speaker's Letter to be transmitted to the President of the Council.

Notice. Mr. Young gave notice that he would move at next meeting of the House "That the House do take into consideration the suggestion of H. E. the Governor with reference to the appropriation of one Thousand Dollars for the furnishing of the New Court House."

Mr. De Cosmos moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Bills of Sale Act 1861.

Leave granted.

Also A Bill to amend an "Act for the Administration of Oaths in the House of Assembly," and Evidence before Committees of the same.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the following Bills.

“Pilot Bill” and Writs of “Capias restriction Act.”

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported the above Bills agreed to as altered and amended.

Speaker

Monday, the 9th day of November, 1863

This being the Anniversary of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales the House did not meet.

Speaker

Tuesday, the 10th day of November, 1863

The House met this day at 3 p. m.

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Messrs. Young, De Cosmos, Jackson, Ridge, Dennes, and Dr. Trimble.

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

Mr. Ridge moved that a day be named for the 2nd Reading of the Bill to amend the “Act to provide for the naturalisation of Aliens.”

Mr. Speaker appointed Friday next.

The following Bills were then read, as amended in Committee; and agreed to viz.:

“Pilot Act” and “Writs of ne exeat Regno restriction Act” and ordered to be read a third time on Friday next.

Mr. De Cosmos moved and Mr. Ridge seconded That A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Bills of Sale Act 1861” be read a 1st time.

Carried.

Bill read 1st time and ordered to go to a 2nd Reading.

Also a Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Act to provide for the Administration of Oaths in The House of Assembly, and the production of Evidence before the same.”

Mr. Ridge seconded.

Carried.

Bill read a 1st time, and ordered to go to a 2nd Reading.

Both Bills were then ordered to be printed.

Mr. Young moved that the House do take into its consideration tomorrow, the suggestion of His Excellency The Governor with reference to the appropriation of one thousand Dollars for the purpose of providing furniture for the new Court House.

Mr. De Cosmos seconded.

So ordered, and that the "Cowichan, Comax, and Alberni Registration Act" be then taken up.

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. P. M.

Speaker

Wednesday, the 11th day of November, 1863

The House met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, A. De Cosmos, Street, Carswell, Dennes, Drs. Trimble, Powell, and Col. Foster.

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

Dr. Trimble from the Committee on Crown Lands reported that the Committee had resolved to apply to the House for the services of a shorthand writer.

Dr. Trimble, after some discussion, put the resolution following.

That a shorthand writer be appointed to attend the Committee on Crown Lands.

Mr. Bayley seconded.

Motion carried.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Powell in the Chair of the Committee.

The Committee took into its consideration the Communication of His Excellency the Governor recommending the appropriation of a sum of money to furnish the New Court House.

Also Colonel Foster's Resolution on the Despatches of H. G. the Duke of Newcastle.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that the Committee having had under consideration the communication of His Excellency the Governor had agreed to an appropriation of a sum of \$900. for the purpose mentioned therein and with reference to the Resolution of the Honble. Member for Esquimalt Town the Committee report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Ordered That Report be received, and Leave granted.

Mr. Young gave notice of motion for Monday next.³²

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. P. M.

Speaker.

³² Motion Book, p. 47: "That a Committee be appointed to draft a Memorial to H. M. Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies praying That H. M.'s Govt. will take steps for providing a direct Steam Communication from Panama to these Colonies."

Monday, the 16th day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Col. Foster, Drs. Trimble, Powell, and Messrs. Jackson, Duncan, Bayley, Ridge, De Cosmos, W. A. G. Young, Carswell, Dennes.

Dr. Trimble from the Committee on the Public Lands of the Colony reported that Mr. Gastineau who had been summoned to appear before said Committee had failed to obey,³³ and requested that Mr. Speaker would point out the proper course to be taken by the Committee in the matter.

The Chairman also reported that another witness Mr. McTavish had not attended but had signified his readiness to attend whenever required so to do. It had come to his knowledge that Mr. McTavish was about to leave the Colony by next Mail Steamer & therefore he submitted the matter for the consideration of the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker said he would take the matter into consideration.

Col. Foster from the Committee on Private Bills Reported that in re John Copland, the proper formalities and requirements had been complied with, and the Petition is one which ought to be entertained.³⁴

Ordered to be received.

Bill read a 3rd time and passed—viz. "Bill To restrain Writs of ne exeat Regno," &c.

On motion of Mr. Bayley 2nded by Mr. Duncan "The Pilot Bill for Victoria" was recommitted—Mr. De Cosmos alone voting for the 3rd Reading.

Bill read a second time.

A Bill to provide for the Naturalisation of Aliens.

It was moved by Dr. Trimble—2nded by Mr. Dennes—That Bill be read a 2nd time this day six months.

For 2nd Reading of the Bill: 7

Col. Foster
Dr. Powell
Messrs. Jackson
Ridge
Bayley
De Cosmos
W. A. G. Young

For the Amendment: 4

Dr. Trimble
Messrs. Dennes
Carswell
Duncan

Original motion carried.

³³ John Gastineau, C.E., who was employed by Dugald McTavish of the Hudson's Bay Company to survey the Government Reserve in James Bay in 1858, refused to attend the hearing of the committee "except under payment." *Chronicle*, 20 November 1863. For his subsequent testimony before the Committee, see *Minutes of Proceedings of a Select Committee of the House of Assembly, Appointed to Inquire into the Present Condition of the Crown Lands of the Colony* . . . (Victoria: Printed by Harries and Company, 1864).

³⁴ An attorney from Scotland, Copland petitioned for permission to practice in Vancouver Island. For further information see Dorothy Blakey Smith, ed., "The Journal of Arthur Thomas Bushby, 1858-1859," *BCHQ*, XXI (January-October, 1957-58), 168-69.

Mr. Young obtained permission of the House to postpone the motion of which he had given notice (on the subject of Steam Communication with England) until after the Duke of Newcastle's Despatches shall have been brought under discussion.

Mr. De Cosmos also obtained leave to postpone the motion of which he had given notice.³⁵

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Despatches of H. G. The Duke of Newcastle referring to overland Telegraphic Communication with Canada.

Committee rose.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Report received.

Leave granted and the House adjourned to Wednesday next at 3 P.M.³⁶

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Thursday, the 19th day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Dr. Trimble, and Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Street, Duncan, Dennes, De Cosmos.

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

Mr. Speaker said that with reference to the Report of the Committee on Public Lands of the Colony, as submitted to him at last meeting, by its Chairman;

That Committee having power to send for persons, Documents & Records, had full power to summon Witnesses, who were bound to obey the Summons of such Committee, though no tender of payment of expenses should have been previously made and that no payment of expenses was allowed except in cases of unusual difficulty—such as when persons were summoned from a great distance &c.

With reference to the case of Mr. McTavish that Gentleman had subsequently attended at the Committee Room, but there being no 'quorum,' his attendance was in vain.

Mr. Street from the Committee on the "Public Roads of the Colony" reported the difficulty the Committee experienced from the Absence of a Clerk of Committee.

³⁵ The *Colonist*, 17 November 1863: "De Cosmos asked leave to postpone his motion for a request to His Excellency in reference to a proclamation on the mineral lands of the Colony. Granted."

³⁶ According to the *Colonist*, 19 November 1863, "A large number of the members were present yesterday [Wednesday] afternoon, but as His Honor the Chief Justice was anxious to finish the Oppenheimer case, the Speaker postponed the meeting of the House till to-day."

Dr. Trimble reported that Committee on the Public Lands of the Colony were greatly impeded by the difficulty of obtaining so large a quorum as 5, and moved "That 'Three' be substituted for 'five' as a quorum."

2nded by Mr. Duncan, and carried.

Mr. De Cosmos Brought up his Resolution of which he had given notice on the 2nd Instant.

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency The Governor praying that he may be pleased to issue a Proclamation as early as possible setting forth the conditions on which Gold, and Copper, in Quartz and other vein-stone may be taken up and worked; the conditions on which Coal mines may be taken up and worked; and some Regulations with reference to placer gold diggings if deemed desirable; and that the Mining Regulations so issued may be framed so as to offer inducements to labor and capital to engage in rendering the mines of the Colony productive.

2nded by Mr. Street, and carried.

Dr. Trimble brought up his Resolution.

That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor asking for Copies of any Despatches that have passed between H. M.'s Government and the Colonial Government, together with the Documents connected therewith, upon the subject of the manner in which the Land at Victoria commonly known as the "Church Reserve" shall be dealt with.

2nded by Mr. Duncan, and carried.

Mr. Duncan gave notice of motion for next meeting.³⁷

The Despatch of H. G. the Duke of Newcastle was not discussed in consequence of the small attendance of members.

Ordered That the "Pilot Bill" and the "Cowichan, Comax, & Alberni Representation Bill" be taken up in Committee of the Whole tomorrow, or at next meeting.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Wednesday, the 25th day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Col. Foster, Dr. Tolmie, and Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Duncan, De Cosmos, Dennes, Carswell.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Duncan brought up the following Resolution of which he had given previous notice—viz.:

That an Address be presented to His Excellency The Governor requesting Copies of any Despatches relative to the Crown Lands which may have arrived subsequently to those already before the House.

Seconded by Mr. Carswell and carried.

³⁷ Motion Book, p. 47: "That an Address be presented to His Excy. requesting Copies of any Despatches relative to the Crown Lands, which may have arrived since those already before the House."

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Despatch of H. G. The Duke of Newcastle on Telegraphic and Postal Communication between Lake Superior and New Westminster.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that The Committee having had under its consideration the above Despatch had passed the following Resolution.

That this House having taken into consideration the Despatches, and Papers laid before it relating to the construction of a Postal and Telegraphic communication from Lake Superior to New Westminster, is (although regarding such a Project with warm interest) unable to arrive at a decision in the matter, until it may be ascertained what course will be taken in respect of such project by the Canadian, and other Legislatures in the Eastern Provinces interested therein— and That a copy of this Resolution be sent to H. E. The Governor for transmission to H. M.'s Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Bills ordered to be read a second time on Friday next Entitled "The Legislative Oaths Act 1863" [and] "Bills of Sale Amendment Act 1863."

Bills recommitted, to be taken up in Committee of the Whole at next meeting.

Pilot Bill 1863.

Cowichan, Comax, & Alberni Representation Act 1863.

Speaker

Thursday, the 26th day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Messrs. Ridge, Carswell, De Cosmos, Bayley, Dennes, Duncan, Burnaby, Street, and Drs. Trimble, Powell.

The Minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The Petition of John Copland was brought up, and, on the motion of Mr. De Cosmos—2ded by Mr. Duncan—Read a 1st time and ordered to be read a second time at next Meeting of the House.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Pilot Bill.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported the Bill complete with amendments and additions.

Ordered That the Report be received, and the Bill brought up for 3rd Reading at next meeting.

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. p. m.

J. S. Helmcken

Speaker.

Friday, the 27th day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Messrs. De Cosmos, Street, Dennes, Young, and Dr. Tolmie.

The minutes of Last meeting having been read and confirmed.

The following Bills were read a second time and committed viz.:

The Legislature Oaths Act 1863 and A Bill entitled an Act to amend the Bills of Sale Act 1861.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from H. Ecy. the Governor giving cover to a Report from the Magistrate at Nanaimo touching the appointment duties, and emoluments, of the Constable of that place.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

The Committee then took up the Cowichan, Comox, & Alberni Representation Bill.

Also the Fireman's Exemption Bill 1863.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that the Committee having had under consideration the Bills submitted to them had agreed to the former Bill with amendments, and additions—and with reference to the latter, had made progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered That the Report be received, and Leave granted.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Monday, the 30th day of November, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Duncan, Carswell, Dennes, De Cosmos, Bayley, Street, and Drs. Powell, Tolmie.

Mr. Duncan gave notice of motion for Monday next Decr. 6th [7th] (vide notice Book.)³⁸

³⁸ Motion Book, p. 48: "On Monday Decr. 6th [7th] 1863 I will ask leave to bring in a Bill entitled an Act to prevent the unauthorized issue of Bank Notes & Paper Currency."

Mr. De Cosmos—notice of motion next meeting—also for Friday Decr. 3rd [4th]—also for Monday Decr. 6th [7th] vide Notice Book.³⁹

Mr. Young brought up the Resolution of which he had given notice “That a Committee be appointed to draft a Memorial to H. M.’s Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, or to take the necessary preliminary measures with respect thereto, praying that H. M.’s Government will take steps for providing a direct Steam Communication from Panama to their Colonies.

Which was seconded by Mr. Duncan and carried.

Mr. Speaker ordered the following Committee in accordance with the above Resolution viz.: Messrs. Young, Burnaby, and Ridge.

The following Bills were read a 3rd time and passed.

The Pilot Bill 1863.

The Representation Extension Bill 1863.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on “The Fireman’s Act 1863.”

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that The Committee having had under consideration the Bill submitted to them had, after making amendments and additions, agreed to the same.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Tuesday, the 1st day of December, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Messrs. Burnaby, De Cosmos, Duncan, Dennes, Bayley, Ridge, Young, Carswell, Street, and Drs. Trimble, Powell, Tolmie.

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

Mr. De Cosmos—pursuant to notice, moved for leave to bring in a Bill entitled “an Act to grant jurisdiction to Justices of the Peace in Civil Cases.”

The motion was seconded by Mr. Duncan, and carried.

Ordered That leave be granted.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on “The Alien Bill 1863.”

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

³⁹ Motion Book, p. 47: “On Tuesday Decr. 1, 1863 I will ask leave to bring in a Bill entitled ‘An Act to grant jurisdiction to Justices of the Peace in Civil Cases.’”

Motion Book, p. 48: “On Friday Decr. 3rd [4th] I will move that the House fix a day to go into Committee of the Whole with the object of considering the expediency of framing a new Act granting Licenses for the sale of Liquor and reducing the rates of the same.”

Motion Book, p. 48: “On Monday Decr. 6th [7th]/63 I will ask the House to fix a day to go into Committee of the Whole to consider the expediency of taking preliminary Steps to secure a reciprocity Treaty between this Colony & British Columbia & the United States of America.”

Dr. Powell in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that he had no Report to make.

Dr. Tolmie gave notice of motion for Monday 7th December Instant—(vide Notice Book).⁴⁰

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. P. M.

Speaker

Wednesday, the 2nd day of December, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Colonel Foster, and Messrs. W. A. G. Young, Street, Carswell, De Cosmos, Bayley, Dennes.

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

Victoria 2nd Decr. 1863

To The Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly
Gentlemen,

With reference to the Resolution of the House of the 25th ultimo I have the honor to transmit herewith further correspondence on the subject of the conveyance to the Crown of certain Lands by the Hudson Bay Co. subsequent to the correspondence upon the same subject laid before the House with my message of the 15th Sept. last.

I have the honor to be &c. &c.

(Signed) James Douglas

Ordered That the correspondence above referred to be printed.⁴¹

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the following Bills.

An Act to amend the Bills of Sale Act 1861.

An Act to provide for the Administration of Oaths in the House of Assembly &c.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Duncan in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported the above Bills agreed to with amendments and additions.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

⁴⁰ Motion Book, p. 48: "I give Notice that I will on Monday 7th December ask the House to appoint a day for going into Committee of the Whole to consider the propriety of memorializing H. G. the Duke of Newcastle as to the necessity of early measures for the fortification of Esquimalt Harbor."

⁴¹ *Correspondence upon the Subject of the Conveyance to the Crown of Certain Lands by the Hudson's Bay Company* . . . (Victoria: "Daily Chronicle" Office, 1863).

Friday, the 4th day of December, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Colonel Foster, and Messrs. Young, Ridge, Street, De Cosmos, Bayley, Duncan.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Colonel Foster from the Committee on Private Bills, reported the following Bills in due form, and that all the requirements of the Standing Orders of the House had been complied with, and that the Committee recommend that the House do entertain the same favorably—viz.:

A Bill to incorporate the Chamber of Commerce of Victoria V. I.

A Bill entitled "An Act for the relief of John Copland."

Ordered That above Bills be read a 1st time at next meeting.

With reference to the Petition of the "Independent Order of Good Templars of Victoria V. I." The Committee, on examination, finds that the Petition is too indefinite in its character for the Committee to arrive at any conclusion with regard to its objects or requirements and recommends that it be refused.

The Fireman's Protection Act 1863 was then brought up, read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Speaker read a Communication from His Excellency The Governor announcing to the House that Mr. Horne has tendered his resignation of the Office of Clerk of the House, and that H. E. had been pleased to accept the same.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Monday, the 7th day of December, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Drs. Trimble, Powell, Col. Foster, and Messrs. Burnaby, Ridge, Duncan, De Cosmos, Dennes, Carswell, Bayley, Young.

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

Mr. Speaker read the following Communication from His Excellency The Governor.

To, the Speaker and Gentlemen of The Legislative Assembly—
Gentlemen,

I have the honor to transmit herewith for the information of the House the Copy of an Order in Council dated 12th day of September 1863, approving and confirming certain Acts therein enumerated, passed by the Legislature of Vancouver Island.

I have the honor to be &c. &c.
(sd.) James Douglas

Acts above referred to.

No. 78. An Act to declare the Law relating to Bankruptcy and Insolvency in Vancouver Island & its Dependencies.

No. 79. An Act for the regulation of the Harbors of Vancouver Island.

No. 80. An Act for consolidating in one Act certain Provisions usually inserted in Acts authorising the taking of Lands for undertakings of a public nature.

No. 81. An Act for consolidating in one Act certain Provisions usually inserted in Acts, authorising the making of Railways.

No. 82. An Act to declare the validity of Debentures issued by the Municipal Court of Victoria.

No. 83. An Act to declare the denominations to be used in the various Stamps issued under the Stamp Act, 1862.

No. 84. An Act to declare the Fees, Licences, & Dues payable for the entrance, & clearance of Vessels, and for permits for landing goods, and for licenses to Scows, Boats and other Small Craft, in the Ports of entry in Vancouver Island other than Victoria and Esquimalt.

Mr. Ridge gave notice that he would move at next meeting of the House that the House proceed to act upon the communication from His Excellency the Governor touching the appointment of a successor to present Clerk of this House.

The following Bills were brought up, read a third time, and passed—viz.:

A Bill entitled "an Act to amend the Bills of Sale Act 1861."

A Bill entitled "an Act to provide for the Administration of Oaths in the House of Assembly, and the production of Evidence before Committees of the Same."

Mr. De Cosmos, pursuant to Notice, brought up his Resolution asking leave to bring in a Bill entitled "an Act to grant jurisdiction to Justices of the Peace in civil cases" which was 2nded by Dr. Trimble, & carried.

Leave granted.

Bill read 1st time.

Mr. Duncan obtained leave to bring in a Bill entitled "An Act to prevent the unauthorised issue of Bank Notes and Paper Currency"—which was also read 1st time, and Both Bills were ordered to be printed.

Mr. De Cosmos, pursuant to notice, moved "That the House go into Committee of the Whole with the object of considering the expediency of framing another Liquor License Act as a Substitute for those Acts now in force &c."

2nded by Mr. Dennes—and carried.

Friday next was named as the day on which the House would go into Committee on the same.

Also That this House go into Committee of the whole on Friday next, for the purpose of considering the expediency of taking preliminary Steps to

secure a reciprocity Treaty between this Colony and British Columbia, and the United States of America.

2nded by Mr. Duncan—and, carried.

Friday next appointed.

Mr. Duncan gave Notice of Motion for Monday next.⁴²

Wednesday next was appointed for proceeding with 2nd reading of the Bills brought up from the Private Bills Committee.

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Wednesday, the 9th day of December, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Drs. Trimble, Powell, Tolmie, Col. Foster, and Messrs. Burnaby, Ridge, De Cosmos, Street, Duncan, Dennes, Bayley.

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

Dr. Tolmie pursuant to previous notice, brought up his Resolution.

That This House do appoint a day for going into Committee of the whole to consider the propriety of memorialising H. G. The Duke of Newcastle as to the necessity of early measures for the fortification of Esquimalt harbor.

Mr. De Cosmos seconded.

Mr. Speaker named Friday week next for going into Committee on the above.

Mr. Dennes gave Notice of Motion for Friday the 18th Decr. Instant.⁴³

The following Bills were read a Second time, and Committed; viz.:

A Bill to Incorporate the Chamber of Commerce and

A Bill for the Relief of John Copland.

The House then went into Committee of the whole on His Excellency's Message with reference to the Appointment of a Successor to the present Clerk of the House.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Powell in the Chair of the Committee.

His Excellency's message having been read Dr. Trimble moved the following Resolution.

That it is the undoubted Right of this House to elect its own Clerk, and all the officers thereunto belonging.

Col. Foster moved as an Amendment.

⁴² Motion Book, p. 49: "That I shall on Monday next Move that this House go into Committee of the Whole at an early date to consider the propriety of Establishing a Govt. Assay Office in Victoria."

⁴³ Motion Book, p. 49: "I give notice That I shall on Friday the 18th Instant ask leave to bring in a Bill for the more easy recovery of small Debts & Demands."

That this House decides that the nomination of Clerk to the House of Assembly rests in the hands of the Executive at the recommendation of Mr. Speaker.

Dr. Tolmie seconded the Amendment.

The Chairman then put the Resolution of Dr. Trimble.

<i>Ayes:</i>	<i>Noes:</i>
Dr. Trimble	Col. Foster
Messrs. De Cosmos	Drs. Helmcken
Street	Tolmie
Duncan	Messrs. Burnaby
Ridge	W. A. G. Young
	Dennes

Ayes 5, Noes 6.

Resolution lost.

Col. Foster's Amendment was then put.

<i>Ayes:</i>	<i>Noes:</i>
Drs. Helmcken	Dr. Trimble
Tolmie	Messrs. De Cosmos
Col. Foster	Street
Messrs. Burnaby	Duncan
W. A. G. Young	Ridge
Dennes	

Ayes 6, Noes 5.

Col. Foster's Amendment was accordingly carried.

The Committee then rose.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that the Committee having had under its consideration the subject submitted to it in the Communication of H. E. The Governor, referring to the appointment of a Clerk of the House of Assembly, is of opinion:

That the nomination of a Clerk of the House of Assembly rests in the hands of the Executive, at the recommendation of Mr. Speaker.

Ordered That the Report be adopted.

The House then adjourned to Monday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Monday, the 14th day of December, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Drs. Powell, Tolmie, and Messrs. Street, Duncan, Dennes, De Cosmos, Ridge, Young, Bayley.

The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed.

Mr. Speaker read a message from His Excellency the Governor accompanying certain Returns applied for by the House relating to the Lighthouses of the Colony.

Also a communication from His Excellency giving cover to certain Documents in connexion with Mail Steam Communication with Panama.

Mr. De Cosmos moved that Friday next be named as the day on which the last named communication be considered by the House.

It was so ordered.

Mr. Dennes gave notice of motion for Monday 21st Instant.⁴⁴

Mr. De Cosmos, with permission brought in a Petition from the Order of Good Templars which was referred to the Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. Duncan pursuant to previous notice, moved that this House go into Committee of the Whole this day week to consider the propriety of establishing a Government Assay Office in Victoria.

2nded by Mr. Dennes and carried.

Wednesday next was fixed as the day on which the following Bills received from the Private Bills Committee shall be taken up by the House in Committee of the Whole, viz.:

A Bill to Incorporate The Chamber of Commerce.

A Bill for the Relief of Mr. John Copland.

The House then went into Committee of the whole on the subject of "The Reciprocity Treaty" proposed by Mr. De Cosmos.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bayley in the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that the Committee had made Progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Leave granted.

The House then adjourned to tomorrow at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

Tuesday, the 15th day of December, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Dr. Powell, and Messrs. Young, De Cosmos, Dennes, Carswell, Street, Bayley, Duncan.

The last minutes having been read, and confirmed.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the adjourned Debate on The Reciprocity Treaty with the United States.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Dr. Powell in the Chair of the Committee.

⁴⁴ Motion Book, p. 49: "That I shall on Monday 21st Decr. Inst. ask leave to introduce a Bill to prevent unqualified persons from drawing Conveyances."

Mr. De Cosmos brought forward the following Resolutions—viz.

1. Resolved That This House is of opinion that a Treaty, establishing unrestricted commerce, and navigation, between this Colony, and the United States of America, would be mutually advantageous.

2. Resolved That the Government of British Columbia be invited to cooperate with the Government of this Colony in order to secure a reciprocity Treaty between both Colonies and the United States of America, on satisfactory terms to all the parties concerned.

3. Resolved That the Governor be requested to take steps either by the Appointment of Delegates or otherwise as he may deem expedient, to communicate the wishes of this House to the Government of British Columbia, and otherwise to secure the speedy establishment of a reciprocal Commercial Treaty between this Colony and the United States of America.

Dr. Helmcken had great pleasure in seconding the Honble. Mover of the Resolutions. The Treaty contemplated would tend greatly to bring about a Union of the Colonies of British Columbia, and Vancouver Island.

Mr. Young, and other Honble. members also spoke in favor of the Treaty.

The first Section was then put, and carried unanimously.

Second Section put and Carried (dissentiente Mr. Bayley).

Third Section put, and carried unanimously.

The Committee then rose.

Mr. Speaker took the Chair.

The Chairman reported the foregoing Resolutions as carried, and agreed to as a Whole.

Ordered That Report be adopted and a Copy of the same forwarded to His Excellency The Governor.

The House then adjourned to Friday next at 3. P. M.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker

Friday, the 18th day of December, 1863

There being no Quorum, there was no Meeting of the House this day.

Speaker

Monday, the 21st day of December, 1863

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

Present: Mr. Speaker in the Chair, Messrs. Burnaby, W. A. G. Young, Chs. Ridge, Dennes, Duncan, De Cosmos, Carswell, Dr. Powell, and Col. Foster.

The last minutes having been read, and confirmed.

Mr. Speaker read a Communication from the Legislative Council giving cover to a Bill intituled "An Act to amend an Act entitled An Act for the Protection of Wooden Bridges in Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies" which had been read a 3rd time and passed the Council on the 17th Instant.

Mr. Ridge gave notice of motion (vide Notice Book Page 49.).⁴⁵

Mr. Young moved that the Standing Orders of the House be suspended in order that a Bill might be introduced to indemnify the Mayor and Corporation of Victoria.

2ded by Mr. Burnaby, and carried unanimously.

The Standing Orders having been suspended accordingly, "A Bill to indemnify the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria" was introduced by Mr. Young, and read a 1st and 2nd time.

It was further committed on the 2nd Reading.

Mr. Young further moved That leave be granted to introduce "A Bill to render valid the collection of Licenses, and Assessments by the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Victoria."

Also "A Bill to enable the Governor to apply certain monies to the redemption of Municipal Debentures."

Leave granted, and Bills read a 1st time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Dennes asked leave to postpone the motions of which he'd given notice till after the holidays.

Leave granted.

On the motion of Mr. Duncan 2ded by Mr. De Cosmos—The "Bank Note Act, 1863" was read a Second time, and committed.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Dr. Powell in the Chair of the Committee.

The Committee took up "A Bill to Incorporate the Chamber of Commerce"—which was agreed to without alteration or amendment.

Also "A Bill for the relief of John Copland"—which was agreed to as amended.

The Standing Orders having been suspended the Committee then took up the "Bill to indemnify the Mayor and Town Councillors of Victoria."

The Committee then rose.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported that, having had under consideration the Several Bills submitted to it, The Committee had agreed to the "Bill to incorporate the Chamber of Commerce" without alteration or amendment.

Also that it had agreed to, as amended, "A Bill to relieve John Copland."

That it had agreed to, without alteration, or amendment, "A Bill for indemnifying the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Victoria."

Ordered That the Report be received.

The last named Bill was then read a 3rd time and passed.

Mr. Speaker then adjourned the House to the 7th day of January next.

J. S. Helmcken
Speaker.

⁴⁵ Motion Book, p. 49: "To bring in a Bill entitled an Act to provide a Summary Remedy in cases of Default in the performance of labor & the non-payment of composition under the Road Act 1860."