

8 CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

Encl. 1, in No. 9.

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WHEREAS it having pleased Her most Gracious Majesty, our Lady the Queen, in a commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; constituting me, James Douglas, Governor of Vancouver's Island and its dependencies, to authorise, empower, and command me in the manner and terms following; to wit,

We do hereby give and grant unto you full power and authority, with the advice and consent of our said Council, from time to time as need shall require, to summon and call general assemblies of the inhabitants, owning 20 or more acres of freehold land, within the said island and its dependencies under your Government, in such manner and form, and according to such powers, instructions, and authorities as shall be at any time hereafter granted or appointed under our sign manual and signet, or by our order in our Privy Council, or by us, through one of our principal Secretaries of State, and our will and pleasure is, that the persons thereupon duly elected by the major part of the said freeholders, and so returned, shall, before their sitting, take the oath of allegiance; which oath you shall commission fit persons under the public seal of our said island and its dependencies, to tender and administer unto them, and until the same shall be so taken, no person shall be capable of sitting, though elected.

And we do hereby declare, that the persons so elected and qualified, shall be called and deemed the General Assembly of our said island of Vancouver.

And whereas, Her most Gracious Majesty, having further in her aforesaid instructions in that behalf, commanded and authorised me in the terms and manner following, viz:—

You are therefore for the purpose of electing the members of such assemblies, hereby authorised to issue a proclamation, declaring the number of representatives to be chosen by such freeholders, to serve in the said General Assembly, and if you should see fit, dividing our said island and its dependencies into districts or counties, towns or townships, and declaring the number of representatives to be chosen by each of such districts or counties, towns or townships respectively.

And you are hereby authorised and empowered to nominate and appoint proper persons to execute the office of returning officer in the said island, or in such districts or counties, towns or townships respectively; and you are, as soon as you shall see expedient, to issue writs in our name, directed to the proper officers in the said island, or the proper officers in such districts or counties, towns or townships respectively, directing them to summon the aforesaid freeholders to proceed to the election of persons to represent them in the General Assembly, according to the regulations and directions to be signified in the proclamation to be issued by you as aforesaid.

Now let it be known unto all Her Majesty's loving subjects of Vancouver's Island, and its dependencies, that I, James Douglas, Governor of the said island and its dependencies, with the advice and consent of the Council, have issued out writs in due form and according to law, calling a general assembly of the freeholders aforesaid of Vancouver's Island and its dependencies, for the purpose of electing members to serve in the said General Assembly, which writs are to be returnable on Monday the 4th day of August next, and that the said election shall be held at the several precincts hereinafter appointed and named.

And also, that the said freeholders shall thereupon proceed to elect seven fit and discreet persons to serve in the said General Assembly.

And also, that we have divided the said island and its dependencies into districts, as follows; to wit,

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| District of Victoria. | | District of Nanaimo. |
| District of Esquimalt and Metchosen. | | District of Soke. |

And also, that the number of representatives shall be as follows; to wit,

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| District of Victoria | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 members. |
| District of Esquimalt and Metchosen | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 members. |
| District of Nanaimo | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 member. |
| District of Soke | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 member. |

And also, that we have hereby constituted and appointed the following persons returning officers for the aforesaid districts; to wit,

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Andrew Muir | - | - | - | Victoria District. |
| Herbert W. O. Margary | - | - | - | Esquimalt and Metchosen District. |
| Charles E. Stuart | - | - | - | Nanaimo District. |
| John Muir, jun. | - | - | - | Soke District. |

And