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CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AND

THE TREASURER OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

*ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ABOLITION OF THE
OFFICE OF TREASURER.*

1866-1867.

GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Government House, New Westminster,
13th November 1866.*

DEAR SIR,—You are aware that the office you now hold will be abolished by Act of Parliament as soon as the proclamation uniting the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia shall have issued.

Circumstances and financial difficulties will, I deeply regret to say, compel me to effect considerable reduction in the public expenditure, and consequently in the double staff of Government Officers now existing in the two Colonies; but I have the permission of the Secretary of State to assure you that the reduction will not fall exclusively on the public servants of Vancouver Island. The Queen's prerogative of appointment to office is unfettered by the Act to which Her Majesty has assented.

It will be my duty to submit to Her Majesty's Secretary of State the names of the gentlemen whom I may consider best fitted to fill the several public offices which the service of the united Colony may require.

I am not as yet prepared, within a few days of my arrival, to perform the extremely important and painful duty which has devolved upon me. I shall, therefore, feel much obliged if you will continue to fulfil the duties of your office, and the employment of your subordinates, until the 31st December 1866.

A bill of indemnity will be laid before the Legislative Council, to protect me from the consequences of the unauthorised expense I am now undertaking.—I am, dear Sir,
your obedient Servant,

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.