— No. 11. —

No. 11.
Governor Douglas to Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., 31 Oct. 1856.

(No. 30.)

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas*, to the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 31 October 1856.
(Received, 14 January 1857.)

Sir, (Answered, No. 4, 24 January 1857, page 5.)

* Page 4.

1. I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 16* of the 23d of August in reply to my communications, Nos. 12 and 14 of the 22d May, and the 7th of June last, reporting my proceedings in respect to carrying out the instructions contained in your despatch of the 28th of February 1856, for convoking a Legislative Assembly in this colony, and requesting advice and instructions from you on various subjects connected with that measure.

No. 15, 22 July 1856. No. 19, 20 August 1856.

2. I have since, in my several despatches of the numbers and dates mentioned in the margin, reported to you the several steps taken towards carrying those instructions into effect, and the formal opening of the House of Assembly on the 12th day of August last, together with the objections raised to the property qualification of certain members, who took their seats on that occasion, and the consequent difficulty experienced in organising the House.

3. After repeated adjournments the Speaker with much tact and address, finally succeeded, without my interference, in adjusting party differences, and forming a committee, which immediately proceeded with an inquiry into the qualifications of the members elect, and declared the return of Edward E. Langford null and void, in consequence of his not having sufficient property to constitute a legal qualification, and then adjourned to the 24th day of October (present).

4. A fresh writ was in consequence issued, and Joseph William M'Kay was returned without opposition as member for the district of Victoria, in the place of Edward E. Langford.

5. The House met on the 24th day of the present month (October), and after some necessary arrangements adjourned to the 15th day of November next, when they will be prepared for serious work.

6. Those delays have not been without their use, as the members have had time to prepare for the proper discharge of the public duties they have to perform, and their minds have been disabused of many false notions, which were commonly entertained here, concerning the powers and jurisdiction of the House of Assembly, so that on the whole I do not regret the time spent in constituting the House.

7. I observe with satisfaction that in abiding by the terms of my Commission, in respect to the franchise, I have acted in conformity with the instructions, on that point, contained in your despatch, and we shall further carry out your instructions by bringing a measure before the Assembly, when it is found desirable to extend the suffrage.

I have, &c.
(signed) *James Douglas*,
Governor.

— No. 12. —

No. 12.
Governor Douglas to Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., 9 Jan. 1857.

(No. 2.)

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M.P.

Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 9 January 1857.
(Received, 17 March 1857.)

Sir, (Answered, No. 6, 24 March 1857, page 6.)

† Supra.

1. My last report of the 31st of October †, on the proceedings of the House of Assembly, closed with its adjournment to the 13th day of November, when it again met, and remained in session till the 18th of December, it then adjourned for the Christmas recess.

2. The