

The Council then adjourned during pleasure.

On the Council resuming its sitting, the following Message from His Excellency the Governor was read:

Message No. 31.

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

The Governor lays before the Legislative Council a Petition signed in Victoria by 321 persons, against the Customs Act of this Session. He adds a copy of the reply which he has made to the Petitioners.*

Government House,

24th March, 1865.

Then, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Walkem, the Council adjourned till Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Monday, the 27th day of March, 1865.

The Council met at 2 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment.

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

The Hon. Mr. Homer and the Hon. Mr. Cornwall absent on leave; all other Members present.

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

A Message from His Excellency the Governor, which being read is as follows:

Message No. 32.

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

The Governor acquaints the Legislative Council that he has assented, in Her Majesty's name, to a Bill entitled "An Ordinance for imposing a duty on Gold."

Government House,

25th March, 1865.

The Hon. the Attorney General gave notice that he would, to-morrow, introduce the following Bills:—Tolls and Duties Exemption Bill; Indian Graves Bill.

On the Order of the day being read, therefor, the Marriages Bill was read second time. Ordered to be committed to-morrow.

On the Order of the day being read for the second reading of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Bill,

A debate arose.

On the question being put the Council divided.

Ayes 5, Noes 6.

So it passed in the negative, and was Ordered accordingly.

A Message from His Excellency the Governor, which being read is as follows:

Message No. 33.

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

The Governor lays before the Legislative Council a petition, addressed to the Governor in Council by Mr. Alfred Waddington, of Victoria, praying that he may be allowed to surrender his charter for the making of a Road from Bute Inlet to the Fraser, and be re-imbursed the outlay which he has incurred upon the undertaking.

The Governor, in the Executive Council, deeply as he regretted the loss which Mr. Waddington has sustained, or believes himself to have sustained, by the interruption of his operations, was unable to see that that gentleman had any claim upon the Government. But the Governor is willing, before finally disposing of the petition, to lay it as requested before the Legislative Council.

Mr. Waddington relies, as against the Colony in his claim for compensation, that no protection was furnished to his road party, in return for the customs duties he paid. He, however, never asked for protection, and did not even in-

* Appendices C and D.