

2. The House has been so far chiefly occupied with matters of detail, connected with the expenditure and financial condition of the colony. I furnished every means of information in my power connected with those subjects, as you will observe through my correspondence with the House, which is herewith forwarded.

3. A Bill granting the sum of 130*l.* sterling, for paying the servants, and defraying the ordinary expenses of the House, was passed on the 18th day of December, and the same will be brought before the Council at an early day.

4. I am now preparing a Bill for imposing a Custom's duty on imports, as a means of meeting the ordinary expenses of Government; but the subject must be approached with caution, as there is a very general feeling in both Council and Assembly against taxation under any form, and I am prepared to encounter much clamour and opposition in carrying so unpopular a measure through the Houses.

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

Enclosure in No. 12.

Encl. in No. 12.

Victoria, Vancouver's Island.

RETURNS to three addresses of the Honourable the House of Assembly, numbered respectively 11, 12, 13, without date, viz.:

Address, No. 11.

For a new writ for the election of a member for the district of Victoria.—(Mr. Skinner.)

Address, No. 12.

For a correct copy of the Grant of Vancouver's Island, and of any other documents of a public nature calculated to throw light upon the political position of Vancouver's Island. Likewise a general abstract of colonial accounts, since the first formation of the colony, showing the present income and expenditure.—(Mr. Pemberton.)

Incomplete.

Address, No. 13.

That this House is prepared to receive any message from his Excellency the Governor or Council.—(Mr. Skinner.)

SCHEDULE.

- No. 1.—A writ for a new election of one citizen for the town of Victoria; with return from sheriff.
- No. 2.—Charter of grant of Vancouver's Island to the Hudson's Bay Company, dated 13 January 1849, and correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Hudson's Bay Company thereon: with circular, colonization of Vancouver's Island.
- No. 3.—Extracts from the Governor's despatch to William G. Smith, Esq., Secretary, Hudson's Bay Company, dated 16 October 1856.
- No. 4.—Extracts from the Governor's despatch to William G. Smith, Secretary, Hudson's Bay Company, dated 19 July 1855.

Government House, Victoria, Vancouver's Island,
27 November 1856.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I HEREWITH transmit the documents described in the accompanying schedule, for your information. The colonial accounts, extending to the close of 1855, are not yet completed, and therefore cannot be laid before the House in full.

You will, however, find, among the documents now transmitted, a full account of all lands appertaining to the public domain of this colony, which have been sold up to the 10th day of October last, and also a classified abstract of the expenditure of the colony, for the year ending with the 1st day of November 1855.

In addition to the proceeds arising from sales of the public domain appearing in the documents herewith, the sum of 6,193*l.* has been received from the Hudson's Bay Company, for lands purchased on their account within the colony.