

importance of this work, that I may perhaps, in anticipation of the proceeds of the Loan, divert for its prosecution, from the ordinary Revenue, certain sums voted for other purposes. Should I do so, and any unexpected impediment prevent the early success of the Loan, I shall lay before you an Indemnity Act at your next session.

10. A consideration of the manner in which the Country is to be opened, leads me to allude to a question of administration which, as it appeared to be connected with a money vote, has been already placed before you. A gentleman has been nominated, by the Secretary of State, to be Surveyor General of this Colony. That gentleman is at present disqualified from holding the office, by his possession of property on one of the competing roads to the diggings, which would lose value by the improvement of the rival route. Mr. Trutch, the gentleman in question, shall be again invited to qualify himself to fill the post he would suit so well, by divesting himself of all interest in this Colony, which might expose his public acts to suspicion and unfavorable comment. Should any arrangement be made by the Government for the purchase of Mr. Trutch's rights—an arrangement better avoided—full particulars shall be laid before you early next session.

11. You have placed £8,000 at the disposal of the Government for the formation of a wagon road from Hope to Yale. This work is desirable, though not indispensable. If the road were now completed, the vast majority of the up-country traffic would still, during the greater part of the year, give a preference to the river over the road; the performing of this work, however, is only a question of time. It will surely come should the Colony continue to progress at its present rate. I should, however, wish to state that instructions have been already given by me for placing the communication on the most important portion of this line—that between Yale and Emory's Bar—in good condition.

12. I see £10,000 given for the erection of public buildings in New Westminster. Unquestionably our present public buildings are shabby and inconvenient, and others must ere long be erected. In a young Colony like this, good accommodation for our public officers is not the primary necessity. The first duty is to improve our communications and develop the resources of the land, and I consider that I am doing more for New Westminster in sanctioning, as I most willingly do, the establishment of a Light Vessel at the mouth of the Fraser, than if I at once commenced the erection of public buildings. Our Capital will likewise receive great benefit should we succeed in obtaining Steam Communication between it and San Francisco. I concur in your resolution on this subject, and shall take early steps in furtherance of it.

13. The formation of roads in and about New Westminster, for which you have voted £10,000, shall be attended to. I accept the additional £3,000 for the repair of the Yale and Clinton road, and generally the smaller sums included in the same resolution of the 4th of February. I specially thank you for the additional sums you have given for Schools and Hospitals. The donation for the latter purpose shall, as you desire, be equally divided between Cariboo and New Westminster.

14. The offering of prizes, to encourage exploration and a more thorough development of the resources of the Colony, proposed in your resolution of the 24th February, is sanctioned by me, and a notice thereof shall be duly published in the newspapers of this and the neighbouring Colony of Vancouver Island.

15. And now I must notice your resolution, of yesterday's date, protesting against any union with the Colony just named. I shall forward that resolution to His Grace the Secretary of State, and strongly express my opinion that British Columbia has grown too large for a return to the old system to be possible. Whether union under other conditions might hereafter be acceptable, I am at present unable to say. I would however observe that, from my short experience, I am inclined to think that an efficient administration of the affairs of British Columbia, alone, would be enough to engross the whole attention of a Governor.

16. Your resolution of yesterday's date—message No. 40—respecting the Indian Reserves, shall have, as it deserves, my anxious consideration. I have not yet sufficient experience to deal with the question.

17. The choice of a good site for the Public Buildings at Lillooet shall at once be made.

18. The Petition of the people of Hope, dated March 18th, and forwarded in your resolution of the 4th of April, cannot be granted without an alteration in the law, which it is now too late to effect.

19. I am not yet impressed with the necessity for increasing the salary of the Postmaster General. I shall consider the question during the recess.

20. Most of you Honorable Gentlemen are about to resume your public or private duties in the Colony districts. I trust you will find there tranquillity and prosperity existing among the heterogeneous population, which the attractions of our Gold has drawn to the Colony. It will be through no fault of mine, if you do not soon see the Surveyor's gangs upon your roads, and public energy beneficially following close upon the footsteps of private enterprise.

21. With full acknowledgment of the zeal and ability you have shewn during this important Session, it now only remains for me to bring it to a close. I now therefore, in Her Majesty's name, prorogue this Legislative Council; and the same is hereby prorogued accordingly.