

THE ESTIMATES.

If ever the genius of Gladstone was required—if ever his fervid eloquence and financial oratory were in demand—it was certainly on the introduction of the Colonial Secretary's Budget yesterday afternoon, in the House of Assembly of Her Majesty's Colony of Vancouver Island. Irresponsibility of government however deprives us of the pleasure of hearing the statement of a Minister of Finance—of a Chancellor of the Exchequer. We are, therefore, left to a perusal of a number of bare facts, and that fascinating influence which the orator throws around him, and which induces the public to swallow at a gulp the tax-increasing bolus is wanting—the sugar-coating is absent, and the pill with all its disagreeable odor and nauseous taste is presented to our rebellious lips. Mr. Wakeford need not, therefore, be surprised if we should shrink from his nostrum. He will no doubt be disposed to chide our timidity, but then every one is not constitutionally brave. Besides, the hon. gentleman has taken us by surprise. We have not been used to such daring feats of finance. If indeed we direct our attention to colonial or national budgets we shall find them all feeble in comparison with that of Mr. Wakeford. What Chancellor of the Exchequer would have the moral courage to ask the House of Commons in a time of profound peace for the enormous proportion of seventy-five per cent. over his estimated revenue? And yet this is just what our Colonial Secretary has done. We admire boldness, we laud the heroic nature which, like that of the great Napoleon, places itself above the laws laid down by art, but we must confess this reckless bravery of Mr. Wakeford in our present condition is too much for us.

"Three thousand deuces," says Shylock, with ponderous emphasis. Three hundred and ninety thousand dollars, we think we hear every individual inhabitant pronounce with a more striking stress. How does our Hon. the Colonial Secretary hope to obtain it? He estimates the revenue at \$212,000—how does he expect, with a population that grumble at their present rate of taxation, to raise over \$170,000 more? The thing is simply preposterous. However urgent certain works may be—however necessary that they should be performed—there is something more important for the statesman to consider than even that—he must look to the public capacity. What is it to the artisan if he requires a better suit of clothes or a more nutritious diet, so long as he has not got the wherewithal to obtain it. True statesmanship keeps within the bounds of the possible. When it goes beyond this, as Mr. Wakeford does with his budget, it is simply visionary and bordering on the ludicrous. We are presuming all this while that the increase which is demanded is due to an increased amount of work to be done—more roads to be constructed, more bridges to be built. But the case is widely different. The estimated expense for this description of work the present year does not amount to \$90,000, while that for the past year was upwards of \$130,000, showing the enormous falling off of \$40,000. When we come to the salaries, however, we find things a little reversed. In 1864 the estimated expense of the establishments was \$76,916, while that for the present year is no less than \$135,354—or nearly double the amount of 1864.

It is almost impossible in the present article to go into the estimates with any degree of minutiae. We feel convinced, however, that the greater portion of them will be thrown out by the House. The increase to the public salaries as well as to the number of the officials is at present both undesirable and ill-timed. The cry is, and has been heretofore, so much against what was conceived to be an enormous official expenditure that union with British Columbia has been hailed as the only remedy for the evil. That demand which the Colonial Secretary now makes upon our public purse will therefore have the desirable effect of turning the attention of our population more than ever to the question. The proposed outlay for establishing direct steam communication with Panama, and for inaugurating a system of assisted immigration from the mother country, only shows the imperative necessity of both colonies acting in conjunction and merging their little individual interests in one substantial and harmonious whole. With regard, however, to both the immigration and the steam communication schemes, we must confess that something must first be done to retain the population we at present possess, otherwise we shall be merely spending money fruitlessly. We shall, in future articles, take up the estimates more in detail. In the meantime, we can only repeat that they are, individually, and in the aggregate, beyond all reason.

REMOVAL OF A BODY FROM CARIBOO.—The Columbian mentions the fact that the body of Dr. Warbuss, who died in 1863 in Cariboo, is on the way down in charge of Jonathan Nutt, who is taking the remains over to Puget Sound at the request of his widow, who resides there. The Doctor was a Free-Mason, and this is done under the auspices of the Order.

THE ESTIMATES.

The following Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure were laid before the House yesterday:—

VANCOUVER ISLAND, VICTORIA, January 13, 1865.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to transmit the annual estimates for the year 1865 for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly, accompanied by an explanatory statement of the Acting Colonial Secretary.

The preparation of these estimates has, I regret to say, been delayed beyond the proper period for their presentation by causes over which I had no control.

They have been prepared with every regard to economy consistent with the progress of the colony and the efficiency of the public service.

Further explanation will probably be required by the House in addition to that conveyed in the accompanying letter of the Acting Colonial Secretary. Should such be the case, it will be promptly and cheerfully rendered on my being made acquainted with the desire of the Legislative Assembly.

Despatches and documents in elucidation of various items accompanying the estimates. I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor.

Vancouver Island:
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Victoria, 12th Jan., 1865.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure for this colony for the year 1865.

I have prepared these Estimates in accordance with the forms laid down in the Instructions of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to Governors of Colonies regulating the mode of keeping and rendering the accounts of Colonial Receipt and Expenditure and I would call the attention of Your Excellency to the importance of the Estimates being passed in that form whatever alterations may be decided upon in the detailed items. Estimates prepared in this shape form the basis of the whole system of public accounts as laid down by the authority above quoted, and without which it is difficult, if not impossible, to preserve due order and economy in the disbursement of public moneys.

By a comparison of the total estimated revenue with the total estimated expenditure it will be seen that the latter exceeds the former by \$150,567 65.

The total estimated Ways and Means for 1865 fall short of those for 1864 by a sum of about \$146,000. This difference is attributable chiefly to the following items, available in 1864, but now either wholly or for the most part exhausted, or inapplicable to purposes of general expenditure, viz.,

Land Sales \$31,912
Land Revenue 1,528
Due by British Columbia 43,650
In hands of Crown Agents 55,104
Balance of Loan undrawn 29,914

162,108

On the other hand the estimated Ways and Means for 1865 exceed those of 1864 under some heads, the most considerable increase being for arrears of Real Estate Tax, of Liquor Licenses, and of Trading Licenses, and amounting, in the aggregate under these heads to \$53,800, being an increase of estimated arrears as compared with 1864 of \$28,800.

I will now consider the items of Estimated Revenue in detail.

REAL ESTATE TAX \$110,000.

This amount is made up of \$65,000 which it is expected will accrue in 1865, and of which \$45,000, the estimated arrear on 1st January, 1865.

PORT AND HARBOR DUES \$17,000.

The estimated Revenue under this head is the same as estimated for 1864. A somewhat larger amount will probably be realized.

LAND SALES AND LAND REVENUE.

The receipts under these heads will be carried to the Crown Revenue account.

LIQUOR LICENSES, \$20,800.

It is expected that considerably less will be realized under this head than \$24,000, estimated for 1864; \$800 is now estimated to be due as arrears unpaid on 1st January, 1865.

TRADING LICENSES, \$34,000.

Of this amount \$8,000 is for arrears on 1st January, 1865; the balance, \$26,000, is less than the revenue estimated for 1864 by \$1,580, and it is possible may be rather under estimated.

POSTAGE, \$6,700.

This sum is as against \$3,500 estimated for 1864, the increase being made up of (1) \$1,000 proposed to be expended under the head of the Colonial Secretary's Department for the conveyance of letters on Her Majesty's service, and which the Post Office will probably claim as revenue, and (2) \$2,200 the amount expected to be realized from general increase of correspondence, but more especially between Victoria and Esquimalt (daily) and between Victoria and Sooke gold mines (twice a week), and from the contemplated daily delivery of letters in Victoria.

FINES, FORFEITURES AND FEES OF COURT, \$9,000.

This sum is the same as that estimated for 1864, and is less than the expenditure on Judicial services. An excess of receipts over expenditure, should it occur, would be carried to the Crown Revenue Account.

FEES OF OFFICE, \$4,000.

This item is the same as estimated for 1864 under this head.

REIMBURSEMENTS, \$9,208 77.

This amount is made up of \$6,530 49, due by Her Majesty's Government for expenditure during 1864 on account of Marines at San Juan, and of \$2,698 28 due by British Columbia, being one moiety of the expenses connected with Lighthouses in 1864.

MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS, \$1,000.

This sum is the same as the amount estimated for 1864.

RENTS.
Sums receivable under this head will be carried to the account of Crown Revenue.

INTEREST, \$680.
It is estimated that the interest on balances in the hands of the Crown Agents, and on the Sinking Fund of the Road and Harbour Loan may amount to this sum.

DEPOSITS, \$500.
Debt of City of Victoria, \$6,760 83
This is the approximate balance due on 1st January, 1865, by the City of Victoria, after being credited with the receipts under the Victoria half per cent. Tax Act.

BALANCE IN HANDS OF CROWN AGENTS, \$5,582.
BALANCE IN HANDS OF LOAN UNDRAWN, \$5,564.

These sums are approximations, in the absence of full accounts from the Crown Agents.

BALANCE IN TREASURY, \$9,083 60.
This amount represents the actual balance on 31st December, 1864.

EXPENDITURE.
Passing on to the estimated expenditure it will be seen by comparison that the expenditure proposed for the service of the year 1865 is in excess of that voted for 1864 by the sum of \$107,187 40, as follows:

For 1864, voted under 27 and 28 Vict. \$257,279 50
For 1865, voted under 27 and 28 Vict. 330,466 90
No. 13..... 26,000 00

Total for 1864.....\$283,279 50
Proposed Expenditure for 1865.....330,466 90
Excess for 1865 over 1864.....107,187 40

I will remark in detail upon some of the amounts proposed to be expended, observing only that in the absence of a regular Auditor, the classification of former votes for comparison with the present Estimates cannot be made with the minute accuracy I could have desired:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, \$2180 ; LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, \$650 ; LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, \$6150 ; COLONIAL SECRETARY, \$12930.

There is a considerable increase under this head amounting to about \$9,000, and consisting in part of the salary for a second clerk, \$1000, as compared with the vote of \$500 for clerical assistance in 1864; an alteration absolutely required for the efficient working of the Department, and in part of sums required for stationery, fuel, postage and printing—the cost of which has heretofore been distributed among the various departments. The proposed alteration in this respect will involve a simplification of accounts and a saving of labor to persons to whom the Government may be indebted. The sum of \$1000 for postage is the corresponding amount to that calculated in the Postal Revenue.

TREASURER \$7885.
The Assessor is placed under this head as part of the Revenue Department, a change tending to simplify accounts. There is under the head of Treasurer a decrease compared with the corresponding sums voted under that head for 1864 of \$1586, arising from printing, &c., being charged under the head of Colonial Secretary.

AUDITOR \$2940.
The increase under this head is \$1765. It is of the greatest importance that the Auditor should exercise a constant supervision over the public accounts. Much time and labor are at present thrown away from the absence of a suitable arrangement in this respect, and imperfections of which I am conscious in the preparation of these estimates are due, I believe chiefly to the want of an auditor. The sums proposed are the lowest that could be named, having regard to the efficiency of the service.

SURVEYOR GENERAL, \$31,984.
The large apparent increase, which in the absence of an Auditor I am unable to define minutely, in this Department is due principally to expenses of improving Victoria Harbor and of miscellaneous explorations being placed under this head. The sum of \$1500 and \$1200 for a Superintendent of Roads and for a Clerk are to provide for two Officers whose services are indispensable to the efficient working of the Department.

HARBOR MASTER, \$2,650.
This sum is the result of a proposed re-adjustment of the Harbor Masters and Post Office Departments, which it is found cannot be efficiently conducted by one and the same officer. The amount of \$1500 submitted for the salary of the Harbor Master is reasonable, and the sum of \$250 for a shipping master is to provide payment for an officer to perform duties connected with the engagement and discharge of seamen under Imperial statutes, the fees receivable in respect of which will be paid into the Treasury. It is not considered that the officer acting as Harbor Master will require a clerk.

LIGHTHOUSES, \$6,102.
This amount exhibits an apparent decrease as compared with the vote for 1864, of \$898, which may be explained by the fact that a vote of \$1458 for works was placed under this head in 1864, and that such a vote is proposed now under the head of Works and Buildings. The amounts now proposed show a decrease of \$500 under the head of stores, while there are small sums to supply books for the library and for the stipend of a medical officer. Provision also is here included for a sick fund for the lightkeepers under a scheme proposed by the Lighthouse Board, to which fund each lightkeeper will contribute four per cent. of the value of his pay and rations. The sums now proposed exhibit an increase of four per cent. on the salaries of 1864, it not being considered just to reduce the pay, hitherto voted even for such a purpose. The salary of the lightkeeper at Fisgard is proposed to be further increased by \$100, in consideration of the additional duties of storekeeper devolving upon him in connection with the new storehouse. The importance of well maintained lighthouses is so great that any change tending to the permanence of the service by inducing efficient men to continue in it will be of great public advantage.

POST OFFICE, \$7,660.
The increase under this head of \$5,835 is due partly to the proposed alteration of having separate officers to conduct the Harbor Master's and Post Office departments. The salary proposed for the Post Master will probably be considered not more than adequate, and the provision for one clerk and

extra clerical assistance could not be curtailed without seriously impairing a highly important branch of the public service, the full development of which would doubtless be generally appreciated. It is proposed in addition to provide by the appointment of two letter carriers for a local delivery of letters daily in Victoria. A daily mail between Victoria and Esquimalt and a mail twice a week between Victoria and Sooke gold mines will also involve the appointment of Postmasters at Esquimalt and Sooke river. The appointment of a Postmaster at Nanaimo is found necessary to conduct the increasing postal duty which has hitherto been carried on gratuitously by the local Schoolmaster. It is anticipated that the revenue derivable from this additional postal communication will go far to defray the cost of these new services. The sum of \$500 is placed on the Estimates to cover the cost of procuring postage labels, which have already been ordered of two denominations, viz., five cents and ten cents, which will probably suffice for the present. None such are now in use in the colony, which is thereby deprived of the obvious advantages of the prepayment of postage by stamps. A Bill will shortly be introduced into the Legislature for the regulation of the postal service of the colony and based upon the Imperial laws on the subject.

REGISTER GENERAL \$2425.
There is a reduction under this head in consequence of the office contingencies being charged under the head of Colonial Secretary.

JUDICIAL \$26,600.
The expenditure under this head is largely increased by the consolidation thereof of the various officers connected with the administration of justice and votes for new officers. The amount for the salary of the Chief Justice is in accordance with the Act recently passed by the Legislature. The increase in the amount of the salary of the Attorney General is submitted in lieu of an amount of fees hitherto paid to that officer in excess of the increase of salary now proposed. The vote of \$1500 for a Crown Solicitor, is with a view of obtaining systematically the services of a Solicitor, which have hitherto been used precariously, and for which sums have been paid under the head of expenses of prosecutions. This change is regarded as necessary for the performance of various legal duties, wherein the aid of such an officer is of great value. The vote of \$2250 for the Stipendiary Magistrate at Victoria, appears now for the first time, the remuneration of the present incumbent of that office having been voted hitherto to the same amount under the heads of police and gaols. That gentleman having now been relieved of the duties of those departments which were not compatible with those of Magistrate, this new vote has become necessary. Three votes are proposed for Stipendiary Magistrates at Sooke, Comox, and Cowichan, these appointments are regarded as needful for the preservation of law and order, and as a connecting link between the Government and the Indian population will probably be of great public value. The appointments of clerks to the magistrates at Nanaimo and Sooke are considered necessary, and in view of the small amount of salary under this head it is proposed to charge them with the duties of local postmasters, they receiving therefor the small salaries under the head of Post Office.

POLICE, \$16,152.
This department having been withdrawn from the hands of the Stipendiary Magistrate of Victoria is in course of being organized under a superintendent assisted by an inspector. The salary allotted to the superintendent is considered to be no more than adequate for the officer whose is the responsible duty of preserving the public peace. The necessity of having a regular police patrol in the vicinity of Victoria has been much felt, and two mounted constables are accordingly provided for. The distribution of the force is at present proposed to be as follows: Victoria, 2 sergeants, 11 constables, and 2 mounted constables; Nanaimo, 1 sergeant, 1 constable; Esquimalt, 1 constable. The services of an armorer are required in part for the care of the arms of the force, but chiefly for the preservation in good order of the valuable small arms belonging to the colony, and which have been placed in the charge of the department. The rates of pay of the police have been somewhat increased, and by the adoption of three rates, scope will be given for the promotion of such men as may prove themselves effective. The men in addition to their pay (which is calculated for 365 days in the year) are provided with quarters, fuel, light, clothing, and medical attendance.

GAOLS, \$6,506.
The establishment proposed provides for a gaoler at \$1000, in lieu of a governor at \$500 and a gaoler at 750, as in 1864. An additional warder is however found necessary, in view of the increased number of prisoners. The medical officer is also brought under this head instead of under the head of "Exclusive of Establishments."

VOLUNTEERS, \$2540.
This head appears now for the first time. The votes proposed are for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the corps by bearing the pay of the adjutant and drill sergeant, and also by payments of \$10 and 15 per man, according to numbers and efficiency, such payments being applicable to the general expenses of the corps.

I will now pass on to the various votes proposed under the division of the Estimates termed "Exclusive of Establishments."

PENSIONS, &c., \$2425.
This sum is placed on the Estimates to carry out the decision already come to by the Legislature of providing for the retirement of His Honor the Chief Justice.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE \$2100.
This sum is expected will cover the cost of the services provided for.

CHARITABLE ALLOWANCES \$500.
This small sum has been placed on the estimates to cover expenditure for any charitable purpose which may arise.

EDUCATION \$10,000.
This sum has been estimated as sufficient for the present to cover the cost of public education on such system as may be determined upon.

HOSPITALS \$6500.
The first item of \$5000 for Victoria Hospi-

tal is the same as the votes for the year 1864. The additional vote of \$1000 is intended to relieve that institution from liabilities beyond its funds. A vote of \$500 is proposed for the new Female Hospital at Victoria.

POLICE \$3725.
The sums proposed under this head vary somewhat from the votes for 1864. A larger amount will be required for the clothing of the increased number of constables. A sum of \$500 is estimated for the purchase of three horses, which will be required to mount two constables efficiently, other sums are also estimated for the forage, &c., of these horses. Police transport and buildings will be found under other heads.

GAOLS \$7023.
An increase in the number of prisoners has led to an increase in the amount estimated for their maintenance, but a reduction under the head of Gaols has been effected by the transport of the cost of medical attendance to the head of the establishment.

RENT \$2580.
This head includes \$1920 for rent of residence of His Excellency the Governor. I would direct attention to the despatch of the Secretary of State to your Excellency (copy herewith) dated 16th September, 1863.

TRANSPORT \$2000.
This amount is placed on the estimates to insure system in payments under this head, expenses incurred on this account having heretofore been provided for the most part only in general terms.

CONVEYANCE OF MAILS \$33,251.
The first item is proposed as a contribution towards the important step of providing a subsidy for a direct line of mail steamers between the Colony and Panama, to which it is believed the neighboring colony of British Columbia will contribute a larger sum. The cost of conveying mails between Victoria and Esquimalt (daily and express) between Victoria and Nanaimo and Comox (weekly and monthly), and between Victoria and Sooke mines (twice a week) is also provided for.

WORKS AND BUILDINGS \$12,493.
The proposed vote (in blank) for a residence for His Excellency the Governor is entered with reference to the despatch from the Secretary of State dated 16th September, 1863, (copy herewith). School House, Nanaimo \$800. This building is presently required and is proposed to include quarters for a School master, purchase of building at Nanaimo \$1500, and additions thereto \$1500. This building was erected on the Government Reserve on land leased to Mr. A. G. Horne who has become bankrupt, the lease has, therefore, been surrendered and the building conveyed to the Government. Good public officers are much required at Nanaimo, and the situation of this building is suitable, the purchase of it will extinguish a charge of \$100 per annum for rent for public offices.

ROADS, STREETS, AND BRIDGES, \$73,350.
The first twelve items under this head are or roads, in respect of which the liabilities shown by the various amounts have been all ready incurred, with the exception, however, of \$2000 for new work on the east Saanich road. The items of \$10,000 for road from Goldstream to Forks of Leech and Sooke Rivers, and of \$450 for bridge over Leech River, are proposed for the purpose of improving the communication between Victoria and Sooke gold mines, by converting the present trail into a wagon road, and by bridging the river. The road from Goldstream to Nanaimo, for which there is submitted a vote of \$23,000, is a portion of the road from Victoria to Comox, which has recently been under consideration.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES \$18,050.
The sums of \$6500 for Marines at San Juan and of \$500 for repayment of deposits, are in correspondence with similar sums, placed to the credit of the revenue. The sum placed on the estimate for the Fire Department, Victoria, is the amount for which that body have applied. A sum of \$1000 is proposed to be applied to the insurance of the various public buildings and their contents.

INTEREST \$19,400.
This amount comprises the usual sums applicable to the interest and sinking fund in respect of the road and harbor loan.

REIMBURSEMENTS, \$49,215 15.
The sum of \$15,148 95 under this head is due to the Imperial Government on account of the moneys expended in the erection of Lighthouses, viz.: \$12,493 19s 19d, one moiety of which is contributed by the Imperial Government, and the remaining moiety is proposed to be divided between this colony and British Columbia, as explained in the accompanying correspondence. The second item of \$34,066 20 is due by the colony to the Crown revenue account as shown in the accompanying statement of the Treasurer.

IMMIGRATION, \$10,000.
This sum is proposed to defray the cost of bringing immigrants to this colony.

INDIANS, \$2500.
This small sum is proposed to defray various unavoidable expenses connected with Indians.

I beg to enclose comparative statements of Revenue and Expenditure for the first eight months of 1864, compared with the like period of 1863. I regret very much that the want of an auditor has precluded me from bringing these statements down to a later date.

In conclusion, I would draw attention to the serious difference between the Estimated Expenditure and the Ways and Means.

Whatever variety of opinion may be entertained as to the propriety of voting some of the sums proposed, there cannot be any doubt that the revenues heretofore raised by taxation are far short of the requirements of the colony. A very small per centage of the population contributes to the revenue in any shape, and I believe the large majority of the non-taxpaying classes, whether subjects of Her Majesty or strangers, will cheerfully give their quota as soon as the mode in which the same shall be levied shall have been devised.

I have the honor, &c., your Excellency's most obedient humble servant,
(Signed), HENRY WAKEFORD,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

ABSTRACT OF
Colonial Govt
for the year 1
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REVENUE DE
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Fees of Off
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Interest, \$6
Deposits, \$
Total, \$212

Real Estate
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Licenses L
Postage, \$
Fines, Fo
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Miscellaneous
Rents, \$12
Interest, \$
Deposits, \$
Total, \$14

Abstracts of
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