

twenty resolutions, passed by your Honorable Council at various times, many of them of grave importance, sanctioning in the whole an expenditure falling little short, if at all, of Eighty thousand pounds. The advance of the spring allowed of no delay. An early decision was required, so, with means of information still imperfect, I have decided as follows:

3. I have assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Ordinances:

An Ordinance to increase the facilities for registering documents relating to real property.

An Ordinance to declare the lawful rate of interest in the Colony.

An Ordinance relating to Patents.

An Ordinance to facilitate the formation of Mining Joint Stock Companies.

An Ordinance for regulating the Postal Service.

An Ordinance for the relief of certain Naval and Military Settlers.

An Ordinance to amend Customs Duties.

An Ordinance for the regulation of the Inland Navigation of British Columbia.

I might have hesitated in assenting, at once, to this last, prudent but cumbersome and perhaps vexatious measure, were it not that the Act contains a clause suspending its operations until Her Majesty's pleasure be signified. The Ordinance will therefore be subjected again to my consideration, when reporting to the Secretary of State on its provisions.

4. I have reserved for Her Majesty's consideration, the somewhat complicated Ordinance proposing to regulate the issue of Bank Notes in the Colony. Understand that I have not absolutely disallowed it. The measure may offer considerable advantages, but in a new country where capital is required, it is not always desirable to Legislate in a manner which may impair individual credit, or restrict the circulating medium. The suddenly making penal an act, innocent in itself, is likewise to be avoided. A knowledge on the part of the public, that such a measure as the Bill now reserved will probably soon become law, will tend to cure the evil against which you wish to legislate.

5. The resolutions your Honorable House has placed before my predecessor and myself are of various descriptions. Some of them have already been replied to by message. The remainder I shall now notice.

I assure you that all those having for their object the initiation, on my part, of new laws shall have my earnest consideration during the recess, and that the measures you propose, and of which I see the necessity, shall be put in proper shape for your consideration before we next meet.

6. Some other of your resolutions relate to questions of Executive Administration, such as the appointment of unpaid Justices of the Peace, Notaries Public, an additional Stipendiary Magistrate for the Shuswap and Similkameen districts, and the separation of the Office of Auditor from that of Colonial Secretary. I concur with you in the two first, and shall give due attention to the third and fourth resolutions. I may, however, intimate as regards the last, that the time is possibly not very far distant when a Legislative Body with a larger elective element will, periodically, appoint its own Committees to examine the public accounts.

7. I come now to the most important resolutions of the Session; those which request that vast sums of money, to be expended on public works, be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates, and then embodied in a second Appropriation Act. I see reasons, which appear to me of great importance, for delaying the introduction of the new Appropriation Act, until I am able to call you together again in November. One of these reasons, I may mention, is that the money you propose to expend is not yet in our possession. Another is that I am reluctant to refuse, without more information than I can now possibly possess, certain petitions, which come before me with the great weight of your recommendation, while, on the other hand, I am almost equally reluctant to give a legal sanction to any expenditure of money, of the necessity of which I am not satisfied. I propose, therefore, to adopt the course of considering each of the resolutions of your Honorable Council, passed as they were freely, without solicitation from the Governor, as an authority for him to expend the amount therein mentioned, in the manner therein specified, in anticipation of the Supplementary Appropriation Act.

Full explanation of all that has been done in the recess shall be laid before you at your next meeting.

8. And here I must warn you that the progress of the public works will not, in all probability, be as rapid as we could desire. The resources on which we depend, the proceeds of the loan of £100,000 to be raised in London, can hardly be available until late in the year.

The Act only left this Colony towards the end of March, and will not, therefore, reach England till late in May. We can hardly assume that less than a month will suffice for the various operations necessary for placing the funds at our disposal, and then another period of six weeks or two months will probably elapse before we are acquainted with the results.

9. I have to announce my entire concurrence in the Resolutions for the Survey of a road from Quesnel Mouth to Cariboo, and for the expenditure of £40,000, in addition to the amount already granted, for the improvement of communication in the district in question. I look upon the facilitating of access to the rich gold fields of the North-east as at present the paramount duty of the Governor and Council of this Colony, indeed so convinced am I of the