

A REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY AT VANCOUVER'S ISLAND. 9

And also, that the said returning officers shall be directed to give due and proper notice of the place and time at which the poll is to be taken in each of such districts respectively.

Given under my hand and seal, at Government House, Victoria, this 16th day of June, in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and in the nineteenth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(signed) *James Douglas*, Governor.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Enclosure 2, in No. 9.

Encl. 2, in No. 9

MINUTE OF COUNCIL.

Vancouver's Island, 4 June 1856.

THE Council having met this morning, pursuant to summons, the Governor being present and the following members: to wit, John Tod, senior member, James Cooper, Roderick Finlayson, John Work,—

The Governor proceeded to lay before the Council certain instructions lately received by him from the Secretary for the Colonies, instructing him to call general assemblies of the people for the purpose of carrying Her Majesty's instructions fully into effect; and the Council adjourned at 5 o'clock p.m. till Monday the 9th of June.

9 June 1856.

THE Council having met this morning, pursuant to adjournment, the Governor being present, and the following members: to wit, John Tod, senior member, James Cooper, John Work,—

Resume the consideration of Her Majesty's instructions for calling general assemblies of the freeholders of Vancouver's Island.

The subjects under consideration on the 4th instant were as follows: to wit,

The property qualification of members serving in the general assembly.

The property qualification of voters.

The right of absentee proprietors to be represented in the general assembly.

The Governor laid down as a principle that the custom or practice observed in England should, as far as possible, be adopted in this colony in framing the rules for elections, and proposed,

That the ownership of 300*l.* of freehold property or immovable estate should constitute the qualification of a member of the Assembly.

That absentee proprietors shall be permitted to vote through their agents or attorneys.

That the qualification of voters should be the ownership of 20 acres of freehold land or upwards, as required by his instruction from the Crown.

The Council expressed their unanimous concurrence with these suggestions, and the proposed regulations are finally settled and approved.

It was then resolved that the settlements should be divided into four electoral districts: viz.,

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---|
| Victoria District | - - | The country east of the Victoria Arm, and of a line running in a northerly direction towards Saanich, so as to include Peck's Farm. |
| Esquimalt District | - - | The country west of Victoria Arm and east of Pedder Bay, including McKenzie's and the farms west of Colquhoun's River. |
| Soke District | - - | From Pedder Bay to Otter Head, the headland beyond Soke. |
| Nanaimo District | - - | Colville Town. |

It was then resolved, That this Council do now adjourn.