

placing the principal office here was of little value and there to do. It was in a false position here no clerks were re-

said one would suppose, to hear a man, that there was really no value between the Rocky Mountain board. Why not propose \$1900 by the amalgamation of the Assistant Surgeon out?

He said he found plenty to do, the House thought fit to abolish it should not object. About 7000 an surveyed last year, and town out at Seymour, Shuswap and Ok. Otherwise the department is engaged in repairs to roads trails open.

Berton objected to the Assistant Surgeon out; he was an old servant, well acquainted with the land and the valuable property. Disputes might occur of far value to the colony than the value of the land.

Further discussion the motion to post.

Berton, Walkem, Stamp, Southgate, Helmecken, Macdonald (7) Barnard outside the bar.

The item was carried by the same

\$11,221 80.

Helmecken remarked that the revenue ought to be none other

factor himself. Victoria is a chief place, where the revenue is

the head of the department de there and look after it. And

And? A large staff provided for

minister, where scarce a boat is

and only one steamer arrives once

though the whole amount of

be collected on the Island, yet

is to be at New Westminster,

conceive anything more absurd,

must be a mistake in printing,

to be at Victoria none would

the (Dr H) had his will, there

only one Custom House in the

ly, and with the chief Collector

it would be both advantageous

bal. There was no necessity to

a Collectors at Victoria, Nanaimo

Westminster and Burrard Inlet,

useless outlay. Take our neigh-

example: they had one Custom

at Townsend, in which foreign

go no further, the same policy

adopted in this Colony; let there

office at Victoria, and there to

it should be costing. If we

er merchant marine, to give en-

to those who live upon water

land, we must adopt this

Executive will find it work

a, landing water being all that

ry, and the trade of the Colony

erved. He, therefore, moved

opinion of this Council that the

se should be at Victoria, and

officer at Victoria be struck out.

said this was a question of

ent for the requirements of the

partment. This was not the

to say whether he agreed with

the hon member, as the matter

up hereafter.

ly said that the vote would only

s, as changes were contemplated

ment. The Governor was aware

stances that could be made as

of the chief office. He should

at Victoria himself most of the

\$1000, which he considered ample. It was proposed in the last session of the Island legislature, to unite the office with that of Registrar of the Supreme Court. He was in favor of having a Registrar of Deeds, but not in favor of paying him \$1940 for doing little or nothing.

A motion to adjourn till Saturday at 11 a.m., was here carried.

Saturday's Sitting.

Helmecken called the attention of the hon Colonial Secretary to the fact that it would afford much satisfaction to hon members and the people generally, if the executive would submit its budget so that it might be seen what the policy of government was to be.

Registrar General, \$2,290.

Hon DeCosmos again objected to this item asserting that the office had been created in Vancouver Island for an individual, and the salary raised to \$400 through personal friendship. He admitted that the law as it stood required a skilled person, and he had every respect for the present incumbent, but when the duties could be done in two hours he considered that \$1000 would be ample, and he was totally unprepared for the principle of maintaining an office that was not necessary, whether in Vancouver Island or elsewhere.

Hon Young gave the history of the office with the salary attached thereto by the Legislature, and furnished details to show that it was a source of revenue. He considered the salary with the additional labor incurred by registration under the Bills of Sale and Homestead Acts if reduced would be too low for a professional man to accept, the present incumbent having already threatened to resign. Apart from this, however, the motion could not be carried as this salary must be treated in the same way as the Crown salaries, and if the Council thought it too large the reduction could only be made by request to the Governor.

Hon Crease spoke in favor of retaining the office intact.

Hon DeCosmos said he had been engaged half a day in the Registry office, and saw no one but a boy; the Registrar was in his chambers attending to his private practice, and was the country to pay \$400 a year for this was what he objected to. He regarded the present incumbent as a man of integrity and ability, but his idea was while allowing the gentleman to follow his chamber practice to pay him adequately for the service rendered.

Hon Young, in answer to Hon Southgate explained the circumstances under which the Registrar had been permitted to practice, and the advantages offered by the office for security and transferring titles without the intervention of lawyers.

Hon Pemberton looked upon the office as a most useful one and could not vote for its abolition.

Hon Helmecken would vote for the amount, but thought the system of two offices mischievous. Wherever the largest population and the greatest number of registration were the office should be. He did not regard the Act as perfect and did not know whether the amount with practices was too large, but this he did know that the Governor recommended the application of the law of Vancouver Island to the mainland.

Hon Walkem preferred the system of registration adopted on the mainland, where the whole deed was recorded instead of abstracts made by professional gentlemen. He was glad to see one hon gentleman not prepared to support a vicious system because it came from Victoria. He went in for economy.

Hon Birch did not approve of the system, but the amount must be voted this year, at all events.

After some further comments Mr DeCosmos' motion was lost, only 3 voting aye, and the item passed.

Harbormaster, \$1800, including Government pilot and Superintendent for Light Ship.

Hon Helmecken moved that this item be struck out; we did not want a pilot—the hon Colonial Secretary was government pilot, [laughter] and as to the Light Ship that was utterly useless. There was, in fact, nothing to do.

Hon Birch said he had been appointed Chief Commissioner and now he was to be Government pilot. This appointment came from home in 1858, and though he agreed that there was not sufficient work for the harbormaster to do, there was every intention to utilise him in another way in Victoria, where he would have duties in connection with the customs and piloting.

Hon Young said the hon members from Victoria ought to be much obliged to the gentleman, as he had sent them from an uncomfortable position on the sandheads.

Hon Helmecken—That's a fact! [laughter] We might have been stuck there for a week, the Estimates passed and the country ruined. While we were on one sandhead we could do nothing with the other sandheads [laughter].

Hon DeCosmos regarded this as a question of amalgamation. If the steamer to the settlements was to be continued, her captain might be harbormaster and when not employed the vessel could be used for laying buoys. The time now devoted was inadequate for the amount paid; he should, however, not move for its abolition as the Government had made up its mind not to carry out a practical system of amalgamation.

Hon Stamp said the proposition was impracticable as the duties could not be attended to.

Hon Robson regretted the small salary put down for the services of this officer. The sum asked for was so contemptibly small that he hoped the Government would see their way to increase it, and he moved in amendment that it be increased to \$2250.

Hon Helmecken replied that he voted for striking it out as the finances made it indispensable to save all we can.

Hon Robson's motion was lost—ayes 4.

Hon Robson—Then, blot him out altogether; it is better to do that than to give him a starvation salary. For striking out: Ayes—Southgate, DeCosmos, Helmecken, Stamp, Young, \$3,420.

The item of \$1800 was carried.

Hon Macdonald moved that the words "deputy" and "harbormaster" at Victoria be struck out.

Hon Southgate opposed the erasure of harbormaster, as a deputy would be required in the absence of the harbor master.

Hon Helmecken said he must enter a protest on the records against the extravagant manner in which the House was going on. It was perfectly ridiculous.

Hon Cox in reply to Hon Macdonald said the amount put down for William Creek—\$80 per month—was as small as the mail duties could be done for.

Mr Birch made a few remarks in regard to postal matters at Cariboo.

Hon Walkem suggested increasing the pay of one of constables who should perform the duties, and on the arrival of the mail distribute the letters down the Creek.

Hon DeCosmos asked what was the intention of the Government in respect to the removal of the Post Office at Victoria to a more suitable quarter.

Hon Birch said that the landlord had consented to reduce the rent considerably the last six months, and the removal of the office would entail a large extra expenditure which the finances of the Colony did not justify.

Hon Helmecken looked upon the words "Victoria" after Deputy Postmaster as very objectionable.

After a few remarks respecting the tenure of the property whether the office was proposed to be removed, the item was amended by erasing the words "Deputy" and "Harbormaster, Victoria."

Hon Birch, in answer to an enquiry, said that the sum of \$750 for Clerk and Messenger was for New Westminster.

Hon Helmecken—What in the name of conscience is there to do in the Post Office at New Westminster? Seriously, I would ask is there work for one clerk, or is the scheme of amalgamation a mere sham?

Hon Birch said that the gentleman had unfortunately come here in the winter, and so supposed no steamers visited the place and nothing was done here; but there was as much work done here as anywhere.

Hon Pemberton thought the item was for Victoria, which it should be, there being as much work done there in one day as here in three months.

Hon Helmecken—The Generals must have aides-de-camps, of course.

Hon Robson supported the amount; it was wrong because the office was amalgamated with another to deprive it of assistance without increasing the salaries.

Hon Helmecken—Really! really! what are hon gentlemen thinking about; have they any idea of what work it is?

Hon Stamp—Yes, of course it is. [Laughter.] Passed.

Nanaimo \$2,580.

Hon Helmecken said this amount had not been allowed before. The duties should be performed by a Justice of the Peace, and not by a magistrate paid to come here and legislate. He would not doubt be told that this officer was Collector, Harbourmaster, &c., but the salary would be sufficient, and the magistrate struck out; he moved to that effect.

Hon Southgate opposed. Nanaimo was a port of entry, with a large export trade; it contained a considerable number of miners and there were many disputes to settle; he considered \$1700 a very small sum and was surprised at such cheapness.

Dr Helmecken's motion was lost and the Council adjourned till Monday.

Monday's Sitting.

Feb 26, 1867.

Council met at 3 p.m. Present: Honrs Birch, Crease, Wood, Hamly, Smith, Barnard, Ball, Brew, Robson, Young, O'Reilly, Macdonald, Helmecken, DeCosmos, Southgate, Stamp, Walkem, Pemberton, Cox, Sanders, Trutch.

NEW MEMBER.

Hon Franklyn, Magistrate for Nanaimo, took the oath and his seat.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Hon Barnard to move the establishment of a bonded warehouse at Yale.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The motion of Hon Young for certain papers connected with the establishment of a mint in the Colony was assented to.

Also motion of Hon Walkem for returns showing the amount of moneys to the credit of each estate under the Trustees Relief Ordinance and Intestate Bill.

Also, motion of Hon Robson for returns of receipts of steamer Sir James Douglas during '66, with addition of returns of expenditure at the suggestion of Hon Stamp.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

Hon O'Reilly in the chair.

Hon Birch said the House that the present ocean mail contract had terminated and he would ask the Council now to consider the propriety of entering into a further contract. Tenders were opened for service on the 14th instant, but they were found far too high to entertain. All would, however, admit the advantage of an ocean mail service and would not doubt be willing to assist as far as practicable in procuring it. He would, therefore, ask the Council to consider the item under this head first before taking up the estimates in their regular order.

Council went into committee of the whole, and considered the subject with closed doors. Pensions, etc., \$3,395. Passed.

Revenues Services, [exclusive of establishments], \$600. Passed.

Administration of Justice, [exclusive of establishments], \$7,800.

Hon DeCosmos said the attendance of witnesses and some of the other items under this head were too large, and asked for information.

Hon Birch said witnesses frequently were required to come from a considerable distance and would not do so for nothing; the amounts were taken from data of former years at the lowest estimate.

The item passed.

Charitable Allowances, \$9,500.

Hon Helmecken did not consider this sum enough. For the hospital at Victoria alone, \$4000 would be required. The subscription list this year, for obvious reasons, was smaller than usual. There was an amount still due by the Government to the hospital respecting which they would no doubt receive a message.

Hon Birch made a few remarks in favor of sustaining the Colonial hospitals.

A resolution was moved by Hon Helmecken to the effect that the Council did not consider the sum sufficient, and that if required to keep the hospitals in a state of efficiency the Council recommend the ex-

pense of such sum as may be found necessary beyond the vote.

Hon Robson moved an amendment limiting the sum to \$11,000, which was carried. Education, \$10,000.

Hon DeCosmos moved that the consideration of this vote be postponed until the promised message from His Excellency be received. The matter of free education was regarded with considerable interest on the Island, where there were a number of children educated under the common school system. The amount put down appeared too small, as the expense of the establishments on the Island, he believed, exceeded \$10,000 last year, and there were two schools at New Westminster, one at Langley, and perhaps others elsewhere. He would, however, remark also that the Island system, which was non-sectarian was the only one the people would support, the country being too small for a denominational system.

Hon Birch had no objection to its being deferred.

Consideration deferred.

Police and Gaols, [exclusive of establishments], \$14,900. Passed.

Rents, \$800.

Transport, \$7,260.

On motion of Hon DeCosmos the words "visiting Victoria," after travelling expenses of the Governor and Colonial Secretary, were struck out.

Hon Robson suggested the addition of some other words.

Hon DeCosmos—Then add "to New Westminster." [Laughter.]

Hon Robson—If that is the object we had better retain the words.

The item passed after explaining from Hon Birch respecting the items. Inspector of steamers, keep of horses, etc. In respect of the latter item of \$1000 the hon gentleman said a good many horses were required by the Government officers while on duty up country, and it was cheaper to keep than to hire them.

Conveyance of Mails, \$52,820.

The items were taken serially under this head, at the suggestion of the Hon Macdonald, and passed as follows:

Arrears [Vancouver Island] to and from San Francisco, \$15,000.

To and from Victoria and New Westminster [Arrears Vancouver Island] \$1000.

To and from Victoria and Esquimalt, \$429. [Objected to by Hon DeCosmos].

To and from Victoria, Nanaimo, and Comox, etc., \$4,200.

To and from Columbia [per steamer Marten], \$2,400.

To and from Victoria and Saanich, \$300.

Item to and from Cariboo, Columbia, etc., \$25,000, postponed pending returns asked for.

Works and Buildings, \$11,400.

Hon DeCosmos moved that \$800 for fog bell at Race Rocks be struck out.

Hon Young said the bell had been lying for some time waiting for money to put it up. It was a good bell worked by machinery and would be of great advantage to shipping. A ship not very long ago ran upon Race Rocks in a fog. He thought the amount very small, and it would be well spent.

Hon Stamp favored the erection of the bell tower as of great value to shipping.

The sum total passed.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges, \$45,000.

In reply to the Hon DeCosmos, Hon Birch said the Hon Commissioner would state the various roads, but the hon gentleman might rest assured that the money would be equitably distributed.

Hon Trutch read a detailed statement of the sums proposed to be expended in repairs of various roads and bridges, \$8,500 being the amount set down for Vancouver Island.

The amount passed.

Miscellaneous Services, \$5,612; taken serially.

Indian Tribes, \$1000. Passed.

Aid to Fire Companies, \$1000.

Hon DeCosmos thought this item ought to be struck out, as the Department at Victoria was provided for by a local tax, and the same should be done elsewhere.

Hon Macdonald differed entirely and wished the amount had been \$2000. The department was very badly off, and had long been unable to pay its bills, and it would take some time before the local tax could be collected to assist it.

Hon Birch said this sum was not intended for arrears, but simply with a view to afford some assistance to the Fire Departments.

Hon Helmecken would not vote against the item, but thought it should be for past and not future expenses, and as a matter of principle the Fire Departments should be supported by their own communities.

Hon Stamp remarked that it was a great mistake to place her in her present service, when it could be performed by private individuals.

Hon Young said the only tender received for the service was from the Emily Harris, for \$5,400. The Government could not afford to insure her, as the lowest rate for six months cost \$1500, and it was thought far better to run the risk. He urged the advisability of allowing her to continue in her present service, where she was most usefully employed.

Hon Franklyn coincided and said if the Douglas was taken off it would be a death blow to Comox. There was no other vessel fit for the work.

Hon Helmecken commented on the high rates of freight and passage charged to the settlements; it was obtaining money unjustly. The steamer was intended to encourage settlement, to supply the want of roads, and the charges should, therefore, be very much lower. He agreed that the services of a vessel of her class were indispensable, but for the completion of the inhabitants of the coast transport should be made as light as possible, even if it cost money to do so; and could they not use the vessel for the prevention of whisky selling? [laughter.] He favored the idea of her captain officiating as harbormaster, and thought she might be profitably employed in visiting light-houses, laying buoys, (small buoys,) looking for channels leading to New Westminster, and seeing that the sea heads over which big ships came did not shift too often [laughter.]

A Voice—The big ship has come again [alluding to H. M. S. Malacca, which had just arrived, and whose Commander was present.]

Hon Helmecken—Yes; and that big ship will come here once too often! [laughter.]

Hon Young mentioned the charges to the settlements, which he did not consider too high, and were no complaint of. The steamer did visit the light-house, but she had no time for performing other duties.

The item passed.

Light-houses—\$10,000.

Hon Helmecken moved that the sum of \$4500 for the light-ship be struck out, as a useless appendage to the other expenses of the Colony. It was a luxury we could not afford, and so far as New Westminster is concerned was entirely useless. Such was the opinion of experienced men. It was only to vessels passing up the gulf to Nanaimo or Burrard Inlet that she was of any service, and the number passing during the year was too small to compensate for the expenditure. This institution might, in fact, without any stretch of imagination, be classed with the dredger. One Colony built a light-ship, the other a dredger; which was the most useful of the two he was not prepared to say, but the latter would yet be of use, though we were not in a position to support it now. In moving that this item be erased he could not be tainted with local jealousy, since it did not direct ships here.

Hon Franklyn said, without entering upon the question of finance, he considered the light-ship of the greatest benefit to Nanaimo, and consequently to the Colony at large. It was of the greatest assistance to ships passing through Stewart's Channel, and vessels would have, no doubt, come to grief had there been no light ship. The hon gentleman alluded to the importance of the Nanaimo coal trade. There were 10,000 tons now lying there awaiting shipment, and if a ship was lost in the trade it would throw discredit on the Colony.

Hon Robson said he preferred a good nautical authority to a medical one. Captain Richards repeatedly referred to a lightship on the sandheads as necessary and important. Admiral Kingcombe had also, in the strongest terms, pointed out to the Governor the same necessity, and if hon members were not warped and blinded by local jealousy, they would say that the light ought to be there.

He concluded by saying that did he not look forward to the time when this was to be the great highway of eastern commerce, when shipping and passengers would flow in from China and Japan giving the go by to the Venice of the Pacific, he should not consider the country worth remaining in.

[This burst of eloquence produced a marked sensation in the House.]

Hon Walkem supported the item as he had learned from his hon friend, Capt Stamp, that it was desirable.

Hon Stamp said the lightship was useful to vessels proceeding to Nanaimo and the Inlet, but for all the service she was to New Westminster she might as well be on the dome of St. Paul's.

Hon Young drew attention to the fact that notice had been given throughout the session of the light, and it could not be discontinued without similar notice being given.

The item passed.

THE CROWN SALARIES.

This having concluded the consideration of the estimates in Committee, with the exception of items deferred,

Hon Walkem rose to move that a respectful address be forwarded to His Excellency, requesting him to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to effect a reduction in the Crown salaries, under the Crown Salaries' Act, inasmuch as the finances of the Colony called for the strictest economy consistent with the efficiency of the public service, and respectfully recommending the following scale of salaries:

His Excellency the Governor \$14,550

Colonial Secretary . . . 3,000

Treasurer, \$3,627, abolished

Chief Com. Lands & Works . . 3,000

Collector Customs . . . 3,000

Total . . . \$23,550

Being a total reduction of \$10,399, and that the Council further respectfully recommend that a change be made in the office of the Registrar General, as now in existence, so as to dispense with one of the officers. The hon gentleman spoke at some length in support of his motion, which was a delicate one for him to bring forward, but which he felt it his duty, under the present depressed condition of the Colony, to do, and he hoped the hon.</