

16 CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

give the House a reliable and decided answer. My own impression, however, is, that the House can exercise a direct control only over the revenue raised in the colony through the act of the general Legislature.

The revenue derived from the tax on licensed houses is therefore, I conceive, the only fund absolutely at our disposal; the proceeds arising from "land sales," "royalties," and "timber duties" being remitted and placed to account of the Reserve Fund in England, which is, however, also exclusively applicable for colonial purposes, with the exception of 10 per cent., allowed by virtue of the charter of grant to the Hudson's Bay Company.

The amount of revenue derived from the duty on licensed houses, for the respective years mentioned, is given in the annexed table:—

	£.	s.	d.
Year 1853 - - - - -	220	-	-
" 1854 - - - - -	160	-	-
" 1855 - - - - -	310	-	-

Those sums are also embodied in the abstracts of the colonial accounts transmitted to the House.

(signed) *James Douglas,*
Governor, Vancouver's Island.

House of Assembly, Vancouver's Island,
6 December 1856.

The Speaker,

Has the honour to inform his Excellency the Governor, that the House of Assembly resolved this day:

"That the Speaker be requested to thank his Excellency the Governor, on behalf of this House, for the information so courteously and promptly afforded;" and further, "to apply to his Excellency for similar information for the year ending November 1856;" as also to ask, "Whether there is any charge against the Licence Fund, to come under their control from that date."

The House of Assembly will meet again on Wednesday next, at 11 a.m., and resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

(signed) *J. S. Helmcken, Speaker.*

Government House, Victoria,
10 December 1856.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

I have received your address, through Mr. Speaker's communication of the 6th December, and I thank you, gentlemen, for your kind message.

I herewith transmit, for your information, an abstract of the expenditure and income of the colony, made up to the 31st day of October last, excepting, however, the income derivable from the royalty on coals, and the duty on timber, of which a statement will be sent to the House as soon as the returns are received.

With respect to your inquiry touching the application of the duty on licensed houses for the year 1856, I have to inform the House that the whole sum derived from that source of revenue was paid over to the Hudson's Bay Company immediately after collection, and was carried, with the other proceeds of revenue, to the credit of the General Colony Account, as shown by the abstract of the year's income transmitted with this communication.

(signed) *James Douglas,*
Governor, Vancouver's Island.

House of Assembly, Vancouver's Island,
10 December 1856.

The Speaker,

On the part of the House of Assembly, begs respectfully to acknowledge the receipt this day of a gracious communication, and an abstract of the income and expenditure for the year 1856 from his Excellency the Governor, and to inform his Excellency that the House of Assembly unanimously resolved:

"That the thanks of this House be presented to his Excellency the Governor for the same."

(signed) *J. S. Helmcken, Speaker.*

House of Assembly, Victoria,
13 December 1856.

The Speaker,

Has the honour respectfully to inform his Excellency the Governor, that the House of Assembly resolved this day:

"That a requisition be made to his Excellency the Governor, for a copy of the last 'Census' of the 'population of Vancouver's Island,' and further, 'that any other information connected therewith will be thankfully received.'"

The House will meet on Thursday next, the 18th instant, at 11 o'clock, a.m.

(signed) *J. S. Helmcken, Speaker.*

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