

LETTER I.

To the Electors of the City of Victoria.

GENTLEMEN,—There are occasions when it becomes the duty of the representative to communicate with his constituents on matters of public moment. One of those occasions, in my humble opinion, has occurred through the Legislative Council negating the money bills prepared by the Assembly to balance the expenditure for the current year; and, also, through the aspersions cast on the financial policy of the Assembly, and the erroneous financial statements made by members of the Council. My purpose, therefore, in addressing this lengthy letter to you is to vindicate the financial policy of the Assembly, refute the aspersions cast upon it, expose the erroneous financial statements of members of the Legislative Council, and place the naked facts in your possession, in order that you may correctly judge of the merits of the financial policy inaugurated by the Assembly and rejected by the Council.

In order that you may comprehend the question at issue, I shall review the respective financial schemes of the Executive and Assembly, presenting the facts relating thereto as nearly as possible in their natural order.

1.—On December 22 last His Excellency the Governor sent to the Assembly the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1866, accompanied by a message. The Revenue was as follows:

EXECUTIVE ESTIMATES OF REVENUE FOR 1866.	
Real Estate Tax	\$50,000
Salary Tax	2,500
Port and Harbor Dues	35,300
Liquor Licenses	28,091
Trading Licenses	38,000
Postage	4,400
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court	15,000
Fees of Office	3,500
Sale of Government Property	300
Reimbursements	28,285
Miscellaneous	1,000
Total	\$206,376

I may add in explanation of the above that in an accompanying estimate called "Reimbursements," under the head of "Reimbursements" are the following details:

REIMBURSEMENTS.	
Towing Vessels	\$ 3,800
From British Columbia—Moiety of Lighthouse expenditure	3,040
Do. do. for 1864-65	6,320
Do. Moiety due for carrying mails between San Francisco and Vancouver Island since 1863	15,125
Total	\$28,285

It will be seen that \$3,800 is for towing vessels and by deducting that sum from the aggregate amount under the head of "Reimbursements," viz., \$28,285, the remainder will be \$24,485, or the amount of revenue due from British Columbia.

The Expenditure that was required by the Executive for 1866 was as follows:—

EXECUTIVE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, 1866.	
Expenditure for 1866, as submitted to Assembly in the Estimates on December 22, 1865	\$193,895
Balance due Bank, mentioned in the Governor's message accompanying Estimates, dated Dec. 20th	52,465
Total Expenditure, 1866	\$246,360

RECAPITULATION.
Total Expenditure for 1866, required by the Executive, \$246,360
Total Revenue for 1866, as estimated by Executive, 206,376

Total actual and estimated Deficit* in Revenue for 1866, as deduced from the Governor's Message and Estimates \$39,984

* In the Governor's Message a surplus of \$12,431 over expenditure is mentioned; but that is a mis-statement which I shall explain hereafter.

liquidate it, and there could be no doubt about it. In answer to my inquiries respecting the details of the claim, he said that the only item about which there could be the least probability of a demur to the payment was the "Moiety of Lighthouse Expenditure, 1864 and 1865," \$6,320, and that was just and proper, and he believed it would be paid.

With respect to the second point, I was informed that there was usually collected in every year about \$50,000 in taxes derived from Real Estate, and that there was always about the same amount of Real Estate Taxes in arrears at the end of each year. He promised to get the exact amount of the Arrears from the Treasurer and supply me with a statement. On application, subsequently, for the statement, he informed me that it could not be had till the Treasurer's books were balanced or audited. The Committee of Ways and Means were consequently left without the exact information that they required on this head; and in providing revenue voted on their general knowledge of the amount of arrears, and the assurance of the Colonial Secretary, and even then the Committee estimated the arrears, for their present purpose, at no higher amount than \$10,000, though confident that it could not be less than \$30,000 or \$40,000. The desire was to create an excess of Revenue over Expenditure, instead of a deficit.

I have been thus particular about these two sources of revenue as they have both been called in question; and also to prove that the Assembly acted intelligently on the subject. Before leaving the question of arrears of real estate taxes, I may remark that the Assembly ordered the Treasurer to make a return of the arrears to December 31, 1865. He replied that he was prohibited by his instructions from the Executive; and the House did not pursue the matter further. But, strange to say, the very day on which the Ways and Means bills were communicated to the Legislative Council, the Treasurer, in reply to a motion of the Hon. D. Fraser, stated that the aggregate of arrears of Real Estate Tax due under all the assessments were \$34,000. [Vide Chronicle report, March 28th.] Thus we have the authority of the Treasurer that there was \$24,000 more revenue due in arrears than the Committee of Ways and Means, in their calculation, had estimated. The true and actual revenue for 1866 provided by the Assembly will, therefore, appear in the following statement:

Total amount of Revenue to meet Expenditure of 1866, provided by Assembly, as in last statement	\$272,476
Total amount of arrears of Real Estate Taxes, not accounted for in the late statement [Vide Treasurer's statement, Chronicle, March 28th]	24,000
Total Revenue for 1866, provided by Assembly	\$296,476

Another point deserving attention is the £50,000 Loan Bill. This bill proposed to borrow, on the credit of the General Revenue, £50,000 in England or elsewhere, on bonds redeemable in twenty years, drawing interest at 6 per cent per annum, with a Sinking Fund at 5 per cent per annum. Though a matter of revenue, it does not appear in either of the two last statements. For it was not expected that the proceeds would be brought to account this year, either by the Agents General for Crown Colonies in England, or the Treasurer, owing to the somewhat dilatory movements of the local Government or the accidental state of the money market elsewhere or both. The \$100,000 Loan was made chargeable on the General Revenue, subject to the £40,000 Loan contracted in 1863; and the £50,000 Loan Bill was regarded, so far as the present year was concerned, as merely an additional collateral security to the local parties who might advance the balance of the \$100,000. For it must be noted that the entire amount to be borrowed over and above what had been advanced in over-drafts by the Bank without the sanction of a Statute was only \$45,000; and that early in 1867, at farthest, the Colonial Government would realise enough from the sale of 20-year bonds to pay off the Temporary Loan; and when the remainder of the Bonds were sold the proceeds could be appropriated for the purposes designed. Both Loans met with the almost unanimous concurrence of the Assembly, as they were designed for objects which I shall hereafter explain.

I may, in concluding this branch of the subject, remark that with the exception of the three last sources of revenue—the Temporary Loan and the Hay and Lumber Taxes—all the others were existing sources of revenue, estimated by the Executive as correct, and accepted as such by the Assembly after inquiry.

The next department of the subject to which I shall draw attention is the Supplies for 1866; and in order that you may contrast the extent of the demand of the Executive for Supplies with what the Assembly have voted, I refer you to the three next statements. They have been prepared with a good deal of care, and may be relied on as containing very few and trifling inaccuracies, if any. They show the Supplies asked for by the Executive, the amount voted, the reductions made, and the Estimates increased or originated by the Assembly, and are as follows:

ESTIMATES—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.			
	Executive Estimate.	Assembly Total.	Estimated by Assembly.
Governor	\$2200	\$500	\$1700
Legis. Council	600	600	
Legis. Assen.			
By	2550	2250	300
Col. Secretary	3250	1100	2150
Treasurer	6835	1700	5135
Auditor	1200		
Surveyor General	1187	850	1200
*Harbormaster	1900	1900	3216
Post Offices	2605	1865	760
Registrar Gen.	2525		2625
Lighthouses	3478	2978	3625
Judicial	21285	14625	7200
Police	18962	6750	8242
Goals	6005		6006
Education	10440	12750	
Volunteers	1600	1250	250
Total	\$93,375	\$62,416	\$30,968

SERVICES EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.			
	Executive Estimate.	Assembly Total.	Estimated by Assembly.
Penitentiary	\$2425	\$2425	
Legislative Assembly	1600	500	\$1100
Col. Secretary	5200	1650	3550

Assessor	1500	1500	
Surveyor Gen.	6225	3700	2525
Harbormaster	1750	900	850
Postmaster	600	250	350
Administration			
of Justice	3450	1100	2350
Education	4580	3880	700
Charitable Alms	2250	8000	5750
Police	500	590	
Police	2300	1400	900
Goals	6245	4725	3523
Rent	1041	841	600
Transport	1600	650	950
Conveyance of			
Mails	17200	31300	6900
Works & Buildings	3350	150	3200
Roads, Streets			
and Bridges	4950	45550	2200
Lighthouses	2600	2850	250
Miscellaneous	3550	6975	325
Interest and Sinking Fund	21400	21400	
Drawbacks & Refunds	2000	2000	
Indian	1000	590	1000
Indians	1000	590	500
Total	\$100,519	\$139,647	\$33,673

1. RECAPITULATION—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.
Total Estimates Civil Establishments, fixed and temporary and contingencies \$93,375 17
Total Estimates voted by Assembly under this head 62,416 42
Total reductions of Estimates made by Assembly under this head 30,958 75
Total increase of Estimates by Assembly under this head 2,310 00

2. RECAPITULATION—SERVICES, EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS.
Total amount Estimates asked for Services exclusive of Establishments \$100,519 90
Total amount voted by Assembly under this head 139,647 40
Total amount of reductions made by Assembly under this head 33,673 00
Total amount of increase of Estimates by Assembly either by increasing Executive Estimates or originating new Estimates under this head 73,350 50

3. RECAPITULATION—BOTH HEADS.
Total amount of Estimates for 1866 required by Executive under both heads \$193,895 07
Total amount of Estimates for 1866 voted by Assembly under both heads 202,063 82
Total amount of reduction of Estimates by Assembly under both heads 64,641 75
Total amount of increase of Estimates by Assembly under both heads 75,660 00
Total amount voted in excess of total amount of Executive Estimates for 1866 8,168 75
The object of the Executive in reducing the Estimates is obvious. Whether the reductions have been well and wisely made, it is for you in common with other constituencies to determine. The country was asked to pay \$193,895 for Establishments and services mainly non-productive in the generally accepted sense of that term; the Assembly voted for these purposes \$129,264; and the retrenchment is \$64,631. As the details have been published, it is unnecessary for me to enlarge on the subject here.

The Assembly having reduced or struck estimates out deemed it expedient to exercise their undoubted prerogative to increase some estimates, and originate a few others both of a reproductive character, and at the same time reduce taxation. It appeared imprudent to say the least, in the present circumstances of the country, to merely vote money to support a cumbersome and expensive government, and do nothing to promote immigration, or open up the country to settlement.

Such objects in view, the Supplies for 1866 were voted. The following statement will show pretty accurately for what purposes estimates were increased or originated:—

ESTIMATES INCREASED OR ORIGINATED BY ASSEMBLY.	
EDUCATION—Male Teacher, Victoria, salary increased	\$280
Female do. do.	280
Male do Cedar Hill do.	250
New school, Salt Spring Island	500
Do do Sooke	500
Do do Metochosin	500
Hospital, Victoria	6,000
Mails—Everywhere	21,000
Roads, &c.—Every District	43,350
Lighthouses, Lifeboat—Race Point	250
Flour Mill—Bonny for the first	1,250
Fire Department—Victoria	1,500
Total	\$75,660

Very few persons, in my humble opinion, will be found in the colony who will disapprove of the items in the above statement. The great majority in town and country will, I believe, concur with the Assembly. It may be well, therefore, to take a glance at the following statement in order to learn to what amount the estimates would have reached, by adding the above necessary items of expenditure to the Bank debt and supplies required, had it not been for the retrenchment of the Assembly:—

Total Estimates 1866, required by Executive	\$ 193,895
Total Bank debt	52,465
Do amount Estimates increased, &c., by Assembly as above	75,660
Total Expenditure 1866—required by Executive	\$ 322,020

For the purposes of this inquiry, I would ask you to contrast the above total with the total estimates voted by the Assembly, and say which is the best of the two; the financial policy of the Executive or that inaugurated in Committee of Ways and Means? Here is a statement showing the total estimates voted by the Assembly:—

Total amount of Estimates voted by Assembly	\$ 202,063
Debt due Bank, provided for	52,465
Total expenditure, 1866	\$ 254,528
Total expenditure, 1866, required by Executive, as explained in first of the two last statements	\$ 322,020
Total expenditure, 1866, voted by Assembly	254,528

Total reduction of expenditure, 1866, as explained in last two statements	\$ 67,462
As it was out of the General Revenue—your money in common with the rest of the colony—that the Assembly voted supplies, I need not remind you that it is part of your public duty as citizens and taxpayers to investigate thoroughly the way in which your finances have been managed. It will be well, therefore, to learn what would have been the expenditure for 1866, after the Assembly had made their reductions, assuming that the estimates had not been increased. Reference to the following statement will supply that information:	
Total amount Estimates sent to Assembly	\$ 193,895
Bank debt	52,465
Total reductions made in Estimates by Assembly	64,631
Total expenditure, 1866	\$181,729

The last statement shows conclusively that through the scheme of retrenchment adopted by the Assembly the expenditure for 1866 and the Bank debt could have been paid out of the Executive Estimates of expenditure, \$193,895, and a surplus left in the Treasury of \$12,266; or that the Executive estimate of revenue for 1866, \$206,376, would have paid the expenditure of the current year and the Bank debt and left a balance of \$24,647.

No one will dispute but that it was the paramount duty of the Assembly to proportion taxation to the capacity of the people to pay. No one will deny that it was a primary duty of the Committee of Ways and Means, under the present circumstances of the country, to reduce the taxation of the current year to its lowest limit, consistent with providing sufficient revenue to meet the necessary expenditure. Particular attention was, therefore, given to the various sources of revenue. It was found in the estimates that there were two chief sources: 1.—Revenue due in previous years but not collected. 2.—Revenue to be raised from real and personal property or professions during the current year. Under the first head were arrears of real estate taxes \$34,000; sales of Government property \$300; reimbursements (B.U.) \$24,485; total \$58,785. Under the second head there were: Real Estate Tax \$50,000; Salary Tax \$2,500; Harbor dues \$35,300; Liquor Licenses \$28,091; Trading Licenses \$38,000; Postage \$4,400; Fines, fees, &c., of Courts \$15,000; Office fees \$3,500; Miscellaneous \$1,000; Towing vessels \$3,800; total \$181,591. The Committee of Ways and Means having in view the reduction of taxation to the lowest limit, deemed it expedient in anticipation of union of the colonies and local municipal institutions to strike off the Real Estate and the Salary Taxes, \$52,500, from the general revenue, and also with the design of stimulating local industry, to create two new taxes on imported hay and lumber estimated at \$9,000. The following statement will, therefore, show the respective amounts of taxes proposed to be levied by the Executive and Assembly the present year:

Total amount taxes proposed by Executive to be levied in 1866	\$ 181,591
Total amount taxes proposed by Assembly to be levied in 1866	138,091
Excess of Executive taxation to be levied in 1866 over Assembly scheme	\$43,500

From this statement it will appear that the Executive designed to levy nearly 30 per cent more taxation in 1866 than the Assembly. It will be for you to determine which scheme was best adapted to your purposes. There is another point deserving of your notice. It is the discrepancy between the Executive estimate of revenue for 1866 and the actual amount. For instance—Revenue due, \$58,785; revenue to be levied in 1866, \$181,591; total \$240,376. Deduct total revenue as in estimates, \$206,376, from the last total, and there will be a balance of \$34,000—a discrepancy to that extent between the facts and the Executive scheme recently endorsed by the Legislative Council.

But this is not all of the Ways and Means scheme of the Executive. In His Excellency's Message of Dec. 20, he recommended the Assembly to vote \$193,895 in supplies, and says there will be a surplus of revenue of \$12,481. He then adds that there is a sum due the Bank, about \$40,000 of which is desirable to meet by a loan extending over several years; or to quote the Message: "This outlay (\$40,000) in my opinion, should not be wholly delayed out of the revenue of the Estimates and does not make part of the \$193,895. In short, the Bank loan to that amount was to stand against the colony. The suggestion to pay for the Residence by extending the payment over several years met with the almost unanimous concurrence of the Assembly; and as the immediate construction of other public works was deemed essential to the progress of the colony, a temporary loan of \$100,000 was proposed and passed for both objects. The way in which this loan was to be paid has been already explained. The way in which it was to be expended is explained in Schedule A to "The Temporary Loan Act 1866," sent to the Council, which is as follows:—

SCHEDULE A.	
Residence for His Excellency the Governor, not exceeding sum of	\$50,000 00
For schoolhouse at Nanaimo	1500 00
Making road from Cook's to Metochosin	300 00
Comox Road through settlement, and bridge at Green's Landing	1500 00
Construction of a bridge across Nanaimo Ravine	1000 00
Wagon road 12 feet wide between Coler Stream and Sayward's Sawmill, Shawnigan, thence to Nanaimo	25000 00
Completion of the road to Sooke	3000 00
Steam Sawmill, via the head of the harbor, including a bridge across Sooke River	3000 00
Making roads in Salt Spring Island	500 00
Saanich road, in Lake District	2500 00
Saanich road, from McDonald's to Peter Lind's	3000 00
Improvement of Metochosin road	3000 00
Burnside road	3000 00

RECAPITULATION.
Total expenditure, 1866, required by Executive, as explained in first of the two last statements \$ 322,020
Total expenditure, 1866, voted by Assembly 254,528

Construction of road from Cedar District to Nanaimo	1500 00
Total	\$95,800 00

This \$95,800 in public works was to be met by a loan, extending over twenty years. In other words the colonists would have the benefit of those public works and pay for them within twenty years, and not tax the present inhabitants for the whole of what a future generation would inherit and use. Of this \$100,000 loan was to be paid out for a residence, because it was due the bank; and \$45,800 was to be expended on roads, &c. I may, without fear of much contradiction, assert that but very few men, whose judgment is of much practical value in building up a new country, will question the propriety of constructing roads, or the desirability of paying for them by loan. Men may carp about both roads and loans, but they usually have other, than their ostensible reasons for their opposition. At least such is my experience in this colony. Before leaving this head it may be observed that no part of the \$100,000 loan was to be expended to meet current expenses, but solely to create tangible, useful, and valuable assets, available now and in future years. In the Assembly's scheme, current expenditure was to be met by the receipts of 1866 derived from taxes and revenue due, and not by loans of a permanent character. For instance: Expenditure 1866, Temporary Loan \$100,000
Expenditure 1866, Public Works as in Schedule A 95,800

Excess 1866 exclusive of temporary loan of \$100,000	\$ 4,200
Expenditure 1866 exclusive of public works in Schedule A	158,728
Total excess of Revenue 1866, exclusive of Loan, over expenditure for current expenses	\$ 37,748

The two most important Committees of an Assembly—one of Supply, the other of Ways and Means—have quite different duties to perform. The business of the one is to run the country in debt as little as possible; the business of the other is to pay the debts off. One names the amount of expenditure for the year; the other provides revenue to meet it. In conducting the inquiry into the respective financial policies of the Executive and Assembly, it is expedient to learn what these two Committees have done. It will be seen in the following statement:—

Total General Revenue 1866, from all sources, provided by Ways and Means	\$296,476
Total Expenditure 1866, all establishments and services, voted in Supply	254,528
Total excess of Revenue over Expenditure, 1866	\$41,948

This statement demonstrates as fairly as figures can, that, instead of a deficit, the Assembly have provided a surplus of Revenue over and above the anticipated Expenditure for the current year. It may, however, be urged that there will be a decrease in the Revenue, owing to apparent causes, and that the excess above will be reduced in amount. Taking the Treasurer as authority, I assume that it will decrease 10 per cent. At that rate, on \$138,091, the amount of Revenue decrease in Revenue would be \$13,809. Deduct the latter sum from \$41,948 and there will still be an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of \$28,139—not a deficit, as some have asserted for their own purposes.

There is but another point to which I desire to direct your attention. It is neither the duty of the Ways and Means Committee, nor is it agreeable with the spirit of British institutions, to raise more revenue in any year by levying taxes than is required to balance the expenditure. Such a principle conjoined with the sole right of the Assembly to annually vote supplies, form the two best checks against misrule. By retaining, therefore, the Real Estate Tax and Salary Tax, assuming that the hay, lumber, and loan taxes were passed, the surplus revenue over expenditure would be largely increased. For instance, the total Revenue, as in the last statement, \$296,476; Real Estate Tax levied in 1866, \$50,000; Salary Tax, \$2,500; total \$52,500. Deduct Expenditure, \$254,528, from that and the surplus will be \$94,448. There would be this excess in the hands of an irresponsible government.

On the other hand, as the Council has thrown out the hay, lumber, and loan bills, and refused to repeal the Salary and Real Estate taxes, it is expedient to inquire whether there will be a surplus of Revenue over expenditure under such circumstances, and what will be the amount? It will appear as follows:—

Total Expenditure 1866, voted for civil establishments	\$24,416
Total Expenditure 1866, voted for exclusive of establishments and not including \$45,800 for roads, &c., to be paid by loan only	93,847
Total Revenue 1866 estimated by the Executive	\$156,263
Arrears Real Estate Tax	34,000
Total	\$190,263
Excess over Expenditure 1866	\$240,376

If the bank debt, \$52,465, be deducted from \$190,263 there will still be an excess of \$137,798, and the Government establishments will be kept up and the Governor's residence will be paid for; but there will be no public works to open up the country and promote settlement.

In conclusion, I may say that, if it be your desire and that of other constituencies to support American farmers, lumbermen, and artisans on American soil, in preference to British farmers, lumbermen, and artisans on our own soil, then the course of the Legislative Council, which is virtually the Executive Council, in refusing to repeal the Real Estate Tax, or pass the Road Loan and Hay and Lumber Bills ought to be upheld. If a different opinion be entertained respecting a policy that I regard as an unmix'd evil, there are suitable remedies, too obvious to detail.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

From Comox—From a settler on Saturday by the Sir James Cleland the following items of the above settlement. From places there will be from 250 to 300 acres of land under cultivation this season. There had 30 acres of ground harrowed for grain, besides 500 root crops. All the other settlers have fifteen acres in grain at least. Some of the settlers have been considerable improvements on the land. One settler has crested a barn and another one 38 by 25; barns of smaller size have been and it is considered that the settlers are now ahead of any other in the colony in their farm residences. It is computed the land to the Victoria market this year will be three to four tons of fresh but the steamer continues to run weekly twice a month; the settlement is five bits. There are about 100 tons of potatoes at which cannot be shipped as the charged by water to Victoria whereas American crafts bring across for \$2 50. It would be \$5 per ton to be levied on potatoes sufficiently to protect the Comox market from those of the other side. Pigs and poultry are very abundant in the settlement. Mr. Emily is bringing down upwards of 350 lbs. of pork, some of the hogs much as 350 lbs. Poultry is a market up there and cannot be weather during the last fortnight very fine and the crops look well. The assistance to the settlers as far as potatoes being the currency for labor and the pig grow two, but better worth five than the former three. The settlers are still notwithstanding the appointments of commissioners and overseers. The road is a matter of considerable concern and injury to the settlers. Mr. Thompson discovered these gentry carrying off one of the animals. He succeeded in stunning sufficiently to enable another man a gun and shot. The above show that the Comox settlers are lazy thriftless lot as they were noted in the Legislative Council by Mr. Young General.

OVERDUE LICENSES.—A number of licenses for arrears of quarterly called up in the Police Court yesterday appeared for eleven of the and made an urgent appeal to the Treasury for further time. Many parties were old residents, who thousands of dollars to the Colony but owing to the depressed state of they had not been earning even pay servants' wages, and to compel Hotels and other establishments close up, would not only be a grievance to them, but a serious injury to the Colony. The Magistrate said he was reluctant to issue summonses unless he was fairly exhausted, and he was unfair towards those who had paid, and thus lost the interest of the to grant time to those who had not pay. There was however an informal summons, as no notice had been produced the licenses, and the Court levy when there had been information of the mode of procedure; he should postpone the cases for three days, if he advised the defendants to pay should lessen the penalty, which otherwise would be inflicted. Mr. B. he would not press the objection, of formality, if the Treasurer would give further time. One of the had expended \$30,000 in the Colony had paid \$8000 into the Treasury had been in business. The Treasurer Act did not give him power the time, and moreover he had been spoken to by those who had been in due course, about the im of having been shown to be were continually in arrears. Such payments as could not pay for their were evidently not patronized sufficient to be a necessity, and should therefore be a nuisance. The Magistrate postponed the cases for three days.

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY met yesterday. The Speaker and Messrs. Tolmie, Dickson, McClure, Ash, Carswell, Dr. Ash, Chairman of the Committee on the Postal Bill, reported in favor of the bill with some amendments. Mr. C. B. Young reported to the result of the conference between the Houses on the District Courts Bill. The second reading of the Franchise Bill passed without a single objection. The whole, Mr. McClure in the chair, Mr. Tolmie in the chair, after considerable passing some amendments the reported progress and the House adjourned Wednesday.