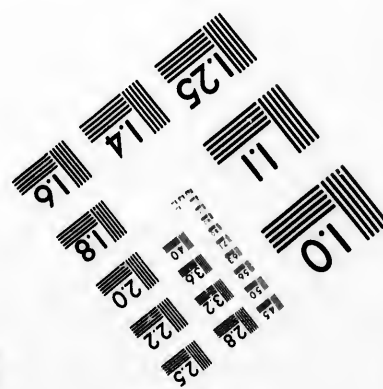
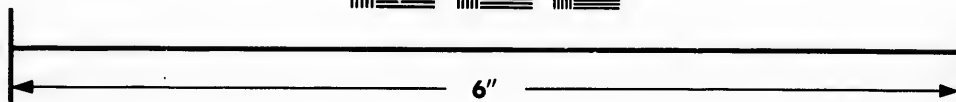
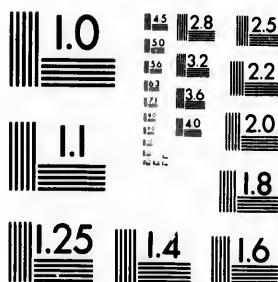


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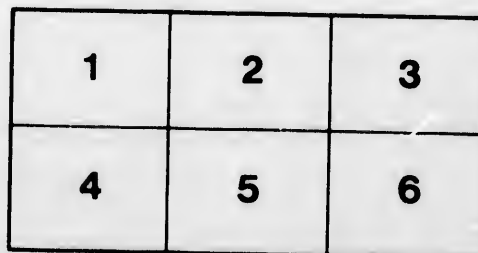
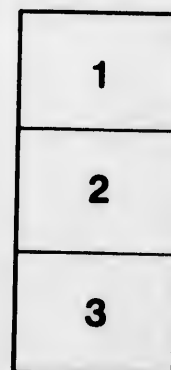
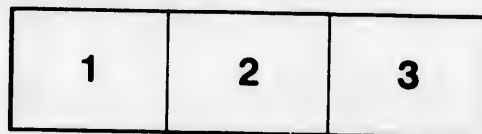
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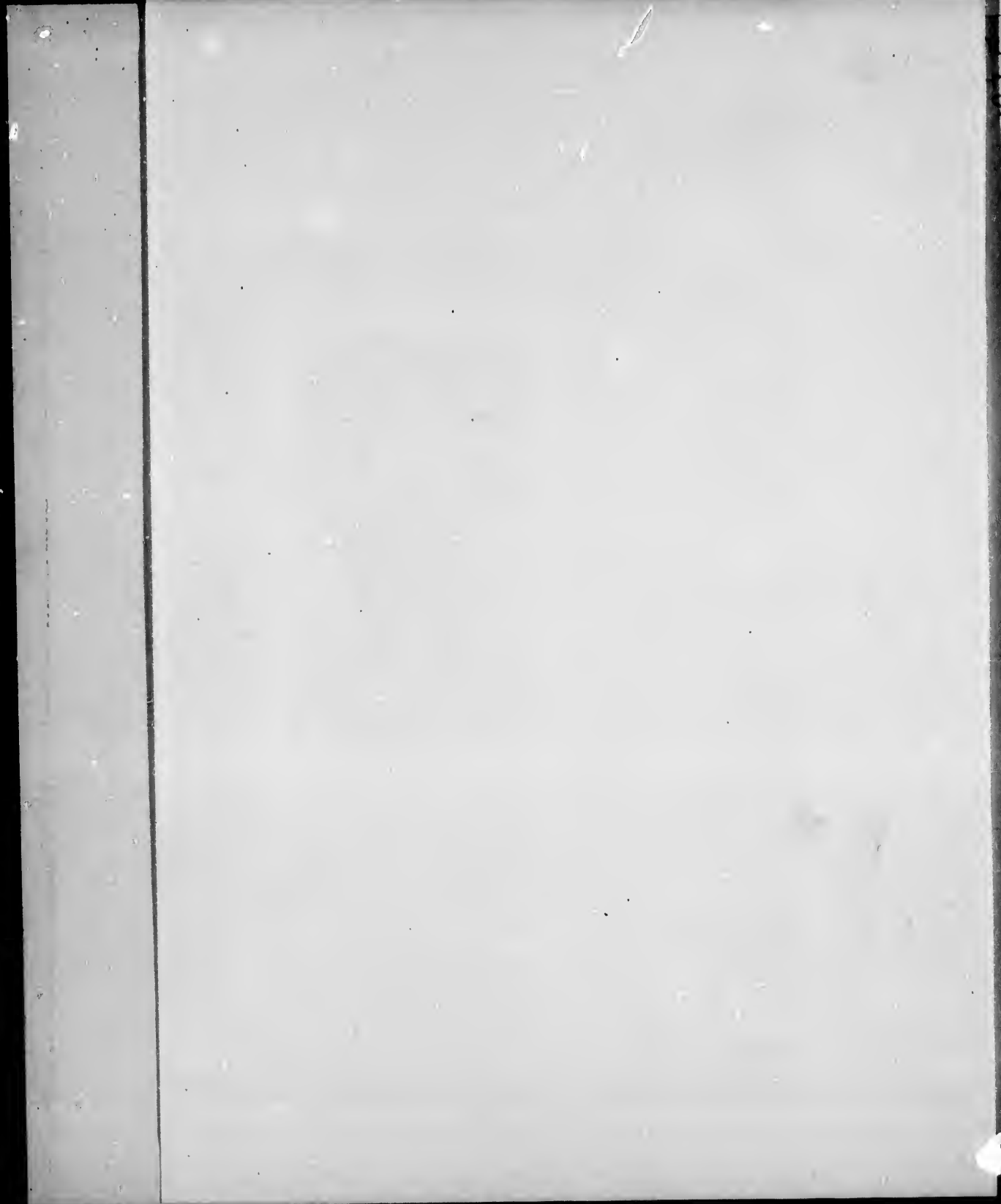
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CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
AND
THE TREASURER OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ABOLITION OF THE
OFFICE OF TREASURER.

1866-1867.

GOVERNOR of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Government House, New Westminster,
13th November 1866.*

DEAR SIR,—You are aware that the office you now hold will be abolished by Act of Parliament as soon as the proclamation uniting the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia shall have issued.

Circumstances and financial difficulties will, I deeply regret to say, compel me to effect considerable reduction in the public expenditure, and consequently in the double staff of Government Officers now existing in the two Colonies; but I have the permission of the Secretary of State to assure you that the reduction will not fall exclusively on the public servants of Vancouver Island. The Queen's prerogative of appointment to office is unfettered by the Act to which Her Majesty has assented.

It will be my duty to submit to Her Majesty's Secretary of State the names of the gentlemen whom I may consider best fitted to fill the several public offices which the service of the united Colony may require.

I am not as yet prepared, within a few days of my arrival, to perform the extremely important and painful duty which has devolved upon me. I shall, therefore, feel much obliged if you will continue to fulfil the duties of your office, and the employment of your subordinates, until the 31st December 1866.

A bill of indemnity will be laid before the Legislative Council, to protect me from the consequences of the unauthorised expense I am now undertaking.—I am, dear Sir,
your obedient Servant,

FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

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The COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of
VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, New Westminster,
17th January 1867.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Governor to inform you, that he is anxious to retain your services under this Government, until the work of the approaching session is completed, and the Laws of the United Colonies amalgamated. His Excellency desires me to offer you the appointment of Sub-Treasurer of British Columbia, resident in Victoria, to carry out until repealed the Revenue Laws of Vancouver Island, with a salary at the rate of £400 per annum. I am, at the same time, to express a hope, on the part of the Governor, that he will ere long be in a position to offer you a permanent and more satisfactory appointment.

The Governor is anxious to secure the services of Mr. W. A. G. Young, late Colonial Secretary of Vancouver Island, in the position of Treasurer during the approaching session of the Legislature of the Colony.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of
VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, New Westminster,
6th March 1867.*

SIR,—I have received and laid before the Governor your several letters referring to your official position since the Union.

You are so fully aware of the position of affairs that it is unnecessary for me to enter upon the subject, beyond the statement that it has become necessary to reduce the Civil establishment to a considerable extent, and in the proposed amalgamation of offices to abolish for a time the distinct office of Treasurer.

Under the local laws of Vancouver Island the necessity existed for the continuance of the appointment of Treasurer. Under the "Officers' Enabling Ordinance" the necessity for the continuance of the office no longer exists, and the Legislature has expressed a desire that the appointment be abolished.

The Auditor-General has reported that, in consequence of the arrears of audit work, your books, as Treasurer of Vancouver Island, cannot be balanced under at least three months.

Under these circumstances, the Governor considers it the most advisable course to refer the question of the abolition of the Treasurership to the Secretary of State, together

with a statement of your claims for employment here or elsewhere. Pending this reference to the Imperial Government, His Excellency would propose that you should continue on your present salary in connection with the Treasury Department in Victoria, —collecting and disbursing revenue as a Sub-Accountant, and completing the accounts of the Treasury of the late Colony of Vancouver Island.

In making this suggestion, the Governor desires me to assure you that your acceptance will in no way prejudice your position with the Home Government.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant, ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

TREASURER of VANCOUVER ISLAND to the COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Treasury, Victoria, 13th March 1867.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, dated the 6th instant, informing me that, under the "Officers' Enabling Ordinance," the necessity for the continuance of the appointment of Treasurer of Vancouver Island no longer exists; and that, pending a reference by His Excellency to the Secretary of State of the question of the abolition of the office, and also of my claims for employment here or elsewhere, the Governor proposes that I should continue, on my present salary, in connection with the Treasury Department in Victoria, collecting and disbursing revenue as a Sub-Accountant, and completing the accounts of the late Colony of Vancouver Island, which, through the absence of a systematic audit, have necessarily fallen into arrear.

In reply, I have to request that you will acquaint His Excellency that, while I am willing to remain in the Colony on my present salary, until the accounts are audited and the closing entries completed, and although satisfied with His Excellency's assurance that my acceptance of the subordinate office will not prejudice my position with the Home Government, I cannot, in justice to my status in the Colony, which has been attained after nine years' steady industry, accept the appointment of Sub-Accountant, believing that such a step would prejudice my usefulness as a Member of the Local Government in the event of that honour being conferred upon me by the Secretary of State.

At the same time I shall be glad, whilst waiting the completion of the Auditor's work, to afford every assistance in my power to the Sub-Accountant at Victoria.

For the sake of regularity in the accounts, I have this day closed the Cash-book of the Treasurer of Vancouver Island, and paid over the balance remaining in my hands to the credit of the Government Account at the Bank of British Columbia, a memorandum of which you will please find inclosed herewith. Until further advice, in order to save inconvenience to the public, I shall continue to collect the revenue as usual.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant, ALEXANDER WATSON.

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The COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of
VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, New Westminster,
22d March 1867.*

SIR,—I have duly received and laid before the Governor your letter of 13th instant, and I am directed by His Excellency to acquaint you that he is about to forward the same for the consideration of the Secretary of State.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

TREASURER of VANCOUVER ISLAND to COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Treasury, Victoria, 26th March 1867.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 13th inst., and to your reply thereto, dated the 22d inst., I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that as the "Officers' Enabling Ordinance" does not appear to enable officers of Vancouver Island to perform duties appertaining to British Columbia, and that, as you are aware, I do not hold any appointment under the Government of British Columbia, I have some hesitation in continuing to receive and disburse public monies in the capacity of ex-Treasurer of Vancouver Island.

I have, accordingly, to request that you will move His Excellency to make such arrangements as will relieve me from this anomalous position in which, solely for the convenience of the public service, I have placed myself.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER WATSON.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY of BRITISH COLUMBIA to the TREASURER of
VANCOUVER ISLAND.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, New Westminster,
30th March 1867.*

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 26th instant, I am directed by the Governor to offer you six months' leave of absence on full pay, with a free passage for yourself and family to England.

The Governor will likewise, should you accept this offer, bring to the notice of the Secretary of State your claims to other employment. He greatly regrets that the financial condition of the Colony leaves him but little hope of being able to offer you suitable employment within it.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

WER of

Westminster,

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COLUMBIA.

March 1867.

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