

# THE VICTORIA GAZETTE.

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## THE VICTORIA GAZETTE:

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### LETTER FROM NEW FORT LANGLEY.

Installation of the Government of British Columbia.

NEW FORT LANGLEY, 20th Nov. 1858.

EDITORS GAZETTE:—Yesterday, the birthday of British Columbia, was ushered in by a steady rain, which continued perseveringly throughout the whole day, and in a great measure marred the solemnity of the proclamation of the Colony. His Excellency Gov. Douglas, with a suite comprising Rear Admiral Baynes, (commanding the naval forces on the Pacific station) Mr. Cameron, the respected Chief Justice of Vancouver Island, Mr. Begbie, the newly appointed Judge of British Columbia, Mr. Lira, and others, proceeded on board H. M. ship Satellite, Capt. Provost, on Wednesday morning, by the Canal de Haro to Point Roberts, where His Excellency remained during the night. On Thursday morning His Excellency and suite were conveyed by the Hudson Bay Company's screw steamer Otter to the Company's steamship Beaver, which was lying moored within the mouth of Fraser river. Both vessels then proceeded in company as far as Old Fort Langley, where the Otter disembarked a party of eighteen sappers under the command of Capt. Parsons, who immediately embarked on the Recovery revenue cutter, joining the command of Capt. Grant, R. E., who had previously reached this spot with a party of the same corps. Both these gallant officers have recently arrived from England with small parties of men under their command. The Beaver then proceeded with His Excellency aboard to New Fort Langley, where preparations were made for the ceremonial of the following day.

On Friday morning, the 19th inst., His Excellency, accompanied by his suite, and received by a guard of honor commanded by Capt. Grant, disembarked on the wet, loamy bank under the Fort, and the procession proceeded up the steep bank which leads to the palisade. Arrived there, a salute of 18 guns commenced pealing from the Beaver, awakening all the echoes of the opposite mountains. In another moment the flag of Britain was floating, or, to speak the truth, dripping over the principal entrance. Owing to the unpropitious state of the weather, the meeting which was intended to have been held in the open air, was convened in the large room at the principal building. About 100 persons were present.

The ceremonies were commenced by His Excellency addressing Mr. Begbie, and delivering to him Her Majesty's commission as Judge in the Colony of British Columbia. Mr. Begbie then took the oath of allegiance, and the usual oaths on taking office, and then, addressing His Excellency, took up Her Majesty's Commission appointing the Governor, and proceeded to read it at length.

Mr. Begbie then administered to Governor Douglas the usual oaths of office, viz.: allegiance, abjuration, &c. His Excellency being thus duly appointed and sworn in, proceeded to issue the Proclamations of the same date, (19th instant) viz.: one proclaiming the Act; a second indemnifying all the officers of the Government from any irregularities which may have been committed in the interval before the proclamation of the Act; and a third proclaiming English Law to be the Law of the Colony. The reading of these was preceded by His Excellency's Proclamation of the 3d inst., setting forth the Revocation by Her Majesty of all the exclusive privileges of the Hudson Bay Company. The proceedings then terminated. On leaving the Fort, which His Excellency did not finally do until to-day, another salute of 17 guns was fired from the battlements, with even a grander effect than the salute of the previous day.

On leaving the river side, in front of the town, a number of the inhabitants were assembled with whom His Excellency entered into conversation previous to embarking on board the Beaver, and by whom he was loudly cheered in very good style as he was on his way to the steamer. VIATOR.

### Proceedings of the House of Assembly.

[REPORTED FOR THE GAZETTE.]

November 23d, 1858.

Members present: J. D. Pemberton, T. J. Skinner, J. W. McKay, J. Kennedy, and the Speaker.

The following Bills were returned to the House with several formal amendments, made by the Legislative Council:

1st. A Bill to amend the Law relating to Inns and Beer Houses.

2nd. An Act to amend the Law relating to the licensing of Inns, Public and Beer Houses.

3d. A Bill of Supply, granting certain sums of money for the improvement of Streets and Roads, and for the use of the House of Assembly.

The amendments having been agreed to, the Bills passed.

Mr. Pemberton informed the House that the Naval authorities at Esquimalt desired that the public road through their property should be surrendered. At next meeting he would propose a resolution "to concede to the Naval authorities the present road, provided that one equally good and leading to the water be made by them."

Mr. Skinner gave notice that at next meeting he would move that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that a road be opened from Craig Flower to the Hospitals at Esquimalt, passing by the Barracks at Constance Cove.

The House then adjourned for a fortnight.

THE ABORIGINES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The Aborigines' Protection Society have addressed a communication to Sir E. B. Lytton on behalf of the Indians of British Columbia. They pray that measures may be adopted to protect the Indians against the aggressive violence of the gold diggers, especially of those who come from California, and whose inhumanity to the red man is proverbial. They also earnestly plead for the recognition of Indian rights, and strongly urge that compensation should be made for surrendering those rights. Lord Carnarvon, in reply, states that "the welfare and interests of the race have not been lost sight of in the instructions which Sir E. B. Lytton has given to the Governor."—[European Times.]

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Victoria, V. I., July 17, 1858. n17

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