BRITISH COLUMBIA.

EXPLANATORY REPORT

ON THE

ESTIMATES FOR 1871.

REVENUE.

1. Customs Receipts for 1871 are estimated at $320,000. Last year they were placed at $350,000, but only reached $325,000.

2. Road Tolls have fallen considerably below the Estimate. They have been placed at $42,000, instead of $50,000 as last year.

3. Excise Duties remain about the same as last year, and have been placed at $3,500.

4. Land Sales.—Here an increase of $14,000 is shewn. Of this amount $13,000 is now actually due, and will be collected during the next half-year for Pre-empted and Purchased Lands, which have been surveyed this year at request of the Pre-emptors, and it is not improbable that the estimate of Receipts from Land Sales will yet be exceeded.

5. Land Revenue includes Rents of Pastoral Leases applied for. Here an increase over last year is shewn of $1,000.

6. Rents, exclusive of Land remain nearly the same as last year.

7. Free Miners' Certificates.—The Revenue expected to be derived from this source has been estimated the same as last year, although it will certainly be increased should the Omineca Mines prove as good as are anticipated; but so frequently have anticipations not been realized that it was considered prudent not to increase the estimate from this source of Revenue.

8. Mining Receipts General.—The Revenue from this source has exceeded the Estimate for 1870 by $2,000. It has been placed for 1871 at $15,000, which amount will probably be increased.

9. Licences.—The Revenue derived from this source has exceeded the Estimate for 1870 by $1,500. It has been placed for 1871 at $42,000.

10. Postage.—The Revenue derived from Postage has also exceeded the Estimate for 1870 by $1,000. It has been placed for 1871 at $14,000.

11. Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court.—From this source of Revenue an excess of $1,500 in the Estimate for 1870 has taken place. This is owing to the increase in the amount of Fees of the Supreme Court. The Estimate for 1871 has been placed at $6,500.

12.—Fees of Office.—This source of Revenue is derived principally from Assay Fees. It has fallen short of the Estimate for 1870 by $1,000. The amount of Gold assayed varies so considerably from one year to another, that it is very difficult to form a correct Estimate. For 1871 it has been placed at $3,950.

13. Sale of Government Property.—Nothing has been placed against this heading. $1,500 was realized last year; it included the sale of the Steamer "Leviathan," and Government Stores at New Westminster.

14.—Reimbursements in aid of Expenses incurred.—The Revenue expected to be derived from this source has been placed for 1871 at $26,000, being $7,000 in excess of the Estimate for 1870. This increase is expected to be derived from Telegraphic Receipts $5,000; Keep of Naval Prisoners, which was not placed at a sufficiently high figure last year; and a slight increase in the Revenue from the Steamer "Sir James Douglas."

15.—Miscellaneous Receipts remain the same as last year. This is merely a matter of account.

16. Arrears of Real Estate Tax, V.I.—The Revenue expected to be derived under this heading was estimated last year at $8,000, of which only about $1,500 has been collected. Since then lists of the taxes due have been published, in accordance with the Tax Sale Repeal Ordinance, and it is estimated that $16,000 will be collected for 1871.

17. Road Tax.—The Revenue derived from this source has exceeded the Estimate for 1870 by $1,000, and has been placed for 1871 at $7,000.

It will be observed that the headings under which it is expected an Increase of Revenue will be derived in 1871, over 1870, are:—

Land Sales	$14,000
Land Revenue	1,000
Mining Receipts General	2,500
Licences	2,000
Postage	1,000
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court	1,500
Reimbursements in aid of Expenses incurred	7,000
Arrears Real Estate Tax	8,000
Road Tax	1,000
Total	38,000

And the headings under which it is expected the Revenue will decrease, are:—

Customs	$30,000
Road Tolls	8,000
Fees of Office	2,100
Sale of Government Property	1,500
Total	41,600

It is anticipated that the Revenue for 1871 which will be derived from Excise Duties, Rents exclusive of Land, Free Miners' Certificates, and Miscellaneous Receipts will be the same as 1870, therefore, although from some sources it is confidently expected the Revenue for 1871 will increase over 1870 to the amount of $38,000, there will, *per contra*, be a falling off of $41,600, making a total falling off of Estimated Revenue for 1871 of $3,600.

The Estimated Revenue for 1870 was $537,750. The Revenue actually received has been $502,300, showing the Revenue last year to have been over-estimated by $35,450.

The items which were over-estimated were:—

Customs	$25,000
Road Tolls	8,000
Excise Duties	500
Free Miners' Certificates	1,000
Fees of Office	1,050
Reimbursements in aid	2,200
Arrears Real Estate Tax	7,000
Total	44,750

The items which were under-estimated were:—

Land Sales	$ 1,000
Land Revenue	1,000
Rents, exclusive of Land	200
Mining Receipts General	2,100
Licences	1,500
Postage	1,000
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court	1,500
Road Tax	1,000
Total	9,300

EXPENDITURE.

The Expenditure under the head of Establishments varies but little from that of last year, the differences are explained as follows:—

TREASURY.—An increase of $250 has been placed on the Estimates as an Allowance to the Officer in Charge for extra expense which he has been put to in finding Bondsmen as required by Instructions from the Secretary of State.

AUDITOR GENERAL.—Under this heading an increase of $500 appears for extra assistance in Audit Office. It is contemplated this sum will be required for remuneration to a Clerk for assisting in auditing arrears of Accounts, two years of which have been sent from England to be audited in this Colony.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF LANDS AND WORKS.—Here a decrease appears of $300 in the Salary of Accountant Clerk. The Officer who formerly held an office with emoluments amounting to $1,500 per annum, having left the Service; the present holder of the office receives but $1,200 per annum.

REGISTRAR GENERAL.—The vote of $485 formerly taken for this Office has been omitted, the Registrar General being now provided for under the "Land Registry Ordinance, 1870."

TOTAL OF CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS required under votes is therefore $45,373, being a decrease over 1870 of $35.

JUDICIAL.

SUPREME COURT.—A decrease here appears of $2,952, the Salary of the Messenger only requiring a vote, the remaining Salaries being provided for under Acts.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Under this heading an Allowance of $1,455 is shewn for the Attorney General in lieu of Prosecution Fees.

POLICE INCLUDING PRISONS AND GAOLS.—Under this heading a decrease is shewn of $434·75. This is owing to the death of the late Warden of New Westminster Gaol. His Office has been temporarily filled by the Senior Gaoler from Victoria but without any increase of Salary.

GOLD, ASSISTANT GOLD COMMISSIONERS AND STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES.

COLUMBIA AND KOOTENAY DISTRICT.—A decrease appears under this heading of $488·50. This District has been entirely re-arranged. An Officer from the Customs Department formerly stationed at Osoyoos has been sent temporarily to fill the Office of Magistrate at Kootenay, and an Allowance for him of $1,212·50 has been placed on the Estimates, which, together with the amount drawn from the Customs Department, makes his Salary £600 per annum, which has been the amount hitherto voted for the Kootenay Magistrate.

CARIBOO, INCLUDING QUESNEL AND SODA CREEK.—An increase under this heading appears of $1,940, for the Salary of a Constable a Omineca.

YALE, INCLUDING HOPE AND LYTTON.—The Salary, for the first time, of the Gold Commissioner and Stipendiary Magistrate at Yale appears under its proper heading, hence the increase of $3,000 in the Estimates over last year.

NANAIMO AND COMOX.—The Estimate under this heading is increased $546, which is accounted for by the Salary of the Magistrate at Nanaimo having been placed on a par with the Salary of the Magistrate at Victoria.

PENSIONS, RETIRED ALLOWANCES, AND GRATUITIES.—A decrease appears under this heading of $2,536·25. The Pension for Retired Chief Justice Cameron not requiring a vote, it being provided for by Act. The Pension to Mrs. McClean expired on the 31st of March last.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.—Under this heading a decrease is shewn of $1.100 which is accounted for by the reduction of the sum required for Prosecution and Interpreters' Fees. The Attorney General receiving an Allowance instead.

EDUCATION.—It has been found necessary to increase the sum required for this Service by $5,000. There are at present 18 Schools with 19 Teachers, which will in all probability be increased to 24 before the close of 1871. The sum of $12,000 would therefore be required for Salaries alone, leaving $3,000 for grants in aid of School Buildings, &c., and Inspector's travelling expenses.

RENT.—A decrease appears of $735·50, votes for the Rents of Government Houses at Nanaimo and Perry Creek not being required, the Magistrate at Nanaimo being called upon to pay his own House Rent, his Salary having been increased, and the House at Perry Creek is now the property of the Government.

TRANSPORT.—The sum required for this service has been decreased $1,410.

Conveyance of Mails.—The sum required for this service has been augmented by $949. The Contract for carrying the Mails between Yale and Cariboo has been decreased for the Year by $2,501. The Conveyance of Mails homewards and outwards between England and the United States, appears for the first time in its proper place. This is merely a matter of account under the head of "Reimbursement in Aid." The sum of $6,000 has appeared from Her Majesty's Government for Mails, whereas, in reality only $3,000 is received from Her Majesty's Government. A sum amounting to about $3,000 being the share of Postage falling to this Colony for carriage of Mails between Liverpool and New York has always been deducted from the half Mail Subsidy the Imperial Government pay.

Works and Buildings.—Under this heading a considerable increase over 1870 is asked for. It is accounted for by the construction of a New Gaol at Nanaimo, which is much needed, an increase of $3,000 for Miscellaneous Surveys throughout the Colony, and $12,250 for the Telegraph Line, making a total increase of Expenditure of $23,650. But it must be remembered as a *per contra* that the Rent of the Gaol at Nanaimo will be saved, that a Revenue of $13,000 is expected to be derived from the Survey of Lands, and the Receipts from the Telegraph are estimated at $5,000.

Roads, Streets, and Brieges.—The vote asked for under this heading has, by great care and displaying the strictest economy, been decreased by $4,750.

Miscellaneous Services.—It has been found necessary to increase the Estimate for Miscellaneous Services under the following heads:—

Volunteer Expenses (in accordance with Act)	$500
Victoria Volunteers' Debt	500
Aid to Deluge Fire Co., for purchase of Engine	750
Printing General Map of Colony, in London	600
Repairing Surveying Instruments	250
Purchase of Foreign Postage Stamps	150

It has been decreased in one or two other items, showing a total increase of $2,290 over last year.

Home Government Account.—A vote for $3,274 30 appears for the first time under this heading. This is required for the payment of certain stores belonging to the War Department left here for the use of the Colony by Colonel Moody, which the Colony has now been called on by the Imperial Government to pay.

Government Vessels.—A reduction appears under this heading of $6,950, no vote being required this year for new boiler or propeller.

Lighthouses.—Under this heading $900 less than last year is asked for, no vote being required for fog bell.

The Estimated Revenue for the year 1871 amounts to	$533,950 00
The Estimated Expenditure to	522,135 01
Showing an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of	11,814 99

LIABILITIES.

PUBLIC DEBT.

FLOATING DEBT AT 31st DECEMBER, 1869.

Exchequer Debentures		$149,000 00
Vancouver Island Do		70,000 00
Road Bonds		9,700 00
Colonial Securities Co.		7,000 00
Private Loan		3,500 00
Bishop of British Columbia		1,432 34
Crown Fund		11,038 92
Savings Bank		41,000 00
Bank of British Columbia		27,347 86
Imperial Government on Military and Pension Account		—
		$319,019 12
Loans under Acts	$1,164,000 00	
Less Sinking Fund Invest'mt	346,820 00	
		817,180 00
Total Debt		$1,136,199 12

FLOATING DEBT AT 31st DECEMBER, 1870.

Exchequer Debentures		$149,000 00
Vancouver Island Do.		70,000 00
Road Bonds		9,700 00
Colonial Securities Co.		7,000 00
Private Loan		3,500 00
Bishop of British Columbia		1,432 34
Crown Fund		11,038 92
Savings Bank		78,000 00
Bank of British Columbia		42,129 00
Imperial Government on Military and Pension Account		2,474 00
		$374,274 26
Loans under Acts	$1,164,000 00	
Less Sinking Fund Invest'mt	425,136 00	
		738,864 00
Total Debt		$1,113,138 26

Philip J. Hankin,
Colonial Secretary.