AN ACT,

Respecting the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Vancouver Island.

WHEREAS, it is expedient that a Public Record should be kept, of all Marriages, Births and Deaths, in Vancouver Island.

Therefore, the Governor, on behalf of Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Vancouver Island, enacts as follows :

MARRIAGES.

1. Every Clergyman, or Minister, or other person by Law duly authorised to solemnise the ceremony of Marriage in Vancouver Island, who celebrates a Marriage in Vancouver Island, shall immediately after he has solemnised such Marriage, enter in a book to be kept by him for the purpose, a true record of the Marriage, and shall, on or before the fifteenth day of January, in every year, return a certified list of all Marriages by him solemnised during the year ending on the thirty-first day of December next preceeding to the Registrar General of Vancouver Island, and shall, at the time of making the return, pay, or transmit to the Registrar General, five dollars, as his fee thereon.

2. Such record and list shall respectively specify all the particulars, and shall be in the form in the Schedule hereunto annexed marked "A."

3. On receipt by the Registrar General of any such list, he shall file the same among the papers of his office, and record the same in a book to be kept by him for the purpose.

4. In case of the death or absence of the witnesses to a marriage, such register, or a certified copy, shall be sufficient evidence of the marriage, and the Registrar General shall give a certified copy of a marriage record to any person demanding the same, on payment of one dollar.

5. Every Clergyman, Minister, or other duly authorized person, before solemnising a marriage, may demand from either of the parties thereto the sum of five dollars, to enable him to pay the sum to be paid or transmitted by him to the Registrar General, and to remunerate the Clergyman, Minister, or other duly qualified person, for the trouble and expense attendant on preparing and transmitting such certified list to the Registrar General.

6. In case of the death or removal of a Minister or Clergyman before making his annual return, his successor or any other person having the legal custody of the book referred to in the first section of this Act, shall return to the Registrar General a certified copy of all marriages therein recorded, and the Registrar General shall record the same as if the return had been made by the Minister, Clergyman, or other duly qualified person who celebrated the marriages.

7. Every Clergyman, Minister, or other person by law duly authorized to solemnise marriages, who in any year refuses or neglects to return the certified list required of him by this Act, on or before the fifteenth day of January shall forfeit for every days delay after that day the sum of four dollars, which sum shall be recoverable with costs before any Justice of the Peace of the city, town, or district in which the person resides, and shall be applied according to law.

APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

8. The Governor may constitute and appoint under his hand and seal at arms a person in each city, town, or district of Vancouver Island, to be called the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the city, town, or district of (as the case may be).

9. And every person so appointed shall hold office during good behaviour, and shall receive a salary of not more than dollars per annum.

BIRTHS.

10. The father of every child born in the Colony of Vancouver Island, or in the event of the father being dead or absent from the Colony at the the time of such birth, the mother of such child, or the person having the legal custody and care of such child, within six weeks after the birth thereof shall report, or cause to be reported, to the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the city, town, or district in which such birth may have taken place, the fact of such birth, the day on which it took place, the sex of the child, its name (if christened), and the names and residence of its parents.

11. When any person shall come to his or her death from any cause whatever in Vancouver Island, the father or mother, the executors or administrators, or failing these, or if the next of kin of such person shall not be in the Colony at the time of such death, the proprietor of the house, whether public or private, or the manager or superintendent of the Hospital, Infirmary, Asylum, or other Institution, in which such death shall have taken place, shall, within twenty-four hours thereafter, report, or cause to be reported unto the Registrar of births and deaths for the city, town, or district in which such death happened, the fact of such death, and the name, avocation, sex, age, and birth-place of the deceased, also, the cause of death, by medical certificate, or otherwise, or so many of such particulars as may be within the knowledge of the party whose duty it shall be to make such report. And every such person who shall fail to make such report as hereinbefore specified, shall forfeit, for every days delay after the day of death, the sum of four dollars, which sum shall be recoverable, with costs, before any Justice of the Peace of the city, town or district in which the person resides, and shall be applied according to law.

12. That every Registrar, immediately upon registering any death, or as soon thereafter as he shall be required to do so, shall, without fee or reward, deliver to the undertaker or other person having charge of the funeral, a certificate under his hand, according to the form of Schedule D to this Act annexed, that such death has been duly registered, and such certificate shall be delivered by such undertaker or other person to the minister or officiating person who shall be required to bury, or perform any religious service for the burial of the dead body; and if any dead body shall be buried, for which no such certificate shall have been so delivered, the person who shall bury or perform any funeral or any religious service for the burial, shall forthwith give notice thereof to the Registrar; provided always, that the Coroner, upon holding any Inquest, may order the body to be buried, if he shall think fit, before registry of the death, and shall in such case give a certificate of his order in writing, under his hand, according to the form of schedule E to this Act annexed, to such undertaker or other person having charge of the funeral, which shall be delivered as aforesaid; and any person who shall bury or perform any funeral or any religious service for the burial of any dead body for which no certificate shall have been duly made and delivered as aforesaid, either by the Registrar or Coroner, shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars for every such offence.

13. That every person by whom the information contained in any register of birth or death under this Act shall have been given, shall sign his or her name, as the case may be, avocation and place of abode, in the register; and no register of birth or death, according to this Act, shall be given in evidence, which shall not be signed by some person professing to be the informant, and to be such party as is herein required to give such information to the Registrar.

14. The Registrar of births and deaths to whom such report of birth or death shall be made, shall immediately on receiving such report enter in a book to be kept by him for that purpose, a true record of such birth or death, and other particulars required by sections 10 and 11 of this Act, and shall, on or before the fifteenth day of January in every year, return a certified list of all births and a certified list of all deaths so by him recorded as aforesaid, during the year ending on the 31st day of December next preceding, to the Registrar General of Vancouver Island, and shall, at the time of making such return, pay, or transmit to the Registrar General, five dollars, as his fee thereon.

15. Such records and lists shall respectively specify all the particulars, and shall be in the forms in the Schedule hereunto annexed, marked "B" & "C."

16. On receipt, by the Registrar General of any such lists, he shall file the same among the papers of his office, and record the same respectively in books to be kept by him for the purpose.

17 In case of the death or removal of a Registrar of births and deaths in any city, town, or district, before making his annual returns, his successor, or any person having the legal custody of the books referred to in section twelve, shall return to the Registrar General a certified copy of all births and deaths recorded in such books respectively, and the Registrar General shall record the same as if the return had been made by the person who recorded such births and deaths.

18. Every Registrar of births and deaths appointed hereafter, in

pursuance of this Act, who in any year refuses or neglects to return the certified lists required of him by this Act, on or before the fifteenth day of January, shall forfeit for every days delay after that day, the sum of five dollars, which sum shall be recoverable with costs, before any Justice of the Peace of the city, town, or district, in which the person resides, and shall be applied according to law.

19. The Registrar General shall, at the expense of the Colony, from time to time, on demand, furnish all Clergymen, Ministers, and other persons authorised to solemnise marriages, and all Registrars of births and deaths required by this Act to make returns, with the books to be kept, and with printed blank forms for the lists to be returned, and such books and forms shall respectively have columns and headings printed on every page according to the forms given in the schedules hereunto annexed, marked respectively A, B, and C, and the books and forms shall be of such size and form as to admit of the necessary entries being conveniently made thereon.

20. Every book for recording marriage, by whomsoever furnished shall be the property of the church or denomination to which the Clergyman or Minister in whose hands it may be belongs at the time of the first marriage which he records therein; and all books for recording births and deaths shall be the property of the Colonial Government.

21. The Registrar General shall give a certified copy of a record of a birth or death to any person demanding the same, on payment of one dollar, and such record or certified copy shall be sufficient evidence of the birth or death.

PENAL CLAUSE.

22. If any person or persons required by this Act to report a birth or death, or cause the same to be reported unto the Registrar of births and deaths, shall neglect to do so within the time limited for that purpose, such person or persons shall forfeit for every days delay after that day the sum of four dollars, which sum shall be recoverable with costs before any Justice of the Peace of the town or district in which the person resides, and shall be applied according to law.

SCHEDULE A.

Return of Marriage solemnised by a Minister of (or as the case may be), for the year ending the day of A. D., 186 .

BRIDEGROOM.					BRIDE.					WITNESS.		DATE OF MARRIAGE
His name.	Age if known.	Residence.	Place of Birth.	Names of Parents if known.	Her name.	Age if known.	Residence.	Place of Birth.	Names of Parents if known.	Name.	Residence.	

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of all marriages solemnised before (as the case may be,) for the year ending on the 31st day of December next preceding the date thereof.

(Signed,) A. B., Minister, (or as the case may be.)

SCHEDULE B.

Return of births in the city, town, or district of (as the case may be) for the year ending the day of January, A, D., 186 .

THE FATHER'S NAME.	THE MOTHER'S NAME.	RESIDENCE.	MALE OR FEMALE CHILD.	WHEN BORN	NAME IF CHRISTENED.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and corect statement of all births recorded by me, for the year ending the 31st day of December, next preceding the date hereof.

(Signed,) A. B., Registrar of births and deaths for the of (as the case may be).

SCHEDULE C.

Return of Deaths in the city, town or district of (as the case may be) for the year ending the day of January, 18

Name of deceased	Avocation.	Date of Death.	Sex.	Age.	Birth place.	Last place of residence.	Cause of Death.	Name and residence of informant.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of all deaths recorded by me for the year ending the 31st day of December next preceding the date hereof.

(Signed,) A. B., Registrar of births and deaths for the of (as the case may be.)

SCHEDULE D.

I, A. B. Registrar of births and deaths in the of do hereby certify that the death of C. D. was duly registered by me on the day of 18

A. B., Registrar.

SCHEDULE E.

I, D. C., Coroner, for the do hereby order the burial of the body, now shewn to the inquest jury as the body of Witness my hand, this day of 18

D. C., Corner.