SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, & MARRIAGES.

1874.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
1st June, 1875.

To the Honourable George Anthony Walkem,
Attorney-General, &c., &c.

SIR:

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and the use of Parliament, my Second Annual Report, under the provisions of the "Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act, 1872."

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
H. B. W. AIKMAN,
Registrar-General.

REPORT.

To His Excellency the Honorable JOSEPH W. TRUTCH, *Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

I have the honour to submit the Second Annual Report upon the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in this Province. The period under review is the year ending 31st December, 1874.

In addition to the tables contained in last year's Report, tables showing the increase or decrease, as the case may be, of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the different Districts have been compiled.

Beyond the usual information contained in the Statistical Tables, there is but little to report that would be of public interest. The number of Registrations has fallen short of the number anticipated; and the result of the year's work is therefore scarcely as desirable as could have been wished. For the year ending 31st December, 1873, the total number of Registrations was 364; and for the year ending 31st December, 1874, the total number is 335. There is, therefore, a decrease of 29 Registrations for the year 1874. The decrease, as will be seen from Tables A, B, and C, arises in the country districts, and is principally attributable to the causes pointed out in my previous Report.

BIRTHS.

The following table is a summary of Births registered during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1874:—

Districts.	Male.	Female.	No., where both name and sex are omitted.	Total.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	50	45	...	95
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c.	18	20	...	38
No. 3. New Westminster, &c.	12	11	...	23
No. 4. Yale, &c.	5	2	...	7
No. 5. Clinton	1	3	...	4
No. 6. Lillooet	...	...	...	...
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	3	4	...	7
No. 8. Omineca, &c.	...	...	...	...
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	89	85	...	174

Here we have an increase, in the number of Births registered, of 10.

Of the 174 children registered, 89 were males, and 85 females.

The birth of two pairs of twins was reported.

Two births, out of the whole number registered, were returned as still-born; and one birth as illegitimate.

Marriages.

The following table is a summary of Marriages registered during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1874:—

Districts.	Where the Bride and Bridegroom are of the same Religious Denomination.							Other Denominations.	Where Bride and Bridegroom were of different Denominations.	No Denomination given.	Total
	Episcopalian.	Presbyterian.	Methodist.	Roman Catholic.	Baptist.	Lutheran.	Congregational.				
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	29	2	4	4	...	...	...	...	12	2	53
No. 2 Nanaimo, &c	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	6
No. 3. New Westminster, &c	1	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	3	1	10
No. 4. Yale, &c.	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	3
No. 5. Clinton, &c.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
No. 8. Omineca, &c	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.	32	2	8	11	...	...	...	...	22	3	78

We have here a decrease, in the number of Marriages registered, of 10. Of the total number of Marriages, 66 were by license, 9 by banns, 1 by license and banns, and 2 by civil contract.

The age of the eldest bride was returned at 57 years, and the youngest at 14 years. The age of the eldest bridegroom was returned at 56 years, and the youngest at 19 years.

Deaths.

The following table is an analysis of Deaths registered during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1874:—

Districts.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Under 3 years.	3, and under 10.	10, and under 21.	21, and under 40.	40, and under 60.	60, and under 70.	70, and under 80.	80, and under 90.	90, and upwards.	Ages not given.	No. of Males.	No. of Females.	Total.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	12	2	...	10	19	3	...	...	...	...	36	10	46
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c.	3	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
No. 3. New Westminster, &c	2	...	...	4	8	...	...	...	...	1	15	...	15
No. 4. Yale, &c.	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
No. 5. Clinton, &c.	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	1	...	..	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
No. 8. Omineca, &c	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
No. 9. Kootenay, &c	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Totals	18	2	...	20	38	4	...	...	...	1	65	18	83

The persons whose deaths are enumerated, in the columns above marked 4, 5, and 6, were natives of the following countries:—

	England.	Ireland.	Scotland.	Germany.	France.	United States of America.	Canada.		Mexico.	Italy.	Sweden.	Sierra Leone.
							Ontario.	Quebec.				
Column 4	8	...	4	2	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...
Column 5	9	6	3	4	1	3	2	1	4	2	2	1
Column 6	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	17	7	8	6	2	7	5	1	4	2	2	1

ABSTRACT CAUSES OF DEATH.

CLASS I.	Zymotic	7
II.	Diseases, uncertain seat	5
III.	Tubercular	4
IV.	Brain and Nervous System	4
V.	Organs of Circulation	8
VI.	Respiratory Organs	9
VII.	Organs of Digestion	5
VIII.	Urinary Organs	0
IX.	Organs of Generation	0
X.	Organs of Locomotion	1
XI.	Skin Disease	0
XII.	Malformation	0
XIII.	Atrophy	3
XIV.	Old Age	0
XV.	Sudden Death	0
XVI.	Violent Death	12
	Not specified	25
	TOTAL	83

I.

Cholera Infantum	2	
Erysipelas	1	
Syphilis	4	
		— 7

II.

Hæmorrhage	2	
Cancer	1	
Dropsy	2	
		— 5

III.

Scrofula	1	
Phthisis	3	
		— 4

IV.

Paralysis	1	
Convulsions	1	
Apoplexy	1	
Meningitis	1	
		— 4

V.

Heart Disease	8	
		— 8

VI.

Lung Disease	4	
Pneumonia	5	
		— 9

VII.

Liver Disease	4	
Exhaustion	1	
		— 5
Carried forward	42	

Brought forward		42

VIII.—*Nil.*

IX.—*Nil.*

X.

Rheumatism	1	
		— 1

XI.—*Nil.*

XII.—*Nil.*

XIII.

General Debility	3	
		— 3

XIV.—*Nil.*

XV.—*Nil.*

XVI.

Drowning	3	
Suffocation	1	
Hanged	1	
Premature Births	2	
Accidents	5	
		—12
Not specified	25	
		—25
TOTAL		83

The following Tables (A, B, and C) have been compiled, in addition to those appearing in last year's Report. They show the increase or decrease, as the case may be, in the different Districts, between the number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths registered in the years ended 31st December, 1873, and 31st December, 1874:—

TABLE A.

Births.

Districts.	Number registered in 1873.	Number registered in 1874.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	87	95	8	...
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c.	27	38	11	...
No. 3. New Westminster, &c.	26	23	...	3
No. 4. Yale, &c.	11	7	...	4
No. 5. Clinton, &c.	5	4	...	1
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	1	...	...	1
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	5	7	2	...
No. 8. Omineca, &c.	2	...	...	2
No. 9, Kootenay, &c.	...	1	...	...
Totals	164	174	21	11
Total decrease	...	...	11	
Total increase	...	...	10	

TABLE B.

Marriages.

Districts.	Number registered in 1873.	Number registered in 1874.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	52	53	1	...
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c.	12	6	...	6
No. 3. New Westminster, &c.	10	10	...	...
No. 4. Yale, &c.	9	3	...	6
No. 5. Clinton, &c.	1	1	...	...
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	1	2	1	...
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	3	3	...	...
No. 8. Omineca, &c.	...	...	...	...
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	...	...	...
Totals	88	78	2	12
Total increase	...	...	...	2
Total decrease	...	...	...	10

TABLE C.

Deaths.

Districts.	Number registered in 1873.	Number registered in 1874.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	47	46	...	1
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c.	15	9	...	6
No. 3. New Westminster, &c.	17	15	...	2
No. 4. Yale, &c.	16	2	...	14
No. 5. Clinton, &c.	3	4	1	...
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	1	...	...	1
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	8	5	...	3
No. 8. Omineca, &c.	3	1	...	2
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	2	1	...	1
Totals	112	83	1	30
Total increase	...	...	...	1
Total decrease	...	...	...	29

Up to the present time, the results are, perhaps, not of such a satisfactory character as could have been desired; but as the public become better acquainted with the provisions of the Act, and more fully understand the benefits to be derived from Registration, they will comply more cheerfully with its requirements.

Some of the obstacles which stand in the way of obtaining complete Returns were pointed out in my first Report, and since then an additional year's experience has more fully convinced me that, before really satisfactory results can be obtained, these obstacles, so far as their nature will permit, must be overcome; and I have no doubt that it may be accomplished in a great measure, and at a small cost, by providing the public with more numerous facilities for effecting Registration than at present exist. The means of affording such facilities were also pointed out in my previous Report, and I beg to reiterate the suggestion therein contained, with respect to Section 18 of the Act, viz.: "that under this section, and so soon as conveniently may be, one or more Collectors of "Reports should be appointed for each of the Polling Divisions of which the Districts on "the Mainland are composed, and in Vancouver Island a Collector should also be appointed "for each of the Districts, as defined upon the Official Maps of the Lands and Works "Department. The Collector's duties (as then stated) would, of course, be limited to "receiving reports, filling up forms, supplied by the Department, attesting the signatures "of informants, and forwarding the forms in a complete state to the District Registrars. "The extra expense would be very trifling, as additional books would not be required, "and would consist chiefly of postage and, perhaps, a small fee on each report, payable "by the Government to the Collector."

That the Act, in many respects, is a most valuable one must be admitted, and it is much to be regretted that the at least concurrent jurisdiction of the Dominion Government over the same subject renders it inexpedient to recommend certain amendments, alluded to in my previous Report, and others, which have since been suggested, for more effectually insuring its more successful operation, until the question is definitely settled, as to whether the collection of vital statistics will eventually be performed under Dominion or Provincial authority.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,
H. B. W. AIKMAN,
Registrar-General.