THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, & MARRIAGES.

1875.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
1ST JUNE, 1876.

To the Honourable Andrew Charles Elliott,
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 Third 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 Honourable JOSEPH W. TRUTCH, *Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

I have the honour to submit, in accordance with the provisions of the statute in that behalf, a Report of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages registered in this Province during the year ending 31st December, 1875.

For this year, more complete results have been obtained than in any preceding year; and, notwithstanding that a marked decrease appears in some of the Districts, an aggregate total increase of 55 registrations has been attained over the number effected during the year 1874.

The Returns show the registration of 181 Births, against 174 for the year 1874; of 96 Marriages, against 78 for 1874; and of 113 Deaths, against 83 for 1874.

BIRTHS.

The following table is a summary of the Births registered during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1875:—

Districts.	Males	Females.	No., where both name and sex are omitted	Total
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	64	44	...	108
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c	14	21	1	36
No. 3. New Westminster, &c.	9	5	...	14
No. 4. Yale, &c	5	1	...	6
No. 5. Clinton, &c.	1	2	...	3
No. 6. Lillooet, &c	2	...	...	2
No. 7. Cariboo, &c	1	8	...	9
No. 8. Omineca, &c	1	2	...	3
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	97	83	1	181

We have here an increase, in the number of Births registered, of 7.

One Birth was returned as illegitimate, and one as still-born.

Of the 181 children registered, 97 were males, and 83 females; and in one case the sex was not given.

The following table will show the increase or decrease (as the case may be) in the different Districts, between the number of Births registered in the years ended 31st December, 1874, and 31st December, 1875:—

Districts.	Number Registered in 1874.	Number Registered in 1875.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	95	108	13	...
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c	38	36	...	2
No. 3. New Westminster, &c	23	14	...	9
No. 4. Yale, &c.	7	6	...	1
No. 5. Clinton, &c	4	3	...	1
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	...	2	2	...
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	7	9	2	...
No. 8. Omineca, &c	...	3	3	...
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	...	...	...
Totals	174	181	20	13
Total Decrease	...	...	13	
Total Increase	...	...	7	

The four Districts, numbered 2, 3, 4, and 5, thus show an aggregate decrease of 13 Births, which is a little more than counterbalanced by an aggregate increase of 20 in the four Districts, numbered 1, 6, 7, and 8.

Marriages.

The following table is a summary of Marriages registered during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1875:—

Districts.	Where 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.	10	5	10	7	...	...	...	1	23	4	60
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c	2	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	12
No. 3. New Westminster, &c	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	9	...	13
No. 4, Yale, &c	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	3	...	7
No. 5. Clinton, &c	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. 6. Lillooet, &c	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. 7. Cariboo, &c	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
No. 8. Omineca, &c	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	13	8	16	12	...	1	...	1	41	4	96

We have here an increase, in the number of Marriages registered, of 18.

Of the total number of Marriages, 76 were by license, 14 by banns, 2 by license and banns, 3 by civil contract, and in one report the mode was not mentioned.

The age of the eldest bride was returned at 48 years, and the youngest at 16 years.
The age of the eldest bridegroom was returned at 63 years, and the youngest at 21 years.

The following table will show the increase or decrease (as the case may be) in the different Districts, between the number of Marriages registered in the years ended 31st December, 1874, and 31st December, 1875:—

Districts.	Number Registered in 1874.	Number Registered in 1875.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	53	60	7	...
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c	6	12	6	...
No. 3. New Westminster, &c	10	13	3	...
No. 4. Yale, &c.	3	7	4	...
No. 5. Clinton, &c	1	...	...	1
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	2	...	...	2
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	3	2	...	1
No. 8. Omineca, &c	...	1	1	...
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	1	1	...
Totals	78	96	22	4
Total Decrease	...	...	4	
Total Increase	...	...	18	

Deaths.

The following table is an analysis of Deaths registered, according to age and sex, during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1875:—

Districts.	1 Under 3 years.	2 3, and under 10.	3 10, and under 21.	4 21, and under 40.	5 40, and under 60.	6 60, and under 70.	7 70, and under 80.	8 80, and under 90.	9 90, and upwards.	10 Ages not given.	11 No. of Males.	12 No. of Females.	13 Total.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	14	5	3	25	26	1	2	...	...	3	63	16	79
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c	6	3	1	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	16
No. 3. New Westminster, &c	...	...	...	4	5	...	...	...	...	1	8	2	10
No. 4. Yale, &c.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
No. 5. Clinton, &c	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
No. 8. Omineca, &c	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	20	10	4	34	37	2	2	...	...	4	88	25	113

The persons whose Deaths are enumerated in the Columns above, marked 4, 5, 6, and 7, were natives of the following countries:—

	England.	Ireland.	Scotland.	Germany.	France.	United States.	Canada.			Switzerland.	Sweden.	Island of Madeira.	Orkney Islands.
							Ontario.	Quebec.	British Columbia.				
Column 4	9	5	1	2	...	9	2	...	4	...	1	...	1
Column 5	12	6	3	3	1	5	...	4	...	1	...	1	1
Column 6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Column 7	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	22	11	4	5	1	16	2	4	4	2	1	1	2

The following table will show the increase or decrease (as the case may be) in the different Districts, between the number of Deaths registered during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1874, and 31st December, 1875:—

Districts.	Number registered in 1874.	Number registered in 1875.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, &c	46	79	33	...
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c	9	16	7	...
No. 3. New Westminster, &c	15	10	...	5
No. 4. Yale, &c	2	1	...	1
No. 5. Clinton, &c	4	2	...	2
No. 6. Lillooet, &c	...	...	...	...
No. 7. Cariboo, &c	5	4	..	1
No. 8. Omineca, &c	1	1	...	...
No. 9. Kootenay, &c	1	...	...	1
Totals	83	113	40	10
Total Decrease	...	...	10	...
Total Increase	...	...	30	...

ABSTRACT OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

CLASS	I. Zymotic	19
	II. Diseases, uncertain seat	4
	III. Tubercular	6
	IV. Brain and Nervous System	13
	V. Organs of Circulation	5
	VI. Respiratory Organs	9
	VII. Organs of Digestion	13
	VIII. Urinary Organs	3
	IX. Organs of Generation	1
	X. Organs of Locomotion	0
	XI. Skin disease	0
	XII. Malformation	0
	XIII. Atrophy	1
	XIV. Old age	0
	XV. Sudden death	0
	XVI. Violent death	11
	Not specified	28
	TOTAL	113

ABSTRACT OF CAUSES OF DEATH—*Concluded.*

I.		
Smallpox	4	
Measles	2	
Diptheria	2	
Croup	4	
Whooping Cough	1	
Cholera Infantum	1	
Puerpera	1	
Dysentry	1	
Typhoid Fever	3	
	—	19
II.		
Hæmorrhage	1	
Dropsy	2	
Cancer	1	
	—	4
III.		
Phthisis	6	
	—	6
IV.		
Paralysis	3	
Apoplexy	2	
Brain Disease	6	
Epilepsy	1	
Convulsions	1	
	—	13
V.		
Anuerism	3	
Heart Disease	1	
Anaemia	1	
	—	5
VI.		
Pneumonia	4	
Pleuro Pneumonia	2	
Bronchitis	1	
Lung Disease	2	
	—	9
Carried forward		56

Brought forward		56
VII.		
Peritonitis	1	
Liver Disease	2	
Intersusception	1	
Exhaustion	7	
Hepatitis	1	
Teething	1	
	—	13
VIII.		
Bright's Disease of Kidneys	2	
Rupture of Bladder	1	
	—	3
IX.		
Childbirth	1	
	—	1
X.—*Nil.*		
XI.—*Nil.*		
XII.—*Nil.*		
XIII.		
Atrophy	1	
	—	1
XIV.—*Nil.*		
XV.—*Nil.*		
XVI.		
Suicide	1	
Accidents	2	
Wounds	1	
Drowning	7	
	—	11
Not specified	28	
	—	28
TOTAL		113

Since the publication of my first Report, there has been considerable improvement in the certified Returns of causes of Death. In 1873, fifty-five registrations were effected without any certificates from Medical Practitioners; this year the number has been reduced to 28. There is, however, still room for further improvement, and I trust it will not be too much to expect that the members of the learned profession, upon whom the abstract mainly depends, will shortly take a professional interest in the vital statistics of this Province, at least, sufficient to induce them to comply more readily, than they have hitherto done, with the slight duty assigned to them by the Act.

The Marriage Returns rank first in order of merit, and I have every reason to believe that they fairly represent the actual number of Marriages for the year; and, for this result, too much credit can not be given to the Clergy, who appear to be the only class who have made themselves at all familiar with the provisions of the Act.

The Birth Returns come next in order, and the Deaths last, neither of which have yet arrived at a very satisfactory standard. A great deal of uncertainty still exists in

the public mind with respect to the persons charged with the duty of reporting Births and Deaths; the prevailing, but erroneous, impression is that this duty falls upon the Clergy and Medical men. In order to correct such impression, and with a view of affording the public every opportunity and means of obtaining correct information, I have republished the Act in the Appendix, together with Table E of my first Report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

H. B. W. AIKMAN,

Registrar-General.

Registrar-General's Office,
Victoria, 1*st June*, 1876.

APPENDIX.

TABLE E.

This Table shows the times in which the Reports of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, respectively, must be made; the persons required to make such Reports; and the information to be given.

Births.

Notice of every Birth, within 60 days thereafter, must be given to the District Registrar of the District wherein the birth happened:—

1st.—By the father.

(In case of his death or absence)

2nd.—By the mother.

(In case of the death or inability of both parents)

3rd.—By the person standing in the place of the parents.

(If none such, then)

4th.—By the occupant of the house or tenement wherein the child was born, or by the nurse present at the birth.

And every such notice must contain the following information:—

1. The date of the birth.
2. The name of the infant.
3. Its sex.
4. The name and surname of the father.
5. The name and maiden surname of the mother.
6. The rank or profession of the father.
7. The signature, description, and residence of the informant.
8. Name of accoucheur.

Deaths.

Every death, either before the interment of the body or within 30 days thereafter, must be reported to the District Registrar of the District wherein the death happened:

1st.—By the occupier of the house or tenement wherein the death took place, or if the occupier of the house be the person who shall have died, then—

2nd.—By some one of the persons residing in the house in which the death took place; and if the death shall not have taken place within a house, then—

3rd.—By any person present at the death, or having any knowledge of the circumstances attending the same, or by the Coroner who may have attended the inquest held on such person.

And every such notice must contain the following information:—

1. Name and surname of deceased.
2. Date of death.
3. Sex.
4. Age.
5. Rank or profession.
6. Place of birth.
7. Name of physician (if any).
8. Description and residence of informant.
9. Religious denomination of deceased.

MARRIAGES.

Every marriage, within ninety days thereafter, must be reported to the District Registrar of the District, wherein such marriage was celebrated, by the Clergyman, Minister, or other person authorized by law to celebrate marriages; and every such Report must contain the following information:—

1st.—The name of the bridegroom;
His age;
Residence when married;
Place of birth;
Condition, rank or profession; and
Name of parents.

2nd.—The name of the bride;
Her age;
Residence when married;
Place of birth;
Spinster or widow; and
Name of parents.

3rd.—Name of witnesses;
Residence of witnesses;
The date of marriage;
Religious denomination of bride and bridegroom respectively;
By whom married; and whether by licence or banns.

A. D. 1872.

An Act respecting the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the Province of British Columbia.

[*Assented to* 11*th April*, 1872.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, in the Province of British Columbia:

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:—

Districts.

1. It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, from time to time, by notice published in the British Columbia Gazette, to divide the said Province into Districts for the purposes of this Act, and to define the boundaries of the same, and from time to time by the like notice, to alter or vary the same as circumstances may appear to require.

Registrars.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, for the purposes of this Act, from time to time appoint and, as occasion may require, remove, in each District in the Province, a District Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and appoint an office in each District for such District Registrar, and the District Offices shall be under the superintendence of the Registrar-General of Titles, hereinafter called the "Registrar-General," who shall also act as District Registrar in his own District.

Books and Forms.

3. The Registrar-General shall procure the necessary books and forms for the District Registrars, the same to be prepared according to Schedules A, B, and C, appended to this Act, with such additional columns as may, from time to time, be added thereto by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, in order to the procurement of correct statistical information; and he shall distribute the same to the several District Registrars; and the costs and expenses of such books and forms, and the expenses attendant upon the distribution thereof, shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province.

Returns of Books and forms annually

4. The District Registrars shall receive the books or forms sent by the Registrar-General, and keep the same in a place of safety; make all entries therein as hereinafter required in this Act; and shall, on or before the fifteenth day of January, in each and every year, make returns to the Registrar-General, of the original books or forms containing the original entries, certified under his hand, of the births, marriages, and deaths of the preceding year; and such District Registrar shall, on or before the first day of February in each year, transmit such returns to the Registrar-General.

Registration of birth.

5. The father of any child born in this Province, or, in case of his death or absence, the mother, or, in case of the death or inability of both parents, any person standing in the place of the parents, or, if none such there be, then the occupier of the house or tenement, in which to his knowledge such child was born, or the nurse present at the birth, shall, within sixty days from the date of such birth, give notice thereof to the Registrar of the District in which such child was born, giving as far as possible the particulars required in Schedule A, with such additional information as may be required by the Registrar-General, from time to time, which particulars shall be entered by the District Registrar in his book.

When child illegitimate.

6. In registering the birth of an illegitimate child, it shall not be lawful for the name of any person to be entered as the father, unless at the joint request of the mother and of the person acknowledging himself to be the father; and in all cases of the registration of the birth of illegitimate children the District Registrar shall write the word "illegitimate" in the column set apart for the name of the child, and immediately under the name, if any.

Period for Registration.

7. Every registration of a birth shall be made within the time aforesaid; but nothing herein contained shall prevent the subsequent registration of such birth within the period of one year.

Registration of death.

8. The occupier of the house and tenement in which a death shall take place, or, if the occupier be the person who shall have died, then some one of the persons residing in the house in which the death took place, or, if such death shall not have taken place within a house, then any person present at the death or having any knowledge of the circumstances attending the same, or the Coroner who may have attended any inquest held on such person, shall, before the interment of the body, or within thirty days after, supply to the Registrar of the District in which such death took place, according to his or her knowledge or belief, all the particulars required to be registered touching such death by the form provided in Schedule C. to this Act.

Registration of marriage.

9. Every Clergyman, Minister, or other person authorized by law to celebrate marriages, shall be required to report each and every marriage he celebrates to the Registrar of the District within which such marriage is celebrated, within ninety days from the date of such marriage, with the particulars required by Schedule B, appended to this Act.

No returns necessary except under this Act.

10. Notwithstanding any former enactments, no Clergyman, Minister, or other person ordained or appointed over any church or congregation, and authorized to solemnize marriages, shall, from and after this Act comes into force, be required to make any other returns or reports than what is required by this Act respecting births, marriages, or deaths.

Certificate of cause of death.

11. Every Medical Practitioner, who shall have been in attendance during the last illness and until the death of any person, shall, within thirty days after the death of such person, transmit to the Registrar of the District in which the said practitioner resides, a certificate under his signature of the cause of death, according to a form to be provided by the said District Registrar, who shall be furnished with such forms; and it shall be the duty of every such Medical Practitioner to apply to the said District Registrar for blank forms for that purpose, and upon the receipt of the said certificate from the said Medical Practitioner, by the District Registrar, he shall make the entry as to the cause of death of such person accord with the fact stated in the said certificate.

Correction of entry.

12. If within one year after the entry of any birth, marriage, or death, it be discovered that any error has been made in such entry, then upon the same being reported to the proper District Registrar within the time aforesaid, it shall be his duty to enquire into the same, and, if satisfied that an error has been committed in any such entry, it shall be lawful for him to correct the erroneous entry, according to the truth of the case, by entry in the margin without any alteration in the original entry; and, having made such correction, he shall, if the original entry of the birth, marriage, or death so corrected has been returned as hereinbefore provided, report the same, according to the facts of the case, to the Registrar-General, whose duty it shall be to correct such erroneous entry in the margin of the book or form containing the original entry.

Penalty for non-performance of duty by District Registrar.

13. If any District Registrar refuses or neglects to perform the duties required of him by this Act, as such District Registrar, he shall, for every such offence, upon conviction thereof, before any Justice of the Peace, forfeit the sum of fifty dollars to Her Majesty; and it shall be the duty of the Attorney-General to prosecute such officials for any refusal or neglect to perform the duties required by this Act, when notified by the Registrar-General, District Registrar, or other parties.

Transcript of original returns.

14. The Registrar-General shall cause to be transcribed in separate books all the particulars communicated to him by the several District Registrars, of the births, marriages, and deaths in each District; and the original returns shall be arranged, indexed, bound, and kept in the office of the Registrar-General.

Certified extracts.

15. All persons shall be entitled, at all reasonable hours, to search these records, and to require and receive extracts duly certified by the Registrar-General, which extracts shall be evidence of the entry certified and prima facie evidence in any court of law or equity in this Province of the facts therein stated; and for every such certificate, the person so requiring the same shall pay a fee of fifty cents.

Penalty for false statement.

16. Any person who shall knowingly or wilfully make or cause to be made any false statement touching any of the particulars required to be reported and entered under this Act, shall, upon conviction thereof before any Justice of the Peace, forfeit a sum not less than forty and not exceeding one hundred dollars.

Report for Parliament.

17. The Registrar-General shall, on or before the first day of June in each year, collate, publish, and distribute, for the use of Parliament, a full report of the births, marriages, and deaths of the preceding year,

giving such details, statistics and information as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may think necessary.

Further regulations.

18. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, from time to time, make such further rules, orders, and regulations as may be required, for the purpose of effectually obtaining the information required by this Act.

Penalty for neglecting to report.

19. If any householder, head of a family, Clergyman, Registrar, Physician, or other person or persons required by this Act to report births, marriages, and deaths, refuses or wilfully neglects to do so within the time named, such persons shall, for each and every offence, forfeit and pay a sum not less than five dollars nor more than twenty dollars and costs, in the discretion of the presiding Justice before whom the case shall be heard; and it shall be the duty of the District Registrar to prosecute all such persons so neglecting or refusing to make the required reports, in cases where no report whatever has been given.

Recovery of penalties.

20. Any Justice of the Peace having jurisdiction within the locality where any offence against this Act has been committed, may hear and determine such complaint, and shall have power, in case the penalty and costs awarded by him be not forthwith paid upon conviction, to levy the same by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender, by warrant under his hand and seal; and, in default of payment or sufficient distress, the offender may, by warrant signed and sealed as aforesaid, be imprisoned in the common gaol for a period not less than one day nor more than twenty days, at the discretion of such Justice, unless such penalty, costs and charges of commitment be sooner paid.

When Act to take effect.

21. This Act shall come into force on the first day of September, A.D. 1872.

Not applicable to Chinese or Indians.

22. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to extend to, include, or apply to births, marriages, or deaths of Chinese, or Indians.

Short Title.

23. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the "Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act, 1872."

SCHEDULE A:—BIRTHS.

Registration District of

No.	When born.	Name.	Sex.	Name and surname of father.	Name and maiden surname of mother.	Rank or profession of father.	Signature, description, and residence of informant.	When registered.	Name of accoucheur.	Signature of Registrar.	Remarks.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be the true and correct entries of all births returned to me for the year ending the 31st December, 18 .
Given under my hand this day of A.D. 18 .

District Registrar of

SCHEDULE B.—MARRIAGES.

Registration District of

No.	Bridegroom.							Bride.													
	His name.	Age.	Residence when married.	Place of birth.	Condition.	Rank or profession.	Name of parents.	Her name.	Age.	Residence when married.	Place of birth.	Spinster or widow.	Name of parents.	Name of Witnesses.	Residence of witnesses.	Date of marriage.	Religious denomination of bridegroom.	Religious denomination of bride.	By whom married.	By license.	By banns.	Remarks.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be the true and correct entries of all marriages returned to me for the year ending the 31st December, 18 .
Given under my hand this day of A.D. 18 .

District Registrar of

SCHEDULE C.—DEATHS.

Registration District of

No.	Name and surname of deceased.	When died.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or profession.	Where born.	Certified cause of death and duration of illness.	Name of physician, if any.	Signature, description, and residence of informant.	When registered	Religious denomination.	Signature of Registrar.	Remarks.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be the true and correct entries of all deaths returned to me for the year ending the 31st December, 18 .
Given under my hand this day of A.D. 18 .

District Registrar of