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## RETURN

To an Address presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be sent down to this House copies of all correspondence, papers, Orders in Council, or other representations relating to the necessity of stationing a Supreme Court Judge in the City of Vancouver.

THEODORE DAVIE,

*Attorney-General's Office,  
20th March, 1894.*

*Attorney-General.*

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
July 27th, 1892.

*The Honourable Sir John S. D. Thompson, K.C.B.,  
Minister of Justice, Ottawa, Ont.*

SIR,—I beg to enclose herewith copy of an Act passed at the last Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, intitled the "Supreme Court Act Amendment Act, 1892," the object of which is to meet the exigencies of legal business in the City of Vancouver by separating that City from the New Westminster Judicial District, to which it has heretofore belonged, and creating it into a separate and distinct Judicial District. Besides the City proper, a further portion of New Westminster District is also included, the division having been determined by the measure of greater accessibility and the District being identical with what has recently been created a new Registry District.

The necessity of the separation of these two Cities has been urged upon the Government for some time, as the amount of legal business transacted in Vancouver was equal to if not greater than that transacted in New Westminster, and is constantly increasing, and great inconvenience has been occasioned not only to members of the Bar but also to every business man who had occasion to resort to the Courts by the necessity of attending Westminster for every petty matter which might arise in the course of an action.

In order to carry out the details of the proposed change, two further Acts were passed during the last Session, being amendments to the Sheriffs' and the Jurors' Acts, respectively, and providing for the appointment of a Sheriff for the new District, and for the application to the new District of the provisions of the "Jurors' Act."

As you will see by the enclosed copy, the "Supreme Court Act Amendment Act, 1892," does not come into force until proclaimed by Order in Council, and the Council have recently had the matter under consideration, when it appeared to me that before it would be possible to advise the proclamation of the Act it would be necessary for you to take the matter into consideration, in view of the fact that unless there is some understanding as to who shall perform the Judicial duties within the new District any attempted creation of the District would be futile.

It is with the object of laying this matter before you for your consideration, and for the purpose of obtaining some assurance as to the manner in which my suggestion, that one of the Judges should be assigned to this District, will be received, that I now write.

It may seem peculiar to you that two cities so close to each other as are New Westminster and Vancouver should require to be separated for Judicial purposes, but upon consideration of the matter I think you will see that their situation is unique, in Canada at any rate, and I assure you that the matter was very strongly represented to me before I consented to introduce the Bills above mentioned into the House.

I would like to be able to inform the Profession in Vancouver at an early date of what the prospects are in the matter, and so will expectantly await your reply.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) THEODORE DAVIE,  
*Attorney-General.*

