FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, & MARRIAGES

FOR THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

1876.

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at the Government Printing Office, James' Bay.
1877.

Registrar-General's Office,
1st *June*, 1877.

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 Fourth 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 Albert Norton Richards, *Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.*

May it please Your Excellency:—

I have the honour to submit the Fourth Annual Report under the provisions of the "Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act, 1872," the period covered by the report being the year ended 31st December, 1876.

The returns show the registration of 236 births, against 181 for the year 1875; of 130 deaths, against 113 for 1875; and of 141 marriages against 96 for 1875—making an aggregate total of 507 registrations for the year 1876, and being an increase of 117 registrations over the preceding year.

Births.

The following table is a summary of the births registered during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1876:—

Districts.	Males.	Females.	No. where both name and sex are omitted.	Total.
No. 1. Victoria, &c.	80	59	...	139
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c.	21	24	...	45
No. 3. New Westminster, &c.	15	16	...	31
No. 4. Yale, &c.	3	4	...	7
No. 5. Clinton, &c.	2	3	...	5
No. 6. Lillooet, &c.	1	2	...	3
No. 7. Cariboo, &c.	2	2	...	4
No. 8. Omineca, &c.	1	...	...	1
No. 9. Kootenay, &c.	...	1	...	1
No. 10. Cassiar, &c.	...	...	...	...
Totals	125	111	...	236

We have here an increase, in the number of births registered, of 55.

Of the 236 children registered, 125 were males, and 111 females. The birth of three pairs of twins was reported.

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, 1875, and 31st December, 1876 :—

Districts.	Number Registered in 1875.	Number Registered in 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, &c	108	139	31	...
No. 2. Nanaimo, &c	36	45	9	...
No. 3. New Westminster, &c	14	31	17	...
No. 4. Yale, &c	6	7	1	...
No. 5. Clinton, &c	3	5	2	...
No. 6. Lillooet, &c	2	3	1	...
No. 7. Cariboo, &c	9	4	...	5
No. 8. Omineca, &c	3	1	...	2
No. 9. Kootenay, &c	...	1	1	...
No. 10. Cassiar, &c	...	...	...	...
Totals	181	236	62	7
Total Decrease	...	...	7	
Total Increase	...	...	55	

MARRIAGES.

The following table is a summary of marriages registered during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1876 :—

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, etc.	30	13	6	3	...	1	...	...	37	2	92
No. 2. Nanaimo, etc.	3	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	8	...	16
No. 3. New Westminster, etc.	1	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	14
No. 4. Yale, etc.	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	8
No. 5. Clinton, etc.	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	6
No. 6. Lillooet, etc.	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. 7. Cariboo, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
No. 8. Omineca, etc.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. 9. Kootenay, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. 10. Cassiar, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	35	19	13	9	...	1	...	...	59	5	141

We have here an increase, in the number of marriages registered, of 45.

Of the total number of marriages, 125 were by licence and 15 by banns, and in one report the mode was not mentioned.

The age of the eldest bride was returned at 55 years, and the youngest at 15 years.

The age of the eldest bridegroom was returned at 52 years, and the youngest at 20 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, 1875, and 31st December, 1876 :—

Districts.	Number Registered in 1875.	Number Registered in 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, etc.	60	92	32	...
No. 2. Nanaimo, etc	12	16	4	...
No. 3. New Westminster, etc.	13	14	1	...
No. 4. Yale, etc.	7	8	1	...
No. 5. Clinton, etc.	...	6	6	...
No. 6. Lillooet, etc.	...	1	1	...
No. 7. Cariboo, etc.	2	3	1	...
No. 8. Omineca, etc.	1	1	...	...
No. 9. Kootenay, etc.	1	...	...	1
No. 10. Cassiar, etc.	...	...	...	...
Totals	96	141	46	1
Total Decrease	.....	.....	1	
Total Increase	.....	.....	45	

DEATHS.

The following table is an analysis of deaths registered, according to age and sex, during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1876 :—

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, etc.	19	1	5	17	26	6	4	...	...	1	51	28	79
No. 2. Nanaimo, etc.	6	3	2	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	12	7	19
No. 3. New Westminster, etc.	2	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	3	8	1	9
No. 4. Yale, etc.	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
No. 5. Clinton, etc	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
No. 6. Lillooet, etc.	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
No. 7. Cariboo, etc.	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
No. 8. Omineca, etc.	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
No. 9. Kootenay, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
No. 10. Cassiar, etc.	...	...	1	2	8	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	11
TOTALS	28	5	10	26	45	8	4	...	...	4	91	39	130

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.	Norway.	Sweden.	Guernsey.	Orkney Islands.	India.	Mexico.	Unknown.	Total.
							Ontario.	Nova Scotia.	Quebec.	British Columbia.									
Column 4.....	10	1	...	2	1	2	2	1	...	1	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	1	26
Column 5.....	14	8	1	6	...	4	2	1	2	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	45
Column 6.....	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	8
Column 7.....	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
TOTAL.....	26	11	1	8	2	8	5	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	6	83

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, 1875, and 31st December, 1876 :—

Districts.	Number Registered in 1875.	Number Registered in 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. 1. Victoria, etc.....	79	79	...	...
No. 2. Nanaimo, etc.....	16	19	3	...
No. 3. New Westminster, etc.....	10	9	...	1
No. 4. Yale, etc.....	1	5	4	...
No. 5. Clinton, etc.....	2	...	...	2
No. 6. Lillooet, etc.....	...	2	2	...
No. 7. Cariboo, etc.....	4	2	...	2
No. 8. Omineca, etc.....	1	1	...	...
No. 9. Kootenay, etc.....	...	2	2	...
No. 10. Cassiar, etc.....	...	11	11	...
Totals	113	130	22	5
Total Decrease:.....	.....	.....	5	
Total Increase.....	.....	.....	17	

ABSTRACT OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

CLASS	I. Zymotic.....	22
	II. Diseases, uncertain seat.....	5
	III. Tubercular.....	12
	IV. Brain and Nervous System.....	21
	V. Organs of Circulation.....	18
	VI. Respiratory Organs.....	14
	VII. Organs of Digestion.....	9
	VIII. Urinary Organs.....	1
	IX. Organs of Generation.....	3
	X. Organs of Locomotion.....	0
	XI. Skin Disease.....	0
	XII. Malformation.....	0
	XIII. Atrophy.....	3
	XIV. Old Age.....	1
	XV. Sudden Death.....	0
	XVI. Violent Death.....	12
	Not specified.....	9
	Total.....	130

Abstract of Causes of Death.—*Continued.*

I.

Smallpox	2	
Diptheria	5	
Croup	4	
Whooping Cough	1	
Cholera Infantum	4	
Puerperal Feace	3	
Typhoid Fever	3	
	—	22

II.

Dropsy	2	
Cancer	2	
Septicœmia	1	
	—	5

III.

Phthisis	12	
	—	12

IV.

Paralysis	1	
Brain Disease	9	
Epilepsy	4	
Convulsions	3	
Miningitis	4	
	—	21

V.

Anuerism	1	
Heart Disease	16	
Rupture of Bloodvessel	1	
	—	18

VI.

Pneumonia	6	
Bronchitis	1	
Lung Disease	7	
	—	14

VII.

Liver Disease	2	
Exhaustion	2	
Inflammation	1	
Mal Assimilation	4	
	—	9

VIII.

Bright's Disease of Kidneys	1	
	—	1

IX.

Childbirth	2	
Inflammation	1	
	—	3

X.—*Nil.*

XI.—*Nil.*

XII.—*Nil.*

XIII.

General Debility	3	
	—	3
Carried forward		108

ABSTRACT OF CAUSES OF DEATH.—*Concluded.*

Brought forward		108
XIV.		
Old Age	1	
	—	1
XV.—*Nil.*		
XVI.		
Suicide (by poison)	2	
Do. (by drowning)	1	
	—	3
Accidents:		
Drowning	7	
Burning	1	
Fracture and Contusion	1	
	—	9
Not specified	9	
	—	9
Total		130

The returns for this year, as exhibited by the foregoing tables, show a marked improvement over those of any preceding year, but notwithstanding this fact the results obtained up to the 31st day of December, 1876, although valuable in some respects, are not of that satisfactory character which the importance of the Act demands. In forming an opinion of the importance of the Act to the general public, the objects for which it was passed must be carefully borne in mind; these objects, it will be remembered, are two, widely distinct in character; first, the recording and transmission of evidence; secondly, the collection of vital statistics. Its importance, therefore, depends upon the present and prospective value of the results obtained under these two headings. With respect to the first, although certified extracts from the registers have been sent to almost every part of Europe, as well as to the American Continent, their real value can not yet be justly estimated, as it remains for the next and succeeding generations to reap the benefit of the work performed. A fair idea, however, of their ultimate value as regards the proof of marriages and births may be formed from the registrations effected up to the date before mentioned, and which are shown in the aggregate by the following table:—

TABLE showing the aggregate results from the commencement of the Act to the 31st December, 1876.

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	TOTALS.
1872, (4 months) ...	50	37	15	102
1873	164	112	88	364
1874	174	83	78	335
1875	181	113	96	390
1876	236	130	141	507
TOTALS.....	805	475	418	1,698

Under the second heading the result of the past four years' work, although encouraging, indicates that the Act has partially failed in securing complete statistical returns; not, however, from any material defect in the Act itself, but because full scope to its provisions has not been given. On this subject I stated in my second report that:—"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 Depart-"'ment, 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 addi-"'tional 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.'"

Had my suggestions been carried into effect by the Government, or had Registration Districts sufficient to meet the public convenience been originally declared under section one, the statistical value of the results obtained would have been greatly increased. The necessity for granting such extended facilities still remains, and until they are granted it is needless to expect that reliable statistical returns will be made. The cost of rendering the Act entirely successful would be so small, not exceeding say $200 annually, that I would be omitting a public duty were I not again to urge upon the Government the expediency of adopting my suggestions, or of devising some other means of attaining the same end.

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, 1st June, 1877.