

Completed
& Outlines
JTB

Duties Victoria B.C. New Feb 1, 1861

To His Excellency James Douglas Esq.
Governor of Vancouver Island
& British Columbia -

On the occasion of your Excellency's
visit to New Westminster last summer
we had the honour to lay before your
Excellency the fact that the Trade and
Commerce of British Columbia is injured
and the Government defrauded of a
large amount of Revenue by allowing
Furniture Stores &c. to be brought into
the Colony without paying Duty on
the same. After hearing what we had
to say on the subject your Excellency
was pleased to state that you would
inquire into this matter and have the
guarantee rectified. We regret to inform
your Excellency that the guarantee still
exists and is largely on the increase
we believe that we are justified in stating
that not less than Fifteen Hundred Dollars
worth of Furniture & Stores was brought-

into the port of New Westminster during the
months of October & November last. (Duty Free
thru) depending the Government of the
sum of ten thousand Dollars and improving
the Commerce and prosperity of the Town.

We have repeatedly called the attention of
His Honor the Mayor to this matter but the only
reply that we receive is that as long as
the Proclamation stands unaltered we cannot
prevent Passengers from bringing in
Furniture and Store Duty Free. Residents
in British Columbia are well aware of this
state of affairs and take advantage of it.
We have known persons to ship some
Furniture to purchase Furniture in Victoria
& San Francisco and have them passed
through the Custom House in their own
Name. Your Excellency will at once see
that the extension system of smuggling
and Fraud can be carried on and is
carried on under these circumstances.
What is to prevent A. from employing
B. to purchase any amount of Furniture
and have them passed through the Customs
without paying the accustomed Duty

and giving him remuneration for his services.
We are furnished at New Westminster with
abundance of Timber which is well adapted
to the Manufacture of Household Furniture
but so long as People are allowed to evade
the Ten Per Cent Duty we are not able
to compete with Foreign Manufacture.
Your Excellency is well aware that nearly
all the Furniture that is brought into
the Colony is of American Manufacture.
and that the Manufacture of Furniture
or any other article in British Columbia
would contribute largely toward the growth
and prosperity of the Country inasmuch
as it would keep Capital in the Colony
and furnish employment for our own
Countrymen. We believe that your Excellency
only requires this genuine to be brought before
you in a plain and truthful form to have
it considered. We therefore submit it to your
wise and discriminating judgment feeling
assured that this matter will not pass
unnoticed. And your Petitions will be finally
We have the honor to be your Excellency's
Obedient servants,
G. Cunningham & Ashwell
New Westminster B. C.