

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, May 1, 1866.

THE LAST SCHEME OF THE SPECULATORS.

The friends of the absentee land speculators have sustained another ignominious defeat in the House of Assembly. Not content with the unsuccessful attempt on Friday last to smuggle through the House the contract abrogating bill, they must needs, in defiance of all Parliamentary rule, bring in on Monday a measure aiming at the very same result—that of compelling the resident taxpayers of the colony to pay for the non-resident defaulters, and empowering the Governor to break faith with those who purchased lots at the sheriff's sale in April last. The measure was introduced by Mr. Cochrane in the form of a resolution, asking that an address be presented to His Excellency praying that the Government might step in between the owners of property sold and the purchasers and redeem all unredeemed lots, charging to the owners only 20 per cent. for the money so advanced for an additional twelvemonth. It was in vain the member who introduced the motion and his supporters were told that the scheme was illegal as well as unconstitutional—it was in vain they were shown that it contemplated nothing less than breaking the laws which were on the Statute book, and therefore asking the Governor to violate his oath—it was in vain that it was proved to them that in attempting to relieve some mythical hardship of non-residents they would be perpetrating willfully the greatest possible hardship and injustice on industrious residents—in vain it was shown that the good faith of the Government would become a by-word, that the credit of the country would be hopelessly injured, and that public confidence would be ruthlessly broken in both the Executive and the Legislature—it was in vain, we say, that these disasters were pointed out, the supporters of the measure, under an infatuation that seems incredible, persisted in attempting to rush it through the House, and that in defiance of every form and restraint. In the same disgraceful manner which characterised the introduction and passage of Mr. Cochrane's bill on Monday week, this scheme, which had never been so much as hinted at before it was endeavored to be forced through the House, was introduced, and passed in a few minutes, under the suspension of the rules, through its first and second readings. Every attempt on the part of the minority to discuss the matter was met by the most overbearing arrogance and injustice, and the climax was capped when on motion of Dr. Trimble it was decided that the resolution should not go to committee, but should be summarily passed in a third reading. In the history of British legislation from the earliest days down to the present no such disgraceful proceeding has ever been attempted. The Committee of the Whole is the great safeguard of minorities. In it the subject receives a thorough discussion clause by clause, and members are allowed to speak as often as they like. To say that a measure shall not go to Committee means, therefore, that it shall not be discussed, and of course implies that the cause is a rotten one and will not bear the light. As we have said, the action of the House was an unheard of action; nay, more, it was an illegal one. The suspension of the rules in any Legislature has but one meaning, and that is removing the necessity of having the different readings of a bill at different sittings—allowing the first and second readings, the passage through Committee of the Whole, and the third reading to be carried, if necessary, at the one sitting. To say that the Committee shall be dispensed with, is to assume the power to dispense with the second or third reading—in fact to abrogate every Parliamentary form. The thing bears on its face its own absurdity. Forms are not changed by a simple suspension of the rules—nothing as we have already shown is changed but the time at which the forms can be carried out. The minority in the House on Monday protested in vain against this violation of their Parliamentary rights; the third reading was persisted in, and Messrs. Ash, DeCosmos, and McClure were confined to speaking but once—and even that once they had to fight for—on a question that aimed at nothing short of the destruction of everything sacred in the Government of the country. The unscrupulous manoeuvres, however like most evil designs, defeated the very object they were intended to effect. The time was limited in which the resolution could pass to prove availing. Up till four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, but no later, would the Government accept money to redeem the lots sold in April last. It was therefore necessary that the resolution, in order to be effective should pass and be transmitted to Governor Kennedy before the Treasury had closed. To prevent if possible the scheme passing in this time was the duty of the minority, and although an arduous duty the minority performed it and the majority were defeated. Twenty-six hours had to be consumed in two speeches from Messrs. DeCosmos and McClure; the latter gentleman spoke from two o'clock p.m. on Monday till six o'clock

the following morning, and Mr. De Cosmos took the floor at six, and would have continued till four in the afternoon had not the majority at one o'clock relinquished the contest and moved for an adjournment. This destroyed Mr. Cochrane's motion, and spared the records of the House the disgrace of containing a resolution that asked the Government of the colony to break the laws on the statute book, to violate compacts into which it had solemnly entered, and to devote the public money in an illegal manner for an unjust object. We acquit several of the members who supported the scheme of the intention to effect this injury, but they will have cause probably before the session shall have expired to thank the minority for defeating them. They will find that the cases of hardship they were called upon to upset constitution and law to alleviate are the veriest myths, and that nearly all the lots which were sold have been redeemed.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

Vancouver Island is at length joined to the mainland. The telegraphic cable is laid. A veritable and tangible union has now taken place between this colony and British Columbia, more complete and more liberal than any political union can possibly be. Like many political unions, however, it could only be accomplished by considerable wire-pulling, and if the success of the scheme has not been due in any respect to a cabal it has been in no small degree assisted by a cable. It is not merely to the neighboring colony the fraternal link connects us; we are joined to the Great Republic as well. We are enabled almost to feel the mighty throb of that Republic's heart in the present anxious condition of its existence. His Excellency Governor Kennedy passed the usual compliments to the President of the United States, and the example was followed by lesser notables to less distinguished persons. The isolation which has been hitherto so irksome to us, and which during only last week was actually painful in its character, has now ceased. We are brought, thanks to the energy and enterprise of our American neighbors, into immediate contact with the telegraphic lines of the continent, and the benefit of the connection we can scarcely overrate. Let us hope that the spirit of the message which His Excellency forwarded to President Johnson yesterday will never be departed from in the communication between the two countries, and that the tiny link which now unites us to the Republic will prove a bond of good will and fraternal regard that time will never disrupt.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Tuesday, April 24.

THE PROSPECTS OF CARIBOO.—A gentleman who has just returned from Cariboo informs us that although a large population is not expected this season at Cariboo, nevertheless the prospects for the summer's operations are bright and cheering. Trade will be in a more wholesome condition as large arrivals of goods have not taken place this, as they did last year. Stocks are sufficient and merchants and traders will consequently not be burdened with such heavy engagements to meet. No very great strikes may be made, but the completion of the Bed Rock drain and flume will enable claims above Richfield that have been inactive for the last two years to commence operations again, to wash out pay dirt that has been proved to be rich, and give an impetus to mining generally that must prove beneficial to the country. Thus with the gold more generally distributed among the community, no surplus unemployed labor, commerce thriving, and more general contentment prevailing everywhere, the times cannot be otherwise than good, and the beneficial effects will soon be felt here. Added to this our informant says that the discovery of good pay in an old bill claim on Grouse Creek was confirmed before he left the Upper country. In the fine new tunnel run by the Aurora Company into the hill towards Grouse Creek good prospects had also been obtained, leading to the belief that the intervening hill was more or less permeated with rich leads, and some parties were so firmly impressed with this conviction that they had staked off ground on the top of the hill intending to sink down and then tunnel.

WHISKY SELLING.—A man, named Anthony Brown, was charged with supplying whisky to an Indian. Officer Mitchell saw him deposit a case of spirits on the wharf Brown said he went to Lyon's saloon to ship on board a vessel, and met a man named Riley, who promised him half-a-dollar if he would take a case down to the wharf for him, which he did, and on returning for his money he was taken by the Police. Mr. Welch said the accused bore a bad character. Prisoner was remanded for three days.

ONLY PHYSIC.—Andrew Hunter, a regular visitor at the Police Court, appeared yesterday as usual among the "D. and D.'s." Andrew could not deny the charge, but tried to appeal to the sympathies of the magistrate by declaring that it was only physic and not whisky that was the matter. The Magistrate couldn't see it.

FOR NANAIMO.—The steamer Emily Harris, Captain Fraid, left yesterday with several passengers for Nanaimo. Mr. Burnaby agent of the Insurance Co., with Mr. D. Scott as appraiser, proceeded by her to ascertain the extent of the damages sustained by Messrs. Platt & Johns by the late fire in their premises.

THE FIRE AT CLEAL'S.—In our notice of the destruction by fire on Sunday morning of Cleal's Restaurant and Bakery, we omitted to notice the liberality displayed by some citizens. Mr. Turner, of London House, furnished the firemen with a liberal supply of champagne, while Mr. Thomas of the Bee Hive Hotel, knowing full well the thirsty nature of a fireman's duties, sent refreshments to his brother firemen, and Mr. Golden, of the Brown Jug, another fireman, kept open house while the men were at work. Mr. Cleal was sleeping in a building behind the bakery and having a dyspeptic visitation in the shape of a night mare, although he heard the crackling noise and smelt the fire, was unable to rise until the alarm bell sounded, when the nocturnal oppressor vanished, and mine host, who probably had imprudently supped on pork, flew out of bed and quickly realized his uncomfortably warm position. Mr. Cleal publishes a card elsewhere thanking the firemen and citizens for their untiring exertions in saving his property.

THE BRIDGES.—William Bangh was charged yesterday with driving a buggy over the Esquimalt bridge beyond the pace allowed by law. Sergeants Wilmer and Welch testified to having heard a horse on Saturday night trotting behind them at a quick pace. The night was very dark, and fearing that they might be run over, the officers turned a light on and discovered who the driver was. Messrs. Lamb and Fisher, who were in the buggy, deposed that the horse did not trot until the light had been turned on. Mr. Pemberton could not suppose that the witnesses could be induced to perjure themselves for the sake of so small a penalty, and dismissed the case.

CRAIGFLOWER TO LET.—This well-known farm situated on Victoria Arm, and at present in the occupation of Kenneth McKenzie, Esq., is advertised by the owners to be let, together with the Steam Flour Mill, Oatmeal and Thrashing Mills, Oatmeal Kilo, Bakery, Ovens and Machinery complete. There is an excellent dwelling house on the property (to be let separately if desired) with servants' houses, barn, stables, smithery, carpenter's shop, &c. A large portion of the farm is fenced in and has been under cultivation for several years.

THE VERANDAH.—Mr. Wheeler, proprietor of this establishment, appeared again yesterday in the Police Court. Mr. Welch said the prosecutor was still absent, and the Magistrate remanded the case for three days. Wheeler said he wished to leave the country, but the magistrate said the information of the man who swore that he had lost \$60 by gambling at the house was too positive to justify his dismissing the charge at present.

NUISANCE.—One of the most disgusting nuisances in town to which the attention of the civic authorities should be immediately directed, exists on the lot running through from Fisgard street on which the Orleans House stands. Let our City Fathers go and take a whiff at it and say whether the lot should not be fenced in so as to abate the nuisance.

ASSAULT.—Joe, a Fort Rupert Indian, was yesterday fined \$20 or two months' imprisonment for violently assaulting another Fort Rupert Indian named Jack. A female, as usual, was mixed up in the affair, and Joe was anxious to show the Court the traces of human teeth upon some portion of his body, but the Court declined the inspection.

AN INQUEST on the body of Chief Engineer Dearden, of H. M. S. Sparrowhawk, was held at Esquimalt yesterday, and a verdict returned in accordance with the medical evidence. The funeral will take place to-day.

SALT SPRING ISLAND.—This constituency is now without a member, the seat held by Mr. G. E. Dennes having been yesterday declared vacant and a new writ ordered to issue.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL met yesterday but did not transact any business, and adjourned until Wednesday at 2 p.m. provided the mail steamer shall not have then arrived.

REMANDED.—Samuel Williams and George Hoggan, the two colored men charged on suspicion of stealing a gun and pair of trousers from one A. Boeckman, were yesterday remanded for one day.

Wednesday, April 25.

THE LOSS OF THE LABOUCHERE.—The following memoranda of the steamer Orizaba, which we clip from the Oregonian of Friday last throws some further light on the wreck of the Labouchere: "Steamship Orizaba left San Francisco Sunday, April 15th, at 4:30 a.m. At 8 a.m. saw steamship Labouchere off Point Reyes. Saw her sink a few minutes afterwards. Spoke the captain's boat soon after—he reported all hands saved, and that he did not wish any assistance." We have from the first felt persuaded that the balance of the testimony was in favor of all lives having been saved, and we are gratified to find additional weight given to that conviction. It would moreover appear that the steamer must have been about 12 hours on the reef, allowing sufficient time and opportunity possibly to admit of the mails being saved as well as the passengers and crew.

FROM PUGET SOUND.—The steamer Eliza Anderson, Captain Finch, arrived yesterday with 25 passengers and freight as per manifest.

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise left yesterday morning for Fraser river with some 70 passengers and about 50 tons of freight.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.—This body continued in session from 1 p.m. on Monday till 1 p.m. yesterday, during which time Mr. McClure spoke for sixteen hours without leaving his place, and Mr. DeCosmos for seven hours. Determined that the principle involved in Mr. Cochrane's bill respecting the Sheriff's sales for taxes (which had to all intents and purposes been shelved on Friday) should not be suffered to be thrust upon the people by political chicanery, the senior and junior city members girded their loins for an arduous contest, and as the sequel shows gained the day. Mr. McClure resumed his seat at six o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. DeCosmos then rose and spoke until 1 p.m. At noon the battle was virtually over, as the time according to the act had expired; but in consequence of the Treasury being kept open until four o'clock it was Mr. DeCosmos' intention to keep the floor until then. At one o'clock, however, the majority finding to their chagrin that they were out-manoeuvred, and that the two city members would be victorious, surrendered. Mr. Carswell moved an adjournment for one week, which was carried and the siege raised. The contest excited lively interest, as was evident from the number who visited the House during Monday night and all yesterday morning. After the contest was over and the day had been won, the successful members were congratulated on all sides on the firm and plucky stand they had made. Dr. Ash, who was with the city members on this question, it is necessary to state, paired off with Dr. Tolmie.

POLICE COURT.—Morris Reilly and Anthony Brown were brought up yesterday charged with whiskey selling. Officer Mitchell saw Brown give a case of spirits to an Indian on Pickett's wharf. It was further proved that Brown and another man purchased the spirits together and the prisoners were remanded for one day to enable the police to identify Reilly. George Hogan pleaded guilty to having stolen a gun and two pairs of trousers from a shanty on Store street. The police gave the prisoner a bad character, and the magistrate remanded him for one day to allow him to show what were his means of support. The charge of complicity against Samuel Williams was dismissed but he was charged as a rogue and vagabond. Some further evidence was taken in the case of Tom, the Russian, charged with having robbed the premises of Mr. Eugene Thomas on Yates street, and the prisoner was committed for trial.

THE LATE FIRE.—ANOTHER DONATION.—Messrs. J. H. Turner & Co., of London House, have forwarded \$40 to Chief Engineer Drummond, to be applied to the funds of the Fire Department in such manner as he may deem fit, as a mark of recognition of the valuable services rendered by the firemen on Sunday morning last. Chief Engineer Drummond sent a letter of acknowledgment, thanking the donors for their liberality, both in subscribing money and providing refreshments at the fire.

FUNERAL.—The remains of Mr. John Dearden, Chief Engineer of H.M.S. Sparrowhawk, were conveyed to their last resting place in the Victoria Cemetery yesterday. The cortege composed of officers of the fleet, blue jackets, and marines, was one of the longest that we have seen.

CAUTION.—The public are cautioned not to take alarm at the ringing of the fire bells at 9, a.m., to-day, should telegraphic dispatches have then arrived, or at any time during the day, when communication takes place with the outer world. In no case will the bells be allowed to ring after 6, p.m.

ARRIVED BELOW.—Telegrams received yesterday from Mr. Charles W. Wallace and others state that the steamer California reached San Francisco on Sunday morning. She made the run in three and a-half days.

FOR NANAIMO.—The steamer Sir James Douglas left yesterday morning for the settlements on the east coast.

THE LINE OPEN.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE EAST.

COMPLIMENTARY MESSAGES.

The 24th April, 1866, will be inscribed on the roll of time as an important era in the history of this colony. Ten years since Victoria, then a trading port of the Hudson Bay Company, rejoiced in communication once a year with the civilised world. Yesterday admitted her into the electric bond already girding the vast American continent, and destined, ere the lapse of many months, to encircle the entire globe.

Shortly after two p.m. the gunboat Forward had successfully submerged the last mile and a half of cable between Lopez and San Juan Islands, and the fact of the completion of the line was immediately flashed to the Victoria office, where the intelligence was welcomed by a large concourse of persons, and flags of all nations were soon fluttering in the breeze. From the office in Zinn's building to a staff on the opposite side of Government street a line was attached from which were suspended the Union Jack and Star Spangled Banner, with the word "Union" connecting the two, and on either side the Russian, Italian and other flags. Some interruption on San Juan occurred, and directly communication was restored the

following complimentary messages were dispatched:

To the President of the United States from the Governor of Vancouver Island, April 24th, 1866.

I congratulate you on the completion of the telegraphic line connecting Vancouver Island with the United States—effected by American enterprise. It is my earnest hope that it may prove an enduring link to bind the United States of America and Great Britain in the bonds of peace and progress. A. E. KENNEDY.

To H.B.M. Minister, Washington:

The telegraph line between this Island and the United States of America has been this day completed and opened: Another step in the path of peace and progress. A. E. KENNEDY.

To H.B.M. Consul, San Francisco:

Thanks to American enterprise our line of telegraphic communication between Vancouver Island and San Francisco is open. My belief and earnest hope is that it may promote the progress and prosperity of both. A. E. KENNEDY.

To the Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C., U. S. A.:

To-day has witnessed the consummation of connecting by submarine cable, Vancouver Island with the main continent. Citizens rejoice in the success of the enterprise, and resident Americans, through its agency, desire to congratulate their countrymen on the prospects of permanent peace, harmony and prosperity throughout their beloved country. ALLEN FRANCIS, U. S. Consul.

To the Mayor of San Francisco, from the Mayor of Victoria:

May our commercial and social relations receive an impetus through the electric chord which now happily attaches Victoria to San Francisco.

To the Mayor of Portland from the Mayor of Victoria:

The Mayor of Victoria congratulates the Mayor of Portland on the completion of an enterprise tending to foster our commerce and cement the good-will of the people.

From the Mayor of Victoria to the President of the Municipal Council at New Westminster:

The union of our cities being now complete through the agency of the telegraph, Victoria offers the hand of good fellowship to New Westminster.

To the Press of San Francisco:

The Press of Victoria offer their congratulations to the Press of San Francisco on the completion of telegraphic communication between the two cities.

REPLY FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 24, 1866. 4:30 p.m.

To the Mayor of Victoria.

New Westminster cordially accepts the greeting of Victoria, and congratulates her upon being placed in telegraphic connection with the rest of the world.

JOHN ROBSON, (On behalf of the President of the Council.)

REPLY FROM PORTLAND.

PORTLAND, Tuesday Evening.

To the Mayor of Victoria.

I acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, and on behalf of the citizens of Portland heartily reciprocate the sentiments therein expressed. We hail the completion of this enterprise as a harbinger of more intimate commercial relations, and a guarantee of enduring friendship.

HENRY FAILING, Mayor.

Private telegrams were also sent by Messrs. Goldstone & Bros. to London, by Messrs. Sutro & Co. to San Francisco, and by the Bank of British Columbia to its branch at New Westminster but the only replies received were from the latter place and Portland. The wires were working hard south of Swinomish, the junction station.

On the arrival of the reply from New Westminster to the Mayor's telegram His Worship read the same aloud and led off with three cheers for the Telegraph Company which was warmly responded to by the assembled crowd, and followed by three rousers and a "tiger" for Mr. Hayes and his indefatigable assistants.

It is intended that on the arrival of a reply from President Johnson to Gov. Kennedy's message (provided the same be received between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to-day) to ring the fire bells and celebrate the occasion by decorating the town with flags. So let all citizens take warning and assist in the demonstration. An attempt was made to raise a subscription to fire 100 guns from Beacon Hill, but we did not learn whether the effort was successful or not.

The Forward in returning to Esquimalt encountered a strong westerly gale and sought refuge in Cadboro Bay. Now that the noble work has been brought to a successful termination it is but just that we should bear tribute to the untiring energy displayed by Mr. Superintendent Haines, to whom that success is mainly due, also to the valuable assistance rendered by Mr. Vandenberg, and the watchful and industrious operators and employes in the service of the Company.

Of the efficient and cheerful aid rendered by the Commander, officers and crew of the Forward and the benefit their services will confer on mankind, we could also speak in glowing terms, but that agreeable duty more properly devolves upon the representatives of the enterprising Company.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—General debility, low spirits, and nervous irritation, are the consequences of dyspepsia or indigestion. The Pills soon give tone to the stomach, renovate the digestive powers, purify the blood, and give strength to the whole system. Sluggishness of the body and depression of the mind are succeeded by a cheerful activity of the physical and mental functions. Indigestion is the parent of so many evils, and is so common, no universal a complaint, that it is a great blessing that such a remedy as this invaluable medicine should have been discovered. No one need long suffer from indigestion with these Pills at hand.

March 9th, say the... Health and Life... Y'S PILLS... Debility... Head and Heart... Bowels are diseased... Disordered digestion... Bronchitis, Cough... Few persons escape... Best remedy known... Chronic Weakness... MEDICINE for weak and... MORSON'S... CRAWFELL... THE QUEEN... LONDON... CKWELL'S... TABLE.