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THE WEEKLY COLONIST,

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more nor less than a federal one—at least such a federal one as is propounded in the second series of his resolutions. In both his plans this gentleman very adroitly destroys all objections to union on the score of interfering with the free port, by virtually leaving the inhabitants to manage their local affairs. Mr. Franklin's federal scheme holds out no political inducement whatever to British Columbia. It makes no provision that the present representative abortion of the neighboring colony shall give way to a more enlightened system of government; but creates the anomaly of a representation in the federal Legislature, while the local government is an oligarchy of officials.

appointment of one Governor for the two colonies. Subsequent to this the Governors of the two colonies have received messages from the Home Government calling their attention to the question of union, and His Excellency Governor Kennedy had in his opening speech asked the House of Assembly to give him their views on the matter. It now devolved on the House to say whether they were in favor of union or not. He would state that there were, in the first place, Imperial reasons for a union of the colonies. The Imperial Government held itself responsible, and we looked to it for protection. The new Colonial policy of the Home Government was to make the colonies provide for their own defence, in a military point of view at least. The navy was rather different. It was therefore desirable

colony was at first under one Governor, but after June, 1863 the policy of the Home Government had been changed [no, no !] Hon. gentlemen might cry no, no! but they could not deny that where there was formerly one Governor we now had two, and that was sufficient proof of the change of policy. The second Governor was sent out on account of the jealousy exhibited by British Columbia because the Governor was not ubiquitous, and to meet the wishes of the people of that colony the two Governors had been appointed. His hon. colleague had presented Imperial reasons for union; he [Mr. F] would admit that there were some reasons—the duties of the Colonial Office would doubtless be lessened somewhat by having only one Governor to correspond with. But the hon.

Good News from Sooke.

FURTHER DISCOVERIES.

Messrs. Johnson and Handy left Leech river at 9 o'clock on Saturday night with a candle stuck in a bottle to light them on the way, and reached town at 5 o'clock on Sunday morning. They report the water still high in the creek but falling, and by Tuesday it is thought the miners will be at work again.

RICH BENCH DIGGINGS.

A shaft has been sunk by a party of gentlemen

THE UNION DEBATE.

The question of uniting the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia took rise to be the most memorable topic in the early political history of the two countries. Yesterday the subject again came before the Assembly according to notice, and in response to communications from His Excellency the Governor and the Secretary of State for the Colonies. A good deal of interest seemed to centre on the topic by the public, but the members of the Assembly were exceedingly cautious in their treatment of the matter in debate. Mr. DeCosmos, the Union champion, was evidently unwilling to discharge all his thunder in opening the question, and so confined himself to generalities and to explaining the nature of the resolutions he would be introduced. Mr. Franklin, the ministerial spokesman, was sorry that Mr. DeCosmos had said so little, because it limited the proper scope in his argument. We wished to see Mr. DeCosmos' union project presented in full, with all its shadowy features, that we might demolish the works by a new synopsis of opposing projectiles that had pretty nearly

between the two knights there was a dreary, oppressive silence. Everybody thought something should be done, and nobody seemed either willing or able to do it. An appealing look was cast by some of the members of the committee at the Speaker, but that gentleman contented himself with raising his eye-brows about an eighth of an inch, and giving his shoulders a hopeless shrug. Any friend of the Northern States would have felt at this particular juncture exceedingly anxious about the "Union cause." After fifteen minutes of profound do-nothingism, Dr. Trimble rose and proposed, no doubt ironically, "that the committee should rise and report *progress*," which the committee accordingly did, and thus the first day's debate ended.

The scheme—or rather schemes—of Mr. DeCosmos for uniting the colonies may be thus briefly summed up. A Legislative Union, with two Houses of Legislature; the Upper to comprise an equal number of representatives from both colonies; the Lower to commence with fifteen members for each colony, but any future increase to be regulated by population. The right of taxation in each colony to rest only with the majority of each colony's representatives. Providing this scheme is not practicable, a federal union is proposed which differs from the foregoing in this respect, that the combined Legislature becomes a federal one and deals with all questions which are of common interest to both colonies, and controls the Crown revenues. Questions of local interest, such as taxation, &c., to be dealt with by the same representatives, but in their local capacity. Mr. Franklin's scheme is to unite the colonies by the very slight thread of a federation, composed of six members—three from each colony—whose duties will be confined to legislating upon such topics as postal communication, immigration, joint loans, &c. It will be readily perceived that Mr. DeCosmos' schemes differ more in the name than in the actual working. The Legislative union which he proposes is made, by the stipulations in reference to taxation, &c., nothing

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, October 3, 1864.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Tolmie, Trimble, Dickson, Southgate, Street, Duncan, Carswell, Dennes.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

The Speaker read a message from His Excellency the Governor in regard to the Probate Court, stating that the returns would be laid before the House at the earliest possible moment, the subject having already occupied the attention of the Executive; also a similar message in regard to the returns of the Bankruptcy Court asked for by the House; also in regard to returns as to Indian liquor selling.

SMALL DEBTS BILL.

Mr. Dennes moved that the House go into Committee on the Small Debts Bill on Friday next.—Carried.

NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the House go into committee on Thursday on the question of the appointment of Chief Justice.—Carried.

UNION OF THE COLONIES.

The House went into committee on this question. The Speaker had some difficulty in procuring a member to take the chair, several declining. Dr. Dickson at length consented to preside.

Mr. DeCosmos in rising to open the debate said he did not intend to go into the question at any great length, nor to enter into details, as he supposed hon. members had already made their minds up on the matter. Hereafter, when different views on the subject might be presented, he would probably take more time to go into the question. The union of the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island had been brought before the public by the Duke of Newcastle during a previous session, and the question had been taken up and debated at great length in the House. Various views were expressed during that debate, one party being for an active Legislative Union, another for a federal union, and a third being opposed to any union whatever. The results of that debate were to present more enlarged views of the question in the House, and more correct notions of the position of affairs to the country at large. Since that time certain resolutions had been sent home in February last, asking for the

should be a Federal union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, if a Legislative union cannot be secured;

2. That the Federal Government should be vested in a Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly;

3 That the Legislative Council be composed of an equal number of persons from each colony;

4. That the Assembly should consist at first of thirty members, fifteen elected by each colony;

5. That any additional representation in the Federal Assembly from either colony, be based on increased population;

6. That one Executive should act for both colonies in all matters so far as practicable;

7. That the Federal Legislature should have jurisdiction over all public questions in which both colonies have a common interest;

8. That the capital of the Federal colonies be New Westminster;

9. That each colony should have a local legislature consisting of their respective members in the Federal Legislative Council and Assembly;

10. That each local legislature be consolidated into one Chamber;

11. That the jurisdiction of the local legislature extend only to those local questions in which both colonies have not a common interest;

12. That each local legislature should have the right to determine the mode of taxation within its jurisdiction for Federal as well as local purposes;

13. That the Crown revenues be the property of the Federal Government;

14. That all laws, usages and liabilities of each colony except where altered by act of union, remain as they are till changed by the Federal or local legislatures respectively;

III. Resolved,—That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to enter into negotiation with His Excellency the Governor of British Columbia with the object of establishing a Legislative or Federal union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, based on the provisions of the previous resolutions;

IV. Resolved,—That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully urged to submit any question of difference between himself and His Excellency the Governor of British Columbia respecting the proposed union to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies for final decision binding on both colonies;

V. Resolved,—That a Committee of five, including the Speaker, be appointed to explain the views of this House as embraced in the foregoing resolutions to His Excellency the Governor.

After reading the resolutions the hon. gentleman passed them briefly in review, and concluded by moving their acceptance by the committee.

Mr. Franklin had been urged to give his opinion on the important question now brought before them. His hon colleague had introduced the subject of union but had not seen fit to give his arguments in favor of his views. He (Mr. Franklin) hoped that the hon. gentleman or some of his supporters would advance some argument so that he might be prepared to meet the question. His hon. colleague had omitted to state that the

assembly meeting at New Westminster to decide how it should be levied. As to a federal union, there were various great questions on which the two colonies should act in concert, but the monetary affairs of each should be kept distinctly separate. The extent of his idea of federal union would be that three members or delegates from each colony should meet and discuss and recommend to their several governments measures of a national character, such as railroads, telegraphs, postal affairs, immigration, joint loans, Indian affairs, law courts, etc. In four or five years the colonies would be in a better state for taking up the serious question of a full legislative union. Mr. Franklin concluded by saying that he was not prepared to go further into the question at present, but hoped to have a future opportunity to go more at length into the matter.

The Committee here rose and reported progress and the House adjourned till today (Tuesday).

THE GREAT FIRE AT YALE.

YALE, B. C., Sept. 28, 1864.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST,—A very disastrous fire occurred here at 3 o'clock this morning by which all the buildings on Front street, from Messrs. Kimball & Gladwin's to Messrs. Oppenheimer's, were destroyed. The fire is supposed to be the work of an incendiary, as it originated in a vacant building formerly occupied by Messrs. L. and S. Oppenheimer, and a canoe containing three men was seen going down the river a few moments after the discovery of the fire. Great credit is due to all parties, who displayed much presence of mind, but it was not until three hours of great exertion that the progress of the flames was checked.

The following is the estimated loss:—

Kimball & Gladwin	$1,400
Benj. Bailey	1,400
S. Braverman	1,500
Dr. Bradshaw	3,500
J. Fraunthal	6,000
Jas. Barry	5,000
A. McLardy	2,000
H. Nelson	1,000
S. Greenbaum	3,000
Kelley	1,000
Total	$25,800

We are very sorry for Mr. Fraunthal, whose loss is the largest as he had lately received his fall stock from San Francisco and Victoria. We must also mention Mr. Barry whose whole stock is destroyed.

C. E.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster on Saturday afternoon with 30 passengers and about $30,000 in treasure. Nothing new in mining news from Cariboo. The mine continued to pay handsomely.

Gold continues to be found in Omineca, but not in quantities to induce a rush to that country.

Cariboo is now connected with Victoria by a good road, and the stages are running regularly.

Our Kootenay correspondent writes that the miners are doing well on Wild Horse creek, and that the prospects are good for a rich winter's work.

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tance of 110 miles, the water was navigable for steamers of a moderate draught of water. From Shuswap Lake to the Columbia River there was an old Indian trail, which had been improved, and now was in a suitable condition for pack animals to traverse. He had travelled this distance in one day, and considered it about 50 miles.

At their second meeting, the committee reported that: "In the first place, there is a reliable steam communication with Yale from Victoria; from Yale to Cache Creek on the Bonaparte, there is 110 miles of excellent wagon road; from Cache Creek to Lake Kamloops is 20 miles, which distance is well known to be a practicable trail; from the lower end of Lake Kamloops to the upper part of Shuswap Lake is about 110 miles, which for the greater part of the year is of sufficient depth of water for steamers of a moderate draught; from Shuswap Lake to the Columbia River is 40 miles; making in all 60 miles of road or trail to be constructed, which will complete our communication with the Columbia River. From the junction with the Columbia there is navigation to the reported best paying section of the Kootanais mines, a distance of 200 miles."

Mr. Thomas Spence, in a speech on the subject said that "it was his candid opinion that if we could once establish this line of route we should thereby secure by far the larger portion of the overland travel from Canada and the East. The point where the emigrants first strike the Columbia river is at the "Boat Encampment," from which place the distance from Shuswap Lake is only about 150 miles, 110 miles of which would be accomplished in boats down the Columbia river to a point within 40 miles of Shuswap Lake. This in itself would be a grand achievement, and assist us materially in furthering the welfare of the colony, and especially in settling this section of the country, which we all know is a rich and extensive field for the farmer and grazier. The present paying portions of the Kootanais mines are about 50 to 100 miles north of the 49th degree of north latitude, and are gradually extending in a northerly direction.

The Lytton people have subscribed $500 towards fitting out an expedition, and New Westminster $300, of which Governor Seymour contributed $50. The expedition was to start from the latter place on Saturday, under Mr. Turner, late R. E.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS for week ending Saturday, September 24, 1864; Duties, £698 7 7; harbor dues, £24 3 4; head money, £11 8; tonnage dues, £73 5. Total, £817 3 11. Number of passengers entering during same period, 58.