

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, February 6, 1869

With an equable, healthy climate and a soil unsurpassed in the world for fertility; with rich veins of gold and the baser minerals; vast seams of coal, and trackless forests of the finest descriptions of timber; with exhaustless fisheries, and a hundred other sources of wealth, this Colony offers inducements for permanent settlement that few other countries possess. A few days ago we took occasion to point out the necessity of encouraging a limited but steady immigration of respectable young females into this Colony, with a twofold object in view—first, of providing competent servants for families at a reasonable rate of compensation; and second, of providing wives for our settlers. Nothing will cure a conscientious, thoughtful man of nomadic habits so thoroughly as a good wife and a knowledge of the fact that little ones look up to and regard him as their natural protector and guardian. When a man's hat covers his family, he is not so likely to study the consequences of a break in the chain of association and acquaintance by a change of abode, as when he has a family dependent upon him for support; and the great want of the Colony has been and is the command of means to induce miners and farmers who are successful in their respective avocations to remain among us. A few years ago, while traveling through a portion of Washington Territory, we carefully observed the agricultural progress of the country and the social condition of the occupants of the soil; and we discovered that the social relations of the farmers had a great deal to do with the appearance and state of their land. Where we saw green pastures and waving grainfields carefully fenced in—fat cattle and thrifty flocks of sheep—a snug farmhouse with a neat little garden in front and a half-dozen tow-headed youngsters playing about the doorstep—in nice cases out of ten we learned that a civilized woman was sharing the lot of the hardy backwoodsman. Where the fences were neglected, the grain sparse, the pastures barren, the cattle and flocks shrunken, the farmhouse a tumbledown shanty, with old rags supplying the place of broken panes—where, in short, the aspect was that of a dreary, neglected waste, we almost invariably found that the settler led a bachelor's life, or that his household fair was selected from the nearest Indian village. No valid reason can be advanced why the picture of the flourishing farmer and his thrifty helpmeet should not prove the rule rather than the exception in this Colony. Governmental assistance to the amount of \$2000 per annum, and an advance of \$100 by each head of a family desiring a servant, would bring forty English girls annually to this Colony. As we pointed out the other day, the advance made by Government should be a free gift, while the advances made on behalf of families should be considered in the light of an ordinary debt, secured by liens upon the wages of the servants until the liability had been discharged. The agreements (made in England) should stipulate the amount to be paid each girl, which should in no case exceed \$150—or less than one-half the rate now paid for very inferior household 'help.' And it should be understood when selecting girls that by accepting service in this distant land they would not shut themselves out from drawing a prize in the great lottery of life. Let them be plainly told that if our families want servants our settlers want wives; and that the manner in which they may fulfil their agreements as servants shall be the best test of their fitness to enter woman's highest and holiest sphere of action. With a given number of girls arriving yearly, families could afford to part with those already in service to make glad the hearts of the settlers, and thus secure for the Colony a permanent and thrifty population.

Mr. HOLBROOK'S resolution to reduce the duty on wheat—the only sensible proposition that has emanated from New Westminster this session—was lost in the Council. The hon gentleman produced

figures to show that the duty and freight on a quantity of wheat sufficient to make a barrel of flour amounts to exactly five cents more than the duty and freight on a barrel of flour. But this result was obtained by rating wheat at a figure it has not reached for years—8½ cents, instead of about 1½ cents per pound; its present price at San Francisco; by making the freight on wheat \$10 50 per ton, instead of \$6; and by reducing the freight on flour. The old saying that figures cannot lie, is, doubtless, correct; but, there is such a thing as contemplating them through a magnifying-glass and extracting exaggerated ideas from their increased bulk. Seen through a powerful lens, a fly will assume the proportions of an ox; an ox, those of a house. Now, the fact is, the hon gentleman had an excellent idea running through his head when he proposed his motion; but he failed to develop it. Had he moved that wheat be admitted free and the duty on flour reduced to 75 cents, he would have attained two objects with one motion. The miller would have received the same protection as now without detriment to Colonial wheat, and the poor man's loaf would have been cheapened by one-third. A misquotation of figures, produced by a powerful imagination, defeated a worthy object, and leaves the staff of life as heavily taxed as before.

By the Customs law gunny-sacks—an East Indian production—are admitted free of duty; while upon Dundee bags—made in Scotland—a tariff of 12½ per cent. is levied. There is a palpable error in this. The evident intention of the framers of the Tariff was to admit all empty bags that cannot be made in the Colony free of duty. If such was not the intention why are gunny-sacks admitted free? Cotton bags, that can be and are sewed here, there is the object of protection to serve in levying upon; but who ever heard of a Dundee bag manufactory in this Colony? When the Tariff was adopted, gunny-sacks were principally used for packing purposes; now Dundees are preferred and take the place of gunnies. As the Tariff stands it is an absurdity to admit gunnies free and tax Dundees. Both should pay duty or neither.

Thursday Feb 4
THE THEATRE was again crowded by our citizens, who are certainly extending a generous support to the excellent troupe of artists that now grace the boards. The drama of 'Camille' was presented last evening. It was played with a spirited naturalness we have seldom seen equalled and never surpassed. The leading part in 'Camille' leaves but little chance for the delineator of Armand Duval to exact from the audience an equivalent share of approbation to that generally allotted to the lady who may represent Camille whenever the latter role is tolerably developed; yet Mr Bates frequently drew forth loud manifestations of admiration of his acting during the performance. Of Mrs Bates' Camille, we think we may say in all fairness that had it the finish which maturity and experience will give it would in all respects equal that of Matilda Heron's. Mrs Bates' conception of the character, in our estimation, surpasses Mrs Hayne's.—Mr Pierpont Thayer's Count de Varville was executed correctly and with good taste. Mons Duval, by Mr Robinson, was very effectively rendered; and so was the role of Gaston, by Mr Fuller. Miss Nellie Cummings played Olympe, and Miss Bella Bird, Nannie, charmingly. When the curtain fell, Mr and Mrs Bates were called out and loudly cheered. This evening the grand play of 'The Hunchback' will be given.

AFFRAY AT SEABECK.—On Tuesday evening last an affray took place in a saloon at Seabeck, by which a man named Hiram Bryant lost his life. It appears that the deceased and another man named George Bryant, were drinking; that the latter called for liquor and put down a fifty cent piece for payment, which Hiram picked up and put in his pocket. Words passed between the parties relative to the action, and it is stated that Hiram choked and struck his companion, who, being highly exasperated, seized a tumbler and flung it at him. The glass, in striking him, broke, and its sharp edge severed the jugular vein in his neck. In a few minutes he bled to death.—Seattle Intelligencer.

STRAUSS & Co, a few days ago, dispatched from Yale 20,000 pounds of freight for Cariboo. The contract for carriage was at the rate of 20 cents per pound. The goods went out in wagons. This instance of wheeling goods through British Columbia in midwinter is unprecedented. The present is the mildest season known since 1858.

On Tuesday a brisk walk in the open air produced profuse perspiration. The weather was like that of a balmy day in June. An old and valued friend of ours, who resides at the head of Fort street, cuts asparagus for his table twice a week. Roses, wallflowers, cowslips and long, new grass are seen in profusion in every garden; daisies are sported by young and old bucks in their button-holes; peas are six inches above the ground. Apple-trees are preparing to blossom. Was there ever such another climate as this?

Mrs LINCOLN ASKS A PENSION.—A petition of Mrs Lincoln for a pension, dated at Frankfurt, Germany, presented to the U S Senate, says her health is greatly impaired. Her physicians advised her to come to Germany, and then go to Italy. Her finances do not permit her to do so, nor to live in a style becoming the widow of the Chief Magistrate. The petition was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

ARRIVAL.—The French ship Corsican, from San Francisco, consigned to J. Robertson Stewart, and bound for Sooke to load lumber at Muir's Mills, arrived yesterday afternoon.

It is stated that the Carlton, the chief English Tory club, spent \$1,200,000 in gold in the recent general election.

A 'Journal of Exiles' is to be started by Victor Hugo, to which Rochefort and others are to contribute.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1869.

Present—Hons Holbrook, Havelock, Ring, Davis, Saunders, Hamley, Bushby, Crease, Alston, Humphreys, O'Rielly, Ball, Robson, Drake, Wood, Trutch, Pemberton, Helmcken, Carrall, Young (presiding).

NOTICE OF MOTIONS.

Hon Havelock.—To ask the attention of the Council to consider the expediency of encouraging the introduction of beet root sugar manufacture into this Colony, and the advisability of recommending the Government to offer a premium for the establishment of a Beet Root Sugar Factory. To come up for consideration on the 9th inst.

Hon Davis.—To move that the subject of Confederation with Canada be brought under the consideration of the Council.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Queen Charlotte Coal Co's removal of Registered Office Bill, the Fence Bill and the Supply Bill were each read a third time and passed.

Hon Holbrook conceived that the sum of \$1500, which he asked the Council to add to the Supplementary Estimates to be allowed for the conveyance of mails between this port and New Westminster was not unreasonable when they remembered that \$4000 were allowed for the same purpose between this place and Comox and Nanaimo. A great advantage would be secured by the Government in the control which it would give them over the movements of the steamer Enterprise, which now plied between the two ports with a view only to suit the convenience of her owners.

Hon Havelock seconded the motion. Hon Crease.—The amount paid at present for the conveyance of the up country mails was the amount contracted for, and which amount had been considered and reconsidered time after time in that House, and to make any addition to the sum contracted for would be simply throwing the money away.

Hons Robson and Ring supported the motion. Hon Ball had never heard any complaints as to irregularity of the steamer's trips; he knew she always accommodated her movements to the despatch of the Cariboo mails.

Hon Helmcken.—The motion was entirely out of order; the item for the contract referred to had been duly considered in its turn when the Estimates were before the House and the subject could not be re-opened.

Hon Young must rule the motion out of order; the House had expressed its opinion upon the subject already.

Hon Holbrook moved that a sum be recommended to be allowed for the conveyance of the mails per steamer between New Westminster and Yale.

Hon Ball.—If there was any grievance in the matter it must be redressed by the contractor who carried the mail between those points; the Government had nothing to do with the steamers as the contractor subsidized them.

On division the resolution was lost.

MESSAGE NO. 5.

In accordance with the resolution of the Council of the 20th January, the simplification of accounts had been taken into the Governor's most earnest consideration.

MESSAGE NO. 6.

In reply to the resolution of the 26th January, respecting an ordinance for the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, efforts made to bring in a similar bill on the Mainland had failed, and as the Governor could not please himself with the forms that occurred to him, he transmitted to the Council the recommendations in that regard of the Secretary

for the Colonies, which he hoped the Council would find useful in assisting them to a definite conclusion on the subject.

MESSAGE NO. 7.

In relation to the Land Bill 1867, it was not in the Governor's power to forward the correspondence on the subject, the bill being still under the consideration of the Home Government. He might say, however, that the provisions of the bill were likely to be very liberal.

MESSAGE NO. 8.

The Governor would remind the Council, in regard to proposed alteration in the law between the Crown and subject, that the House had power to initiate any measure that the interests of the public made advisable, and they would in all cases receive every attention at his hands; he thought however, that the law as it stood at present afforded every justice to those interested.

Hon Ring moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law and practice in the Probate Court of the Colony. The hon and learned gentleman described in lucid terms the great hardships arising from the present state of the law, and recommended a speedy change.

Hon Alston would remind the hon member that the costs on £50 were just the same as on £50,000,000. After some further discussion the resolution was granted.

CROWN COSTS BILL.

This bill after a short discussion passed through the committee with some trifling amendments, and was reported complete. Third reading for to-morrow.

REMOVAL OF ONE OF THE SISTERS ROCKS.

Hon Havelock asked whether it is the intention of the Government to cause one of the Sisters Rocks in the Fraser river, to be removed this year as recommended by the Council. As no steps had been taken in that regard, a strong feeling in the public mind had arisen to the effect that the rocks were likely to remain untouched this year.

Hon Trutch.—Although the question had not been addressed to him, he would inform the House that the subject was under the consideration of the Government. He was aware that in six weeks the water would be so high that no work could be done towards the removal of one of them. No doubt that fact had had due weight with the Government, and all would be done that was possible in the matter.

INFORMATION TO IMMIGRANTS.

Hon Robson moved, that in the opinion of this Council it is of importance that the Department of Lands and Works should be so conducted as to afford to those arriving in the Colony the fullest possible information respecting the country, its various resources, the lands still open for pre-emption or purchase, the position and character of such lands, the rate of wages and the cost of living in the various Districts, the population, stock and improvements therein, and all other information likely to prove interesting or useful to persons desirous of settling in the country, or of engaging in any pursuit therein; that all Assistant Commissioners throughout the Colony be provided with means of supplying such information; and that an address be presented to the Governor embodying these views. The office proposed to be established at San Francisco would have the effect of sending numbers of people up this way, and it was proper that the requisite information be easily obtained by those desiring it.

THE SEED STORE, YATES STREET. Springfield Nursery, Cook street, and James' Bay Nursery, Michigan street, VICTORIA, V.I. JAY & BALES. In consequence of the increasing demand for their Seeds, and in order to retain the confidence of their customers, have grown expressly for this Market and have now on hand THE LARGEST, MOST RELIABLE AND BEST SELECTED STOCK OF Colonial-raised Agricultural, Garden and Flower Seeds. Ever offered on this Coast. Special attention is called to their various GRASSES AND OTHER FARM SEEDS, which are now, and for the first time in this Colony, Guaranteed of Home Growth. A SPECIAL PRIZE was awarded them at Yale, and Honorary Certificate at Victoria Agricultural Shows of 1868 for samples of the above. J. & B. have on the way from Europe, overland, many Useful and Ornamental Novelties for amateur and professional Gardeners. FRUIT TREES AND BUSHES, Garden and House Plants, Bulb and other Nursery Stock securely packed for travel. Catalogues at the Store and Nurseries, as usual. feb 6 & w

Hons Wood and Carrall supported the resolution.

Hon Trutch had only to say that the Lands and Works Department every facility was afforded to any one desiring to obtain information of the nature indicated by the member for New Westminster; maps and plans of every portion of the Colony already surveyed were always open to inspection. He would, however, be glad to have any practicable suggestion on the subject by which such information could be more readily conveyed to intending settlers.

Hon Pemberton.—Farmers were very careless in sending in the returns of their stock, &c, hence, it was very difficult to compile statistics for the various portions of the Colony. He would recommend that some mode of enforcing a proper return being made should be instituted, as such statistics would form the most valuable portion of the information to be afforded to intending settlers.

Hon Alston would recommend, in view of some system for obtaining the necessary statistics being arrived at, that a pamphlet be printed containing all the necessary information, and distributed as might be thought likely to serve the purpose proposed.

Hon Holbrook.—Immigrants would soon be coming by the overland route, hence not by Victoria; an office should be established on the Mainland with all the necessary facilities for placing such information at the disposal of the public.

Hon Helmcken.—Immigrants were mythical beings; when they came they should be amply provided for. After some further debate the resolution was carried.

PAID MEMBERS.

Hon Humphreys moved that his Excellency the Governor be respectfully asked for the Returns of monies paid to, elected or selected members of the Legislative Councils of British Columbia, since their formation, and to whom paid. He thought the information would be useful and instructive in any future measure the Government might think fit to take in the matter.

Hon Helmcken hoped the House would not vote in any shape or way for such returns.

Hon Robson.—A great deal had been said both inside and outside the House on the subject, particularly by a local print which had contained the usual amount of misrepresentation. It might be said that such a resolution involved a feeling against a member who was absent, but that was not sufficient reason, as that member would be placed in a proper position by the production of these returns.

Hon Carrall.—The information was rendered necessary in consequence of the rancour which had been created by the debate on the subject on Friday night last and the manner in which certain gentlemen had been vilified by the press; they were styled blood suckers and so forth; he thought the information should be granted; he would support the resolution. Hon Ring supported the resolution. Hon Crease would like to see the resolution withdrawn; if hon members were affected by what appeared in the public press they were thinner skinned than the members connected with the Government. He did not see that the resolution would do any practical good; he had been in many Councils and had always seen a request such as he then made complied with; he again begged the hon member to withdraw his resolution.

Hon Humphreys was not very thin skinned, he pressed his resolution on public grounds.

On division, the resolution was lost; yeas 6, noes 11. The Health Bill was then taken up in Committee. After some progress had been made, it was determined to rise and ask leave to sit again in order that the Bill might be printed with the amendments added.

The Council adjourned till 1 p m to-morrow.

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CENTURIES ago a "there is nothing new under the sun." Individual experience shows that this is in general may be new to individuals, but it is not new in reality. If we that which is put forth day as new and original has only the semblance of the reality. It is many things which in their old and familiar. A after all merely the elements bygone thoughts. alone is new, the elements. Society, education, surroundings combine on most subjects. When a matter that interests at what we may be pleased, but if we go back sources from which we information respecting it then severally the fragments we draw from them, we remaining with the reality upon it. Newspapers seldom in a position, discussing questions of to advance anything of itself or to make an original. On public questions should seek to re-views of the thinking community. To do this needs discuss such questions. When the time for a writer finds that the plan he is about to develop is the result of many different suggestions, persons, and so all credit to his part is extolled the preacher or the often does no more and expression to ideas and undefined shapes present at some time of many of his readers schemes for political merely new applications well known principles morning cotemporary plagiarism. He asserts that the scheme for County Courts which two articles recently columns, is claimed one by us—while he first point is not assertions referred to, and claimed here. As to limit (at the scheme new to our cotemporary not so in reality. We glad to be in a position is a comparatively scheme with many city who have taken a question. To them we knowledge our indebted useful suggestions in the matter. The article merely states and concise way what catered more fully. He long thought of reform touched upon its principles neither can claim the stating it; but we have put it in a practical shape having disposed of the us, we feel bound to glad our cotemporary from us as to the details. He suggests the only—First, he is in Chief Justice's Clerk three Registrars. Next of retaining the Magistrate giving them the position District Clerks; and he cautions giving them power adjudicate cases involving exceeding \$50. We whole of these suggestions are not expedient because not be carried out without extra expense and a whole fabric. As to will be remembered the duty of Registrars us, is to act as Registrars. Now this can be done by professional men, reside for that purpose minister, the other a third, therefore, is a clerk for the Cariboo District for each Court is able, because the name would otherwise fall upon trars, such as register taxing costs, register Stock Companies, etc efficiently performed by again, if for the maintaining in the service pendiary Magistrates,