

the company, and argued at some length that no questions could be asked this witness. Mr. Ring followed, at some length, and when he concluded the Court rose for one hour.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Honor ruled that the evidence of the witness, relative to his connection with the Bentinck Arm Company was admissible. Albert Hensley's evidence continued by Mr. Wood—I do not know much about the company. I took a share at the request of Mr. Cary. I attended one meeting. I never took any part in the management of the company. I have had nothing to do with the company from that day to this.

Cross-examined by Mr. McCraith—The document produced is a proxy from myself to Cary.

Mr. W. T. Drake called and examined by Mr. Wood—I was one of the Directors of the Bentinck Arm Company. I recollect attending a meeting of the Shareholders; it was held at my office, I was chairman of that meeting. I never attended any other meeting of shareholders; I don't know whether any other meeting was held or not.

Several other shareholders in the company have been subpoenaed, but not being in attendance the learned Counsel for the defence closed his case; and commenced his address to the Jury soon after three o'clock.

The learned Counsel enlarged upon the fact of Hood's having examined the contract, and contradicted the evidence of the defendant, and that given on behalf of the plaintiff, he animatedly and strongly upon the course pursued by the Attorney General, who he said had not only made use of the position which he held in the colony, and the influence which he had with the Governor, to draw the defendant into a vermin.

He said that he was the main spring and guiding star; but had also, in a most unprofessional and unwarrantable manner, suffered Hood to rely upon his legal knowledge and status, as the leader of the Bar of this colony, which knowledge and status, as he at once allowed himself to act as counsel, he had been equally at the command of every member of the company, whereas he had used it against the very man who confided in him to entrap him into an agreement; which, to say the least of it, Mr. Cary must have been perfectly well aware was one-sided.

The learned Counsel did not spare the learned Attorney General; indeed it has not been our lot to hear such a scathing rebuke administered to any witness in our Courts of Justice, and withal in a temperate and calm manner.

In conclusion, Mr. Wood called upon the Jury to show their sense of the iniquity of the whole action by giving a verdict for the defendant; the learned Counsel concluded an able address a little before five o'clock.

On Monday, Mr. Ring will reply, and the Judge will sum up, which will complete this tedious case.

#### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, February 15th, 1864.  
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present, Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Tolmie, Duncan, Bayley, Denness.

THE HOUSE TOOK UP THE AMENDMENTS ON THE PILOT BILL, AS MADE BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Amendment to clause 9, making the outer boundary of the cruising ground extend to Sooke harbor instead of Race Rocks, was discussed.

Mr. Duncan opposed the proposed extension. Mr. Tolmie said he had consulted one of the pilots, who had told him that they had not the slightest objection to the extension.

Mr. DeCosmos supported the amendment, which was agreed to.

The amendment providing that unlicensed pilots, other than the master, shall surrender any vessel under their charge between Sooke harbor and Trial Island to the first licensed pilot calling such vessel, was agreed to.

The amendment striking out clause 17 of this bill, which provides that any outward-bound vessel requiring the services of a pilot shall fly her flag for twelve hours before leaving, was laid over.

The amendment allowing all steamers to come in free of pilotage was accepted. Mr. Powell and Mr. Duncan dissenting.

Amended rates of pilotage, \$5 per foot on inward-bound vessels, spoken outside of a straight line from Sooke harbor, south to Washington Territory; \$4 per foot, between that line and a straight line from Race Rocks, south to Washington Territory, and \$3 per foot between the line from Race Rocks, south to Washington Territory, and a line from Trial Island south to Washington Territory.

Mr. DeCosmos advocated a rate of \$5 per foot between Sooke and Race Rocks. From Race Rocks inward, he would propose \$4 per foot.

Mr. Duncan supported the same arrangements. Mr. Young said it was not desirable to induce pilots, by high rates, to go outside of Sooke; by so doing vessels might be missed altogether.

Mr. Franklin hoped that the Council, by fixing these rates, had no intention of interfering with the money privileges of this House.

The Speaker said it was not a matter of privilege. The Council has a perfect right to do as they had done.

The rates were fixed at \$5 per foot between a straight line from Sooke harbor south to Washington Territory, and a line from Race Rocks south to Washington Territory; and \$4 per foot on vessels inside of Race Rocks; and on outward-bound vessels \$4 per foot to a safe anchorage in Royal Bay.

The new clause fixing a rate of \$1.50 per foot between the harbors of Victoria and Esquimalt, was agreed to.

The amendment making the fines, &c. payable to the Treasury, was agreed to.

The amendment striking out the power of appeal from the Pilot Commissioners to the Governor was agreed to.

The last section, providing that the Pilot should not be entitled to receive their fees till they procured a proper boat, obtained their certificates, and complied with all the provisions of the Act, was agreed to.

The amendment striking out the clause in the bill which stipulates that any outward-bound vessel shall fly her flag for 12 or 15 hours previous to time of sailing, was rejected.

The amendment striking out the clause providing for the payment of unlicensed Pilots in the absence of licensed Pilots, was also rejected.

The rest of the amendments, being chiefly of a verbal nature, were agreed to.

PUBLICATION OF THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF BANKS.

This Bill was read a second time, and sent to committee of the whole.

To-morrow the House will be in committee on Supply.

FRIDAY, February 19, 1864.  
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present, Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Tolmie, Jackson, Foster, Street, Carwell, Duncan, Bayley, Denness.

House in committee on supply, Mr. Franklin in the chair.

Painting Government Buildings, \$1,500. Passed.

Erection of Powder Magazine, \$3,638. Passed.

Fencing part of Government square, \$800. Passed.

Repairs to Government Buildings, \$2,000. Passed.

Fencing in Beacon Hill Park, \$1,000. Item rejected.

Building Harbor-master's Office, \$2,000. Mr. DeCosmos asked if it were contemplated to connect an Assay office with the Harbor-master's office.

Mr. Young said such a plan had been suggested. Item passed.

Painting and repairing Buys, \$500. Passed.

House of Assembly—Furniture and fittings, \$1,000. Passed.

Roads, Streets and Bridges—Burnside deviation, \$2,000. Passed.

Burnside road, round head of Inlet, \$2,000. This amount was amalgamated with the preceding item.

West Saanich road, from Victoria to Thomson's (Peter Linds), \$10,000.

Mr. Street said he would propose in amendment, that the appropriation be for the road from Victoria to Harris's. The portion of road which most needed repairs was beyond Mr. Newton's. A portion of that road was impassable at any time of the year.

Mr. Duncan said the worst part of the road was in Lake district, and that part of the road should be properly made before going further.

Mr. Street said the whole appropriation of last year was laid out in Lake. Not a dollar had been expended in Saanich, and there was not a foot of macadamised road in the district. The road from Victoria out to Dr. Tolmie's was a good metalled road.

Dr. Tolmie—I beg to contradict the hon. member. (Laughter.)

Mr. Duncan said the road in Lake was full of bogs and holes.

Mr. Street—Where? not a bog in the road. Mr. Duncan—The proper principle is, to make the road good out from Victoria.

Mr. Street said he had been told by a gentleman to-day that the road from Victoria to Harris's was very good; beyond Harris's was the place wanted.

Mr. Jackson—Does that gentleman live in Saanich?

Mr. Street—He does. (Laughter.)

West Saanich road, extending north of Mr. Newton—\$5,000. Passed.

West Saanich—Cross road at Peter Linds and two bridges—\$700. Passed.

East Saanich road north of Mr. Newton—\$2,000. Passed.

Shawigan to Courichan—\$3,000. Passed.

Quesnelt deviation and three bridges. Mr. Duncan said the item was quite inadequate. He would move that it be struck out, and the item considered in the supplementary estimates.

Dr. Helmecken said he had been told by a gentleman who had travelled over the road, that there were a few impassable bogs which \$1500 would put in a passable state.

The item was passed.

Comox Road, between Comox and Courichan, to complete existing contract—\$5,000. Passed.

Reginault Road—\$2,500. Passed.

Metochin Road—\$3,000. Passed.

Do, branch to Gold Stream—\$1,000. Passed.

Cedar Hill Roads, old and new—\$5,000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the sum be expended on the Cedar Hill Road by the way of Cook street and the Springs. Victoria paid nearly all the taxes and it was proper that she should receive part of the benefit.

Dr. Helmecken said that we should give Victoria District as much money this year as we can, to make trunk roads, and let that be all, let them make their own side roads after that.

The amendment was carried.

Mount Tolmie to Cadboro Bay Road, at Tod's, \$6,000.

Mr. Duncan, Mr. DeCosmos, Mr. Street, and Mr. Bayley opposed. Item rejected.

Road to connect Beacon Hill Park with Royal Bay, by way of Clover Point. Mr. Bayley said he would like to see the Park connected with Victoria. It was now impossible to reach the Park from Humboldt street in a vehicle. He would move in amendment that this and the following sum be amalgamated to make a good road to the park.

Mr. DeCosmos said this was the only item asked for by Victoria; the road was wanted for the convenience and pleasure of our citizens, and he thought it should be passed.

Dr. Helmecken said the money for the roads was a loan, and Victoria already had her share. But he did not oppose the item as the natural advantage of the vicinity.

Mr. Bayley said he saw an item of \$1500 for a road by way of Point Ogden. There were no settlers there.

Mr. DeCosmos—Yes, here is one, (pointing to Dr. Trimble. Great laughter.)

Mr. Bayley—I mean bona fide settlers. (renewed laughter.)

Mr. DeCosmos said the \$1500 for Point Ogden road would be much better expended on Saanich road, or some other country road.

The item of \$1000 for the Clover Point road was passed.

The road between the city and the Park by way of Point Ogden, \$1500. Passed.

Mr. Street urged the necessity of a supplementary appropriation for the road to Sooke. There would soon be 100 or 150 men at work there and they would require a road.

The committee reported progress.

On Tuesday the House will take up the Bank Bill.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THURSDAY, Feb. 18.

THE SCHOOLMASTER ABROAD.—Yesterday, three of our city members visited and examined the Victoria District School, and the result of their inspection has been, we are glad to say, the determination to advocate the immediate erection of a large and commodious city school-house, and the employment of an efficient staff of instructors, including a female teacher. We understand that an additional appropriation for this purpose will be made in the supplementary estimates. This is an excellent move, and deserves the approbation of every intelligent citizen.

ROBERTSON'S BLOCK.—The twenty-six years' lease of the handsome two-story brick building at the corner of Government and Port streets, including the Occidental Saloon and Gentile's store, and known as Robinson's block, was yesterday sold by Daniel Scott and Co., at public auction, for the sum of \$15,000.

THE RACE ON BEACON HILL.—A number of persons repaired to Beacon Hill yesterday to witness the race between Mr. Clark's and Mr. Ward's mares for \$250. The race, however, was devoid of interest as the contest was unequal. Mr. Clark's fine animal was much too fleet for her opponent, and won easily.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.—The present session of Parliament is expected to close in about ten days. It is expected that the estimates will be disposed of on Friday, and the new Corporation Bill will then be introduced.

FRIDAY, Feb. 19.

ODELL ASKED.—Thomas J. Odell was charged yesterday before Mr. Pemberton with supplying a bottle of spirits to an Indian. Sergeant Hill and officer Hankin were examined, from whose evidence it appeared that an Indian was employed to obtain the bottle from the prisoner, and was supplied with a marked half-dollar; witnesses saw the prisoner enter a Saloon on Johnson street, and supply the bottle to the Indian, who sat on the door-step. The marked half-dollar was found upon prisoner's person, when he was searched. Prisoner had been convicted twice before of the same offence. The Indian was also examined, and testified to the purchase of the bottle from the prisoner. Mr. Wright appeared for the accused, and endeavored to shake the testimony of the Indian, but to no purpose. Mr. Pemberton remarked that this was one of those cases in which it was necessary to resort to such means as had been used to convict the offender. He regretted that the law rendered it necessary for him to be continually sending persons to prison for this offence, and would wish to see the law altered, so that respectable men might be allowed to dispense liquors in moderate quantities to Indians, instead of leaving it for men of the worst character, who would not work for their living. He could not in this case exercise any clemency, and therefore fined the prisoner \$250, or six months imprisonment.

MEAS. FRANKLIN'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE took place yesterday, and was attended by a crowd of buyers. The prices realized for city property were very fair, but suburban lots were sold very low, many being disposed of at less than one-fourth of the amount they brought a year or two ago. City lot 517, Government street, brought \$1500; 225 Kane street, \$1010; lot corner Esquimalt and Blenheim streets, \$1025; lot 1908, and 1946 James Bay, \$250 each; lot 56 North Park street, \$300; Crawford's house and lot, \$1075.

EXERCISES OF CITY COUNCIL.—By a notice appearing in this issue it will be seen that an election of a City Councillor for Yates Street Ward, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Lewis, will take place on Tuesday next, the 22nd instant. The poll will open in front of the Police Barracks at 3 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. It behooves the tax payers to seek, without delay, some fitting man to whom they can safely confide their interests.

CHARGE OF DOG STEALING.—Kirk Jackson, a colored man, was charged yesterday with feloniously receiving a setter bitch belonging to a Mr. Smith, knowing it to have been stolen. Jackson explained the circumstances under which he became possessed of the dog, and the evidence being insufficient to prove that Jackson had become unlawfully possessed of the animal, the Magistrate dismissed the charge against Jackson, but ordered the dog to be given up to the claimant.

JOHNSON'S CASE.—The colored man Johnson was yesterday fined \$250, or in default six months' imprisonment, with hard labor, for supplying liquors to squaws at a house of ill fame, on Cormorant street.

NAVAL.—H. M. S. Camellion arrived yesterday afternoon, at Esquimalt, from her Cruise to the North via San Juan. She left the gunboat Forward at Nanaimo; the latter to be given yesterday for Commodore Hardinge will be relieved by Captain Jones, who is expected to arrive by the mail steamer due to-morrow. H. M. S. Tribune is now daily looked for from the South Pacific.

NOR THE MAN.—John Thompson, better known as Liverpool Jack, who has just returned from the Sound, desires us to state that he is not the man who was recently apprehended on a charge of being unlawfully possessed of a ham. We make the correction in justice to Jack, though the charge was not proved against the other Thompson, who had been on the Sound.

NATIVE COPPER AND SILVER.—We have just seen the finest specimens of pure copper and silver that have ever been found in these colonies. The copper is a lump or slab, about 5 or 6 inches long, and weighs 1½ lbs.; the silver is in washed nuggets, very similar to Cariboo gold, and is almost pure, some of it being slightly mixed with copper. The specimens were taken out of the bank of the Stekin River, about two miles below the north fork, by an American miner, named Shuff, and according to his statements, tons of the copper may be taken out with very little trouble. The lumps of metal are found thickly distributed through a reef of partially decomposed quartz. The locality of the deposit was pointed out to Shuff by an Indian chief, and although the statement was not believed, the party determined to test it, and obtained the above-mentioned result. Shuff left two comrades at work on the reef, and hastened to Victoria with his specimens, and is now preparing to return with a small vessel to ship down the results of their labor. The specimens are to be seen at Jungerman's, Yates street, from whom we received the information, and should it prove very rich, Stekin River may again be the scene of a greater rush than ever, and with much more satisfactory results.

THE ALEXANDRA.—Captain Moore's fine steam-wheel steamer, The Alexandra, is now sitting up at the Hudson Bay Company's wharf, and will soon be ready to commence plying on the Fraser. Her mast was yesterday successfully stepped.

SHOOTING SUICIDE.—A Mrs. Millicent Page, wife of William Page, living at the corner of Yates and Cook streets, within city, drowned herself in the well on the premises, on Friday night. She had gone to bed with her husband apparently in good spirits, but the latter, waking through the night, missed her from his side, and finding the door open to the well, where he found the unfortunate woman, quite dead. From her previous account, it is surmised, that the poor creature drowned herself in a fit of temporary insanity. An adjourned inquest will be held on Wednesday next at 7 p.m.

LARGE IMPORTATIONS FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—In addition to the large and valuable cargoes shipped at San Francisco for this port per Camden and Rival, particulars of which appear in our commercial, the Sierra Nevada yesterday brought the largest freight which has been received for many months. Her imports are valued at \$48,000 (including \$25,000 in specie for the Bank of British Columbia). The goods were all discharged yesterday, but owing to the heavy rain which fell without intermission all day they had to be stored at Esquimalt.

TELEGRAPH LINE.—We understand that a gentleman has arrived by the Sierra Nevada for the purpose of consulting with the Government of this colony respecting a submarine telegraph across the Sound to connect with the State telegraph line from San Francisco.

SHIPMENT OF TARAPUZA.—The Bank of British North America will ship this morning by the Sierra Nevada \$40,579.97.

POSTAL MATTERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The Postmaster-General of British Columbia has just sent in his Annual Report for the year 1863. From it we learn that the total receipts of the department for the year were \$1,496 14s. 8d., of which one-half was due on official correspondence, books, &c., leaving \$749 7s. 8d. to be paid into the Treasury; the total expenditure was \$2,291 11s. 9d. The following changes in the postal services are proposed for the ensuing year: A mail three times a month from New Westminster with a loop via Douglas, Lillooet and Yale, Lytton, through to Williams Creek. Mails to be despatched from Victoria to New Westminster, by the first steamer after the arrival of the Ocean Mail, and from thence via the Mouth of Quesselle River, with the same speed as the Express. Mails to leave New Westminster for Hope, Yale, and Douglas by every regular steamer; from Yale to Lytton, and from Douglas to Lillooet once a week. Branch post-offices to be established at some storekeepers in Hope, Yale, Lytton, Douglas, Lillooet, Clinton, Quesselle Mouth, Van Winkle, and Williams Creek, at a salary of £250 a year. At Williams Creek a post-office agent with a salary of £400 a year. The following are the proposed rates of postage for 1864. From Victoria to New Westminster, 6 cents; to Douglas, 18 cents; to Hope, 18 cents; to Yale, 18 cents; to Lytton, 30 cents; to Lillooet, 30 cents; to Mouth of Quesselle, 54 cents; Forks of Quesselle, 54 cents; to Van Winkle, 54 cents; to Williams Creek, 54 cents; to Antler, 54 cents. On Williams Creek letters will be delivered at an extra charge of 25 cents. The report states, that of the whole number of letters conveyed in the colony, two-fifths are carried by mail, one-fifth by express, and two-fifths by private hands. In order to put a stop to the last-mentioned practice, it is proposed to inflict the regular penalty in the Postal Act, on such offenders, viz., £5 for every offence, and £100 per week while the practice is continued; the sender also incurs a penalty of £5, with costs of suit. The total number of letters carried during the year was 18,358, of which 14,630 were foreign, and 3,728 colonial; it is estimated that from 25,000 to 30,000 colonial letters were carried by private parties, this occasioning a loss to the revenue of about £1,500.

FROM FORT COLVILLE.—From advices received from an old miner at Fort Colville, dated January 9th, we learn that all the miners in that neighborhood had formed such favorable opinions of the richness of the head-waters of the Kootenai River on the British and American boundary line, that it was fully expected that the Columbia River diggings would be abandoned for the brighter prospects of that tributary.

IMPORTANT FROM THE MEXICAN COAST.

MANZANILLO BLOCKADED.—American Vessels Overhauled.

MANZANILLO, January 31, 1863.

Our small population has been lately kept in a continual state of excitement. On one side the French army, after taking Guadalupe, marched on Zapotitan; and General Marquez came down from Morelia to overthrow the Constitutional troops under General Uruga, who had entrenched himself on the ravine through which the road leads to Colima.

On the other side, the French corvette Cordeliere has been blockading our port for a couple of weeks past, but without interrupting all legitimate commerce, vessels entering and clearing without embarrassment, as long as they carried no munitions of war. But unfortunately the Mexican schooner Francisco, better known at San Francisco under her former name of Lord Raglan, bound from Acapulco to Mazatlan, was overhauled by the said corvette, and as she had one gun and a complete "parque" on board, vessel and cargo were seized—a loss to the owners of about \$25,000.

The American schooner Golden State with a full cargo from San Francisco for this port and Acapulco, was also escorted into our harbor by the said Cordeliere, and had to anchor under her guns. The manifest was thoroughly examined, and all her cargo permitted to land except two cases, which the French captain thought to be of a suspicious character, but which he will soon be obliged to give up, as the vessel did not bring a single package which contained "munitions of war" or contraband articles as laid down by the treaty of Paris.

Also, the little schooner Brimma, which arrived a few days ago from your port was subjected to a rigorous search on the part of the French Escadre, as the miserable specimen of the blockading fleet calls itself. Every package was turned upside down or opened, and all they found of a suspicious character was a case of toys, containing some lead soldiers and wooden guns.

Our population is greatly outraged that a single man-of-war should thus usurp the right of a harbor police and of a regular blockade, while no notice has been given that this coast was to be blockaded—a proceeding contrary to all the rules of international law; and I hope that the American Government will protest against such proceedings. If we had had the good luck of seeing the Stars and Stripes displayed from one of Uncle Sam's frigates, master Caprand would not have dared to insult thus our flag in its legitimate trade.

As the steamer is on the point of leaving I must leave further information to my next letter.

B. R.

MEXICAN NEWS.

New York, February 10.—The Eagle brings dates from Havana to the 6th February, and from Vera Cruz to the 31st January, and from the city of Mexico to the 26th. A report from Cevita dated January 9th says the Gen. Euzaraz was taken prisoner at San Vatera. There has been several skirmishes between the French and Juarez troops; one at San Juan Deloscas lasting four hours, in which Gen. Garcesayla and a large number of soldiers were captured and many killed. The French loss was only 1 killed and 3 wounded.

A convoy from Jalapa to Vera Cruz arrived on the 24th without molestation.

The port of Campeche surrendered to the French corvette Megallan, on the 21st January.

Dobledo was at Zacatecas on January 9th. The French papers report that Juarez had abdicated and was succeeded by Ortega. No date is given of this, and no confirmation has been received. The report was thought to be premature.

The Mexican Minister has received advices from the Juarez Government to the 23d January. Juarez was at Saltillo. The reported capture of the city of San Luis Potosi is not confirmed, although Dobledo had entered that State. The Archbishop and numerous other Bishops had entered a protest, in the name of the whole Mexican hierarchy, against the decree of the French Regency declaring that acquisitions of church property, under the acts of the Liberal Government, should be forfeited by the Courts in this protest the Bishops say their condition is worse than under Juarez. With other grievances, they mention the fact that they have no liberty to express their opinion, and the protest concludes by excommunicating the authors of the Regency decree and all yielding obedience to it.

FROM ACAPULCO.

ACAPULCO, January 29, 1864.

The long-looked-for French are here. At least a war-steamer has squatted down right in the mouth of the harbor. It looks a little unwell no doubt, but such a craft should get in our path, and not leave it day or night, so that blockade runners cannot have half a chance.

The United States steam frigate Lancaster keeps an eye to windward just as picketing as though she were a "gentlemanly" Semmes was in these waters. Woe be to the craft that wakes up his dogs of war. She is as neat as a lady, quiet as a lamb, but "terrible as an army with banners." The sprightly little Saginaw is waiting to fill in when required.

The town is very quiet just now; but many of the people have left, seeking for safety in the interior. No important news has reached us from the seat of war for some weeks. Rumor, however, has it that the French army is "marching on."

SCISSORS.

ACAPULCO TO BE ABANDONED BY THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TO THE FRENCH.

[On the evening of January 30th, just before the sailing of the Golden Age, a gentleman in Acapulco, writing to a friend in San Francisco, says: "The authorities here have resolved to evacuate the city to the French." This was written on the envelope of a sealed letter, and the writer had no time to say more.—ED. BULLETIN.]

NAVAL.—H. M. Ship Charlybelle, Captain Turner, and Devastation, Captain Pike, were at Mazatlan on the 13th January, on which day the Devastation (according to the S. F. Bulletin), sailed for Panama to proceed thence to this station.

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