Tuesday, February 12, 1867.

The Importance to our Bondholders

of Victoria as the Capital. We have already considered the results of Union and the policy of the Government on the Capital question as affecting the credit of the country and the security of the bondholders. As too much stress cannot be laid upon this aspect of public affairs, we propose to follow up the subject more closely still. After the completion of Union, on his own scheme, Governor Seymour returned to these Colonies to find them in a state of depression and financial difficulty, which with the remembrance of his own written despatches fresh in his mind, he must have been at a loss to comprehend. The financial statements which will no doubt very shortly be made public, will prove conclusively, if we mistake not, that while Vancouver Island was in a state of temporary difficulty, British Columbia was hopelessly involved, unless the most prompt and energetic measures were at once taken to foster her resources and to redeem her credit. A glance at the material ready at hand for the purpose, if judiciously and firmly used, without an instant's delay, show us on the one hand the rich mining districts of British Columbia depending for development on extraneous capital and enterprise; the costly roads approaching them also dependent on the amount of merchandise forwarded by that ex- labor of reduction and retrenchment. traneous enterprise, and the various agricultural and stock-raising settlements looking for success to the mate-On the other hand, two local sources the Fraser River, and Victoria on the sea coast. The question then must surely have occurred to the most superficial reasoner: Where is the bulk of available capital and enterprise concentrated and absorbed, and how can it best be liberated and employed in assisting the Colonies out of their present state of collapse? by restoring confidence and encouraging investment in that place, aging investment in that place, aging investment in the properties of the present emergency; and as it existed in aging investment in the place, aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the place, aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the place, aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the place, aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the place, aging investment in the principle was a right one aging investment in the p bounden duty of the Government to ascertain this fact, and boldly to act assistance of the V. I. members, would not propose to deal with taxation. A tax ordinance, having the object of laws in force on the mainland to the Island, and the Imperial and local Acts must therefore be construed together. The territorial to the Island, and the Imperial and local Acts must therefore be construed together. The territorial toms, but to allow him to carry on the measurement of the Government to the Union Act, Sec 5, applying the Customs laws in force on the mainland to the Island, and the Imperial and local Acts must therefore be construed together. The territorial toms, but to allow him to carry on the measurement refused to allow them assistance of the V. I. members, would follow. upon it; and we know that facts follow. would prove, beyond a shadow of doubt, that not only was that capital Governor for copy of instructions and comand enterprise mainly centered here mission. He did so with feelings of the in Victoria, but, moreover, that the greatest respect, and not for the sake of in Victoria, but, moreover, that the people of British Columbia, from people of British Columbia, from be in the House. Reports of despoists of law between New Westminster and Yale, proceedings. They had reposed confidence Yale upwards, looked to her as their were affoat which they might serve to dispel, natural fountain of supply. Moreover, and their contents should be known to the Council that they might enable the people it would have appeared, on investiga- to know the exact nature of the powers tion, that a large sum, probably not under which they are governed. less than \$500,000, has been lying in to have the constitution before them, and he the banks at Victoria, waiting for the took it that there would be no objection on action of the Government to restore confidence, before seeking an invest- It defined the power of the Government and ment. The vacillating and undecidthe rights of the people.
Hon Robson thought it was a matter ed policy pursued by the Government between His Excellency and Her Majesty's during the past four months has ministers of a confidential nature, which it and whatever official declarations may would intentionally committ and act of disbe made or policy pursued to attempt to build up New Westminster, capital- We are in the position of a Crown Colony, ists will never invest one dollar in so and the Governor's instructions might be of unpromising a place-while their confidence in Victoria, in which they happy to find it otherwise, but at the had belief, has been materially shaken if not destroyed. Meanwhile, the Governor, secluded from his people, was raising a myth, a bug bear; he rememin the retired official retreat at New Westminster, is at a loss to under-stand the interest created by this subject—a matter only brought to his a private nature is communicated in another notice a few hours before the meeting form. There could be no delicacy about the of the Council—although it had been have no objection to his instructions being for some time a topic of the most intense interest to a large proportion was no object. He remembered the inof Her Majesty's subjects in these structions being publicly read at the installa-Colonies. The remarks we have made tion and it should always be done. It was will prove to the Bondholders in London that ignorance of the importance of so vital a question, on which the present salvation of the Colonies sion but against the instructions. financially may be said to have depended, augurs ill for their future vernor would have no objection if the prospects; for unless prejudice and apathy be overcome, and the position of Victoria be fully and finally recognized, further disaster must ensue, the onus of which rests with the Executive. We shall revert to this subject more in detail after the publication of

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL address sent to the Governor asking for copy PROCEEDINGS. constitution of the Council, agreed to. THE DUTIES QUESTION,

Specially Reported for the British Colonist.]

FRIDAY, Feb. 1.

donald, Helmcken, De Cosmos, Pemberton, Cox, O'Reilly, Sanders and Trutch.

oncessions, in drafting ordinances, Hon Trutch, a bill extending the land laws of

I. to B. C. Hon Helmcken asked whether there was Government organ, or any person to reresent the Government in the House? Hon President replied that he together with the Executive members' represented the

answer questions. Hon Helmcken then gave notice that he would ask whether it was the intention of the Government to repeal the Poll Tax, or to ntroduce a bill to regulate the Coasting Trade. He further gave notice that he would introduce a bill to repeal the Trades censes Amendment Act of V. I.

Trades Licenses. Hon Helmcken-Does it repeal it ?

Hon President, We will allow the hon gentleman to know that when it comes to the Hon Helmcken gave notice of motion to

epeal Clause 2I in Standing Orders in eference to notices of motion obtaining the anction of the Council. Hon Robson gave notice of motion to

THE REPLY.

Hon Crease, on the Council resuming its ession, moved first reading of an ordinance indemnifying the Government for not rial prosperity of the Colony at large. enforcing the Stock and Carcass Act and portion of Harbor Dues Act of Vancouver On Union taking place it became of supply-viz., New Westminster, on expedient to remit certain taxes, and the Governor came at the earliest moment to ask sanction of the House for what had been done.

Hon Helmcken—The principle of the bill

s that the Government acted illegally in not enforcing the provisions of those Acts.

Hon Crease-Quite so. Bill read first time.

Hon Crease moved first reading of ordinance assimilating certain local laws as promised in the Governor's speech; it would be only partial in its operation and effect, only presented certain laws for adoption or

THE GOVERNOR'S INSTRUCTIONS. Hon Pemberton moved an address to the

the House, to place it before the Council.

courtesy, and if it was unusual the House should be so informed and not commit itself. present he should place himself in a false

position by voting aye or nay. Hon Helmcken said the hon gentleman bered V. I. when it was a quasi Crown Colony and the royal instructions were made mean he done and what can't, and anything of matter, and he felt sure the Governor would necessary for the House, and would be well for the Governor and country at large that the instructions should be forthcoming. Hon Hamly would vote for the commis-

Hon President said be was sure the Go resolution was confined to asking for what related to the constitution of the Council.

Hon De Cosmos-The Colony! Hon Helmcken-Better to leave it to the discretion of the Governor. These instructions are sterreotyped; we could get a copy from Jamaica.

word "commission" be struck out, and an fight it to death,

of instructions referring to construction and intended to supersede the motion of the had always been under the impression that

Costoms Declaratory Ordinance. This bill to produce uniformity of taxation. There to meet; moreover it was impracticable to was the reverse of the indemnity bill. The was really in this case a quid pro quo, by the carry out to its legitimate end, and as time Council met at 3 p. m. Present: Hons latter was to indemnify the Government for repeal of the stock and harbor dues acts, and advanced it would become more difficult. Birch (President), Crease, Wood, Hamly, not doing certain things, and this for doing were local traders who had invested in large Still the matter must be regarded in a com-Ball, Smith, Robson, Young, Mac- certain things. He was aware of what hon stocks on faith of the law to be utterly sacri- mon sense point of view. The Government members would say, but irrespective of ficed? He would not deny the doubt in was in a difficult position, and he felt satisother considerations, the bill was absolutely which the question was involved, but the fied they thought the most equitable and just The President informed the House that necessary for fiscal purposes and he would Governor came to them on the first occasion course had been adopted. He was utterly The President informed the House that it to ask the House to remove that doubt for a late loss to perceive the gross injustice comshould be law here for a certain period: short time to enable the Government to be plained of. If there was any, it was to the The Union Act of 66 extended the Customs carried on. The sympathies of all were people of the mainland, In British Columbia Hon Wood, a bil providing for greater Act of B. C. to V. I. but did not affect the evoked at the present act of injustice, but the revenue was raised mainly by duties; in local law on the faith of which large stocks this was to prevent greater injustice, and the Vancouver Island, with its free port system, had been laid in, and importers clamored for ruin of men who had embarked all their it had been raised by other means. At the difficulty, but he asked the House to assist ing it as a matter of necessity. the Government in this matter, by sanctionHon. Macdonald opposed the bill, exon which the largest duties were charged ing the continuance of the collection of duties on goods entering B. C. from the duties on goods entering B. C. from the duties of goods entering B. C. from the duties on goods entering B. C. from the duties of the duties of the duties on goods entering B. C. from the duties of Government, and would be prepared to The Hon President said the Government chants to make arrangements accordingly, he was astonished at the action of the Government, and it was thought advisable therefore to be prepared with a bill relating to leave the nower of suppose and it was unjust in all its bearings, were consuming what had I id high duties.

> Hon Hamly seconded: Hon De Cosmos was surprised to find the

right or wrong. This bill reminded him he thought that wise and proper discretion enue, and the House was in duty bound to that there were men in that house who held had been shown. He was, by duty, bound indemnify it and enable the thing to be car-Hon Robson gave notice of motion to the same doctrine. This motion it really to collect duties on all goods landed in ried out until a better scheme could be dette nublic by ticket.

British Columbia, but could only collect vised. seding a motion of his own. record, on the order of the day, that he Yale, although the Yale magistrate had indulging in a tissue of contradictions. House adjourned during pleasure to would ask the Governor to discontinue the sometimes collected duties on cattle, &c, resent reply to the Governor, who returned levying of duties between the ports of the from the American frontier. Goods in Vanbrief answer thanking the Council, and Colony, and it was strange that a motion to couver Island that had escaped duty might the bill nor read it, and could not therefore hoping that he would have some works of upset anything of that kind should now be be consumed there, but goods coming here speak to it. They had gone through the improvement to set before the Council next brought up by the Government. If the session, more agreable to entertain than the House voted this motion it would be almost instance, went north, no duty was charged at knowing whether they were in the bill or unnecessary to bring his motion up, [hear]; Fort Rupert, as the law had already been not. All they knew was that it was considwhatever the motive, it was clear that the complied with, but not so at Fort Simpson. ered expedient and equitable that certain Government intended to do a wrong. There Nothing would have given him greater duties should be collected at New Westminwere people in both sections who regard the collection of these duties as an illegal stretch of Executive authority. The Act was was right and just. without sanction of law, still be was willing Hon. Helmcken for to indemnify the Government to a certain extent, but he hoped the indemnity would go hers in the House. This would be carried as to equalize the burdens of the people and a Government measure. Its illegality none ceed, and was sorry hon members should opnot to perpetua e anything so unequal. Did denied, its injustice none doubted, and yet it from foreign ports? No! Did it propose to was his duty to protest against this measure | Council had met to dispose of these measures. levy duties on goods imported into and being proceeded with, and he would ask by landed in V. I.? No! It proposed to levy what right any member could ask for a an equitable tax for the time being, it need duties on goods imported into V. I. when it money bill before the estimates had been not be for long. As regarded the testing of was a separate Colony. Hon members must submitted. Where was the evidence that the matter in a court of law, that was understand the case, and not do anything such things were necessary? and yet it was matter for some one else, not the Collector to to take away from Government the popular support so necessary for its successful working. Duties were collected on the mainland under Revenue Ordinance of '65 which between port and port since Union as illegal. Sober judgment would surely answer, extension applicable to the present emerwherever it might be. It was the dinance did not propose to deal with taxation. country: V. I. duties are collected under ledged by the Attorney General and the peoextent of the mainland was changed by sure and create discontent against the Govtaking in the Colony of V I under the one ernment. He could give reasons why the name of B C, and that was all; there is people of Vancouver Island did not go to nothing said that duties may be levied on Court but did not wish to make them public. goods shipped from one port to another in They wished to assist and not throw differ-(hear, hear,) [Hon Hamley, No!] and what guarantee was there that it might not be extended to the collection of duties between Yale and Lytton, Nanaimo and Victoria or even, to show the absurdity of the position, Hon De Cosmos thought the House ought between store and store at New Westminster. The collection of duties subsequent to Union between ports of this Colony was an illegal the part of the Governor, or any member of act and an outrage which no hon member could sustain. The Hon Attorney General hon, member had spoken? Had not the peohad not attempted to show that what he was ple of Vancouver Island paid their taxes, and seeking to enforce was legal, his language had not this Government received a share of admitted at once that it was contrary to law, and that he (Mr De C) felt surprised that did not the great bulk come from Victoria? people had not applied to the Supreme Court If anybody was to be ruined it would be the for writs of mandamus or quo warranto to merchants of that place, not of British caused a good proportion of this division. The course appeared to him divulge. The course appeared to him what right he dare put his hands into other money be shown, the Council will find the money to be withdrawn altogether; unusual. He was sure no hon gentleman people's pockets and compel him to return means, but the Government should be careful moneys so taken without authority. Exposediency was no justification, it should have voice in the Council or they will find the been the duty of the Government to have called the hon gentlemen around him at once to ascertain the best means of supporting the Government, to a more serious extent than such a character that he could not and Government, and to try and gain the symwould not disclose them. He should be pathy of the people instead of discountenancing their leaders. It is an intelligent and bill was confessedly illegal, let the Council statesmanlike course to carry measures by popular impulse. The people of Vancouver Hon Robson said it had been repeatedly popular impulse. The people of Vancouver Island were not called upon to pay one dollar, asserted and contradicted that the measure but he would not suffer injustice to be done was illegal, he could not catch the words of to any section of the Colony. Let justice be the hon mover and before proceeding further done to all, and not ask Cariboo or Big Bend he would ask him whether he held the bill to to pay more than Vancouver Island. If the be legal or illegal. hon mover referred to the large stock at Hon Crease said that the question was Victoria, he would admit that there were not free from doubt, but it was maintained large stocks here, and hoped there would by many that the extension of the Customs always be large stocks, to supply the people Act '66 to Vancouver Island, as it did not sufficient reason why the people of this coun could not, therefore, apply to those goods why Government should put their hands into the pockets of merchants and traders as they and the hon member himself considered pleased? It was creating sectionalism, more, and the hon member himself considered it interfered, with the freedom of trade. He the measure illegal, and was it right to ask had had as much to do with bringing about Union as any one, and one of the great constitute itself a court of judicature? objects was to do away with sectionalism, and it was for the Government, on the best not to have a tariff at one port which did not legal authority that could be had, to proexist at another which the hon member now nounce as to its legality. The hon speaker

Hon. Crease denied that his motion was | it in the other? He would confess that he

Island for a short period; it would enable shipped from Victoria to New Westminster no!' 'yes! yes!'] It then became a simple the Government to dispense with local Acts had not ceased the day after Union. He question of revenue. Could the Government below which were considered unjust. The thought at the time that the matter merely bill would not affect goods already in V. I. required representation to be rectified, but it of putting the money into the pockets of say There was a clause in the bill enabling the now appeared that the wrong was to be con- a dozen traders in Victoria? Had those goods Governor to declare ty proclamation, at any tinued, and he called on all hon. members come into the mainland would they be sold time within the period named by the House, to refuse it their sanction. He was willing any cheaper? It was a mere matter of specuthat the Act no longer applied. If a par-ticular was specified it would enable merpassed and to let bygones be bygones, but they were too smart and had tripped up in leave the power of suspension in the hands of the Governor without wishing to give him of view. If money was required, let it be obtained in a legal and straightforward man- some other mode to enable a fair equivalent per. (Hear, hear).

of this character. He had read of men who only lawful, just and equitable, but it was the mainland. It was on them once, and could not therefore collect at pay duty as usual. When the Otter, for whole fiscal system and other matters not pleasure than to have defended an action in ster, and the Government came to them for Court to test the question, as he believed it

Hon. Helmcken felt for the first that are utterly useless were the representalive memuraterly useless were the representalive memuraterly useless were the representalive memuraterly useless were the representative memuraterly useless were the representative members should proit propose to levy duties on goods in transitu was carried before it was introduced. It proposed to carry this measure before the undertake. The hon gentleman agreed that House had gone into ways and means. He | the revenue would lose considerably by sushad always considered the collection of duties His impression was that the collector had toms, but to allow him to carry on the mea-Legislature met it would put an end to such proceedings. They had reposed confidence in the Executive, but he was sorry at their third meeting to find that confidence misplaced. It was impossible to carry out the measure, though he would not now go into the reasons, and he hoped no one in the House would render legal what is illegal without good cause, which had not been shown Where was the quid pro quo, of which the measure but to the Government and form of hon members may at present conceive. The

of the mainland, but he would ask was that a touch goods already in Vancouver Island,

this Council to say that it was legal? to sought to perpetuate. He wanted to see mear complimented the hon Collector on his zeal sures carried that would make the country go and integrity in the discharge of his public ahead, and would vote for what was neces- duties.

sary to assist the Government in Committee, Hon Robson said he had heard much from but he called upon the House to consider the hon gentlemen opposite about the illethe injustice of the measure, and to devise gality of this measure, but it was a remarkother means for effecting the purpose. Victories were sometimes defeats, so it might be to say about illegality in the other case in in this case. He felt that he Government which certain Vancouver Acts were sus-Amendment by Hon Macdonald that the of the consequences, and he was prepared to that the action of the Executive was illegal in one case, why make so much fuss about

previous speaker, it would rather assist it. the collection of intercolonial duties was an The bill had been prepared and printed, and illegal act, and this was not the wisest and Hon Crease moved the first reading of the possible. The real object of Government was fell heavily on those whom it was not intended protection against the conceived gross injustice. The question was fraught with
hoped hon gentlemen would assist in carryhad large stocks, increased by a knowledge of Union taking place, especially in goods spare four or six months revenue for the sake lation-of sharp commercial practice-but to be raised on Vancouver Island in lieu of Hon Hamly maintained that the impost duty on those free goods, and to make the bon and learned gentleman introducing a bill was not illegal. The course pursued was not people there pay the same proportion as on advocated that there was no such thing as the only one that could be maintained, and pelled to act as it had done to save the rev-

> Hon Helmcken taunted the last speaker for Hon Young thought the House had lost sight of the main question. He had not seen assistance at the earliest moment without maintaining that it was legal. In the pres-Hon. Helmcken felt for the first time how ent stage, therefore, he should favor the first

pose it, as he had conversed with Victoria merchants who did not object to it. The pending the collection of these duties, and referred to a loss of \$6000 to the revenue from goods imported per Prince of Wales from porting the second reading.

Hon Helmcken explained that the reason

On motion being put the second reading was carried, only four opposing-Messrs Helmcken, DeCosmos, Macdonald and Pem-Hon Crease moved the second reading for

Friday next. Hon Helmcken moved that it be referred to Committee on Ways and Means. The amendment was lost. Ayes-Young. Helmcken, Macdonald, DeCosmos, Pember

The Victoria Incorporation By-Law then passed second reading, and Council adjourned till Monday.

Monday's Sitting.

Council met at 2 p.m. Present-Hons. Birch (presiding), Crease, Wood, Hamly, Brew, Ball, Smith, Robson, Young, Walkem, Macdonald, Helmcken, DeCosmos, Pemberton, Cox, Sanders, O'Reilly, Trutch. NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon Helmcken, in the absence of the hon member for Nanaimo, to move on Friday requesting that a sum of \$250 be placed on the estimates for a bridge at Nanaimo. Hon Robson, on Tuesday, to ask for returns

of Tonnage Dues and Read Tolls, with amount expended in repairs. Hon Pemberton, on Tuesday, an Address to the Governor respecting Returns of Income and Expenditure of Assay Office for the past

Hon DeCosmos. Returns of Money Allowances to Magisterial Members while attenda ing this Council. Hon President said no money was allowed. The practice was discontinued two sessions

Hon Helmcken, to move the Remission of Harbor Dues and Tonnage Fees between Co-

Hon Crease asked the hon member to withdraw his motion, as the Government would on Thursday introduce a bill relating to Trades Licences.

The motion was allowed to be recorded. LAND LAWS.

Hon Chief Commissioner, on Order of the Day, moved first reading of Ordinance authorising the Governor to extend the Land Laws of British Columbia to Vancouver Island. He would not invite discussion at the first reading. The bill was to enable the Governor by proclamation to extend the land laws of British Coiumbia to Vancouver Island sooner than could be done by the Legislature. He intended to take the opportunity of introducing a clause defining more exactly the meaning of the word occupation [hear, hear]. The Vancouver Island law properly defined it as actual residence on the

and. Here it had been held otherwise.

Hon Robson thought the law here unsuited to the country, and would prefer a more liberal enactment.

Bill read the first time.

Che Weekly British Colndi AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, February 12, 1867.

The News.

Great are the triumphs of the Tel graph! On Tuesday, Her Majes read the Speech from the throne, ar torday-only three days after deli ery-we lay a synopsis of the san before our readers. It is said th during the delivery of the Speech, t people cried " Reform! Reform!" a it will be seen that the attention Parliament has been called to the sta of the franchise, with a view to extension of its privileges. Majesty expresses a belief that misunderstanding between Great B ain and the United States will amicably adjusted, and announces t steps to that end have been taken. If the New York Herald is to

believed, the Canadian Confed tion scheme is assuming a tang shape in England, and the probe appointment of Prince Alfred Viceroy would give great satisfact to all parties. Should this despa be correct, we of British Colum may expect to be included in the federation-a consummation devot to be wished for, under certain strictions and with conditions.

The same authority furnishes s ling intelligence from Mexico. previous accounts we were led to lieve that the French forces at Ma lan were preparing to evacuate seaport and return to France. from the Herald's despatch it w appear that the United States Co at that city had made himself ol ious to and had been executed by French military authorities, w upon a United States gunboat barded the town for eight hours. despatch is vague and indefinite. as the Herald's reputation for ver is not of the highest order, it is ably a canurd, for we cannot con how any military commander, in possession of his senses, would p a course that would be certain volve his nation in war.

Turning from the news from a to that from a quarter in which are more intimately concerne find in the telegrams from the land much to inspire the public with renewed confidence in the being of the country. In the we find Mr DeCosmos asking Committee of the Whole to co the propriety of amending the tution of the Colony so as to in the popular representatives to thirds of the whole number of Co lors. If the promises of His lency mean anything, this moti meet with Executive favor, for imagine no position more irkso disagreeable than that now oc by the Governor. In reply to tion by Dr Helmcken, Mr Bird nounced that it was the intent Government to repeal the License, Head Tax and Tonnag This is, indeed, gratifying, an trust, the forerunner of still m lightened legislation.

Added to the improved state political atmosphere, it is gra to find that a change for the has taken place at Cariboo, claim on the bank of a stream as Canadian Creek, and head the same mountain with Creek, has yielded an almost amount of gold to a single timbers.

Taken all in all, we have no it in our power to lay a more ant budget of news before ers, who, by the fulness of grams to day, are in a compensated for the patier have exhibited towards us di lengthened period in which t have been "down."

MME. D'ORMY'S CONCERT.-We ed to announce that Mme. D'Orn vocal and instrumental concert w on Wednesday evening next, array of artistic talent, such as n appeared on our boards, will b Those who attended Mr Wilso will remember with feelings of satisfaction experienced by them this gifted lady, and none prese memorable occasion will neglec the forthcoming concert.