

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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NO. 4

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ponds per annum upon such unworthy objects as this proposed service; but with a debt of over a million dollars hanging over us—with a depleting population, and with a general outcry against the burdens of taxation ringing in our ears—for the Government to incur further liability would be to the last degree unjust and improper. Even the subsidy paid the Active for bringing the mails to this port we consider too high for the benefit conferred,

view to ascertain more frequent communication cannot be obtained for the same or even less money.

### Under Protest.

Within a day or two past, two British vessels, owned by British subjects, laden with valuable cargoes of British merchandise and Colonial produce, and bound from one port of British Columbia to another port of the same Colony, have been refused clearances by the collector of this port until the owners had first paid duties upon the value of goods on board. It is needless to say that this duty (which is practically, so far as the Island is concerned, an export duty) is levied without the faintest color of law to support it, and that it has been paid under protest. The sufferers will at once lay a statement of their grievances before His Excellency, and if no redress is obtained in that quarter, will apply to the Courts. We have to regret that the Colonial Council, in its present attitude with respect to the trade, is doing its utmost to prevent the British Columbia debtors from obtaining any redress.

### A Proposed Raid.

Already we notice that our unhappy cotemporaries at the capital are "united as one man" in urging upon Government the propriety of expending another large sum of money in subsidizing ocean steamships to carry the mails to that place. Not satisfied with having increased the liabilities of the Colony by several thousand dollars in maintaining an expensive service without a single person deriving one dollar's benefit from it, the harpies are endeavoring to perpetuate the system and to make the country still deeper into debt. It is time when from every quarter the tax-ridden country rises in protest, and retrenchment, and at the same time British Columbia debtors are endeavoring to obtain redress. The proposition is for nothing more nor less than a raid upon the property of the entire Colony outside of New Westminster, we protest against the foolish and wicked expenditure of the public funds. Were any practical benefit to result from it, we should be the last to raise our voice against a subsidy being paid for a dozen steamships to visit New Westminster; but the money thus far expended has been literally thrown away—it might as well have been dropped into the capacious maw of the Fraser, as to have been paid for such a foolish object, viz.: the attempt to prove that an inland town is in reality a sea-port. Besides the waste of money, there is the injustice of subsidizing a foreign boat to deprive a British bottom of the carrying trade between this port and New Westminster. It is well known that the steamer Enterprise has performed that service cheaply and well; that she is one of the fastest boats afloat, and that she possesses first class passenger and freight accommodation. She is owned by a British Company, whose headquarters are here, and who spend in the Colony thousands of dollars annually in the repair and improvement of their vessels. We ask, then, is it fair or honorable, while the Government has this Company's boat at its command, to carry the mails, for a merely nominal sum, between the two ports, that it should be expected, at an enormous expense, to subsidize ocean steamers belonging to a company who never spend a dollar they can help in the Colony. To reduce the thing to an "allspice": Is Government prepared to pay \$10,000 per annum for a service that it can have performed for less than \$2000? We believe that it is not. The gist of the arguments of our New Westminster cotemporaries is a demand that the entire Colony shall be taxed for the purpose of subsidizing a steamship to run direct to New Westminster, while the advantage derived even by that town has been proved by trial to be mythical. Were the Treasury bursting with riches, the Government might afford to squander a few thousand

dinner was excellent, and ample justice having been done to it by the guests, the President proposed the health of "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and other Members of the Royal Family," which were drunk with enthusiasm.

The President proposed the health of "The Governor" as follows:—It is now my duty to propose the health of His Excellency the Governor. At this particular juncture His Excellency has some difficult as well as painful duties to perform. It was not to be expected on the union of two Colonies with laws different and somewhat antagonistic, that everything would work smoothly at first. Some grievances have already arisen, but

we take this as an earnest that the Governor will do what he considers best for the Colony as a whole, and will not be led to any particular section of it, in doing his duty, as well as our interest, to support him in all his endeavors towards this end, and to smooth the way for him as far as lies in our power.

The President proposed the health of the "Army, Navy and Volunteers," and in the course of his remarks warmly complimented the three arms of the public defence.

Mr. Thos. Allison responded on behalf of the Volunteers.

The Hon. A. Watson proposed the health of the "Mayor and Council," and in doing so took occasion to say that the Municipality was now an orphan, its parent (the Assembly) having become defunct. He hoped the Corporation had power to enforce its laws, and that it would, by its wise measures, add to the beauty, cleanliness and prosperity of the city.

His Worship Mayor Macdonald, in responding, expressed a hope that the Corporation had seen its worst days, and said that he trusted when it applied to the citizens for taxes to aid in carrying forward public improvements that the application would meet with a cheerful response [hear].

Councillor Trahey responded on behalf of the Council, pledging himself and brother Councillors to carry out the worst improvement.

"The Commercial and Agricultural Interests of British Columbia," was proposed by Mr. A. R. Robertson, who predicted that Victoria, in consequence of its superior geographical position, would always be the principal commercial city of the Colony, notwithstanding it might not be the seat of Government. The Agricultural Interests of British Columbia, he said, were in their infancy, but judging from the richness and extent of the farming land which he had seen, he was certain that the agricultural resources of the Colony were sufficient to support a numerous population [applause].

Mr. John Wilkie responded on behalf of the Commercial Interests of the Colony. He said that commercial men had found out by experience that it was safer to rely upon farmers than upon miners for success. He was therefore glad to see the Agricultural and Commercial Interests coupled in one toast, because the latter could hardly exist without the farmer. He believed we could hardly overestimate the value of our farming land.

Mr. Charles (of the H. B. Co.) expressed a hope that Tariff would benefit the farmers, and that commercial men would be afflicted with no more compositions [laughter].

Mr. Robert Wallace proposed the health of "The Clergy" coupled with the toast of the name of Rev. Mr. Somerville, Chaplain of the St. Andrew's Society.

Rev. Mr. Somerville responded on behalf of the clergy, saying that they always found a place among a free, happy and intelligent people [hear].

Mr. James Burns here favored the company with a song.

The Mayor proposed the health of the St. Andrew's Society, and alluded to the good that it had done to distressed countrymen in this Colony during the past seven years. He wished the Society a long life, prosperity and happiness [cheers].

The President, in responding, said, I have to thank His Worship the Mayor in behalf of the St. Andrew's Society for the high encomiums which he has been pleased to pass upon its labors. As the Mayor has justly remarked, this Society has now been in existence about seven years, and during that long period it has spent considerable sums of money, and devoted much time for the benefit of our suffering fellow-countrymen. It was formed purely for benevolent purposes, and it has all along steadily adhered to its principles. As stated in the constitution, it was formed "to tender to immigrants from Scotland that counsel and assistance so much needed on arriving in a strange land, and to keep up an agreeable acquaintance with their countrymen, and to relieve those in distress." Though these are the principal objects of the association, it is not confined in its operations to the relief of Scotchmen, but may extend its bounty to anyone whom the Society may consider deserving of support. I think the Society can look back upon its labors during the past few years with something like satisfaction. The demands upon its funds, during the past year, have not been heavy, but the reports of the Managers show that they have expended upwards of \$200, and the previous year as much as \$700. This sum was principally spent in sending home to their friends some poor fellows who had become insane, and who would have become a heavy burden upon the colony had the Society not taken charge of them. It, therefore, deserves the support of the community at large. During the past year, the Society has lost several prominent and influential members, amongst whom I may mention, Governor Kennedy and Mr. D. M. Lang. I am glad to say that the funds are still in a flourishing condition, notwithstanding the heavy demands which

have been made upon them for some years. I would call upon each member to do his duty, and endeavor to get others to join our ranks, so that the Society may go on growing with its growth, and strengthening with its strength, and that harmony and good fellowship may always prevail amongst us.

A comic song was then sung in capital style by Mr. Godfrey Brown.

The President—it is now my duty, as it is a pleasure, to propose the health of our worthy Patron Sir James Douglas, I regret very much that Sir James has been prevented from being present on this occasion, as formerly. Some of us here present will, no doubt, look back with pleasure to the happy and prosperous time when Sir James ruled over us. His rule was a successful one, and I think that the Colony owes much to his correct judgment, and strict economy, but in the firm hand by which he administered the affairs of these colonies. We are all proud of him—proud of him as a successful Governor—proud of him as a private gentleman, and particularly proud of him as a Scotchman. I hope he will be long spared to go out and in amongst us, and that he will continue to take an interest in the affairs of this Society. Therefore, call upon you to drink a flowing bumper to the health of our Patron Sir James Douglas. [Drank with cheers.]

Mr. A. B. Gray having favored the company with a sentimental song.

Chief Justice Needham proposed the "Officers of the Society." His Lordship said that he, a bashful Englishman, occupied a most difficult and trying position in the bold front of an array of Scotchmen [laughter]. He could not tell how he got there, unless it was because the Scotch are always kind, and when they belong to a St. Andrew's Society, they are particularly kind. He had felt the greatest pleasure to find in this Colony institutions that were a reflex of similar institutions in the old country, and the society he was now addressing was one of the best of these institutions. In London, he had had the honor of being the guest of the Caledonia Society—all Scotchmen—and no society in that great city was held in higher estimation than the Caledonia (applause). It was a pity that this small city should copy the benevolent institutions of that great city, and transplant them to this part of the world. If he were not an Englishman, he would be a Scotchman [laughter]. There was scarcely a foot of Scotland, portrayed by its own poet Burns, that he (the speaker) had not passed over, and in his intercourse with the Scotch he had ever had reason to admire their fidelity and integrity, their punctuality and their single-mindedness—qualities for which they were justly celebrated. His Lordship then warmly complimented the Officers of the Society, and concluded by saying that "unless there were good men at the apex, there would be very little good found at the base." [cheers.]

Mr. Thomas Lowe replied to the toast of the "Officers of the Society," in a very appropriate manner.

Dr. Trimble proposed "the Bench and the Bar," and bestowed a warm eulogium upon the ability, worth and benevolence of both our present and former Chief Justices (applause).

The Chief Justice having been called on for a response said that as to the Bench he would be silent; but of the Bar he would say, that he had found less kindness, less sympathy, and less intelligence among the barristers, his task would have been a difficult one. He had found here a learning that astonished him, and that assured him that we had here a reflex of all that was good and great in Great Britain [cheers]. The credit for the progress that had been made was due, not to himself but to those around him. The solitators, and, in fact, everybody connected with the profession, had lent him valuable aid [applause].

Mr. McCreight and Mr. Robertson replied on behalf of the Bar, and warmly complimented the Bench for the impartial and able manner in which justice was administered here.

Our Guests," was proposed by Mr. J. G. McKay, responded to by Hon. David Cameron and Chief Justice Needham—the latter named gentleman alluding in highly complimentary terms to the honorable career of his predecessor [Mr. Cameron on the Bench].

"The Brothers of St. Andrew, wherever they may be," was proposed by Hon. David Cameron.

Chaplain Somerville gave "The Land o' Cakes," the band played "The Blue Bells," and the company, rising, gave nine cheers for their native land.

Mr. Cameron having favored the company with a song.

Mr. David B. Blair proposed the health of "The Press," which was well received, and responded to by Mr. Higgins, of the COLONIST. Mr. Grahamslaw sang a Scotch ballad.

The health of "The Ladies" was proposed by Mr. A. B. Gray, and drunk with enthusiasm.

This toast concluded the regular list, and after a number of volunteer sentiments had been offered and drunk, the company departed in the "wee sma' hours ayant the twal," evidently highly pleased with the entertainment.

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Enterprise returned from New Westminster on Saturday with 50 passengers. News from the mines is encouraging. At Cariboo, a few claims continue to pay largely—the Heron claim, on Grouse Creek, increasing in richness daily. David Whiteford, a member of the Reid Co., Williams Creek, was killed on Monday, the 19th November, at the foot of Conklin's Gulch, by a log from a slide. He was struck on the chest and died about half an hour after receiving the blow.

NORTHERN CANOE.—We are indebted to Colonel Bulkley, of the Russo-American Telegraph Company, for a model of the canoe used by the natives of the Alaskan Islands. The frail bark upon which these people venture upon the ocean has a light frame, over which a seal skin covering is tightly drawn, leaving a small circular aperture in the centre to admit one person, who draws a loose flap round his waist, and this renders his skiff watertight. With a waterproof cape over their shoulders, and a double paddle in their hands, they dart with impunity through the sea at a velocity exceeding that of an ordinary steamer. The canoes are so light

and occupy, though they are often from two to four persons. They are difficult and dangerous things for the uninitiated to attempt to navigate, as the slightest variation in the equilibrium will cause them to upset, and the occupant is so firmly encoiled in his seat that he cannot extricate himself. The natives, however, become from habit so expert that they can capsize their canoes purposely and by the use of the paddle alone right them on the other side without admitting a drop of water.

SPRANG A LEAK.—The bark Nicholas Biddle from Namsio bound to San Francisco, put back to Esquimalt on Saturday with four feet water in her hold, having sprung a leak in a heavy gale about 20 miles outside the straits; during Saturday night the water gained upon the pumps to such an extent that the ship came within an ace of foundering at her anchorage. Additional apparatus was finally rigged, and she was kept free yesterday by continual pumping. Captains Raymur, T. Wright and Mr. Boole, who surveyed her on Saturday, recommend that her cargo of coal be discharged in order to ascertain the damage, and as the vessel is nearly 30 years of age, it is more than probable that she will be considered not worth repairing.

THE U. S. STEAMER SAGINAW, Captain Franklyn, will sail to-day from Esquimalt for San Francisco. The Saginaw was detailed by the U. S. Government, to attend on the Telegraphic company's vessels, while engaged in the work of laying the Bering's Straits cable. The non-arrival of the cable, however, has prevented the consummation of the work, and the Saginaw will therefore proceed to winter quarters at the Bay City. During her three months stay at Esquimalt, the gentlemen connected with the Saginaw have made a host of shore-friends, who will witness the departure of the steamer with regret.

GAIETY IN THE NORTH.—Prince Kutusoff, Governor of Sitka, in the Russian possessions, is said to be most hospitable, not only to foreigners but to his own countrymen. He entertains a great deal, giving two or three balls and parties a month. About 80 ladies, mostly wives and daughters of officers of the Russian Fur Company, muster on special occasions. In these cold and dreary latitudes, cut off from communication with the rest of the civilized world, it must be gratifying to the people of the settlement to possess a ruler who strives his utmost to minister to their social enjoyment and recreation.

IN MEMORIAM.—The officers and men belonging to H.M.S. Sutlej have contacted with Messrs Swigert & Teague for the erection of a monument to the memory of those of their number who have departed this life since the ship arrived on this station. The pedestal and slab will be of freestone, sixteen feet high, and the names will be carved on the sides. The name of the little Indian girl—"Mary Sutlej"—who was captured during the Indian outbreak on the West Coast in 1864, and who afterwards died at sea, will be included in the list.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The Elocution Class will meet this evening at 8 o'clock, when the following Readings and Recitations will be given: A reading from "King Henry VIII," by President Cochrane; "The Cameronian's Dream," recitation by Mr. Rennie; "Rab and his Friend," reading by Mr. Stewart; A recitation from the "Works of Artemus Ward," Mr. Bull; A reading on the character of "Napoleon," by Mr. Gilson; A reading, by Mr. Clarke; A recitation, by Mr. Muirhead.

LIVELY TIMES AT ESQUIMALT.—There is at present quite a fleet of vessels lying at anchor in Esquimalt harbor. In addition to H.M. ships Sutlej, Clio, Malacca, Sparrowhawk, Forward, Beaver, and Grappler, there are the U.S.S. Saginaw, the Telegraph Co.'s steamer George S. Wright, and the sailing ships Belmont, Nicholas Biddle and Evelyn Wood, representing an aggregate burden of nearly ten thousand tons.

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Monday, December 3th, 1866.

#### The St. Andrew's Dinner.

The dinner of the St. Andrew's Society on Friday night last, at the Colonial Hotel, was presided over by J. G. Shepherd, Esq., President of the Society, the vice-chair being filled by D. B. Blair, Esq. Among the company present we noticed His Worship the Mayor, Chief Justice Needham, Hon. Alex. Watson, High Sheriff Adamson, Hon. David Cameron, Rev. Mr. Somerville, Dr. Trimble, J. F. McCreight, A. R. Robertson, J. Grahamslaw, J. Burns, Robt. Wallace, A. B. Gray, Councillor Trahey, Thomas Lowe, Mr. Hepburn, Thomas Allison, N. Jacob, J. G. McKay, Captain Frain, Mr. Finlayson, Mr. Charles, M. T. Johnson, and Godfrey Brown. The music was supplied by Messrs Palmer Sandrie and Wilson—the latter gentleman during the evening favoring the company with solos on the cornet-a-piston, an instrument of which he is perfect master. The

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