

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, December 21, 1870

The Alabama Difficulty

It must have long since suggested itself to the reflection even of the most superficial observer that those who do the politics of the United States really have no desire to write off the Alabama account—that the interests of the parties actually aggrieved, of those who suffered material loss by the cruise of the Alabama, have all along been subordinated to political schemes. Indeed, it has been frankly admitted by the public men and public press of America that they would greatly prefer to keep the sore open, the quarrel unsettled, ready to be used at a favorable moment for the punishment of John Bull's alleged unfriendliness during the late war. And, upon a very recent occasion, when there appeared to be some prospect of a war between that power and Russia, it was seen how the Butler-Chandler class of politicians gloated over what they hoped would be an opportunity for taking Britain, at a disadvantage, standing her in the back while grappling with the great Bear of the North. Without pausing to moralize upon the spirit thus exhibited, or stopping to contrast it with that manifested by the British people when they saw the great Republic which had sprung from their home-prostrate and bleeding from internal dissensions, let us proceed to consider for a little the more practical leading of this international difficulty. The Alabama question has recently assumed a new and important phase. We have said that the interests of the real sufferers by the cruise of the Alabama have been subordinated to more political schemes, the schemes thinking it true policy to keep the question open. Those persons whose rights the Government at Washington pretend to maintain have, however, begun to think differently. They are disposed to think that as their claims are money claims they should be treated as a matter of business, rather than with reference to the alleged injury done to American feeling or the possible future of Canada. These individuals losses foot up something like thirteen millions of dollars, and in the adjustment of their claims it is natural that they should prefer a little less of sentiment and a little more of business. They have seen and felt that the obstacle to an equitable adjustment of their claims has not been raised by Great Britain, that she has already conceded all that could be honorably conceded, all in fact, that the American Minister asked her to concede. All this these claimants have seen, and they have objected to their money claims being any longer made political merchandise of at Washington. They have, through their advocate, Mr. John A. Parker, been arguing their grievances in the columns of the Times, and have gone so far as to denounce what they very properly term the 'dog in the manger' policy of the Washington Government. Mr. Parker argues that the Alabama claims are exclusively the property of individuals, and that the interests of the Government in them is entirely of a fiduciary character, with all the responsibilities and liabilities of such a trust, and there need be no hesitation in concluding that the trustees have acted wrongly dishonestly in treating these claims as they have been treated, foregoing the exaction of them for political purposes. It holds them in abeyance, Mr. Parker alleges, for objects of personal and political ambition and popularity. 'The acquisition of Canada,' continues Mr. Parker, 'is one object known and confessed. Officers of the Cabinet have said authoritatively that if Canada were independent the Alabama claims could be settled in twenty-four hours.' It appears that the claimants, thinking they had waited long enough on the Government, consulted Mr. Rosbery Johnson, as to the disposition of Great Britain relative to the settlement of these claims. Relieved by Mr. Johnson's opinion they took occasion to sound the British Government through a gentleman visiting Europe. This gentleman, experienced no difficulty in obtaining access to Lord Clarendon and others. At one of the interviews the question was asked: 'If we consent to pay these claims to the holders of them, how will the United States Government view it, favorably or unfavorably?' And will they not ask this to the already long list of sine charges against England? So favorable was the result of these interviews that the plenipotentiary-extraordinary of the claimants wrote to his constituents, saying, 'If you can get a word of consent from the United States Government, so that England will not feel a misanthropic of what she does, I can get you money as fast as you can count it.' But the sequel fully justified Lord Clarendon's distrust. The American Government peremptorily and unconditionally refused assent to any such arrangement, and the indignant claimants indignantly denounced the 'dog in the manger' policy of a Government which would neither get the money nor allow them to get it for themselves. In an article upon the whole question the Times submit that 'Justice demands that the (American) Government should be cost of two things: either to give the negotiations with England in a straightforward manner, eliminating all considerations that interfere with the interests of the claimants, or else

settle the claims itself and become the creditor of England. In the latter case, it might take its own time for again approaching the subject.' Having made this very just and practical suggestion, our big contemporary hazards the prediction, 'But the Government will not do either of these things.' It has been seen, however, that the United States Government proposes adopting the latter course pointed out by the Times, the President in his message the other day having recommended to Congress to authorize the appointment of Commissioners to take proof of amounts and ownership of vessels, and their claims, and that authority be given for a settlement of these claims by the United States, so that the Government shall have the ownership of those private claims as well as the responsible control of all demands against Great Britain. It is by no means improbable that the Government at Washington has been induced to adopt this course in consideration of the negotiations instituted by the claimants on their own account. It remains to be seen in what way the Government proposes to turn to practical account its new position of creditor.

The Real Estate Muddle

Elsewhere will be found a report of an interview had with His Excellency the Governor yesterday by a deputation of gentlemen representing large real estate interests in this part of the Colony. The real estate tax muddle has been prominently before the public for some time, and it will, we trust, be unnecessary to trouble the reader with any lengthened remarks upon the subject at the present moment. The very practical turn given to the question, within the past few days, and the immediate results of the interview with His Excellency, must be regarded as eminently satisfactory, as presenting a way of escape from a most uncomfortable and disagreeable entanglement, a condition of things which, it is only common justice to remark, is in no way chargeable upon the present regime. The Governor has approached the difficulty in a spirit which encourages us to hope for an early and equitable solution, a final clearing away of those traces of past negligence, blundering and something worse. What now remains to be done is to have such an Ordinance prepared as will meet the case, and a good, efficient Commission appointed to act thereunder. The former is in the hands of the Attorney General, the latter rests with His Excellency. What is to be done must be done as quickly as possible, as it is most desirable that the whole matter should be cleared up prior to the Colony being admitted into the Dominion. Let the Colony wash its dirty linen at home; and let washing day be previous to Dominion Day.

THE BARK ADAM.—This vessel has been relieved by most of her large cargo and will sail for Batavia, Java, on Saturday morning. The cargo consists of a quantity of machinery for the Vancouver Coal Mining Company will be discharged, and the vessel will then proceed to Moody's mills to load with timber for a foreign port. The bark is free from the faintest appearance of rust—an unusual circumstance after a long voyage. Capt. Falletshaw and his officers are deserving of praise for the admirable state in which the ship was brought into port.

FELL DOWN A HATCHWAY.—On Saturday morning Mr. Owen, first officer of the ship Montgomery Castle, accidentally fell down the hatchway from the fore-deck, a distance of about 12 feet into the hold. He had been playing between decks with a young child belonging to the Captain, and had started to go below, having the child in his arms, when his foot slipped from the first step of the ladder. He had a very narrow escape, as, in his effort to save the child, he had little chance to save himself. He struck on the back of his head and shoulders and was sprained as well as bruised, but received no serious injury, as we learned yesterday afternoon. The child escaped unhurt.

THE CHILD ESCAPED UNHURT.—For 1871, the returns for 1870, have favored us with their own estimate for 1871, an elegantly printed and of great public value and convenience.

CHRISTMAS, 1870.—The show of fancy goods for the season will commence on Saturday next, the 17th inst., at London House, Government street.

The Vancouver Island Colony Real Estate Tax.

SATISFACTORY INTERVIEW WITH HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR BY PROMINENT PROPERTY-HOLDERS.

His Excellency Governor Musgrave received, at Government Buildings, yesterday, Messrs M. W. Drake, W. J. Macdonald, Robt. Burnaby, Ld. Lowenberg, J. D. Pemberton, Roderick MacLennan, and H. F. Heisterman, gentlemen largely interested in Island Real Estate, who called for the purpose of pressing upon His Excellency's attention the injustice that would be inflicted by the sale of lands for arrears of taxes under the most anomalous state of things that, perhaps, ever existed in a British Colony.

Mr. Drake addressed His Excellency, stated the object of the deputation and reviewed the cardinal points of the memorial upon the subject, numerously signed, lately sent in. Mr. Drake said that Governor Seymour, in 1867, appointed a Commission which reported that in no single instance where property had been sold for taxes had the law been complied with by the Government officers—that their proceedings had been irregular and informal. In consequence of this report, Real Estate Tax Acts were repealed, but the Act of 1867 remained in force and under it the Government could enter upon any lands at once for arrears of taxes. A great hardship had been inflicted upon individual property-holders. Doubt existed as to who had paid taxes, and who had not, and the Colonial Treasurer was unable to decide. Frequently receipts were produced for taxes upon lands which were now advertised for sale. It was impossible to search satisfactorily and ascertain what land, owed and what did not owe taxes. A great deal of the confusion was owing to the failure of the Government to collect the taxes as prescribed by law. The deputation, therefore, would propose that where a receipt for taxes paid should be produced for any one year that taxes recorded against the property for previous years should be swept away—regarded as paid. The deputation asked for a Legislative enactment upon that basis.

His Excellency said he should be happy to comply with the request of the deputation, but he was surprised that the case was not met by the Repeal Act of 1867. No objection to that Act appeared to have been made. Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Drake explained that the Act was passed at New Westminster after the unofficial Island members had left.

The Governor said the matter was certainly in a confused state, and that he should apply for power to appoint a commission to revise the lists.

Mr. Drake urged that it would be impossible to produce receipts for taxes on 15 or 20 times, and that the better course would be to take all taxes antecedent to the latest receipt produced as paid.

His Excellency said he would have no objection to such a course if the Legislature saw fit to adopt the plan. The Government would introduce an ordinance to that effect.

Mr. Ward, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Lowenberg and Mr. Heisterman mentioned several cases, where, in great injustice had been inflicted upon parties who had purchased real estate under the belief that all taxes had been paid.

The Governor replied that a commission would take cognizance of such cases.

Mr. Lowenberg said that the commission should have full power given them by say Act of the Legislature that might be passed, and that the Registrar-General should receive instructions not to register the rolls as a charge against real estate.

His Excellency stated that if an Act were passed it would be with a view to affording substantial relief. The matter should certainly be cleared up.

Mr. Ward instanced a case wherein he deemed a lot once it was sold again, and now he found it advertised in the present list.

Mr. Drake pointed out that arrears of the per cent City tax of '62 and '63 were comprised in the list and had nothing in the world to do with the Crown tax.

His Excellency again said that the whole matter would be put in a shape to afford substantial relief, and the deputation withdrew.

PEOPLE'S INSURANCE CO. OF SAN FRANCISCO.—A. R. Gunnison, Esq., special agent for the People's Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of San Francisco, California, is in town. Mr. Gunnison has established agencies at all of the principal cities and towns on the coast and has appointed Mr. T. N. Hibben to look after the interests of the Company at Victoria.

The Company was organized at San Francisco in 1867 and numbers among its members some of the leading business men of the Bay City.

THE BARK LYLE.—This vessel cleared for San Francisco via Skidegate Bay, Queen Charlotte Island, yesterday, and will probably sail to-day. At Queen Charlotte Island she will take in 700 tons of anthracite coal and will sail thence for San Francisco direct. Pickett & Harrison are the agents at San Francisco for the coal.

EXECUTIVE MEETING.—The Executive Council was in session all day yesterday, probably preparing the Estimates. Let us hope these will be framed rather more in the interest of the people out of whose pockets the revenue is chiefly drawn than has hitherto been the case. Where there is so very little opportunity to revise or reconsider the Estimates in the Legislature, it is all the more important that they should come from the hands of the Executive in a satisfactory form.

POPULATION.—The recent American census returns give the larger cities of the Eastern States of America rather less population than has commonly been claimed for them. For instance, New York has been said to have a population of 1,100,000. It has only 907,070. Philadelphia was put down at 820,000. The census gives it 759,000. Chicago claimed 350,000. It has but 297,719. Buffalo was credited with 176,000. The returns give it but 144,247.

The Council started South on the Pelican yesterday. He is destined to astonish and delight the native and imported San Franciscans who make Woodward's Garden a place of resort and natural history their study.

Municipal Council.

Council met at 7:30 p.m. Present: His Worship the Mayor, Councillors, McKay, Gerow, Carey and Heathorn.

The Poindkeeper's report for November was read and approved. A communication from Mr. Rook, complaining of the nuisance from Steinberger's distillery, was read.

The Mayor stated that the Board of Health had waited on Mr. Steinberger, whom he had promised to make a tank in which he would deposit the offensive matter, but it appeared he had taken no steps in the affair.

Some discussion ensued, the Mayor giving it as his opinion that the Board of Health had power to abate the nuisance although it originated beyond the limits of the city. He would, however, examine the bylaws and, if found clear, would notify Mr. Steinberger on the part of the Board of Health.

The Clerk stated that Mr. Chas. Kent had declined to act as auditor, and the Council appointed Mr. Baker in his stead.

Coun. Gerow, from the Street Committee, reported that they had examined Vancouver street and considered it undesirable to make any repairs during the wet season.

Coun. McKay from the Finance Committee reported upon the account of Edward Mallandaine for collection of road taxes for 1869, 1870 and 1871, showing an inaccuracy by an overcharge of commission of \$13.20, and other charges not authorized of \$31.86, making a total of \$51.85 excess.

On motion of Coun. Carey a Committee was appointed to wait upon Mr. Mallandaine and interpose him with regard to the extra charges.

Couns. Heathorn, Gerow and McMillan were appointed said committee. A communication from Frank Sylvester, Secretary of the Fire Department, was read, requesting a committee of the Council to meet a committee of the Fire Department to confer with regard to the financial condition of the Department.

The communication was received and a committee appointed to wait on the Fire Department. The Mayor called the attention of the Council to the bad condition of Bastion street.

Coun. McKay directed attention to the dilapidated condition of the sidewalks on Hamble street.

Coun. Carey likewise said some money should be expended on the Broughton street, leading from Government street to Hayward & Jackson's factory.

The Western Union Telegraph Company has perfected arrangements whereby all its Agents will be authorized to give telegraphic transfers from any office on the Pacific coast or East, to any other for any sum not exceeding fifty dollars. Agents are authorized to sell such transfers.

ASSAULT.—Robert Barmist, a seaman on the Poindhook, was yesterday before the Police Court on a charge of assaulting Constable McCarthy. The accused was fined \$4 or in default of payment, two months' imprisonment.

COURT CASES.—The following cases were on the docket yesterday and were postponed: Hart vs. Webster, Copperman vs. Hodges, until Monday next; Castle vs. Mowray, until to-day; Green vs. Moss, pending an application for trial in the Supreme Court.

TRANSIT SHIPMENTS.—Yesterday the following shipments were made through Wells, Fargo & Co's Express: Bank of British Columbia, \$45,599.07; Bank of British North America, \$27,603.03; Wells, Fargo & Co, \$14,882.66. Total—\$88,084.76.

DEPARTURES.—The steamship Pelican for San Francisco, Olympia and Polity for Puget Sound, steamer Sir James Douglas for Nahaimo, and steamer Grappler for Burrard Inlet, sailed yesterday.

The Pelican sailed at 10.15 o'clock yesterday morning. She carried 95 passengers, 20 tons of telegraph wire, 80 tons of potatoes, shipped by Promis & Saunders, and 171 tons of coal.

The Port Townsend Argus has reappeared as an evidence of the re-established health of the proprietor, Mr. Pettygrove. The Argus is a good paper.

GERMAN GOLD.—Actual assay proves the German creek gold to be 845 fine. Thus the market value here will be about \$16 25 per ounce.

The broken shaft of the propeller of the S. Wright has been successfully welded at Portland. The Wright was advertised to sail for Seattle yesterday.

GERMAN CURE.—In Mr. Jungman's jewelry shop window, Government street, may be seen a quantity of German Cure. It attracts crowds to the shop.

The bark Altman, 490 tons, registered, is loading at Liverpool for Portland, consigned to Jackson, Rhodes & Co.

FRAUD.—Any one selling spurious CROSE'S & BLACKWELL'S OILMAN'S STORES, under Crose & Blackwell's name, will be liable to the same punishment, and will be vigorously prosecuted. Purchasers are recommended to examine all goods before taking delivery of them. The OILMAN'S STORES of Henry Crose & Blackwell may be had of every OILMAN'S STORE DEALER on Vancouver Island.

TWO YEARS RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT.—Any one selling spurious CROSE'S & BLACKWELL'S OILMAN'S STORES, under Crose & Blackwell's name, will be liable to the same punishment, and will be vigorously prosecuted. Purchasers are recommended to examine all goods before taking delivery of them. The OILMAN'S STORES of Henry Crose & Blackwell may be had of every OILMAN'S STORE DEALER on Vancouver Island.

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OILMAN'S STORES.

PICKLES, SAUCES, SYRUPS, JAMS IN TINS AND JAR, ORANGE MARMALADE, TART FRUITS, DESSERT FRUITS, MUSTARD, KETCHUP, POTTED MEATS AND FISH, PRESERVED FRESH SALMON, KIPPERED SALMON AND HERRINGS, PICKLED SALMON, FRESH AND SMOKE HERRINGS, FRIED SOLES, FRESH AND SMOKE HADDOCKS, PURE SALAD OIL, SOUPS IN QUART AND PINT TINS, PRESERVED MEATS IN TINS, PRESERVED HAMS AND CHAMBERS, PRESERVED BACON, OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE SAUSAGES, YORKSHIRE GAME PATES, YORKSHIRE FISH PATES, GALANTINES, TURKEY, TORQUELS, BRAUNS, POULTRY, PLUM PUDDINGS, LEE & PERRINS' WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

Supplies of the above may always be had from every Storekeeper throughout the world. To prevent the fraud of selling the goods of others, with native productions, they should invariably be purchased from the only firm who supply the goods to the public, and who are always examined upon delivery, to detect any attempt at substitution of a cheaper quality of inferior brands.

CROSE & BLACKWELL, PROPRIETORS TO THE QUEEN, THE LONDON & NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY, AND THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY, AND THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

SCHOLO SQUARE, LONDON

At the Paris Exhibition of 1871, THREE First Medals were awarded to CROSE & BLACKWELL for the superior quality of their productions.

POWELL'S BALM OF ANISE, TRADE MARK.

EXTRAORDINARY CURE OF A COUGH. HER MAJESTY'S GUNBOAT "NETLEY," CAPTAIN WICK, N. S. COAST OF NEW SOUTH WALES, September 7th, 1868.

Having had a most distressing cough, which caused me many sleepless nights and rendered my day's work almost impossible, I was recommended by Sir W. J. W. to try your Balm of Anise, and I can assure you with the first dose I found immediate relief, even without having to suspend my various duties, and the small bottle completely cured me, therefore I have the greatest confidence in recommending it to the public.

Yours faithfully, W. J. W. POWELL, M.D., M.B., F.R.C.S.

POWELL'S BALM OF ANISE, For Coughs, Colds, Influenza, Shortness of Breath, Asthma, Bronchitis, and for all affections of the Lungs, this old established remedy will be found invaluable.

The large sales and increased demand for this excellent and elegant preparation, which has followed its introduction into Australia, New Zealand, and every part of the British Colonies, has induced the Proprietor to still further extend the beneficial use of it, and he has to announce that he is now introducing his Balm of Anise into the Colonies, and has appointed Messrs. Milner & Son, Wholesale Agents, through whom Chemists and Storekeepers can obtain a supply.

THE PRICE IS WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL CLASSES. Prepared and sold by THOMAS POWELL, 16, Blackfriars Road, London. Sold in bottles by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors, throughout the world.

IMPORTANT CAUTION.—Observe that the words "THOMAS POWELL, Blackfriars Road, London" are engraved on the Government stamp affixed over the top of each bottle, without which none can be genuine.

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PERFUMES.—The most delicate, pure, and fragrant; an agreeable and popular remedy for weak digestion.

ROSEWINE, Lemonade, and Glucose.

ENRICHED COD LIVER OIL.—PAINKILLER in powder, containing the active principle obtained from the pancreas, by which the digestion and assimilation of fat is facilitated.

CHLORODYNE (Morton's), the universally approved Anodyne of all kinds of neuralgia and rheumatism.

CHLORAL HYDRATE.—New Sedative.

CHLORALHYDROXYL.—From Wood's, of which T. M. & S. are the only British and Colonial agents.

CHLORALHYDROXYL.—A perfect and economical substitute for opium.

Shipping Orders accompanied with care and dispatch, by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

DINNEFORD'S FLUID MARIASIA. In the great remedy for

Acidity of the Stomach, Headache, Heart burn, Indigestion, Sour Eructations and Bilious Affections.

AT THE PHYSICIANS' COURT, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, GRAVEL, and all other complaints of the bladder.

And as a safe and gentle medicine for Infants, Children, Delicate Females, and for the sickness of Pregnancy, Dinneford's Mariasia is indispensable to all Druggists and Storekeepers.

Sold by all Druggists and Storekeepers.