

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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THE BRITISH COLONIST  
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FULL particulars of a flagrant outrage perpetrated on the Coast of Alaska by "dressed in a little brief authority," appear in our columns this morning. The act seems to be utterly without excuse and indefensible. The J. L. Stephens is an American steamship, sailing under the American flag; her captain was armed with a special permit from the Treasury Department of the United States Government, authorizing him to clear from San Francisco for Sitka via Victoria, and to touch at Fort Wrangel and Tongas for the purpose of landing military stores for the Government troops stationed there.

He followed on his instructions to the letter, and was seized by the revenue officer on a charge of an infraction of the revenue laws, by having landed goods at Fort Wrangel in violation of an Act of Congress forbidding ships sailing from San Francisco to Alaska Territory touching at any port of the said Territory without first entering at the port of Sitka. It appears that Mr. Holladay, President of the C. O. & M. S. S. Co., being aware of the Act, received a special permit from the Secretary of the Treasury, directing General Miller, Collector of the port of San Francisco, to clear the steamship John L. Stephens for Sitka, via Victoria, Nainimo, Fort Tongas and Fort Wrangel, with the privilege of landing goods at the two last named ports before proceeding to Sitka. Upon the arrival of the ship at Fort Wrangel, Mr. Ketchum, who chanced to be at that place on Government business, came aboard and introduced himself to Capt. Dall as Collector of Customs for Alaska Territory, and asked for the ship's papers, which were handed him. He was informed that supplies for the troops had been landed from the steamer at Tongas; and was shown the ship's special permit to do so. Upon consultation with Lieut. Moore, Collector at Wrangel, Mr. Ketchum informed Capt. Dall that all was right, and allowed him to land his freight there. Mr. Ketchum then went on to Wrangel as passenger, and was charged \$25 fare, to which he demurred, making the remark that Collectors should be carried free.

After arriving at Sitka, a delay of one day and a half occurred before Mr. Ketchum would allow the ship to enter, thus delaying the landing of freight and Government stores. As soon as the steamer had been entered, an order was sent to the Captain of the Revenue Cutter *Reliance* to seize the Stephens with an armed force, which was done—a detachment boarding her with firearms and cutlasses. Capt. Dall asked Mr. Ketchum in writing upon what ground the steamer was seized? Mr. Ketchum returned no answer, but stated on shore that he would make \$20,000 by the seizure. The army officers were put to great inconvenience, not being allowed to land their personal baggage without a permit. Having discharged freight, the steamer was ordered to Portland—a revenue officer and two men being placed on board. Capt. Dall, not having sufficient coal to carry him to Portland, put in at Nainimo, and immediately upon his arrival here yesterday, telegraphed to San Francisco for instructions. Intense indignation was expressed by the Alaskians at the conduct of Mr. Ketchum, who, among other things, seized a package of candy from San Francisco—weighing two pounds and intended as a present to a lady—and forced the parser to pay a duty of two dollars, upon the mere suspicion that the candy came from Victoria!

tion of their "little bill" for damages. That Mr. Sumner is preparing a speech of the tenor stated, we might be inclined to believe; but that Mr. Thornton should be so incautious as to express his individual expression of opinion of a leading Senator into a declaration of war, or that, so construing it, he should be so incautious as to express his feelings on his conduct in the presence of the French Minister, overtaxes our credulity. Our readers are not expected to swallow the paragraph unaccompanied by several very large grains of salt.

Thursday, March 18  
The J. L. Stephens at Nainimo—Later News from Alaska—Dates to the 16th inst.—The Stephens Seized by the Revenue Department.

The steamer *Enterprise* returned from Nainimo at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, bringing as passengers Capt. C. C. Dall, of the steamship John L. Stephens, Lieut. Esagan, U.S.A., Mr. D. Turner, of Wells, Fargo & Co., Messrs. J. Bosowitz, C. A. Gillingham, J. Young, Pilot Suvarovitch and several others. The steamship John L. Stephens reached Nainimo on Tuesday at 2 o'clock, p.m., having made the run from Sitka in 72 hours—the best time yet accomplished between the two ports. She remains at Nainimo to coal. The steamer is in the custody of the U.S. Revenue Department, she

Special Agent of the Treasury Department for Alaska Territory, upon a charge of an infraction of the revenue laws, by having landed goods at Fort Wrangel in violation of an Act of Congress forbidding ships sailing from San Francisco to Alaska Territory touching at any port of the said Territory without first entering at the port of Sitka. It appears that Mr. Holladay, President of the C. O. & M. S. S. Co., being aware of the Act, received a special permit from the Secretary of the Treasury, directing General Miller, Collector of the port of San Francisco, to clear the steamship John L. Stephens for Sitka, via Victoria, Nainimo, Fort Tongas and Fort Wrangel, with the privilege of landing goods at the two last named ports before proceeding to Sitka. Upon the arrival of the ship at Fort Wrangel, Mr. Ketchum, who chanced to be at that place on Government business, came aboard and introduced himself to Capt. Dall as Collector of Customs for Alaska Territory, and asked for the ship's papers, which were handed him. He was informed that supplies for the troops had been landed from the steamer at Tongas; and was shown the ship's special permit to do so. Upon consultation with Lieut. Moore, Collector at Wrangel, Mr. Ketchum informed Capt. Dall that all was right, and allowed him to land his freight there. Mr. Ketchum then went on to Wrangel as passenger, and was charged \$25 fare, to which he demurred, making the remark that Collectors should be carried free.

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the same evening as the Stephens. The army officers who went up by her held a court-martial upon an officer. The decision was not made known.

The U. S. S. *Saginaw* was to sail from Sitka in a few days for Victoria. On Tuesday the Stephens passed the steamer *Star*, bound for Queen Charlotte Island, 40 miles to the north of Nainimo, also a schooner bound North. On the day previous, saw a schooner going into Fort Rupert.

Business was very dull at Alaska. Indians quiet.

THE STEPHENS RELEASED.  
Capt. Dall received, last evening, an answer to his telegram from the United States authorities at San Francisco. Instructions are sent to the revenue officers who have the Stephens in charge to release the ship forthwith. It is believed that Ketchum (read catch'em!) will be relieved from further duty in a department where he is only useful in creating obstacles in the way of commerce.

Bankruptcy Court.  
Wednesday, March 17, 1869.

*Estate of Mason & Balls*—Dr. Tuzo's claim supported as against Balls; dividend in the estate of Balls to be declared next Wednesday.

*Monro & Mann*—Petitioner Monro to come up for examination on the 31st of March.

ASSAULT IN LEVY'S OYSTER SALOON.—Yesterday morning two men, giving the names of Geary and Martin, were brought before Mr. Pemberton upon a charge of having created a disturbance in the oyster saloon of Mr. E. Levy. Mr. H. C. Courtney appeared for the defence. The complaining

party with Joe Eden and that one of them attempted to enter a private room of the saloon, when, accompanied with, they called witness infamous names, threw a pitcher at him and pulled him with patkity. "Billy Barlow, the well-know John, who happened to be present and witnessed the proceedings, gave his evidence in a laughable manner. He said:

One of these men tried to go into de private room of Mister Levi's, and he voodn't let him. Den the man he say "I've got von history!" and den I tort I vanted to go out (a laugh). Vell, den, he calls Mr. Levy pad names and trowed gakes and everything all round te room; and den I vanted to go out agen, but I sbayed (renewed merriment). Vell, den, de tall feller [Martin] call Levy pad names, and Levy never said nothin'. I did see him [Levy] take up a knife; but he took up a lot of knives and forks mit spoons. I vanted to go vay (roars of laughter). Vell, den, de tall feller he trowed a bitches at Levy, and den I vanted to go out agen, and dis time I vent. (Renewed laughter). I called a boliceman and they were stoked in (put in) grol for dat.

Barlow retired amid prolonged merriment. "Joe" Eden, called for the defence, swore that Levy commenced the affray by throwing one of the prisoners out of the private room; that the man called Levy names; that the latter ran behind the bar and took up a big knife; that the men threw cakes at him (Levy) who then ran away.

After a patient hearing and an able address from Mr. Courtney in behalf of his clients; Mr. Pemberton fined Martin \$30 and Geary \$5.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—Yesterday was the anniversary of the birth of Ireland's Patron Saint. Several flags were thrown to the breeze in honor of the day. At 11 o'clock yesterday morning Bishop Demers performed a Pontifical High Mass at the Catholic Cathedral, and a sermon upon the character of the Saint was delivered by Rev. Father Curley to a large congregation.

FOR LONDON.—The Hudson Bay Co.'s ship *Prince of Wales* sailed yesterday afternoon for London. She was towed around Race Rocks by the *Enterprise*. The *Prince of Wales* has on board a cargo consisting of furs, etc., valued at \$175,000. The furs alone on board are worth \$140,000; gold dust, \$6,000; silver coin, \$6,000.

THE LANSINGTONS. CROSSING MOUNTS.—The British Columbia Eleven will be selected from the following names: C. E. Pooley, T. Tye, J. Wilson, H. F. Walker, M. W. T. Drake, O. Good, J. Bennett, J. T. Howard, J. Ball, W. Powell, J. L. Fisher, G. Hemmingway, H. Richardson. The scorer will be Hon. A. T. Bushby, Postmaster General.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.—The only business of interest transacted on Tuesday night was the passage of a resolution cautioning the party who fired the rubbish in Billingsgate alley, on Saturday, not to repeat the offence.

RETURN MATCH.—The return match of cricket between the Victoria and Navy Elevens will be played to-day; wickets will be pitched at 11 o'clock. The match will prove highly interesting.

PROBATOR DINNER.—His Excellency the Governor entertained the members of the Legislative Council at dinner last evening. The attendance, comprising all the Councilors in town.

We learn that Mayor Trimble has decided to divide the sum of money placed in his hands by the Naval Amateurs equally between the Royal Hospital and the Sisters of St. Ann.

The steamer *Emily Harris*, Capt. Greenwood, sailed at noon yesterday for Nainimo. She will bring down a cargo of coal for the Hudson Bay Company.

Somerville's) will be opened for divine service on Sunday, the 4th of April.

PANDORA STREET, as far East as Cook, will be macadamized immediately by the Corporation workmen.

The steamer *Constantine* sailed yesterday afternoon from Nainimo for Sitka.

The tug-boat *Verina* arrived from the Sound yesterday.

Our Own Affairs.  
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—A representative elected by the people has proposed in the present Council to raise the duty on the cattle to be imported to this Colony \$5 a head; and this proposal is, I am informed, passed into a law. Does any one imagine that this increased duty increase the public revenue? I am inclined to believe that such a law will diminish the revenue and raise the price of beef. Mr. Harper, the great cattle trader, has at present in the Colony only two thousand head of cattle; he gains at once by this law \$10,000, and his profit by it will be considerably more, because it creates for him a complete monopoly in the beef market. I have no doubt the proposal was intended to serve the Colony, and it is possible that the wisdom of the House saw in it a reality; but it is less substantial than a shadow.

An increased duty on imported cattle should be accompanied by a property tax and by a reduction of the taxes that press heavily on the miner. We have no foreign market; Cariboo is our only home market. The population there is only half what it was this time last year. Any law intending to increase the price of necessities in the mines, is injurious to the interests of every farmer in the Colony. I believe the farmers of the Mainland are wise and generous enough to say—"Put a little on us and remove a portion of the load from our friend, the miner. If he goes, our surplus produce is waste! Save us by a tax that will save him."

Is it too late to appeal against this law that threatens to destroy us? I wish some popular member would propose to purchase at the public expense a good map of the Colony and present it to His Excellency the Governor. Without it he is completely at the mercy of road contractors. These gentlemen would undertake to make a road to the moon for any Government ready to make payment on account. Roads are absolutely necessary, but they ought to be self-supporting. A road increases the value of the cultivated land through which it passes, by a sum equal to the value of one-third the crop it produces. This is evident; a farmer residing 20 miles from a road pays a cent a pound for packing his crop to the road and his fortunate neighbor by the road side escapes this very heavy indirect taxation. At headquarters it is deemed to have no idea at all that it is the duty of a Government to equalize taxation.

The majority of shrewd people on the Mainland believe that it is "too late" to retrieve a position lost by the incompetence of

our legislators. I cannot agree with them at all. I believe a touch of poverty serves a man, and it serves a Colony too. When the man can get credit he makes a preparation to do without it; he gets rid of superfluities, and keeps no useless parasites.

British Columbia is not utterly ruined. She is not in a position to raise large loans to be paid by future generations, and the deficit in the estimates for the present year, a dead certainty, will compel the present system of Government to collapse like a house of cards. In the poverty of the Colony I can perceive a sure sign of national prosperity, and the only sign.

The taxation heaped upon the miner reminds me of Aesop's fable of the miser and his goose. Taxation, the miser. See how it kills? And look at the system that sends the Magistrates away from their districts to act as paid Senators. A paid Senate is always servile, but fortunately it is not always gifted with the ability that enables it to purchase itself. You can perceive that the public money has been wasted in road making through an irremediable district, while the richest districts in the country remain unimproved. One would suppose that the present system of Government was invented to clear out the white man and restore the country to the native hunters; but this would be like an act of justice, and the intention on the part of our Government to the wants of the native population is so completely the reverse of the wise and generous policy adopted by the American Government with regard to the native population in the States, that we must acquit our own Government of any such design, and attribute the present condition of the Colony to the total absence of business like ability at headquarters, and in the Senate, where the majority are said to be obedient, and the minority are sick of the freedom that leaves them without a fee.

G. A. K.  
PAVILLON VALLEY, Clinton, 3rd March, 1869.

A Man Tied to a Ring-bolt in his Office and Robbed in Broad Day.

A queer robbery is reported to have been committed at Post 13, Grand Army of the Republic, yesterday. Sisson's story is substantially as follows: He had just entered his office in the headquarters of the Post, in the third story of the building at the corner of Lucas and Washington streets, at 11 a.m., when a woman, who had evidently followed him up the staircase, accosted him, and in the manner usual with applicants for relief asked for aid. After hearing her story Sisson concluded that her case did not come under his cognizance as Treasurer of the Post and informed her that he could not aid her. As she went out he requested her to shut the door, which fastened with a dead latch. Whether the woman shut the door or not Sisson says he was too busy to notice; but in less than five minutes he was seized from behind around the neck by the strong hands of a man who had entered unperceived, with the remark, in a subdued tone, "I've got you." The Treasurer says he resisted as best he could, but was so choked that he could not utter a cry until dragged to a ring-bolt in the ante-room, where, placing a revolver at his head, the assailant told him that it made a noise he would "put his light out." The man then produced a rope about the size of a small clothes-line and secured Sisson by the neck to the bolt. He then went to a small box wherein the Treasurer was in the habit of keeping the Post's funds, and after examining several envelopes in which the different moneys were enclosed, obtained about \$400 dollars, which he pocketed. He then returned to his prisoner and took from the latter's pantaloons pocket a wallet containing his private funds and other valuables, amounting in the aggregate to about \$200, and deliberately left, with the remark, as if addressed to an accomplice in the entry—"Well, Pete, shall we meet in the same place to-night?" Though the robber had, once before, during the operation, spoken as though some one was within hearing, Sisson says he heard no response nor footsteps and saw no other person. He was left in the position above described, with his head so near the floor and the rope so tight around his neck that he could make but very little noise. In this position he was compelled to stay for more than an hour, not having been able to make himself heard by people on the ground floor; and finally released himself by persistently gnawing at the rope, which at last parted. The affair has been placed in the hands of detectives, State and City, who are engaged in "considering" it. Sisson thinks that he should be able to fully identify his assailant.

An officer of distinction and tried valor refused to accept a challenge sent him by a young adventurer, but returned the following answer: "I fear not thy sword but the anger of my God. I dare venture my life in a good cause, but I cannot hazard my soul to a bad one. I will charge up to the cannon's mouth for the good of my country, but I want courage to storm hell."

A curious lawsuit is on the tapis in England. A Liverpool merchant, suddenly called to New York on urgent business, took a cab to the steamer, and in his haste forgot to pay the driver. On his return, three months afterward, he found the cabman and cab just where he had left them, sheltered by a little wooden shed, and was met by a bill for coach fare for 1,080 hours by day and 1,080 hours by night. The case is still on.