

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, October 23 1866.

The Real Estate Tax.

The Sheriff, we are very glad to learn, will exercise a discretionary power in the collection of this tax by distraint. This is right. No man who cannot pay should be pressed at a time when it is difficult to keep body and soul together. It is only the man who can pay, but will not, that should receive the Sheriff's attentions. We observe that our abandoned cotemporary is endeavoring to inflame the public mind on this question, and with his usual recklessness, advises the people not to pay the tax. To follow such advice would be very silly on the part of the property-holders, and we do not believe that the man who proffers it is sincere. He generally has an axe of his own to grind when he endeavors to create discontent, and we should not be surprised to find his name on the delinquent roll of tax payers. If his name be really there, his advice must be accepted as a new reading of the old story of the monkey and the chestnuts. He wants to incite some fool to resist the enforcement of the tax so that the matter may be tested—but not at the editor's expense. The cost of Government is indeed too great in these Colonies; but the way to bring about a reform does not lie in an act of rebellion. We therefore advise all good people who can to pay the tax, and use their best endeavors to send members to the Council who will employ all constitutional means to reduce the expenses of government and lower and equalize taxation. Should the editor of the Telegraph be disposed to resist the law and offer himself up as a martyr, let him do so; it is high time that he did something to prove his sincerity; but we hope that no reader will suffer himself to be made a catspaw of to pull the editorial chestnuts out of the fire.

Facts and Figures.

The best argument we have read against the annexation heresy is contained in an article from the London Times of August 13th, which we copy entire this morning. The writer draws a comparison between the taxation of the United States and that of England, and shows conclusively that, while the United States is the heaviest, England is the lightest taxed country in the world. In ten years England has surrendered duties to the amount of ten millions of pounds, and yet the falling off in the revenue is little more than two millions. The United States, on the other hand, has increased her customs' duties, her internal tax, and her income tax. She taxes every trader, every manufacturer, and every manufactured article, and her export trade is falling off, while that of England has increased in value in two and a half years nearly nineteen millions sterling; she sent out three thousand new merchant ships last year, and has forty-one thousand ships afloat; and yet we are told that England is retrograding! We want every red-hot rebel here to read this article:

"Two Reports which have recently been issued under the authority of our own Government and that of the United States afford us the means of contrasting the amount of the revenue raised from certain sources in the two countries, and the general working of the financial system pursued in each. The official Reports from the United States present an account with which the American people cannot well be dissatisfied. The amount of money now raised by taxation is almost incredible, and yet there are no complaints,—people, for instance, rather glory in paying an enormous income-tax than try to evade it. This enthusiasm for the yoke will, no doubt, disappear as the newness of the burden wears off, but in the meantime the people are giving the Government, to all appearance quite willingly, the immense sum of \$1,078,513,347 a year, or about £215,702,669. The year before the war—1860—the total receipts from the revenue amounted only to a little over fifteen and a quarter millions of pounds. In 1863 they were \$706,995,493, and what they were in the financial year ending the 30th of June last we have just stated. It cannot be denied that the American people must have a just appreciation by this time of the terrible cost of war.

Of the entire receipts from taxation in the United States in 1865-6, very nearly thirty-six millions of pounds (we put the sum in English money for the sake of comparison) were derived from Customs alone. In the same period the English Customs duties amounted to £21,574,866. A much larger

sum still is derived in America from the internal revenue. Between the years 1857 and 1861 there were no receipts whatever from this source. In 1862 they amounted to \$39,125,892; last year they are returned at \$39,510,932. To raise this great sum it has been found necessary to impose a tax upon every article of common daily use, and upon almost every profession or trade. Every shopkeeper is obliged to take out a license—the dressmaker pays heavy duties on the raw material of her trade, and then an ad valorem duty on every dress she makes up. Bankers are required to pay \$100 for a license, hotelkeepers from \$25 to \$200, and the line is thrown out so far that it catches classes like travelling jugglers, who must pay \$20 before they are allowed to swallow their knives in the street, while lawyers are only valued at \$10 apiece. In the year 1863 it was found upon official inquiry that New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania contributed to the internal revenue upward of twenty-four millions of dollars, the six New England States about eight millions and a half, the eight Western States and a quarter million, the five border States nearly four millions, and the Pacific States and the Territories less than a million. This proportion is still maintaining, the three middle States contributing by far the largest share of the internal revenue. The West, however, is rapidly becoming more valuable to the Government, and in a few years it will prove its claims to rank as the wealthiest part of the entire country.

Immense as is the amount raised by taxation in America it is still small for the needs of the Government. In the year ending with last June the War Department cost \$284,449,701; the Navy, \$43,364,118—or in pounds sterling nearly 57 millions for the army and over eight millions and a half for the navy. Last year the bulk of the army was paid off, and the cost will, therefore, be much smaller in the financial year which has now commenced. In 1863 the Navy Department spent \$39,272,253 in construction and repairs alone. Another enormous charge which the American Government is called upon to meet is for the interest on the Public Debt. Last year it amounted to nearly \$27,000,000. While four years of war have forced these burdens upon the American people we have the satisfaction of knowing that peace has accomplished for us the opposite results. In ten years we have surrendered duties to the amount of over ten millions, and yet, as the Royal Commissioners inform us, the falling off in the revenue is little more than two millions. The decrease in the Customs receipts in 1865 caused by the reduction upon tea alone amounted to \$1,242,586, but the consumption of the article was so much increased by the lowering of the duty that in seven months the deficiency was made up by \$50,000. Our exports have increased in value since 1863 by about nine millions, and nearly half of this sum is due to our trade with the United States. Our imports have decreased, chiefly from India and our other possessions. From America they have increased by nearly four millions. We are getting back our trade with the Southern States so rapidly that the value of our exports to them is already only about half a million less than before the war began, and in nine months our exports to the South increased from \$365,314 to \$5,121,977. If we turn to France, we also find every reason to congratulate ourselves upon the progress of our trade. The increase which took place in 1865 in imports from France was 78 per cent. as compared with 1860. The exports, comparing the same years, showed an increase of 72 per cent.; and this is a result of the Commercial Treaty, which the Royal Commissioners with justice pronounce "very satisfactory for both countries." A comparison of the balance of our trade with the United States and France shows the total value of exports and imports to and from America to be \$51,329,013; with France it was \$62,961,449. The general prosperity of the country is revealed by the fact that the consumption of corn and flour increased by 5 per cent. last year, of tea by 10 per cent., of sugar 11, of wine 5, and sugar all fell off, but this was doubtless mainly owing to the heavy importations of the previous year. Altogether we have every cause to be contented with what we are doing. Since 1856 the total value of our import and export trade with all parts of the world increased by no less than \$178,228,778. Last year we put nearly three thousand new merchant ships upon the sea, and we have now about forty-one thousand vessels of the kind upon the register. In 1865 there came to the port of London alone upwards of 11,000 ships. Our commercial system is based upon the principle that the more we open up our trade with the world the more we shall prosper ourselves, and in that respect the Americans have much to learn from us. They believe in protection and prohibitory duties, and it is not long since a well-known public man declared in New York that "Free Trade was a system devised by England to enable her to plunder the world."

The Americans may be wiser than ourselves in some respects, they manage their navy incomparably better than we do ours, for instance; but we have outgrown many of the fallacies which they cling to, and by which they are great losers. No one takes any part in a financial debate in Congress except members who are anxious to get duties imposed for the protection of the manufactures or produce of the districts which they represent. The New England States still take the lead in this fight for protection, but when the public men of the country come to understand better the true causes which lead to the commercial growth and prosperity of a nation, there will be as few Protectionists left in America as we have in England. At present we cannot deny that men like Mr. Morrill and Mr. Horace Greeley are the masters of the situation, and their countrymen pay dearly for it.

NEW EXCITEMENT.—The creek emptying into Upper Arrow Lake, recently discovered by Jack and Byng, is creating some excitement at Big Bend, and several parties have started from French Creek to prospect the new diggings, which are believed to be rich. The discoverers reported that the ground prospected from 50 to 25 cents to the pound. The prospects were obtained from a bar in the creek.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Saturday, Oct 20. FROM NANAIMO.—The government tug Sir James Douglas returned from Nanaimo last evening. The tug was prevented reaching Comox on account of the bad state of the weather. H. M. S. Malacca sailed yesterday for Esquimalt, with 120 tons of coal on board for "own use." On Thursday evening an instrumental and vocal concert for the benefit of the Mechanics Literary Institute, took place under the patronage of W. H. Franklyn, (Government Agent) and Capt. Oldfield of the Malacca, which was numerously attended. The Nanaimo Minstrels and the Philharmonic Society rendered valuable services, and the concert was highly successful in every respect. Cunningham & Co's sloop Ring-leader, with coal, sailed for New Westminster on Thursday.

THE CONCERT at Nanaimo on Thursday evening was attended by a large and respectable audience, including the Government Agent and family, the Captain and Officers of H. M. S. Malacca, and a number of the fair sex. The pieces by the Septet Band of Amateurs were very well performed; the comic dialogues and sayings kept the audience in a roar of laughter. The whole performance passed off in a manner that would do credit to a town of far greater pretensions, and everybody seemed well pleased. Great praise is due to Mr. Bate, the leader of the band, for the zeal and energy he manifests in promoting anything of this sort for the benefit of the Mechanics Institute, for which this entertainment was given.—COM.

THANKSGIVING.—On Wednesday last the settlers in the Cowichan Valley assembled at the Rectory and offered up a thanksgiving for the abundant harvest with which Providence had blessed them. About fifty persons attended and the service was most interesting and impressive. After its conclusion the settlers were regaled by the Rev. Mr. Reece, incumbent, with a cold collation. A resolution was passed to erect forthwith a log church near the Parsonage, making the second place of worship constructed in this thriving settlement within the last three years.

INDUSTRY.—The local column of our obscure evening cotemporary yesterday contained eight items, three of which were cribbed from this paper, and one from the Cariboo Sentinel—leaving just four for the industry (?) of the "lokittims" of the Telegraph to dish up. Supposing that he reaches the office at nine a. m., and leaves at 5 p. m., he writes half an item an hour. Our cotemporary's "young man" must be on a "spree," or is suffering from a severe attack of laziness.

THE BALL last night, as we predicted it would be, was a great success, and a handsome tribute of respect to Governor Kennedy and his amiable family. The weather was fortunately splendid; the arrangements made by the Committee to ensure the comfort of the guests were perfect; and all seemed to enjoy themselves to the utmost. We shall give a more extended notice of the entertainment in our next.

HEAVY FAILURE.—The telegraph announces the failure of Meigs & Gawley, of the Port Madison lumber mills, Puget Sound, for a very large amount. The Port Madison mills are among the most extensive on the Sound. A large number of men will be thrown out of employment by this stoppage.

REVENUE CHANGERS.—Lieuts. Hodgson and Beck, of the U. S. Revenue Cutter Lincoln, have been ordered to the revenue cutter Joe. Lane, at San Francisco; and will be relieved by Lieuts. Andrews and Davidson, of the U. S. steamer Shubrick. Lieut. Hunter, of the Lincoln, has been ordered East.

BOAT RACE.—A sculling match between Joe Eden and Jack Harman, for \$50 aside, from the Gorge to James Bay Bridge, will take place this afternoon. The boats will start from the Gorge at 3 p. m. The distance is about two miles.

AN INQUEST was held on Thursday on the body of Joseph Melias, the poor crazy Italian fisherman, who died somewhat suddenly. From evidence it appeared that the deceased was subject to fits, and the jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

A report was in circulation last evening that the Bellingham Bay coal mine was again on fire. We could not trace the report to its source.

PATENT THRESHING MACHINE.—We are requested by Mr. J. S. Hinebaugh of Whidby Island, to state that the patent threshing machine landed at Leneven's wharf, for use in the Saanich District, was imported from Whidby Island, not San Juan.

THE "FIDELITY."—This vessel carried 80 U. S. soldiers from San Juan Island, landed them at the military post at Vancouver, and the Columbia River, and arrived at Portland yesterday morning.

FROM THE NORTH.—The schooner Lord Raglan arrived from the northwest coast yesterday with 250 gallons oil and a cargo of mink, seal, deer and other skins.

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise left yesterday morning for Fraser river, with about 15 passengers and a small freight.

THE Rev. Mr. Parry of H. M. S. Malacca, preached in the Rev. Mr. Jenn's church, Nanaimo, on Wednesday evening, to an unusually large congregation.

FLOUR.—Heavy drafts on the San Francisco flour market for Australia, have caused a rise of 25 cents per barrel, with prices stiff.

Remember that this is Clea's opening night and go and dine in his miniature palace.

STEAM UP.—Steam was raised on the Isabel yesterday afternoon to test the machinery; everything worked well.

Some \$2000 worth of smuggled liquors were captured by the U. S. Revenue Cutter Lincoln, one evening last week.

THE "ACTIVE" had not arrived up to the hour of our going to press this morning.

It is reported that Baker has challenged Eden to fight again.

H. M. S. Malacca returned from Nanaimo last evening.

The late Benefit

MECHANICS' LITERARY INSTITUTE, 19th October, 1866. Sir—I am desired by Mr. Weeks, on the part of the above Institution, to express their sense of the obligations they lay under to yourself and the other members of the Amateur Dramatic Association, who so kindly volunteered their services on the 18th inst., at the Theatre Royal, and without which they could not have hoped to have had so successful an evening. I have the honor to be, &c. E. T. COLEMAN.

W. A. Harries, Esq., Hon. Sec. Amateur Dramatic Association.

CURIOUS TRIAL.—A curious press trial has just taken place at Berlin. On the occasion of the baptism of Prince Frederick Charles's son, then five weeks old, the Kreuz Zeitung published an article relating the part which each personage took in the solemnity. In reply the Bourne Gazette spoke more especially of "the conduct of baby," demanding if it had been equal to the occasion so ably described by the other journal. The Gazette was in consequence seized; the tribunal admitted the plea of the Public Minister against the liberal newspaper, for "an insult committed against a member of the royal family." The defendant demanded that doctors should be summoned to attend and decide if an infant of five weeks old, although a prince, could be considered as a personage and as having pursued any "conduct." The tribunal finally pronounced an acquittal, though blaming the defendant for his disregard of propriety.

French authorship pays rather handsomely. Thiers sold his two great historical works for \$100,000 each. Dumas pere has earned by his pen \$200,000, of which he has saved nothing. Madame Sand has taken an average of \$10,000 for each of her 75 volumes, and \$80,000 more for her plays—\$830,000 in all—which will do for a woman.

A young widow of Memphis advertises for furnished rooms for two small children and herself, in payment for which she is willing to board with the family.

Judy Bragan, having been requested to open some oysters, after knocking them about for some time, exclaimed: "Upon my conscience, but they are mighty hard to peel."

Vesuvius is greatly disturbed, and so are the people that live at its foot. The volcano is thundering and the crater throws out an immense volume of fire.

Why do women like stays? Because they feel soached by them.

A patent fish scaler is the latest Connecticut invention.

Archbishop Whately once puzzled a number of clever men in whose company he was, by asking them this question: "How is it that white sheep eat more than black?" Some were not aware of the curious fact; others set to work and tried to give learned and long reasons; but they were all anxious to know the real cause. After keeping them wondering for awhile, he said: "The reason is, because there are more of them."

M. de Tule has published a monography on the "Rat." He considers that the mus rattus is not a species nor even a variety, but a race climatic and parasitic. Its parents is the mus Alexandrius, which, on entering the temperate zone, has gradually been transformed into the M. rattus. The Alexandrian rat first entered these countries toward the end of the twelfth century, and in the sixteenth had completed its metamorphosis.

Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London.

The Archaeological Congress, recently in session in London, has had some interesting papers read before them. We extract from the proceedings a summary of the papers on mediæval London:

THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER'S LECTURE ON THE ABBEY. After the company had assembled in the Chapter House, the Dean delivered a lecture on the history of the Abbey. A short time since, he delivered a lecture on the same subject at one of the evening meetings at the Royal Institution, in which he noticed generally the principal monuments in the Abbey; but on this occasion, he confined his remarks to the burial and monuments of Kings. In the previous lecture, he had observed that it was a peculiar characteristic of the Kings of England that they selected their place of burial within the sight of their palace, of which practice Russia afforded the only similar example. Westminster Abbey had seldom been selected as a place for Royal marriage, Henry I. and Richard II. having been the only English Kings married there.

It was, however, the only building in Europe in which the coronation and the burials of Royal personages took place.

Edward the Confessor was the first King who was positively stated to have been buried there, and it was some time before his successors followed his example, for it was natural that Kings should like to be buried in the churches they had founded. After noticing the burial places of several of the Kings after Edward, and adverting to the fact that Westminster Abbey had been exclusively built by the Crown, the Dean proceeded to mention the great alterations that were made in the original building by Henry III. who expended such large sums of money upon the building that it was one of the main causes of his quarrels with the Parliament. It was the custom at that time, when rebuilding a church, and the old had been done by Henry with Edward the Confessor's Abbey at Westminster. The shrine, however, of the Confessor was religiously preserved.

Henry III. intended at one time to have been buried in the Temple Church, but as he grew older, his attachment to the Abbey increased, and twenty years after his death his body was deposited on the spot where his tomb is to be seen; but his heart was sent to Fontenoy, the abbot of the convent there having laid claim to it because Henry had once promised that he should be buried there. That was the last trace of the connection of English Kings with Normandy. Henry had made extensive arrangements for the burial of all the members of the Royal family in Westminster Abbey, and he by that means so completely occupied the Confessor's Chapel, that it afterward became difficult to find room for the Kings who desired to be buried there. Edward III. brought into the Abbey the stone of Scoone, and from that time it became the place where all the Kings of England were crowned, it had remained there ever since, with one remarkable exception.

At the installation of Oliver Cromwell the stone was taken from the Abbey to Westminster Hall, that Cromwell might sit upon it while the ceremony was performed. The Dean mentioned in succession the Kings who had been buried in the Abbey, and noticed the arrangements that had been made for the placing of the coffins after the Chapel of Edward the Confessor had been dedicated. Henry VI. was very anxious to find a place where he could be buried in the Abbey, and it was proposed to him by the abbot to remove the body of Henry V.; but to that he objected, saying: "He lies there like a noble prince—let him rest, I will not disturb him." Henry VII. built St. George's Chapel at Windsor, and a mausoleum for Henry VI.; but the Privy Council determined that, as that King had expressed a wish to be buried in the Abbey, his body should not rest at Windsor, consequently Henry VII. determined on building the chapel, now known by his name, as a fitting burial place for his predecessor. That was the object for which the chapel was built; but it is a doubtful question, after all, where Henry VI. was buried. For many years past no royal personage had been interred in the Abbey, and until on a recent occasion, when it received the body of the Duke de Montpensier, who though a Roman Catholic and a Frenchman had desired to have his last resting place with the Kings of England.

THE TOWER OF LONDON.

In the evening Heworth Dixon lectured at the Jermyn street Museum, "On the Tower of London." Set against the Tower of London, he said, with its 300 years of historic life, its 1000 years of tradition fame, all other palaces and prisons appear but of yesterday. The oldest bit of palace in Europe, Burg, in Vienna, is of the time of Henry III.; the Kremlin, in Moscow, the Doge's Palazzo, in Venice, are of the Fourteenth Century. The Bastille is gone, and the Bulgello converted into a museum of peaceful arts. Vincennes, Spandau, Spielberg, Magdeburg, are all modern in comparison with the jail in which Ralph Flambard, our unruly Bishop of Durham, was confined to so long ago as 1100—the time of the first crusade.

Avoiding the ground trodden in the various special histories and guide books Mr. Dixon devoted himself more especially to the most prominent of the personages who as royalty, guests or prisoners, had resided within its walls, beginning with Henry III., who was fond of living in the Tower, and spent a good deal of money in building new works, to the great annoyance of his people, in whose eyes it was the refuge and weapon of a tyrant. It was, however, in the excellent selection of telling incidents that Mr. Dixon was most successful. Take Sir Henry Wyatt as an example. Wyatt was a Lancastrian in politics, and under the reign of Richard III., spent not a little of his time in the Tower. The Wyatt papers tell us: "He was imprisoned often; once in a cold and narrow tower, where he had neither bed to lie on nor clothes sufficient to warm him, nor meat for his mouth. He had starved there had not God, who sent a crow to feed his prophet, sent this his and his country's martyr, a cat both to feed and warm him. It was his own relation unto them from which I had it. A cat came one day down into the dungeon unto him, and as it were, offered herself unto him. He was glad of her, laid her in his bosom to warm him, and by making much of her won her love. After this she would come every day unto him divers times, and when she could get one, bring him a pigeon. He complained to his keeper of his cold and short fare. The answer was, 'he durst not better it.' 'But,' said Sir Henry, 'if I can provide any will you promise to dress it for me?' 'I may well enough,' said he, '(the keeper,) 'you are safe for that matter.' And being urged again promised him, and kept his promise, dressed for him, from time to time, such pigeons as his accuser the cat, provided for him."

Sir Henry Wyatt in his prosperity for this would ever make much of cats, as other men will of their spaniels or hounds; and, perhaps, you shall not find his picture anywhere, but like Sir Christopher Halton with his dog, without a cat beside him. The prisoner had this faithful cat painted with a pigeon in its paws, offering it through the grated window of his dungeon. That picture is in the collection of historical portraits now on view in South Kensington. In this way sometimes as court, sometimes as prison, almost every noted room was peopled with speaking inmates, and the personal traits of many historic persons brought forcibly out.