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AGENTS—
S. D. Levi, N. S. Lewis, J. H. ...
H. S. ...
L. P. Fisher, ...
E. Algar, ...
G. Street, ...

While we are disposed to award the
meed of praise to the Government for
its efforts toward a more economic
administration of public affairs, we
must not shut our eyes to the fact
that the expenditure is still far in ex-
cess of what it ought to be, and that
formidable reductions are still nec-
essary to enable the country to pull
through its financial difficulties. In
his speech when bringing the Esti-
mates to the notice of the Council, the
Acting Colonial Secretary showed that
the Customs receipts for the first three
months of 1868 nearly quadrupled the
receipts for the corresponding quarter
of 1867. This gratifying improve-
ment he attributes to the exhaustion
of free-port stocks imported to the
island prior to union, and the Secre-
tary confidently looks forward to a
surplus at the end of the present year,
an expectation we hope will be to the
fullest extent realized. But, even with
the flattering picture sketched by the
Secretary, there is a strong conviction
in the minds of the taxpaying public
that the government of the country
costs too high a figure for the little
benefit it confers. \$72,000 is a large
sum of money to draw from a com-
munity so small, depressed and poor
as ours, and the figure appears still
larger when we come to compare it
with the expenditures of Colonies to
the East of us. Look at the province
of New Brunswick. It contains a pop-
ulation of nearly 400,000. For the
last eleven months of 1867 (prior to
the Union act coming into effect) its
expenditure was but \$214, or only
\$2 per head. Since Union, the
Financial Minister has sent down his
statement of estimated receipts and
expenditures for 1868, from which it ap-
pears that \$420,000 only will be re-
quired for the public service in 1868.
This is at the rate of \$1.05 per head on
the entire population of the Province.
It would be unfair were we to apply
the same rule to this colony, for the
reason that our population is scatter-
ed over a vast extent of country, and
the administration of the Government
here requires proportionately a much
heavier outlay than would be the case
were the same number of people con-
centrated in larger communities, as
is the case with New Brunswick and
other provinces. But the Dominion
Government which has to govern 400,
000 of people scattered over thousands
of miles of territory only asks \$12,000-
000 or \$3 per head. Let us set then, our
entire white and Indian population at
40,000, and say that for the purposes
of revenue three Indians are equal to
one white man. Estimating the white
population at 10,000, and the taxpay-
ing Indians at 14,000, we have a pop-
ulation of only 24,000, who contribute
just \$23 per capita for the privilege of
enjoying our present system of govern-
ment, which government, candor com-
pels us to say, furnishes us with a very
poor return for the investment. But
the amount of taxation levied does not
trouble the public so much as the ob-
jects on which it is expended. If we
could see works of utility undertaken
by the Government; if we could wit-
ness any project on foot to add to
the material wealth, prosperity and
happiness of the colony; if efforts

were made to improve our external
postal arrangements, to encourage
immigration, to promote education,
to open roads into remote and at
present inaccessible portions of the
colony, and to maintain in repair the
great thoroughfares of travel left as
a legacy by Sir James Douglas' ad-
ministration, the sum asked for
would not be begrudged, nor would
the burthen be regarded as exces-
sive. But where is there a single public
work in progress? Where is there
evidence of the first effort being made
to advance the colony by the Govern-
ment? The estimates submitted ad-
dress seems designed to congratulate
the public that there is to be a dimi-
nution in the "expenses of government."
But we find that while for salaries
\$157,000 are required, \$50,000 are
asked for roads, streets and bridges
and \$6,000 for education. Were these
figures reversed, and the larger amount
divided between roads, streets and
bridges and education, there would be
very little grumbling heard, because
people would naturally feel a pleasure
in contributing towards objects so em-
inently beneficial; for, as we have
said, it is not the cost of Government
that startles and appals so much as the
purposes for which the money is ex-
pended. In looking down the long
columns of figures we find that
Gold Commissioners and Magistrates
with large staffs of clerks and
constables, are continued upon the
same extravagant basis as before—
\$39,360 being asked for their mainte-
nance. The travelling expenses of the
Governor and officials are down at
\$5,910; telegrams, \$1,000; assay office,
\$3,500; printing office, \$3,620. The
Colonial Secretary and Treasurer
have each an assistant, three clerks
and a messenger; the Auditor-Gen-
eral, two clerks; the Chief Commis-
sioner of Lands and Works, an assist-
ant, one clerk, a draughtsman and
messenger; the Collector of Customs
asks \$12,926, exclusive of his own
salary. The Registrar General of
Titles at Victoria is down for \$785,
(a considerable reduction); the Har-
bor Master and Government Pilot get
\$1800; the Postmaster at Victoria,
where all the work is done, only \$1450
and no clerk provided him, while in
the Estimates \$750 are down for a
clerk and messenger for the Post
Office at New Westminster! The Post-
master General, who is also Registrar
of Titles at New Westminster, (both
sinecure positions) is well provided for
under the Crown Salaries Act. Such
division of labor and pay is simply
disgraceful.* But we have not space
to-day to go further into the document.
The reduction is real, it is true; but
it is not made in the proper direction.
The Government ought to be adminis-
tered, and sinking fund, interest, &c.
met, for \$300,000 at the outside; but
the officials hold the purse-strings.
They constitute nearly two-thirds of
the Council and consequently can do
as they please with the revenue. The
popular members have one privilege—
they can raise their voices in remon-
strance in the hope that the seed they
sow will spring up at some future time
and bring forth good fruit. Their re-
monstrances last year met with no
attention then; but a twelvemonth
has elapsed, and Government is found
introducing economies, some of which
are in accordance with the views of
the popular members last session. The
words spoken then were as broad cast
upon the waters—"after many days
it has returned unto them." The good
effects of their wise counsels in the
past are becoming apparent. They
have, therefore, strong encouragement
to continue the battle and to urge
upon Government the necessity of
reform, retrenchment and efficiency.
* Since the above was in type, we
observe that Mr DeCosmos has suc-
ceeded in carrying a resolution through
the House raising the Victoria Post-
master's salary to \$2000.

Friday, April 24th.
THEATRE ROYAL.—This evening the Stone
troupe presents us with new and additional
attractions. So far, Miss Stone has carried
the popular favor completely, all classes
readily acknowledging her great and varied
merits as an actress. To-night is to be de-
voted to comedy—"Meg's Diversion" and
the "Maid of the Milking Pail," being the
pieces selected. We are not fully acquainted
with the precise merits of either, but as they
will doubtless present, Miss Stone especially,
and the company generally, in a most har-
monious connexion with all classes, we may
fairly predict another success. We are happy
to acknowledge the improvement in the
orchestra, which renders it now all that can

THE U. S. S. SAGINAW, Lieut.-Commander
Mitchell, five days from San Francisco, ar-
rived last evening. The Saginaw is under
orders for Alaska, for which territory she
will sail after coaling. Following is a list of
her officers:—Lieut.-Com. Jas. G. Mitchell,
Act.-Master and Ex Officer O. C. Bunker,
Act.-Master J. B. Wood, Act. First Asst.
Engr. Thos. McCausland, Asst. Surgeon W.
H. Whedon, Asst. Paymaster O. H. Lock-
wood; Ensigns A. H. Vail, J. K. P. Regades;
Act. Third Asst. Engrs. A. L. Grow, E. T.
Peake, W. J. Paul, H. Litchfield; Mates
Wm. Knudsen, Philip Randall, Jas. Ponte;
Captain's Clerk C. L. Hadden.

FOUND DEAD.—An inquest was held on
the body found at Metohosin on Wednesday,
but no clue was discovered either to the
name of the man or the cause of death. Mr.
Glidde stated he found the body while hunt-
ing some cattle a mile and a half from
his house. The deceased wore greyish
tweed trousers patched with flour sacking,
two blue miners' shirts, a pair of blueish
shoes, and shepherd plaid woolen socks.
Near the body was found a sou-wester hat
with plain red lining, an empty coarse flour
sack, and an old torn corduroy jacket. A
piece of rope also lay across the body. It is
supposed the man must have been dead at
least three months.

INQUEST.—The Coroner commenced an
inquest yesterday, at Requisite, on the body
found by an Indian last Tuesday in the
vicinity of Skinner's farm. It proves to be
the body of James Smith, a well-to-do
miner, who has been missing since the 6th of
February. There appears to be little doubt,
from the fractured condition of the skull,
that Smith was foully murdered. A check
of deposit for \$1200 on the Bank of British
Columbia was found on the body, a box of
cups, an old meerschaum pipe, eye glass, and
a few coins. Inquest postponed until next
Tuesday for further inquiries.

THE SINGER SEWING MACHINE.—In another
column will be found the advertisement of
this article of domestic use. The merits of
the Singer Machine are claimed to be
numerous. In addition to the hemmer and
braider, it has a cutter, tucker, quilter, ad-
justable binder and trimmer, but all these
appendages must be specially ordered or
they will not be sent. The Singer is strongly
recommended by the English and American
press. Samples may be seen at Mr Faw-
cett's Store, Government street. The prices
range from \$60 to \$160, according to em-
bellishment.

NO MAIL.—The U. S. S. Saginaw, which
arrived last evening from San Francisco,
brought no mail, notwithstanding it arrived
the evening previous on the Constitution.
Why cannot general directions be given the
British Consul at San Francisco to take ad-
vantage of such opportunities as the depar-
ture of a war-vessel for this port to put the
bags aboard. We hope the telegraph will be
set in motion to secure us a mail by the re-
turn of the Active.

FROM A RETURN SENT DOWN BY THE GOVERNOR
in compliance with Mr Macdonald's resolu-
tion, it appears that \$2008 68 were expended
for educational purposes on the mainland
during last year, and that arrears amounting
to \$270 25 are still due. During the same
period only \$3000 was contributed toward
the support of Island schools, with 500
scholars in attendance. On the mainland
there are less than 100 pupils. Comment is
unnecessary.

THE Schooner Alert arrived yesterday
from Alaska, but from sailing at other places
has no news subsequent to that already
given. She heard nothing of the Growler.
She reports, however, the loss of some small
vessel at Queen Charlotte Island; a boat
and a mast were washed on shore, but they
gave no clue to the vessel's name. The
Alert brings a quantity of old copper for
shipment to San Francisco.

The gentleman who borrowed the "Year
Book of Canada" from this office will confer
a favor by returning the same.

THE Steamer Active sailed for Portland
yesterday morning, with 210 tons of coal,
and a small quantity of merchandise.
Mr. Watson, Manager and Inspector of the
Bank of British Columbia, and Mr. Powell,
of the same bank, go as passengers to San
Francisco. The Active will return in about
eight days.

BOUND TO HAVE ITS OWN WAY.—Govern-
ment has announced its intention of
passing the obnoxious Supreme Court's Bill.
Well; all the opponents can do is to lead
the Government horses to the water. If they
won't drink, it is not the fault of those who
want them to.

THE non-arrival of the mails has been a
great source of annoyance to the public gen-
erally, but it is something to know that by call-
ing at the Scotch House, Fort street, Mr.
McLean can supply them with splendid
coverings for "mats" of all kinds of mater-
ial, style and color, at very reasonable prices.

IT is stated a petition signed by inhabi-
tants of this city will be presented to the
Legislature against the Municipal Council
being permitted to borrow money to build a
Patent Slip.

WE are indebted to Paymaster C. H.
Lockwood, of the U. S. S. Saginaw, and Mr
Gas. Keyser, for favors conferred upon the
arrival of the Saginaw.

THE Affray between the Hons. Smith
and Robson.

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 22d, 1868.
The most extraordinary excitement was
created in this City by the intelligence that
an assault had been committed by the Hon
R. T. Smith, on the Hon J. Robson, while on
their way to the City from the Legislative
Council, after the adjournment of Monday
evening.

Before giving any description of the as-
sault, so far as can be gathered from various
sources, it will perhaps be as well to give you
some idea of the provocation alleged to have
been given by Robson to Smith. It ap-
pears the feud has been of long standing and
has been frequently aggravated by Robson's
attacks on Smith through the columns of the
Columbian. Smith seems to have given
mortal offences to the constituents of Mr.
Robson by being for the removal of the
Capital to Victoria. Robson, in consequence
of this look exception to the vote of Mr.
Smith some ten days ago, the fact of which
and the subsequent assault on Robson by
Smith, have already been made public. Rob-
son, however, continued his attacks through
his paper, and on Saturday, in reporting
the Council proceedings, caused two hands
to be placed one at each end of Smith's name
thus [R] Smith and this seems to have
exhausted the patience of Smith entirely.
Accordingly he waited the return of Robson
from the House on Monday evening, at an
unfrequented part of the road, and after some
altercation proceeded to chastise him. The
attack, however, was put an end to by the
appearance of the Hons. Helmcken and
Wood on the scene. The whole city was
thrown into great commotion, and excited
crowds passed to and fro before the Col-
onial Hotel vowing vengeance on Smith. One
worthy citizen offered \$150 to any man who
would bring Smith out that he might be
thrashed, but no one was found courageous
enough to earn the reward. The anger of
New Westminsters does not seem to be
of a very courageous character, as the steam
worked off in denunciations, or condensed
into the milder form of a subscription for
Robson, which was being collected yester-
day morning (Tuesday.) Robson took out a
warrant for Smith, and the case was heard
before Hon. Mr. Ball and Capt. Pritchard.

THE TRIAL.

The Court House was closed and filled
with the loyal citizens of New Westminster,
amongst whom were several members of the
Legislative Council. Shortly before one
o'clock, the complainant, Hon. J. Robson,
appeared, ushered by his physician, Dr.
Jones. To an inexperienced observer, the
Hon. member's seat of intellect presented a
sorry appearance, being swathed in band-
ages more or less stained; but if he concluded
from appearances that the hon. gentleman's
intellect was impaired, he would do a de-
vised injustice to the solid construction of
the editorial headpiece, which, as the reader
will perceive from what follows, was in no
wise disordered. The Bench being duly oc-
cupied by the Hon. Mr. Ball and Captain
Pritchard, the case was called, and the Hon.
J. Robson stated that in coming from the
Legislative Council after the sitting was
over he did not leave the vicinity of a usual
but having received a copy of the estimates
he lay down on the grass to examine them.
After doing so for some time, he proceeded
along the road, still looking at the estimates,
when arriving near the residence of Mr.
Busby, Mr. Smith suddenly appeared be-
fore him and demanded to know what he
had against him. He, Robson, said nothing,
when Smith knocked him down; and having
gulled Robson's stick out of his hand
beat him with it over the head. He (Robson)
caught the stick and wrenched it from Smith,
when the latter continued to beat him with
his fists. Dr. Helmcken and Mr Wood came
up, and Smith then desisted. Smith attacked
him after he got up, when he (Robson) said,
"Do you mean to kill me, you cowardly
brute?" Complainant then called Dr Helm-
cken. This witness stated that in coming up
the road from the Legislative Council his

attention was attracted by the unusual
appearance of a confused mass of heads, arms
and legs, which produced, by a kind of
eccentric motion, the appearance of a wind-
mill surrounded by clouds of dust about 150
yards ahead. He hastened to the spot to
learn the cause of the extraordinary commo-
tion, when he recognized the complainant
and accused. They were then separated.
Heard complainant address some such words
as "cowardly brute" to accused, when accused
replied that he would serve complainant in
the same way every time he insulted him.
He (witness) believed there was something
said about a newspaper, but he would not
swear that such was the case. Cross exam-
ined by complainant—Heard Smith say
that Robson was a coward, and that if he
(Robson) insulted him (Smith) he would
treat him in the same way. Robson walked
towards home with Wood and himself. Saw
them as they passed, a confused mass of
heads and tails. They were very close to-
gether but could not say which was under.
Dr Jones testified to the serious character
of complainant's injuries.

Dr. T. Smith, for defence stated that he ad-
mitted the assault. The provocation com-
menced as early as 1863 and had continued
ever since. (Mr Ball recommended the ac-
cused to confine himself to the case before
the Court.) The accused resumed: There
was no redress against newspaper editors.
What redress could he obtain for having his
name printed between two hands. When
he met complainant yesterday he asked him
why he persisted in abusing him. At first
complainant said he had done nothing; then
he said he would take it all back. He told
Robson he had made up his mind to chastise
him, and he then struck Robson, who fell
down, but he did not think it was from the
force of the blow inflicted by him. He then
struck him twice with Robson's stick and
afterwards several times with his fists. Told
Robson that whenever he insulted him he
would treat him in the same way. This was
only one instance in which the complainant
had insulted him.

Mr Ball could not see any justification for
such a serious assault. The accused had
taken the law into his own hands.
The complainant then, after asking per-
mission from the Bench, proceeded to address
the Court in a speech of considerable length,
occupying half an hour in delivery, in which
he characterized the assault as the blood-
thirsty attack of an assassin intent upon tak-
ing his life. He trusted the magistrates
would see fit to send the case to a higher
court for trial, as the infliction of a fine was
not a punishment commensurate with the
crime. He alluded to a recent assault in-
flicted upon him by the accused, for which
he had sought redress in another quarter, but
the parties voluntarily showed that the
culprit had proved a sufficiently severe
punishment being fined. This witness
then interrupted the complainant
by stating that he, Robson, was making pub-
lic a matter that he was pledged not to re-
veal. The hon. complainant delivered his
speech with considerable energy. Some dis-
orderly persons attended to applaud him
during the delivery, but were promptly check-
ed. The Magistrates having retired for
consultation, stated on their return to court
that being divided as to the mode of dis-
posing of the case, it would require to be
postponed till the following day, Wednesday,
when the assistance of a third magistrate
would enable them to decide.
Postponed accordingly till 11 o'clock forenoon
to-day.

A very interesting discovery is report-
ed by Mr. Brogden, the well-known gold-
smith. In trenching some meadow land
at Highbury, his gardener has dug up a
vase containing nearly 7,000 silver coins,
consisting of silver pennies (London,
York, Middlesex, Bristol, and Canter-
bury), groats and half groats, halfpennies,
&c. (Irish and Scotch, Venetian and
foreign Tontonic), and two gold coins of
Edward III.; also an amber rosary.
This treasure trove will of course be given
up to the Crown. It appears that the
Knights Hospitallers of St. John, Jeru-
salem were in possession of the manor of
Highbury, in addition to the capital manor
attached to their hospital near Smith-
field, which extended from thence to the
extremity of this parish. During the
insurrection under Wat Tyler, A. D. 1381
a detachment of the rebels who were en-
gaged in burning and destroying the
magnificent priory in St. John street,
proceeded for a similar purpose to the
Priory's house at Highbury. Possibly
this vase of coin was buried in a hurry
when the demagogue of the fourteenth
century sent his ruffians on this errand.

In London it is said that a man may live
a year without bearing an alarm of fire. In
that vast city of three millions of people,
with a closely covered area of ten miles by
six, there is a fire brigade of little more
than three hundred members. The engines
are mostly worked by steam, which is always
kept up, and well hoisted. Three or four
men to each machine can do the work, and
a fire is doused out very quickly, unless
it is in a theatre, or large warehouse or
manufactory with inflammatory materials.
The firemen eat, drink and sleep with their
engines. False alarms are not common,
but people sometimes see an engine dashing
at a bonfire in the suburbs, and it is said
that a few years ago they were all out for
several hours one night hunting for an aurora
borealis.

In order to meet the means of all classes
we are requested to state that Mr Harnett
has reduced the price of his Pamphlet on
the Colony from \$1 to 50 cents for single
copies.