

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, March 31 1868.

One of the worst results of Unconditional Union was the paralyzation of commerce consequent upon the abolition of Free Trade. As a Free Port Victoria attracted customers from foreign countries who purchased goods in her market to much better advantage than elsewhere. The prestige of the port for cheap goods was becoming established. Our merchants had already an extensive and increasing export business with the Sandwich Islands, Sika, San Francisco, Washington Territory and Mexico. Commerce under the Free Port system was nourished and protected, and there is no estimating the importance to which it would ultimately have attained had not the Tariff, which levies an average duty of twenty per cent upon imported goods, been extended to the Island. But after Union it would have been preposterous to maintain a system of direct taxation on the Island and a system of indirect taxation on the mainland and expect the two sections to pull amicably together in double harness. Two diverse systems for raising revenue in the same Colony would have proved unsatisfactory and impracticable, and must have resulted in discontent, confusion and disaster. It is highly necessary that the laws of the united Colony should be assimilated, and in no particular more than wherein they affect the raising of revenue. Vancouver Island accepted the Tariff with a determination to give it a fair chance, and after a trial of eighteen months his found at while farm products have been sensibly benefited by its operation, the foreign trade enjoyed by this port before Union has been seriously affected. The bulk of it has sought other markets because the enhanced value of goods consequent upon the imposition of Customs dues has prevented purchases. San Francisco buyers are now seldom met in our market. The Sandwich Islands trade has fallen to a mere trifle of its former proportions. Sika, which in American hands ought to be even a heavier customer than when in Russian possession, is now scarcely known in the market. Our merchants, therefore, are dependent almost entirely upon the local, Puget Sound and interior demand for business, instead of having, as before Union, the whole coast for a market. The cause of this falling off is found not so much in the abolition of the Free Port as in the neglect of the authorities to provide necessary facilities or inducements for the transaction of an export trade. Goods may be sold from bond, it is true; but every commercial man is aware they cannot be sold to advantage in a bonded warehouse because the opportunity for displaying them (which is generally indispensable to effect a sale) is necessarily wanting. Goods are usually imported hither in large packages. Only a part of the articles are required for local consumption. The balance would find a market either of the sections we have named, were it not for the fact that when a package is removed from bond duties on its entire value are paid, and the portion not required for immediate sale remains on the shelf representing just so much money lying idle for an indefinite period. The merchants who were the opportunity afforded, while awaiting the appearance of a colonial customer, might have sold for export, realized a profit and replenished his stock a dozen times, if forced to sidle to see his dead stock eaten up by interest and moth. But the injury done is not confined to the merchant; the country suffers with him. Add to the wealth of the commercial class by affording them every facility in extending their trade, and you indirectly add to the wealth and prosperity of the Colony, as surely as when you foster the productive interests of the Colony. What is wanted now is the passage of a measure for the relief of the merchants, a measure which while it will protect the Colonial producer and

manufacturer, will restore to the merchant the opportunity of competing for the trade of foreign countries. Such a measure might be very easily provided by allowing a drawback on all goods exported from the Colony. For instance: a Victoria merchant imports an invoice of goods from England or elsewhere; he pays the duties and sells a portion of the invoice for consumption within the Colony. For the remainder of the invoice he can easily find a customer from abroad if the 20 per cent duty paid on the portion intended for local consumption be knocked off. Retain the duty and the goods lie on his hands, an injury to him and a benefit to no one, not even to the Government. This plan would work no injustice to the Colonial manufacturer, who is not a competitor in a foreign market, while it would add immensely to the profits of the merchant and attract a floating population to our shores. To prevent fraud, a rigorous system of inspection might be easily introduced, by detaching a Custom-house officer to examine, check and seal each package before it leaves the store; an obligation from the purchaser and a certificate from the captain of the vessel in which they are shipped should be required that they will not be landed within the limits of the colony, and the expense entailed by the employment of an additional officer, met by a small fee to be paid on each invoice, which should not be less in value than (say) \$150; the merchant to be credited with the duties remitted on account of future importations. We are glad to observe that one of the city members (Mr. DeCosmos) has asked the Government for information upon this head. The matter is deserving the early attention of the Council, for if it can be shown—as we think it can—that by maintaining the present system a very important branch of our commerce is in a fair way of being destroyed, a plan similar to that we have named cannot be too speedily adopted to preserve it.

Thursday, March 26th. From Cariboo. (From the British Columbian.) By the somewhat unexpected arrival of Bernard's Cariboo Express on Monday morning we have advices from our principal gold fields to the 12th inst. Mr. Wiel, one of the most extensive merchants of Cariboo, came down along with the express. The treasure, something over \$100,000, was left at Yale, it not being considered prudent to carry it forward in the present condition of the river between that place and Harrisonmouth, where we are informed travelling is both difficult and dangerous. The general feature of the mining news is excellent good. The weather had been sprinkly and very pleasant for three weeks immediately preceding the 12th, and work was being successfully carried on in most of the claims on Williams creek. The Cariboo, especially, was paying well; one shaft alone yielded 143 ozs. for the week. The other and richer shaft was not being worked, a cave having occurred in it. The Lillooet paid \$1000 for the week. There are about 200 persons out prospecting in the Willow and Mosquito direction, and most excitement prevails. Several gulches and small streams have been discovered in that promising district, and in some instances good prospects have been struck. From Mosquito Gulch the new gold, for week ending 8th, the Mitchell yielded three hundred and twenty-four ounces to one pick. Mr. Wiel showed us some pieces worth \$90, taken from this claim. The new tunnel, being opened by contract, in order to tap the lead lower down, was in a distance of 200 feet. The Willow claim on Red Gulch continued to pay as richly as ever, while the Discovery claim paid \$50 for the share for the week. Good pay had been struck in an adjoining claim. On Wilson creek, about 2 miles from Mosquito, excellent prospects had been obtained. This prospect, it is thought, promises to be as rich as Mosquito. Island (Whip) saw Gulch, and others not known to fame, were reported to be prospecting well. The Island Quartz Mining Company, Limited, had put their tunnel in a distance of 135 feet, much of which is believed to be within 5 feet of the lead. The quartz lead is believed to be very promising, and should the result of a farther advance of five feet prove encouraging, active steps will at once be taken for its thorough development, the Company being composed of some of the best men in the country, with ample and varied means at their disposal. The market here, undergone a little change. Flour is selling at from 20 to 22 cts lb. A ball was held at Barkerville on the 22d Feb. for the benefit of the Hospital, realizing the very handsome sum of \$500, clear of all expenses. Travelling between Cariboo and Yale is excellent, as may be inferred from the circumstance of Mr. Wiel having made the journey from Barkerville to New Westminster in ten days.

Court of Assize and General Gaol Delivery.

(Before His Lordship-Chief Justice Needham.) Wednesday, March 25, 1868. Shil-shim, an Indian, was arraigned upon an indictment charging him with having wilfully murdered another Indian at Naneimo by stabbing. Prisoner pleaded Not Guilty. Mr. Walker appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Crown, and Mr. Ring, instructed by Mr. Bishop, appeared for the defence. The jury found the prisoner Guilty as charged in the indictment. Salsahak and Salsaham (Covichan Indians) father and son, pleaded Not Guilty to an indictment charging them with having wilfully murdered an Indian doctress belonging to the same tribe. Mr. Walker appeared to prosecute; Mr. Ring, instructed by Mr. Bishop, for the defence. The evidence went to show that the deceased had been called on to exercise her vocations in behalf of a young Indian lying sick. She failed to save him from death, and was shot and killed by the prisoners, in accordance with Indian custom towards unsuccessful medicine men and women. The jury, after a short absence, found Salsahak, the son, guilty of wilful murder, and Salsaham, the father, of being accessory thereto. ASSISTING PRISONERS TO ESCAPE. John Dwyer and William Wood were arraigned for sentence, having been convicted of aiding in the escape of Maurice Carey. When asked if he had anything to say, Dwyer said that he was surprised at the verdict, which he could only ascribe to prejudice or want of intelligence on the part of the jury. Wood said he had been convicted of a crime of which he was not guilty. The Chief Justice said the prisoners did not benefit their case by the hardness which they assumed. The jury was a highly intelligent one, and after much attention and due deliberation had found them guilty as charged in the indictment. The Court entirely concurred in the verdict and the prisoners were ordered to undergo penal servitude for the term of two years, dating from the day of their arrest. SENTENCE ON DEATH. Shil-bar-lum, convicted of wilful murder, was brought forward for sentence. Rev. A. C. Garrett acting as interpreter. He said he was intoxicated at the time of the killing and knew not what he did; no person saw the transaction, not even a bird or dog; the deceased was a bad man and a murderer. Sentence of death was recorded and the prisoner was removed. Salsahak and Salsaham were also sentenced to death. Both prisoners professed their entire innocence of the crime. HUMOROUS SONS OF ST. CHRISPIAN. We have before us a number of a little paper called "Our Dixie Times," published once a week at the settlement of St. George's, in Utah Territory. The journal presents the appearance of being published under difficulties; and the editor, who is evidently a family man, calls on his patrons to pay their subscriptions in farm produce if they haven't got the money or greenbacks. It contains a spy editorial, some local items of no interest to our readers and two or three columns of advertisements of such an original and witty nature that we are tempted to transfer two of them to our columns as specimens. Dispensing with the huge, staring capitals which surround the advertisements, here they are: "Jas Keate—Professor of Snobology.—Gentlemen troubled with deficient understandings can have them dissected, analyzed and recreated with their pedal extremities secure against the insidious influences of water, mud, sand, etc., etc. Departed soles restored. The various labyrinthine deviations, mystical ramifications and multitudinous malformations of the Profession have been by me thoroughly analyzed, simplified and annihilated, and the patient need no longer groan under the deleterious effects of bad fits. Advice given gratuitously." "Dixie Boat and Shoe Shebang.—A. P. Hardy is making the above business on the high-pressure principle. Let friends, old and new, come on, and will give you 'Rits' at a new one. Old soles changed into new ones." "P.S.—Owing to the scarcity of Leather the Sign is taken in."

River Navigation.—The steamer Onward, which left here on Saturday returned on Monday, not having succeeded in reaching Yale.

The steamer went as far as Harrisonmouth. The river will not be navigable to Yale, some say for a fortnight, others a month yet. —Examiner. COURT CASES.—The Stipendiary Magistrate has given notice that he will hold a County Court, every third Tuesday, commencing April 14th. Next Friday, the 13th of April, will be the last day for issuing summonses for the first quarter. MR. BRODRICK, who purchased the wreck of the ship Fanny for \$1100 on Tuesday, sold it for \$900 profit to Messrs. Lowe Bros. yesterday. The purchasers intend to cut a hole through the side of the wreck and take out the coal. The Enterprise arrived at 4 o'clock last evening from New Westminster. She brought a few passengers and a Cariboo express. The up-country news will be found in this issue. H. M. SPARROWHAWK is expected to return here on Saturday. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. TUESDAY, March 24, 1868. The Council met at 3 p.m. Twelve members present. Minutes of last sitting read and approved. Hon. Robson gave notice that on Monday next, he should introduce a Fence Bill. House adjourned to present the reply to the Governor. On the House reforming the Hon. Orasse proceeded with the Bills he had introduced: First—Weights and Measures. The alterations in this measure are very trifling and need no particular notice. Passed second reading. Second—Naval Stores and Victualling Bill, providing for the more effectual protection of the naval stores. The bill, as I understood the hon. gentleman, emanated from home and is more a preparatory than an actual measure. Passed first reading. It is very essential that members should enunciate distinctly the particulars of Bills, for a wrong word in legislation or law as well as science, makes all the difference at times. It is much to be hoped that members, especially the President, will attend to this point. An amusing incident occurred this afternoon, when hon. DeCosmos understood the hon. Attorney-General while speaking on the "Limitation of Actions Bill" to be "a man of devotion." These mistakes, I fear, will occur all the time, unless members speak distinctly as they ought to do. Bill passed. Third—The Limitation of Actions Bill. The object of the Bill is to retain the law of the country wherein the contract is made over the party contracting the debt for six years after emigrating to this Colony. For instance, a person contracting a debt in California would be responsible for the debt six years hence unless he could prove the expiration of the Limitation Act of California. Hon. DeCosmos stated that a similar measure had been introduced at the last session and excited much opposition. He did not on general principles object to innovations when good, but as this one was contrary to the practice of the two great commercial nations, England and America, who concurred in the present system, he questioned its propriety. Besides it was not in accordance with English law, and he thought it better to let the country wherein the debt was incurred provide the remedy. It might also cause both confusion and injustice. A party, according to the statute, might be sincere in incurring a debt, but the foreign Legislature might be sitting and reduce the limitation simultaneously with the judgment of the local Courts in this Colony, and thus the judgment would be contrary to the foreign law. Brougham and Storey both agreed that foreign law cannot be introduced for the collection of a debt where a forerunner of the covenant was intended. As this Bill affected the interests of the Colony in general, he thought its final reading should be postponed till the members from the chief commercial cities were present. Hon. Robson differed with the member from Victoria. He understood the bill referred to passed the Legislature without opposition. The present Bill was almost similar to one that existed previously on the Island, and need not be delayed on those grounds. He disliked the limitation period of six years, however, as being a cause likely to prevent immigration. Men who had been unfortunate would have little energy to struggle if their debts were revived and kept hanging over them so long. He thought it better for the laws of British Columbia to be as liberal as other adjacent countries, and that in this respect particularly they should assimilate as much as possible with the laws of the countries with which their business connexion most prevailed. Read a second time and ordered to be committed on Thursday. Fourth—Tobacco Estates Bill. The object of this measure has been already given. Nothing new was elicited in the debate, except that it did not interfere with the important point of power. Hon. DeCosmos thought the Bill trifling. "Something more definite should be introduced," he said, "or less than that of the English primeval idea; and consequently objection to a large majority of the population. Passed second reading and ordered to be committed on Monday. Hon. Robson asked the Attorney-General if the Government intended to introduce any educational measure. He sincerely hoped the Government would do so, at this important period, to meet the emergency of the case. Hon. DeCosmos thought the session would be too short to deal justly with a case of such grave importance.

Hon. DeCosmos thought that although the Bill of Vancouver Island was not perfect, he did not see what else the Government could do so satisfactory to the people as to provide money to pay the arrears and salaries of the teachers.

House adjourned till 3 o'clock to-morrow. REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH. Following is the reply to the Governor's Speech passed by the Legislative Council on Tuesday, to which allusion was made by telegraph: To His Excellency Frederick Seymour, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies. Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. 1. We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, Members of the Legislative Council of British Columbia in Council assembled, have heard with great pleasure the statement of the affairs and prospects of the Colony which Your Excellency has been graciously pleased to make to us, and we beg, in return, heartily to tender every assistance that may be in our power during the short period to which the sitting of the Council will this year be confined. 2. We are aware of the financial difficulties with which our Government is surrounded, but have confidence, with your Excellency, that time and a revival of commercial prosperity will cure the evil, and we are glad to learn that there is a prospect of relief and sympathy in the meantime from the Imperial Government. 3. The Bill on the important measure for defining the power and jurisdiction of the two Courts of Supreme Jurisdiction, shall receive, as it merits, our earnest attention; as shall also the other Bills which your Excellency proposes to lay before us. 4. It is with great pleasure we learn that the external Postal arrangements are likely to undergo some material improvement. 5. Fully impressed with the importance of the question of the Union of British Columbia with the Confederated Eastern British Provinces, we feel assured that when the opportune time may arrive, every consideration will be given to the interests of this Colony. 6. We are glad that a question of such absorbing interest as that of Government in the Colony is at length to receive its final settlement with due regard to public faith and honor, and the just claims of all parties considered. 7. We cordially concur with your Excellency in the expression of satisfaction at the marked improvement visible in the agricultural and mining Districts of the Colony, and hope that the undoubted advantages which it possesses will, at no distant period, attract a large and permanent population; and in conclusion, we earnestly trust that the High Road invoked by your Excellency may be vouchsafed to us in our deliberations for the promotion of the common good. (Signed) W. HAMLEY, Chairman of Committee. ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS. GENTLEMEN—I am much obliged for the address you have been good enough to present to me. I have no doubt but that you will faithfully do your duty to the Colony; and I think it desirable that every effort should be made to get through our work as early as possible. COURT OF ASSIZE. EDITOR COLONIST.—In your report of the case of Regina v. Dwyer and Wood, you say the Judge charged the jury favorably for the prisoners, and that the jury then found the prisoners guilty. This is incorrect. The charge was impartial and unbiased, the evidence was clearly summed up, and the jury experienced but little difficulty in coming to the decision they did. A JUROR. SALVAGE OF THE WRECK AND CARGOES.—Mr. Baekus yesterday sold the ship Fanny and bark Rosalia, as they lie stranded on the beach at Discovery Island. The Fanny was knocked down for \$1100 to R. Brodriek, and the cargo (1330 tons coal) to Lowe Bros. The Rosalia, with cargo and all her appointments, was sold to R. Brodriek for \$430. HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND FILL.—The Joy of Home.—How often does it happen that happiness is driven from our hearts by illness—sickness and sorrow are constant companions; though in most cases their tenure is short, when Holloway's remedies are used to dispel them, these medicaments can be confidently and heartily recommended to all invalids as the most easy, safe, and certain means of preserving all that is good, and casting out all that is corrupt, externally and internally. They are universally applicable by both sexes in every disease. Holloway's medicaments do not deteriorate by being kept, nor are their properties changed by climate; they can be purchased everywhere, and the price at which they are sold is moderate. THE QUEEN OF PERFUMES! MURRAY & LANMAN'S FLORENTINE WATER. Fragrant, invigorating and strengthening the weak and debilitated; soothes and quiets the nervous and excitable, and induces healthful slumber to the weary and listless. "As there are counterfeiters, buyers must be sure to get the genuine perfumery, prepared only by Murray & Lanman, New York, sold proprietors." Truth Must Prevail. Bristol's Sarsaparilla and Pills are a sure cure for vitiated or impoverished blood, are certain to purge out and carry off all bad humors; are the best of all medicines for the stomach, liver, and kidneys. Try them! Try them! Try them! The best Remedy for Purifying the Blood, strengthening the Nerves, restoring the Lost Appetite, FRESH'S HAMBURG TEA. It is the best preservative against cholera, sickness, and dysentery. Composed of herbs only, it can be given safely to infants. Full directions in English, French, Spanish, and German, with every package. For sale at all the wholesale and retail drug stores and chemists. THE AMERICAN HOUSE OF COMMONS. The presence of every independent member of the Council is required. New Westminster to-day and subsequent day until the most important public business has been acted and the rights of the secured. Honorable members console themselves with the fact that this or that vital question safe because they have the promise of certain members to "vote right" the measures come before disposal. But "promises, like arrows made to be broken" and laid schemes of mice and men, are apt to be broken. The proper course in politics is to trust no one nothing for granted, but to be present to watch the interest of constituents. The honorable member who wilfully absents himself duty requires his presence. Westminster is guilty of a fault, his constituents, which no expiation, no repentance can atone for, no period since the proclamation has there been an opportunity to effect good by the passage of financial measures until now. On a previous occasion has there been a desire to introduce measures of reform and to give the country in a manner consistent with the wishes of the people. The people's representatives fought hand to hand with the enemy and their minions and were victorious. Yet they fought the end and won golden opinions from their country. To-day the people profess to have awakened to the sense of their mistake. It pleads to observe the utmost economy in public expenditure, and call upon the people and their representatives to assist in the introduction of some system of reform. We have thought of the soldier who sacrificed had stormed a city, compelled his foe to lay down arms, yet turned and fled in entering and enjoying the fruits of victory? Would not his vice, his bravery and his valor forgotten in the clamor of the day, be raised against him for his ingratitude? Just so is it representatives of the people have fought the good fight bravely and tact, but should to carry off the prize which temptingly within their grasp would richly merit the exertions of their country. Important are about to come before the question of the location of the Government. A vote may be cast at any moment, and the caprice of official moment result may be mischievous to the State. The decision once made is irrevocable. Last session was recommended for the Seat of Government, by a vote of five. This session, if House, she may have disappeared even a bare majority withstanding the professional ship we receive from official. Morally we are certain we are but there may be a mine sprung at the last moment things have occurred before occur again. In the simplicity of nature, unsuspecting of dreaming in fancied security, easy victory in store, brightest hopes been shattered often the most brilliant, changed into ignominious. The duty of every independent member is to be in his seat at the Council board, and then, if the which the country has so long lost it will not be charge neglect or apathy of the representative. The American House of Commons. The purchase of Alaska by seven millions of dollars terms of the transfer the all be paid by the 20th of next month, we suppose, the proper