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Dr. Powell's presence in the TORIA, V. I.

PATRONS:

EN, - Speaker House of Assembly. CIS, Esq. - United States Consul; ES. Eeq. - - H, H. M. Consul,

The Aveckly Colonist.

Tuesday, June 6, 1865.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, May 29th, 1865. Members present — Messrs. De Cosmos, Powell, M Clure, Tolmie, Dickson, Burnaby, Cochrane, Duncan, Bayley, Dennes.

VERBACH OF PRIVILEGE AT 1830

Dr. Tolmie asked leave to make a correction. He had been wrongly reported in both papers in his remarks on the debate on the Church Reserve. He had been reported as saying that the "Church of England was the first in the field," whereas what he had said was "the Church of England was the first Protestant church," etc.

Dr. Dickson also rose to a question of privilege. He quoted a paragraph from the Chronicle in regard to the estates of deceased persons bill, which he said was conched in most unwarrantable language. The honble. gentleman read the paragraph.

The Speaker asked where was the breach

of privilege? and said the paragraph placed words in his mouth which he never used, and attributed motives to him which he never entertained... The statements made were untrue, and simply dietated by a personal mo-

tive. DEBTOR VS CREDITOR.

Mr. Burnaby introduced his bill to facilitate and explain the remedy of creditors against the lands of their debtors. The purport of the bill was to enable the creditors to obtain a clear title to the lands of debtors. The bill was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

ARREARS OF LAND.

The resolutions from committee for an address to the Governor granting bona fide settlers who were in arrears a year longer to make their payments was agreed to by the

THIRD. READINGS. The Custody of Estates of Deceased Persons and Harbor Dues Amendment Act were read a third time and passed.

MEDICAL BILL. The amendments of the Council to the Medical Bill were read a first time after some discussion.

..... TAK ON STOCK. The bill levying permit dues on stock, &c., was read a second time.

STATE OF THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS. The House went inlo committee on the state of the agricultural lands of the colony,

Mr. Bayley in the chair.

The chairman read the majority report, signed by Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Cochrane. Dr. Dickson asked that the minority report signed by himself, should be read.

The Speaker said minority reports were not read (a laugh): not read (a laugh):

Dr. Dickson proceeded to speak to the report. The land question was one of the greatest weight. The whole interests of the colony demanded that the large tracts of land held by sowculators, both resident and non-resident, should be cultivated. If any person would simply go two or three miles beyond the city limits, he would see large tracts of arable land lying uncultivated. Not forty-eight hours ago a party from Saanich told him that close to his farm there was a carried, and the House adjourned till tolarge extent of beautiful land, not an acre of which was tilled or even fenced, belonging to a person living in England, and who had been there for years. His hon, colleague (Dr. Tolmie) had said there was a great deal of land under cultivation, but that of course must be the case when our population is in-creasing (No, no!) Land owners might say that they had bought and paid for their land, and that no one had any right to intertere with it. but the land was only held in that the land was only given by God Almighty to be held in trust for our fellow-men. He (Dr. D.) had drawn up an expression of his views on this question, which he would read to the House. The hon gentleman here read his minority report. He had altered his mind in regard to one portion of this re-

He (Dr. Tolmie) as a farmer, looked on the strate. proposition to consider unfenced land as unmproved and to tax it, much the same as a law would be to compel owners of corner lots to tear down their wooden buildings and build three-story brick. He maintained that on land identified himself more closely with bona fide settlers had always received special the colony than any other. He would give some statistics as to farming. On a farm of venue, and his duty to the Crown, rendered 300 acres which he knew of in 58-59, there the enforcement of those claims necessary. were 60 acres under cultivation; in 60-61, 170 acres; in 1864-5, 220 acres. There were also 100 acres of oak openings which required six separate fences to enclose it. There were also some pine lands on this farm, which would cost much more to clear. Some similar land had cost \$250 an acre to clear. He knew of another farm at Rocky Point of 1000 acres, of which only 100 acres were cultivated, and not more than 20 more could be farmed in the 1000 acres. He would state that the tax on the gross proceeds, the gross sales from this farm of 900 acres amounted to seven per cent. This statement he had made before, and it had not been gainsayed in the House. It had been gainsayed in one of the public prints, but he reiterated it now again. The hon. gentleman gave some statistics in regard to Victoria district, showing the extent of arable land, the quantity under cultivation, etc. He

maintained that if grazing meant cultiva-tion, hear, hear) the whole of Victoria dis-

trict was under cultivation. He differed from the last speaker on his views about

speculators. He thought if some provision taxing the lands of absentees at the same

rate as that improved one thousand per cent.

in its vicinity, were made, it would, in con-junction with the provision about fencing,

have a good effect. The hon gentleman urged the advantage of his proposition to make absentees build half the boundary

port, viz: the proposition to consider un-

Mr. DeCosmos thought the bon, gentleman had used just a very little sophistry in his argument about the burden of 7 per cent. taxes imposed on farmers gross proceeds. Now he (Mr. DeCosmos) made it out that this 7 per cent. was just about equal to the one per cent. on city property. He was glad to see that the hon, gentleman was a convert to the system of roads which he (Mr. DeCosmos) had so long advocated. He (Mr. DeC.) would not take up the time of the House at any length on this question. It was an undoubted fact however, that there were large tracts of arable but unimproved land in the vicinity of Victoria, which should be broken up. Let any hon gentleman only take a boat and pull up Victoria Arm for half an hour, and he would see, on both sides of him tracts of arable land lying waste; small houses upon it once occupied now deserted; round Esquimalt, and between here and Gold-stream, there were hundreds and hundreds of arable land lying wasted and lying the stream and lying wasted and lying the stream and lying the stream are were hundreds and hundreds of the stream are well as a boat and pull up victorial and the bill admitted any one to practise who had a diploma from any school or college, no matter whether he had been six years or only six months in attention.

A motion for a conference was then agreed acres of arable land lying uncultivated, and to. not wholly agree with the proposition of the house went into common introducer of the motion, and had there-bill, Mr. Bayley in the chair. fore drawn up the following resolution him-

liable to pay for every acre in excess of the said 150 acres the sum of twenty-five cents, provided always that the said 150 acres shall be permadently in the occupation of one or manded an Incorporation Act. (Hear, hear.) be permanently in the occupation of one or more persons employed upon the same as cultivators of the soil, and provided always that if sny such excess be occupied by herds of sheep, cattle, horses, mules, or hogs, as pasture, such excess shall not be subject to the said tax of twenty-five cents per acre and provided always that such excess used as pasture shall be fenced, except left unfenced by agreement between neighbors, or surrounded by natural boundaries; and provided always that a tax of twenty-five cents per acre shall be levied on all lands unoccupied, that are owned by any person or corporation.

manded an Incorporation Act. (Hear, hear.)

It hon, gentlemen wished to oppose the bill, it would be more manly and honorable to bring in a motion to repeal the Incorporation Act altogether, than leave things in their present state. (Hear, hear.)

The consideration of the bill was post-poned.

TELEGRAPH BILL.

The Amended Telegraph Bill, sent down by the hon. Council, was agreed to, and reported by the committee.

That the said tax shall be called "a wild The amendments to tland tax," and that if the said tax be not before the committee. paid within two years, the said land shall be sold by Sheriff's sale for the taxes.

That a bill be brought in to carry out the

morrow (Tuesday). 10 . 10 half to betalesoon

House met at 3:15, p. m.

Members present - Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, M'Clure, Dickson, Cochrane, Dun-can, Bayley, and Dennes.

CHURCH RESERVE trust for the benefit of the colony. [Dr. His Excellency, stating that he was advised by the Attorney General that there are no that the land was only given by God Almighty to be held in trust for our fellow-men. He trustees to the piece of land known as the Church Reserve, and it would therefore be improper for the Government to litigate the

RURAL MAGISTRATES.

The Speaker read a despatch from His Excellency, stating that after careful enquiry fenced land unimproved. He thought this should be changed.

Dr. Tolmie said his hon. friend had removed the sting from his minority report.

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ARREARS ON LANDS.

The Speaker read a message from the Governor, stating that there were \$11,173 ar rears on lands overdue since 1862 and 1863, on which six months' time had already been the man who expended his means and labor allowed. The demands for time made by consideration. The state of the public rethe enforcement of those claims necessary.
On the motion of Mr. DeCosmos, the three communications will be taken up in committee on Thursday next.

VERDICT IN CIVIL JURIES. The amendments of the Council to this bill were read a first time.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL. This bill, as amended by the Council, came

up before the House. The Speaker read the first amendment. which was to strike out the clauses in the bill from 1 to 251, thus leaving only the preamble and last clause of the bill, being equivalent to a new bill altogether.

The House laughed immensely.

Some conversation took place on striking out the Council's amendments, but on the motion of Mr. DeCosmos, who said the amendments were doubtless the concentrated essence of the law-(hear, hear, and laughter)-they were read a first time.

MERCANTILE LAW ACT. The amendments to this bill, insisted on by the Council, were again refused and returned to the Upper House.

CONFERENCE ON GOLD BILL. The request of the Council for a conference on the Gold Bill was acceded to by the House, and Thursday, at 2 p.m. fixed.

WAYS AND MEANS. fences. The absentee had to pay his road tax also. He did not say that absenteeism bill to impose permit dues on the imports of was not injurious; he believed it was, but

not to the extent assumed. Several of these so-called absentees were miners, who worked the clause allowing drawbacks on stock response in winter, and mined in summer exported. It was simply granting a premium the Clerk.

for farmers in winter, and mined in summer exported. It was simply granting a premium to existed on the frontiers of the United States, and were considered very useful. As to the improvements in the distant settlements, he found in the Government Gazette that in Cowichan the value of improvements was \$24,065 compared with \$10,385 of the previous year. In Comox, the value was \$7,855 for the last year, compared with \$35,600 of the previous year. The best way to said agriculture was to assist and encourage them more time to pay their instalments and to give them better roads. The Cowichan people were anxious to get a road made from Sayward's mill through to Goldstream, which would help them very more, the had not used any sophistry in his argument, nothing bitt plain facts and figures.

Mr. Occhrane agreed with the hon, gentleman the clause would simply have the efforming the previous was to shad the clause would simply have the efforming the clause would simp

veiled I FRANCHISE ACT.

This bill was read a third time and passed, only Messsrs. Dickson, Cochrane, and Bayley voting against it.

of a conference.

In answer to Mr. DeCosmos.

INCORPORATION BILL. The House went into committee on this

Mr. DeCosmos objected to the bill being taken up till the return of the hon. intro-That every person or corporation owning ducer of the bill. It would only have the or leasing more than 150 acres land, shall be effect of killing the bill.

sland TOU PILOT ACT. Tale

The amendments to the Pilot Act came Dr. Helmeken said it was highly imprudent to increase the pilotage dues in the

present state of affairs. He moved that the Mr. Cochrane moved that the committee rise and report progress.

Dr. Helmcken moved in amendment that the believed was necessary under present circumstances to hold out some kind of ine the chair do now rise. [This would have the effect of throwing over the matter for the session—Rep.] The motion to rise and report was put and heard also numerous complaints from agricultural members that the amount of protection to the farmers had not been made large

always be properly paid. In San Francisco

The Speaker read a communication from not make a living now.

Its Excellency, stating that he was advised Dr. Helmcken—There are too many of

trade of the port.
Dr. Helmcken's motion "that the chair

do now rise," was lost, only the mover in the as read.

THE INCORPORATION BILL Will be taken up to-morrow (Wednesday),

THURSDAY, May 31, 1865.

Excellency stating that he had received a proposition for establishing a line of mail packets between Panama and Vancouver Island and British Columbia in connexion with the West India Mail Line, and for the conveyance of emigrants at a moderate rate. His Excellency asked the Assembly to inform him of their views at an early date, before his communicating with the British Columbian Government and the West India

up on Monday. PILOT ACT. The Pilot Amendment resolutions passed by committee were agreed to by the House

TELEGRAPH ACT. This Act as amended was read a third city member. time and passed.

PERMITS ON STOCK. The bill imposing permit dues on stock, &c., was read a third time and passed.

CHURCH RESERVE, ETC. His Excellency's Messages on the Church Reserve, Rural Magistrates, and Arrears of Land Dues will be taken up to-morrow -Thursday.

VERDICT IN CIVIL CASES. The Amendments to this bill were agreed

MERCANTILE LAW ACT. On motion of Mr. DeCosmos a conference with the hon. Council was requested on the Mercantile Law Act.

THE DREDGER. Mr. DeCosmos presented the Report of the

hon, gentlemen a disposition to throw out the bill. The bill did not meet his own

views fully, but he would much prefer to see it pass to having no Corporation at all Mr. McClure said he did not understand voting against it.

The House took up the amendments of the hon. Council on the Medical Bill.

Dr. Powell said the bill, as amended, was preserving their health, and for otherwise adagrees and not understand the objections which appeared to exist among the country members in reference to the incorporation of the city. If the inhabitants of Victoria wished, through their representatives, to tax themselves for the purpose of preserving their health, and for otherwise adagrees. simply an encouragement to quackery, but ministering to the welfare of the city, on what rather than see no bill he would be in favor grounds he would like to know did members representing country districts object. (Hear, hear.) Their constituents had none of the burdens to bear. Outside of this he thought it disgraceful that an attempt should be made in that. House to destroy local govern-

ment. (Hear, hear.)
Dr. Dickson said he had supported the Inot compelled it.

A motion for a conference was then agreed he considered the present bill an abortion, only leading to litigation, and he would vote

against it. o noissono ed no busial revuos Mr. DeCosmos said all the city asked was to be allowed to tax itself for local improves ments, and yet hon. gentlemen who thrust the great bulk of the taxation of the country on the city refused to grant them this privi-

Mr. Cochrane argued against the necessity of a mayor and council, and all the list of paid officers required by a corporation. We had already an inspector of roads, who, if instructed by the Governor, could do all that was required to keep the streets in order.

Mr. M'Clure said hon, gentlemen seemed to labor under the idea that municipal institotions were expensive and extravagant. tutions were organized for the purpose of saving money by looking after the public health and safety. (Hear, hear.) objections urged by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cochrane) were those of extravagance in the machinery, which were merely questions of detail, in no way affecting the principle of the measure, and could be met while in committee. (Hear, hear.) He himself was anxious that the Council should be carried on

with the most inexpensive machinery. Ayes—DeCosmos, M'Clure, Burnaby (3).
Noes—Helmcken, Tolmie, Trimble, Dickson, Cochrane, Duncan (6). Dr. Helmcken moved that the chair do

The House went into committee on the state of the agricultural lands of the colony,

enough by the House. (Laughter.) The Mr. Bayley in the chair.

pilot fees therefore as proposed would act in Mr. McClure said there were three resolua double capacity in benefiting the pilot and tions before the House. He thought both of encouraging the farmer. (Hear, hear, and the report of the committee and the proposition of the junior member for the district did Mr. Duncas maintained that pilots should not at all meet the requirements of the case. The resolution of his hon. colleague came and other ports vessels over 50 tons were nearest his views. He thought, however, the charged pilot dues. The pilots here could rate of 25c. per acre per annum was not advisable, as it would not fall equally upon all.

Land at a low value would be taxed too
heavily, while it would fall lightly on lands Mr. Bayley objected to small vessels being near the city. He would suggest an ad charged, it would interfere with the coasting valorem tax. There would doubtless be an effort made by the speculators to evade the law by pasturing half-a-dozen sheep or cattle on their lands, which would require affirmative, and the amendments were passed some such provision as proportioning the number of cattle to a given number of acres.

Dr. Tolmie said the hon. gentleman who last spoke showed by the very difficulties he raised that the resolution was impracticable The hon, gentleman had spoken of half-adozen sheep and cattle; it was very evident he did not ride much into the country, or he would see that there were as many cattle as House met at 3:15 p.m. Members pres- the pasture could support. He would be ent-Mesers. DeCosmos. Trimble, Burnaby, very sorry to see the day when this island M'Clure, Tolmie, Dickson, Duncan, Bayley, could supply Victoria with beef and mutton.

The Speaker read a message from His Excellency stating that he had received a proposition for establishing a line of mail He repeated that farmers already paid as

high as seven per cent taxes. Mr. DeCosmos said the farmer and the citizen were taxed one per cent alike.

Dr. Tolmie said the citizen made money on his town lot by simply letting it lie, and the farmer had to shell out his hard earned dollars to improve his land and make it remunerative. The farmer was taxed much Mail Company. The message will be taken more highly than the citizen. The whole resolution of the hon, senior city member was a bundle of impracticabilities. The tax of 25c. per acre was a burden that would drive some of the farmers to ruin. It was strange that no country representative had brought this measure, but that it had been left to a

Mr. DeCosmos said the question had been brought in by three county members, and city members surely had a right to offer any amendment.

Mr. McClure said the object of the resolution was not to reach farmers but speculators who held large tracts of land to the injury of Dr. Tolmie referred to the resolution to

show that it obliged pasture lands to be fenced, and as speculators did not pasture cattle, of course the clause bore upon the

Mr. DeCosmos said land holders could dispense with fencing by mutual agreement. He would willingly allow a clause to be in serted to allow pasturage on Government

Mr. McClure said unless some stipulation in regard to pasturage were made land specu-

lators could easily evade the law by pasturing a few cattle over the tracts held by them, and thus defeat the whole intent of the law. Dr. Dickson said in reply to the remark that there was not enough agricultural land to feed the colony, that in one district alone—Cowichan—there was land enough to feed a population of 50,000 (hear, hear). Another farmer at North Sasnieh told him that close

beside his farm there was a large tract of fer-tile land lying totally waste, and owned by an absence.

Dr. Tolmie said as to there not being land enough to feed the colony, that what he meant was that if the colony continued to prosper, it would have to depend on foreign sources for its agricultural supplies. The 3000 acres of Indian Reserve so often alluded to, were not, so far as he could learn all arable land, a great deal of it being overflowed

by the tide, and much being willow swampe. Mesers. Burnaby and Cochrane who had left the House here returned to their seats.

Mr. Bayley said if the House laid this tax on unimproved lands held for speculative purposes they would be doing a positive injury to bona fide settlers no, nol by preventing them from availing themselves of the unoccupied lands adjoining them. Parties who came here early and bought tracts of lands and paid for them had a right to hold them as they saw fit.

Dr. Helmeken said in order to put an end to this question.

to this question, which tended to unsettle the tenure of land throughout the colony, he would move that the committee do now

Mr. DeCosmos rose to speak,

allowed on the motion.

Mr. DeCosmos objected.

Mr. Burnaby moved that the point of order be referred to the Speaker in the chair. The Speaker took the chair and stated that the motion "that the committee do now rise" was the parliamentary mode of putting an end to the debate. It was equivalent to a motion of "the previous question" in the House. No debate could then be allowed on

the motion isnegge of The House supported the Speaker's decision by a vote of 7 to 3.

The motion that the chair do now rise was again put and carried by the casting vote of Ayes—Helmeken, Tolmie, Trimble, Bure

naby, Cochrane (5).
Noes—DeCosmos, M'Clure, Dickson, Duncan, Dennes (5). The motion to tax unimproved lands was

require immediate attention two nwords suff report has also been drawn benruothe saugh MIDSHIPMEN SEVLARKING.—The Honolulu Advertiser recounts the frolics of some young midshipmen belonging to H.M.S. Clio, that terminated rather ingloriously to the participants in what was no doubt considered by them a good practical joke. A certain young scion of the noble house of Beresford and some companions it would seem attended a ball given in Honolulu, and on returning from the festive scene were seized with a desire to perpetrate a practical joke. The first ocject that engaged their attention happened to to be the signboard containing the national arms affixed in front of the U.S. Legation. This they removed, and carried off with them on board ship. Suspicion having subsequently fastened on the young lads, enquiry was instituted, and the missing board was found in their quarters. Captain Tournour caused the youths to be placed under arrest, and the

amende honorable was made in such a manner as to remove all unpleasant feeling

The Advertiser says: It is due to all concerned to state that Capt. Tournour called
upon the Minister Resident, and expressed
his regret at the outrage, and offered to settle the matter in such manner as Mr. McBride might suggest. Accordingly, on Saturday last at 10 a.m., Capt. Tournour, accompanied by the midshipmen who removed it, proceeded to the Legation, and the sign was replaced by them personally, after which they apologized to Mr. McBride, and thanked him for his leniency in the premises. The conduct of Capt. Tournour throughout the matter was most gentlemanly and considerate."

Loss of the Ship Monsoon.-The Hono lulu Advertiser of April 29th gives the particulars of the loss of the ship Monsoon, of Bos ton, at Howland's Island, where she was loading guaso. The Monsoon, in a heavy S. S. W. gale, swung on to a reef and subsequently went down stern foremost about one mile from the island, with 1100 tons of guano on board. One life was lost. The two officers and thirteen of the crew of the ship Arno, wrecked in August were received on board the British brig Ben Nevis, Capt. Kemmond, bound from Sydney to Shangbai. The captain and his family were saved by Captain Chisholm, Superintendent of the Island, who bravely launched a boat through heavy; surf and proceeded to their rescue.

DESTRUCTION OF IDAHO CITY BY FIRE. Intelligence reached Portland on Friday last that Idaho city was almost entirely burnt supply down on the 18th. The loss is said to be heavy, but no details had been received. Should the business portion of the city have been consumed, the consequences may prove very serious to the miners in the Boise Basin who mostly depend upon Idaho traders for their supplies, as it would have the effect of immediately raising all articles of consump-tion to famine prices.

THE PLAGUE IN RUSSIA .- The frightful malady which has been recently devastating Russia is supposed to have been caused by the presence in St. Petersburg of some 43,-000 more workmen than the usual number They are unable to obtain work, and are therefore obliged to live in unhealthy localities, and to subsist chiefly on black bread, which this year contains a large proportion of horned rye, which is most deleterious to G or IDANO CERY -A private lor. diland

A late number of the Halifax Unionist mentions a rumor that Governor Gordon, of New Brunswick, had applied for leave to resign. It has been generally understood that the Lieutenant-Governors of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have done their best to dea feat the Confederation scheme in those pro-