

The Weekly British Colonialist and Chronicle.

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Taking it as the basis of sound financial administration that the expenditure of a country should be regulated by its population and commerce, we proceed to-day to show how the two stand connected in British Columbia. The white population, although it cannot be ascertained exactly, is supposed to be in the neighborhood of 12,000, and the Indian 40,000, though some place the latter as high as 60,000, which is generally considered too high. Allowing for the purposes of taxation, five Indians as equal to one white man, the whole tax-paying population of the colony cannot exceed 20,000. Yet for an amount of population that would only make a small city, the country requires \$576,000. Let us see how this vast amount is distributed among the different departments and then we shall be better able to understand how much or how little is devoted to the general benefit of the country after the payment of the officials. Independently of the Civil list, which provides for the Governor, and other Heads of Departments to the amount of \$51,167, there is the Private Secretary's office which, with his salary, stationery, and extra assistance is \$2,550. The Legislative Council with clerk, messengers, light and fuel, \$900. The Colonial Secretary's office with Assistant Colonial Secretary, two clerks and messenger, \$4,860. The Treasurer's office, with chief clerk and two subordinate clerks, messenger, \$4,800. The Auditor-General's office, with the Auditor-General, chief and under clerks, \$5,050. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works and Surveyor-General, with Assistant Surveyor-General, clerk, draughtsman and messenger, \$4,500. Customs with chief clerk, clerk, messenger, deputy collector, \$5,340; Outdoor Department, with revenue officer, three landing waiters, two boatmen and night watchmen, deputy collector at Burrard Inlet, constable at Osyoos, \$7,586, making \$12,926. Registrar-General's office, with Registrar-General of Titles, Victoria, and assistant \$735. Harbor Master and Government Pilot, \$1,800. Post Office, Postmaster at Victoria, clerk and messenger at New Westminster, \$2,200 (Mr Wootton's salary was increased by the Legislature). Supreme Court—Registrar of Court, V. I., Registrar of Court, B. C., messenger, V. I., \$3,450; Attorney-General's office with clerical assistance, \$500; High Sheriff, in lieu of travelling expenses, \$750, making altogether \$4,700. Police establishment at New Westminster, with Chief Inspector of Police, High Constable, two constables, Indian messenger, warden of goal, two goaters, medical officer, \$5,690; Victoria, Stipendiary Magistrate, clerk, sergeant of Police, three constables, goaler, assistant goaler, superintendent of convicts, two convict guards, two door guards, one cook, medical officer, \$12,141 total for both places, \$17,831. Gold Commissioners for Columbia and Kootenay districts, \$10,000; Cariboo including Quesnel, \$14,900; Hope, Yale and Lytton, \$6,700; Lillooet, Oklino and Soda Creek, \$4,400; Nanaimo district, \$2,430, which with allowances and contingencies included, make a grand total of \$157,010. In opposition to these items, we find others bearing upon the intelligence, happiness, convenience and prosperity of the public, that exhibit a strong and painful contrast, viz., there is Education put down for \$6,000; Conveyance of Mails, \$29,400; Works and Buildings, \$5,800; Roads, Streets and Bridges, \$50,000; Drawbacks and Refund of Duties, \$1,100, making a total of only \$91,800, for expenses indispensable to the progress of the country and well being of the people, against \$157,010, for the maintenance of departments and the payment of officials, many of which might have been amalgamated or altogether dispensed with. If it were incumbent on the Executive to make certain provisions in order to meet certain obligations, it would have been better to have gone to work thoroughly in the true spirit of retrenchment than to have imposed taxes and tariffs which have crippled our commerce and lessened our population. Even if the colony were in a prosperous condition, the Governmental staff is far too large for its necessities. In the Colonial Secretary's office and the Judiciary it would not be difficult to point out where a large saving might be effected. In many other departments an equal reduction might have been made without impairing the efficiency of the Government. Take the two jails at Victoria and New Westminster, without saying which should have been reduced or abolished, one certainly might and ought to have been. The Postmasters and Registrars are open to attack. In fact, in looking carefully through the whole of the departments, excepting perhaps the Customs and the Stipendiary Magistrates of the interior, nothing can be said in justification of their number, force and expense. The great evil of this gross expenditure is that no present or future provision can be made for the wants and necessities of the country. The day will come here though not for years, as it came in California, when the yield of gold will decrease with the exhaustion of the placer diggings, and in the meantime provision should be made here, as was made in that State, to encourage commerce, agriculture, trade and internal improvements. But while the total revenue is consumed at present and prospectively in Governmental expenses how can steam communication be secured; roads to rich but idle lands opened; the necessities of life and labor cheapened in Cariboo by the abolition of oppressive tolls; manufactures, freeholds, and internal improvements encouraged and placed upon a safe footing? Then there are moral considerations which also condemn this expenditure; such as the inefficiency of our schools and hospitals, etc. In fact the vigor and intelligence of the Government is paralyzed by its and is likely to remain so. But these things have been stated so often that it looks almost ridiculous to repeat them. If that repetition can do no good now, because redress is not in our power, it may hereafter, by preparing the public mind to see the necessity of some change in the administration, or at all events of insisting upon a representative element in the next Legislature which will secure the people a controlling power over the expenditure of the public revenue.

MIRAGE.—Mr Homfray has sent us the following account of a beautiful phenomenon, a mirage as seen from Beacon Hill yesterday afternoon: "The sea" was calm and the atmosphere hot, a large vessel was under full sail, down the Straits, when suddenly it changed its appearance; a large black object was then seen floating in the air directly over the mast-head, from which gradually descended sails and masts, until they reached the mast-head of the vessel underneath; after floating about for some time faded away, and again reappeared with double refraction. Two ships in the air, and one underneath poised exactly one above the other. At the same time the dark hull of the ship was seen perpendicularly on each side of the images like two large black smoke stacks with the white sails between, three times in height. The sea at the time was dotted over with a number of circular islands quite sharp and distinct in their outlines. The hills of Sooke became inverted over the light-house, and as if thrown across to the opposite shore, at least 100 feet in the air, with a clear view of the Straits below, thus forming a natural and beautiful bridge from Sooke to the Olympian range. Immediately after the light-house and opposite shores became inverted, the whole scene constantly changing and forming phantasies as strange as they are beyond description. It was a wild and weird scene, which would not be often witnessed in a life time.

THE SCIENCE OF REPORTING.—The science of reporting, which has now attained such perfection, had a much more ancient origin than is generally supposed. For what does the venerable Pintarch say? Cicero dispersed about the Senate House several expert writers, whom he had taught to make certain figures, and who did, in little and short strokes, equivalent to words, pen down all he said.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.—Admiral Sir Henry Chads died at Portsmouth on Tuesday. General Sir George Augustus Weherall, G.C.B., K.H., died, on Wednesday, at the Royal Military College, in the eighty-first year of his age, deeply mourned by every officer in the army. A review of all the troops in the Dublin garrison took place, on 3rd April, at the Fifteen Acres, Phoenix Park, Ireland. Lord Strathairn, Commander-in-Chief of the forces, assumed the chief command, and the evolutions were on a scale of unusual magnitude. The first inspection of the present volunteer year, as also the first by the new Inspector-General of the Reserved Forces, Major-General Lindsay, was held, last Saturday evening, in Regent's Park. The regiment selected for this honour was the 19th Middlesex, under Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Hughes, M. P., which mustered over 400 men on the occasion, and went through their movements in so admirable a manner as to elicit the high commendations of General Lindsay. At a meeting of officers connected with the city of Edinburgh volunteers, convened by the Lord Provost, and held the other day, it was resolved that a volunteer review should take place in the Queen's Park on Saturday, July 4. It is expected that about 6,000 volunteers will be present.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.—Major-General the Hon. James Lindsay having represented to the metropolitan volunteer commanding officers that it would be impossible to have a march past on Southsea-common and a review on Portdown hill on Easter Monday without running a risk of not getting the various corps back at night, a deputation of the officers attended at the War Office last Saturday afternoon, and had a long consultation with General Lindsay on the subject. The Mayor of Portsmouth and a deputation from the local arrangements committee also attended. It was resolved that it is desirable to dispense with the proposed evolutions on Portdown hill, and that the manoeuvres shall be confined to a march past on Southsea-common, with a few simple movements on the neighboring beach and on the opposite shore, near Gosport. Great dissatisfaction was occasioned among the London corps on learning of the resolve to take the sham fight from the Easter Monday programme; and it was feared that the numbers attending would, in consequence, be greatly diminished. Another visit to Portdown hill and Hilsen line of defence was again made, on Tuesday, by the metropolitan officers, the Mayor of Portsmouth, and the local committee; and it was decided that the sham fight shall take place, with certain modifications, agreeably to the plan first laid down. The details of the country and metropolitan corps of volunteers who are to take part in the review has been issued by the War Office. It appears that the country corps will number 15,999 men, and those of the metropolis 15,904; and these, with the 3000 or 4000 regulars expected to take part in the review, will furnish the largest muster hitherto attained on these occasions. The whole force will consist of four divisions, and as soon as they have marched past will proceed by different routes to Hilsen lines. The first division, which will include the regular troops, will march by way of King's-terrace, Leadport, and Kingston-cross to Cosham and Wymering, which they will invest. The second division will march by way of Palmerston road to Kingston-cross and Portbridge and join the attacking force. The third division will leave the common by the same route as the first, but will make for Stainslaw-lane, and so cross the fields to the left of Hilsen works, where there is a road made a cross the creek, but which is only capable of allowing the passage of two men at a time. The fourth division will go by the same route as the first, but will take up a position on the right of the defending force. These, being drawn up behind Hilsen lines, will drive out the enemy from Cosham and Wymering, who will then retreat and make another stand, their right resting on Paulsgrove, and there left on the brow of the hill between Southwick Port and Widley Port. In the harbour, opposite Paulsgrove, a flotilla of launches, and possibly a gunboat, will assist the defenders in driving the enemy from the second position. The defenders will then endeavour to turn the left flank of the enemy, who will retreat over the hill; and the mimic fight will end as near as possible at four in the afternoon. The brigade nearest to Portsmouth will then commence the return march, and be followed as rapidly as possible by the other brigades; the artillery to bring up the rear. On the metropolitan corps arriving at Portsmouth they will form up by brigades on the glacis of Townsend Bastion—that is, just opposite the railway station—there to remain till they receive orders for departure. The War Office recommend that officers in command of corps shall make arrangements for providing refreshments at this place, and that they shall not allow their men to leave the neighbourhood of their battalion. The infantry corps coming from the west will march direct to Fareham; those from Kent and Sussex to Havant.

THE WOMAN.—The woman paid for some hours when her relief. The man was preliminary trial, and the prisoner here employed. Circumstantial evidence the prisoner and it was on held. He has got to red house until we get a civil he can be tried; as the power to interfere in a case.

MINING.—The Indians arrived a few days at rich diggings have been much reliance to be placed on the question. Where this about 150 miles due north.

BARNEY O'RAGAN.—The woman paid for some hours when her relief. The man was preliminary trial, and the prisoner here employed.