

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, February 13, 1869

THE SCHOOL BILL just introduced into the Council by hon. Mr. Alston is a retrograde measure. At a time when liberal principles have gained the ascendancy in Great Britain and a system of Free Education is in course of preparation; when Robert Lowe (present Chancellor of the Exchequer) who prior to the passage of the Reform bill was a fierce opponent of every scheme that provided for the instruction of the masses of the English population as "endangering the estates of the realm," has declared that education must keep pace with the franchise, and that the new classes of voters must be educated to vote understandingly; and when John Bright, Radical leader in the House of Commons, who has over and over again declared, in a out of the House, that every parent has a right to "demand that his children shall be educated at the expense of the State," occupies a seat in the British Ministry—it is melancholy to find in this young colony that the people submit without a remonstrance to have swept away the system of Free Education which has worked so well on the Island. The bill brings us back nearly to the denominational system proposed by Governor Seymour two years ago, and rejected then by the Council. It provides for the appointment of a salaried Superintendent and the creation of schools in each district, the teachers to be paid partly by Government and partly by fees. In moving the second reading of the bill the hon promoter took occasion to say that "free schools on the Island had proved a complete failure. That they did prove partial failures is indisputable; but why did not Mr. Alston proceed to tell his hearers the reason of the failure? Why did he not inform them that when the Council voted monies for the payment of the teachers those monies were withheld by the Government? Why did he not mention the fact that since the resignation of the Superintendent, the President of the Board (Dr Powell) has discharged the onerous duties without fee or reward of any kind—not even thanks? No doubt the necessities of the Government were pressing, and the monies were devoted to other purposes; but the responsibility of failure, be it understood, cannot rest with the system if the teachers went unpaid and District Schools were closed because the Board of Education declined to give their personal guarantees that the salaries would be met. To say that the schools fell to pieces "from the inherent viciousness of the method," sounds badly coming from Mr. Alston, when he ought to know that they languished and died away for want of Governmental aid. It is charged by the same gentleman that the Free Schools of Victoria swallowed up the educational grants; but what is the fact? In 1868, \$60,000 were voted for educational purposes against \$10,000 in 1866, and a like sum in 1867. Can the "inherent viciousness of the system" be honestly blamed for the failure of the smaller sum to go as far as the larger in discharging the liabilities of the Board? We do not say that the Government was to "blame" in not taking a larger sum for the purposes of education; we only mention the fact, which appears patent to everyone save the hon promoter of the bill. Whether an assisted method will prosper or not is a matter that we think is open to very grave doubts. The teacher is not only a teacher; he is a collector of small debts as well. For every scholar in attendance upon the schools Government will pay one-half, and the parent one-half. These fees will be devoted to the support of the teachers and the payment of the general expenses of the schools. The teachers are thus charged with the double duty of imparting tuition and collecting fees from the scholars. One dollar a month per scholar is a very small sum; but where there are five or six children in one family to be educated, the sum required to insure the admittance of all assumes quite respectable proportions; and if

the parents have not the command of the necessary means, their children must grow up untaught. By the proposed measure the man of family, who already pays taxes on all the food and raiment his little ones consume, is taxed to educate them, while the man without a family contributes but little towards the revenue and has nothing whatever to do with school taxes or fees. Under the free system the expenses are met from the general revenue, towards which every one contributes something, whether he has children requiring to be educated or not,—the man of family in a greater proportion, of course, than the single man; but when the Custom-house has been satisfied he is not called on to pay for the education of his children. As a tax-payer he secures that as a right which should not be lightly valued. The free method has worked well, we maintain, on the Island, so far as the means at the disposal of the Board of Education reached. If the Government saw fit to curtail the grants, and impair the usefulness of the system, it was no fault of the system or of those who were entrusted with the duty of carrying it out. We regret this Government has thought proper to send down the School Bill; but we regret still more to find members who are supposed to represent the popular feeling on every question, announcing their intention of voting for the abolition of Free Schools.

Tuesday Feb 9

THE HEALTH BILL.—In the debate on the above Bill, hon. Mr. Davie was desirous that power should be vested in "somebody" to remove at once such a dangerous condition as the following facts would exemplify. There are at this moment shanties in Cormorant and Fisgard streets where the bodies of Indians who have died of small pox have laid (and who in some cases have laid there until they were black with decomposition), which shanties have been whitewashed within and without, but the floors are in much the same state as when the bodies were removed. We know little of the laws of infection; but some atmospheric condition might call into action at any time the elements of disease which may remain, and thus a visitation of that much dreaded disease might obtain. Every board of such buildings ought to be destroyed. There are notices in the windows of these buildings—"This House to Let, enquire," etc; and was to the poor families who may take shelter in them. He was no alarmist; but a preventive is better and certainly easier than a cure. He therefore would vote for the so-called "arbitrary powers" in this bill.

ALASKA LIGHTHOUSES.—It has been recommended by the U.S. Lighthouse Board that six lighthouses should be erected in the Territory of Alaska, to be placed as follows:—On Vitkorok Rock, Sitka Sound, a light of the second order; on the Island of Moch-nati, a light of the fifth order. These are inner lights and aids to navigation in approaching New Archangel. As aids to navigation necessary for the approaches to the harbor of St Paul, Kodiak Island, there should be a light on Sag Island, and one on Near Island, and also a small harbor light on the high ridge at the northern end of Rocky Island, abreast of the town. As aids to navigation for Unalaska Bay, on the north side of the Island of the same name, a light should be placed on a bold, high island called Ahmahook, which lies about half way inside the entrance to the harbor. These are the points suggested by Mr Davidson, who had charge of the coast survey party engaged in making the geographical reconnaissance of Alaska, shortly after its purchase by the United States from the Russian Government.

THE THEATRE.—East Lyons' was produced last evening to an overflowing house. The character of Lady Label Vane was rendered by Mrs Bates, as that lady renders every part she undertakes—in a most charming manner. In the affecting scenes she was grand and thrilling, and drew tears from every eye. Mr Bates played Archibald Carlyle with exceeding good taste and correctness. Mr Thayer's Sir Francis Lovison was cleverly executed. As Cornelia Carlyle, Miss Field was amusing and effective. Mr Fuller, Miss Cummings, Miss Bella Bird and Miss Bella Bird were all successful in the roles entrusted to them. This evening the 'Lady of Lyons' will be given.

IMPORTANT TO GRAPE GROWERS.—We understand, says the Folsom (Cal.) Telegraph, that on the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad the company intend to arrange to send grapes through to New York for \$100 per ton and furnish cars expressly for the purpose on their roads. The price of table grapes—the white varieties—has ranged from 50 to 75 cents per pound, and scarce at that. In California they are worth 3 or 4 cents, and it is said that California, with her thousands of vineyards, will not be able to supply New York city alone.

BENEFIT OF MRS BATES.—This lady will take a benefit this evening, when she will appear in her great character of Pauline in the play of 'The Lady of Lyons,' supported by her talented husband in the role of Claude Melnotte. Mrs Bates, during her short stay in Victoria, has won the attention and admiration of the public; no artist who preceded her has succeeded in doing. Her efforts to please and edify have been unwearied, and we hope that her claims for a bumping benefit will not be disregarded.

MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE.—We have again to remind our readers that the Lecture of the Rev Mr Jenns will be delivered this evening, and we look for a delightful evening's amusement. The pictures to be displayed through the medium of the Oxyhydrogen Lantern are most interesting, and to those who have visited the Palace of Sydenham will recall many old associations. We sincerely trust the entertainment will be well attended, as the proceeds are to be applied in aid of the institution.

THE NEXT DIRECT STEAMER.—Mr Brodriek, agent for the California, Oregon and Mexico Steamship Company, received a telegram last night announcing that the company's steamer John L Stephens will sail for Victoria on Friday next. After landing freight and passengers for Victoria at Esquimalt, the Stephens will sail on or about Tuesday next for Forts Tongass and Wrangell and Sitka.

POSTPONED.—Mr Hayward, who was brought before the police magistrate upon a charge of damaging a railing placed around the grave of a brother of Councillor J G McKay, having agreed to make good the damage done, the case was yesterday further postponed to afford him the opportunity of doing so.

THE SINGULAR CHARGE OF ROBBERY.—Capt Thomas Thornton, of the sloop Leonide, appeared on remand before Mr Pemberton yesterday to answer the charge of robbery preferred against him by John Cummings. No additional evidence being forthcoming, the accused was discharged.

THE ROCKETRY FOR THE USE OF THE VICTORIA WHALING ADVENTURERS COMPANY are being loaded in a building at Oliver Point. The steamer Emma will be put in order for the expedition, which will leave here on or about the first proximo for the scene of operations.

THE BABY NOISANCE.—Another baby found its way to the theatre last evening and crowded and squealed until its maternal relative removed it, to the great relief of operators who were so unfortunate as to have seats in its vicinity.

DENTISTRY.—Persons having decayed or sensitive teeth would do well to call on Dr. Gredy, Dentist, at the Colonial Hotel—office, room No. 1. The doctor comes highly recommended, and is a first-class operator.

CHILDREN NEW YEAR commenced yesterday, and the festivities will last three days. The occurrence of these holidays is fine fun for the Chinamen, but they bri death to many a noble porker.

SNOW.—The first snow of the year fell yesterday. It was a slight sprinkling, melting as soon as it reached the ground. Skatjats may hang up their pedal adjuncts. There will be no winter.

A COMPANY is being organized in New York city to recover treasure from a Spanish vessel sunk one hundred and eighteen years ago, near Turk's Island.

THE New York Express says the Hebrews are the chief owners of real estate in New York.

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.—There will be an eclipse of the sun on Thursday, but it will be invisible in this latitude.

THE heavy sou'wester of yesterday inflicted no damage in this vicinity, but prostrated a number of trees near the line of the Saanich road.

A COURT OF ASSIZE and General Gaol Delivery will be opened on Tuesday the 16th inst. The business will be light.

PROF. AGASSIZ says that fish diet is the best to promote the growth and development of the human brain.

THE first train of cars over the Pacific Railroad is to start from Springfield, Mass. and run through to Sacramento.

ALASKA cost the United States less than two cents an acre.

A LODGE of colored Templars has been instituted in Philadelphia.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—With the darkening days and changing temperatures the digestion becomes impaired, the liver disordered, and the mind depressed unless the cause of the irregularity be expelled from the blood and body by an alternative like these Pills. They go directly to the source of the evil, thrust out all impurities from the circulation, reduce distended organs to their natural state, and correct all defective or contaminated secretions. Such easy means of instituting health, strength, and cheerfulness should be in the possession of all whose stomachs are weak, whose minds are much harassed, or whose brains are overworked. Holloway's is essentially a blood purifying medicine whereby its influence reaching the remotest fibre of the frame, effects a universal good.

Legislative Council.

Monday, Feb. 8th, 1869.

Present.—Hons. Hamley, Walkem, Carrall, Homphreys, Ring, Alston, Sanders, Busby, Robson, Grasse, Davie, Helmecken, Woods, O'Reilly, Trutch, Ball, Drake, Young (presiding)

Hon Carrall wished to be informed in relation to the petition of a Mr Oadell who desired to have a patent for a new mining machine.

Hon Young would recommend the petitioner to apply to the Chief Commissioner who would give a certificate if required, upon which the patent would issue.

Hon Walkem laid before the Council reports from the Committee on Drawbacks, Pilotage and the Supplying of Ships with stores free of duty.

Hon Ring asked leave to bring in a bill to extend the time limited by the extension Ordinance of 1867 for the Harewood Colliery Co's Railway, Leave granted.

NEW SITE FOR A CEMETERY.

Hon Alston called the attention of the Government to the condition of the Victoria Cemetery, and asked the hon Colonial Secretary whether a site could be appropriated for a new Cemetery outside the city limits. He had only to point out the fact that the Cemetery was now in a settled part of the city, and although it was now in a more satisfactory condition than it was a few weeks ago, it was still prejudicial to health.

Hon Young—There are great difficulties in the way of government interfering as there is no ground available for such a purpose. A part of the Indian reserve had been suggested, but that, as hon members would readily understand, was out of the question, as it would be highly inconvenient. When it would be found necessary to close the present cemetery, an appropriation would necessarily be made to purchase a new site, but at present there were no funds to spare.

Hon Helmecken thought the question had better stand over for the season, as he thought it likely the Municipal Council would move in the matter. He thought the subject should properly be left in the hands of the Town Council.

VICTORIA BY-LAW ORDINANCE.

Hon Grasse asked leave to introduce the Victoria By-law Ordinance, 1869. It was intended to give vigor and force to certain by-laws by giving the Municipal Council power to raise funds in order to make the by-laws effective. Leave granted and bill read a first time. Second reading on Monday next.

Hon Grasse asked leave to introduce the Municipal Amendment Ordinance, 1869. Leave given, and Bill read a first time. Second reading for Monday next.

ELECTED MEMBERS.

Hon Humphreys asked whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a measure in accordance with the intimation in the opening speech, to enable the people to elect nine representatives without being subject to the concurrence of the Governor, or not.

Hon Trutch—The impression formed in relation to another motion of a similar character was that it was not courteous to ask the Governor questions in relation to suggestions in the opening speech.

Hon Humphreys—So long as he was a member of that House, or in any other position, he would never do anything that would be disrespectful to the Governor; he had no such intention.

Hon Young would bring the question before the notice of his Excellency and it would doubtless receive every attention. The motion was then withdrawn.

MESSAGE NO. 9.

His Excellency laid before the Council an Ordinance to regulate the Supreme Courts of British Columbia. It was read a first time.

The motion of the hon Mr Drake in relation to the Supreme Courts was postponed.

The commitment of the Mineral Lands Bill was postponed.

The House took up the Health Bill in Committee of the Whole, Hon Alston in the Chair. After some trifling amendments to the bill, it was reported complete; third reading for to-morrow.

The Fire Bill was postponed for amendment.

The Game Ordinance of 1869 was taken up in Committee, and subsequently reported complete, with a few amendments; third reading for to-morrow.

The Cattle Bill was then taken up in Committee, and some objections were raised as to some of the provisions which were likely to create inconvenience in some portions of the Mainland. After some discussion it was agreed to postpone the bill in order that certain additions might be made to render it more effective.

The Council then adjourned until 1 p.m., to-morrow.

Dr. Davie and the Metehosin Road.

Victoria, Feb. 6th, 1869.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—In the "corrected paragraph," and as reported it was much more mischievous, of Dr Davie's speech I read in to-day's issue—"The settlers are to a great extent without cash, because the roads are in such a state as to forbid their marketing their produce. I refer especially to Metehosin, Cowichan and North and South Saanich."

I do not know the source of the hon Dr's inspiration as regards the Metehosin road, or the cause of the animus he appears to display against this part of the country, for this is now his second attack on the Metehosin District in the article of roads. But to correct what is evidently a partial statement, I can inform the hon member for the Country Districts that last year, 1868, there was expended on

the Metehosin road proper, 231 days statute labor—the labor of two years—as very little had been employed the previous year, and \$130 cash.

On the road at the boundary of the two districts, Esquimalt and Metehosin say one mile each way, about 100 days' statute labor was expended and \$55 50 cash. (I say about 100 days, for the full returns have not been made up), making a total, if turned into money, expended almost exclusively on the Metehosin road, under specification,

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. 331 days, @ \$1 50.....\$496 50 Cash.....185 50 Total.....\$682 00

and well expended at that, a portion having been under the charge of a practical road-maker. The Metehosin road is nearer 9 miles than 20 in length.

There is but one place that can at all support the hon Dr's animadversions, and that, unfortunately, was done at so late a period of the year, the statute labor giving out at the same time, that it was not gravelled over after having been graded. But in this place a difference of at least 4 to 5 feet in grading and levelling was made. Several of the worst places on the road were graded, acclivities being cut away and hollows filled in, and one important bridge entirely rebuilt and raised 5 feet. In 1867, the Bilston bridge, 186 feet long, was entirely stripped and re-covered.

It is a pity that the Metehosin settlers, who are by no means wanting in will or ability to help themselves—it is a pity that they had not the vigorous though unfair advocacy of the hon Dr some two years ago when the roads were really impassable in places except to draught cattle of the Barclay & Perkins type.

I appeal to the hon senior member for Victoria city to substantiate what I have said, for he has travelled the road, and has since taken the opportunity of getting a government grant of \$200 towards a piece of the road which requires to be formed new on this side of Pedder Inlet.

The hon member for the districts had not thought of this way of expressing sympathy for the Metehosin settlers.

I intended here terminating this letter, but my intention has been called more than once to an assertion by another hon member, reported on 23rd January, that the 'Road Act in Vancouver Island was the most absurd Act ever passed.' This, though of course very childish, from a government official I consider pretty strong; but it was followed up by the extraordinary assertion: 'He knew of one Road Commissioner who had spent on his own farm all that had been appropriated for one district.' I do not quite know what is here meant by 'appropriated,' but the gullibility of the hon member must be extreme if he really believes such a statement. Having been connected with the Road Commissions for three years, I can only say that such a case has never come to my knowledge.

I am, sir, etc., EDWD. MALLANDAIN, Clerk to the Road Boards, and Acting Superintendent of the first-mentioned road.

Varieties.

A farmer in Michigan, finding that his sheep were disappearing mysteriously recently placed a wolf-trap in the field. A few days afterwards he found it sprung, and now one of his neighbors is laid up with a sprained ankle.

The announcement being made that quantities of American whiskey are sent abroad and returned as French Brandy, an American paper thinks people are lucky who get brandy which has seen France in any shape.

They transport Indians on Western railways as freight. An Indian boy recently arrived at a Missouri town with a tag on his clothing, describing his destination.

Americans are said to be the most extravagant tourists in Europe. Wherever they gather in numbers, the cost of living is sure to increase, through their reckless use of money.

A Virginia couple, bent on marriage, could not get to the parson on account of a frolic, so they stood on one side of a swollen stream and he on the other, and thus they were married.

There was a great illumination in Jerusalem when the Sultan's edict liberating the Holy City forever from military service and military taxes was published.

Tom Hood died composing—and that, too, a humorous poem. He is said to have remarked that he was dying out of charity to the undertaker, who wished to turn a lively Hood.

Immense herds of buffalo are now found two hundred and fifty miles west of the Missouri river. One gentleman thinks he passed through a herd of 1,000,000.

Pauperism has, during the last year, increased over 50 per cent. in London. There, as in America, there are plenty of agencies to ameliorate, but few that aim to eradicate it.

The proprietors of the Paris Acier have lost \$30,000 since its establishment, principally from fines imposed for processions.

Only three of the sovereign princes of Europe profess to enjoying good health. They are the Kings of Prussia, Belgium and Denmark.

The small pox, it is said, exists to a considerable extent among the crowded tenement houses of New York.

Broadway barkeeper claims he is a philanthropist, on the ground that his life is devoted to the "elevation" of his race.

Saturday, February 13, 1869

The fifteenth instant debate upon the motion relative to Confederation.

a consistent opponent of the motion, and his opinion shared by a very large Council. The majority in upon an expression of opinion upon the interests of Confederation say or do what the Council may, they will get no will be a long debate upon the Council will pass tions, and there the matter what influence can the Council exert? Will it in the scale when the Ho shall be prepared to think not. What effectia's entreaties, remonstrance in preventing the incorporation with Canada? Nova Scotia enjoyed form of Government, while (I) with its Antipodes, our Legislative Council of Confederation will be roundabout way the Cro adopted of protesting age of their offices, the consu cannot possibly be avert any action they may tak interesting debate is as as we have just said, amount to? Confederation whether it is wanted action on our part for avail to stop its advance

So far as it relates to Mineral Lands' Bill offered to the mineral land two years, discovered because he may have \$10,000, in working or liable to have the land der his feet by capital stand ready to avail discoverer's enterprise. The price asked for high. The conditions liberal; but the poor man that is the demands reasonable p the encroachments of the ist before he will be for hills and valleys in s mineral wealth.

In another part of our Gazette of Canada of J proclamation is of int politicians in this part well as in Canada. The statutes of the Order of George, enables her M to her Colonial possess are three in number, vi Cross; Knights Comm panions. The first twenty-five in number the third, one hundred, designed to reward e important services rend of the Crown.

LEACH RIVER.—Mr in from the river ye things necessary for his again this morning. He favorable progress, being the fine weather. He he prospecting during the te and showed us the proce the upper dirt he is which considering that it was taken from is fou gives him a safe thing o dollars a day. We speal referring to the Pacific where the history of Cal is fully given, (page 60) worked by this process averaged one cent to the twelve years washing it lous sum of 38,000,000. To be washed this sum will average three cents in fact from Kennedy. he is convinced the who \$5 or \$10 a day to be worked, though the is considered to be rich east. We are quite sat ourselves, we will watch with great interest, a every assistance to the enterprise illustrates a portance to this city.