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The Legislative Council proceedings for the past few days have possessed more than usual interest—several matters vitally affecting the country having come before the body for discussion or final disposal. Among the most important measures of the session was the Supreme Courts Bill. This measure, which originally provided for the maintenance of the present cumbersome, expensive and anomalous system of the administration of justice, came before the Council heralded by the prestige and weight of Imperial sanction; and it was feared at first members were prepared to accept it as brought before them and outvoted the popular members in an attempt at amendment. This fear, we are glad to say, has proved groundless. The Acting Colonial Secretary announced that the bill was open to amendment, and added that even he was prepared to support it with amendments. Since this concession, the official members have assisted to alter the principle of the bill unremorsefully, and notwithstanding the plaintive appeals of the poor Attorney-General (who seems ever doomed to see his bantlings dissected before his very eyes) in behalf of two Judges and two separate staffs of Court officials, the measure as it passed the Council provides for one Chief Justice and one *justice* Judge, with concurrent jurisdiction. The bill will now be satisfactory—highly so to the public, who have been the only losers by the miserably system now in vogue, and who have attentively watched the passage of the bill through its various stages. Apropos of the Attorney-General, we are reminded of one of his extraordinary remarks the other day. Speaking to some measure then before the Council, he deprecated action because the country was in a "transition state!" Mr. Croase ought to blush (if he ever did blush) to stand up in the presence of the whole country and make an admission which stamps him either as incompetent or neglectful of his duty. When reproached for employing other gentlemen to prosecute before the Island Courts, the plea was that he "was overworked in assimilating the laws of the two sections." For fifteen months the unfortunate gentleman endures his brains and those of his clerk in bringing order out of chaos, and then stands up and complains that "things are still in a state of transition." His Excellency's reply to a resolution requesting copies of the correspondence, &c., connected with the Dry Dock, is, to say the very least, trifling. His Excellency "regrets" that it will be "inconvenient" to furnish copies of the correspondence between the Admiral, the Governor, and the Imperial Government. Why? Surely the "inconvenience" is not found in a lack of clerical help. The Estimates show a large surplus of able-bodied governmental attaches, for whom (in another message) the Governor expresses much sympathy and declines to reduce them to poverty and dismissal unless there be "absolute necessity" for it. What an absurdity! If strong, able, healthy young men are to be foisted forever on the country because the Governor fears

they will be unable to earn their bread His Excellency certainly entertains a very poor opinion of their efficiency or capacity to earn a livelihood at any honest calling. To carry the principle a little further, the Governor is bound to furnish support for all the unemployed men, as well as feed all the poor families in the country. If superfluous officials are to be continued in office at the public expense because, if turned off, they may have to undergo the same privations that hundreds of those who now contribute to their support have undergone, then we want to see the items classed under one head as "an appropriation for a poor-house" error amount to. But to return to the Dry Dock: We are sorry, for His Excellency's sake, that the copies asked for were not furnished, because their production might have dispelled the idea which has obtained credence here that His Excellency has not seconded Admiral Hastings' effort and recommendation for the location of the Dock at Esquimalt. The plea of "inconvenience" has but one meaning, viz., that the matter has not been pressed upon the notice of the Home Government with that zeal, vigor and ability which His Excellency has shown he is capable of exerting on certain occasions and under certain circumstances. If we judge His Excellency too harshly he has himself to blame. Dr. Helmcken's excellent motion for returns of arrears of Expenditures for 1867 has been carried. We hope it will prove "convenient" to supply them. The Council has again gone through the solemn farce of voting \$10,000 in aid of Education. They might as well have voted the \$20,000 proposed by Mr. Wood. To judge of the future by the past, there is as good a chance of obtaining the large sum as the lesser. We observe, too, that several items have been increased at the suggestion of popular members—the official element acquiescing in the increase with a sweetness of disposition which argues that the Government intends to pay as much attention to the wishes of the Council as it generally does to those of the public. The Council may propose but the Government will dispose, when there are funds in the treasury.

The marvellous success which has attended the operations of the gallant soldier, Gen. Napier, throughout the Abyssinian expedition, has brought his name so prominently before the world again that every body is desirous of knowing who he is. His personal lineage we cannot learn beyond that he does not belong to the fighting Napoleons, but to a family called Napier. There are two branches, we believe, of this distinguished family; one Scotch, the other Irish; and the probability is, that Sir Robert Napier, K. C. B., the subject of this notice, belongs to the latter. His military career, however although confined to India and China is very brilliant. He commenced life in the Royal Engineers, 15th Dec., 1826, and is now Commander-in-Chief at Bombay, Lieutenant-General and Military member of the Council of the Governor-General of India. The wisdom of the English Government in appointing such a man, whose instincts have been sharpened by a life's intercourse with savage and treacherous aborigines, but of great subtlety and military prowess, is obvious from the wonderful success attending his operations from the beginning. To appreciate that success fully we must remember Sir Robert marched his army some 300 miles through a hostile and extremely dangerous country, without meeting a single check, experiencing a single want, or suffering a single casualty worth mentioning, amidst the usual amount of croaking at home and abroad, and with one blow, as it were, obtained a victory so complete and decisive that he presents us with the end before we thought he had reached the beginning. History offers nothing so brilliant in the annals of war for centuries, especially when we remember that the Abyssinian army was neither small, ill supplied with modern arms nor destitute of fighting qualities. Sir Robert, no doubt, will again receive, as he deserves, the thanks and honors of parliament, the gratitude of his country, and the approbation of his sovereign. Such a life is an ornament to his nation, and is worthy a prominent niche in the temple of military fame, the last distinction we can pay in tribute to a man who devotes a long and brilliant career to the service of his country. General Napier commenced in the Staff in 1845-6; was in the battles of Moudke, Ferozahah and Sobraon; received medal and two clasps, was with Wheeler at the taking of Kot Kangra; was through the Panjab war and present at all the principal engagements from Mooltan to the surprise of Atok, received medal and two clasps; was through the Indian mutiny under Outram from the

Topes, received medal and three clasps; commanded 2nd division of China Expedition; Relief of Lucknow to the capture of Fantia; and for that service received medal with two clasps and promotion to Major-General. This is but a synopsis of his brilliant career for which he several times received the thanks of Parliament, and the English and Indian Governments besides the honors mentioned.

Thursday, April 30th
MARRIED WOMEN AND MAIDS.—The *Imperial Review* is troubled with the question whether married women should dance. The opinion is given in favor of the married women.

THEATRE ROYAL.—The audience last night to witness the repetition of Fanchon, if not as large as on the first occasion, was still good and highly appreciative; and considering that our community is not, strictly speaking, large enough to support repetitions, Miss Stone, we think may be satisfied with the attendance. The cast of characters was not changed, and the acting admirable throughout. Indeed, to us, it appeared a little better than the first night in many scenes. There was a calm and subdued power, which in some of the passages were fully affecting; and after all, Miss Stone, like many on the stage and off, is perhaps the most powerful when she least tries to be so. The audience fully recognized this, and applauded all in turn. At the conclusion Miss Stone was called as usual before the curtain.

KOOTENAY MINES.—The Walls Walls Statesman has news from Wild Horse Creek to April 1st. The winter had been mild and spring weather had already commenced, and the big ditch would be ready for service on April 1st. Large amounts of gold were being taken out. Hydraulics have been introduced and work to advantage. On Boulder Creek new diggings have been discovered, and it was thought that this creek would prove very rich. Large numbers of men were going into the mines. Miners and others there at present are represented as doing well, and express themselves satisfied with the future prospects of that country.

OLD FELLOWS' CELEBRATION.—This excellent Order gave a splendid dinner and ball at the Germania rooms Tuesday evening. Some sixty members with their friends sat down to dinner, which passed off in the most harmonious manner. Several able speeches were delivered, full of cheering good-fellowship and liberal and patriotic sentiments. The ball was all that could be desired. With good music and abundance of ladies, the dancing was continued till a late hour in the morning. The "victualling department" was admirably superintended by Asprico.

THE CAPTAIN. now building at Messrs. Laird's yard at Birkenhead, from designs by Captain Coles, R. N., C. B., will be an honest specimen of the gallant officer's turret-ship. She will be large and commodious, and as the Lords of the Admiralty have in no way interfered in the manner of her construction, all merits and all faults (if any of the latter should unfortunately exist) will be Captain Coles' and not their Lordships'. The Captain is only to berth 400 men—rather a small number for a ship of 4,272 tons, and 900 horse-power.

POLICE COURT.—For some time past this court has been especially free from cases of any interest to the public. Yesterday, however, a man named Dillon, having a good character for industry, was charged with an unprovoked assault upon some Indians, and fined \$10, or in default of payment, fourteen days imprisonment. The prisoner himself had evidently been through the mill on a drunken spree, and presented a most dilapidated appearance.

ROAD TRAFFIC.—Several teams and trains for up-country started out last week: Geo. Loyal, with team for Lytton, on Tuesday; Pierce Sherman, with team for Soda Creek, on Wednesday; M. Gauchon, with team for Cashe Creek, on Wednesday; Tompkins for Cariboo, on Thursday, with 20 packs; Arthur McLinden, with wagon, for Lytton; P. L. Anderson, ox team, and Beedy's team, Burke, driver, for Soda Creek and Cariboo, on Saturday.—*Examiner, Yale.*

The manufacturers of meerschaum pipes in Germany, in giving directions for coloring the pipes, say the bowl should not be touched by the hand while warm. As a meerschaum pipe is not to smoke a bowl to the bottom. The color is surer to be fine when not produced too rapidly, but the main thing is that the meerschaum should cool without being touched. This is the only use of smoking with the bowl in a case; exposure to the air does no injury.

The explosion of coal oil lamps is caused by neglecting to cut off the charred portion of the wick when the lamp is filled. Observation will show that in a few days' use the wick becomes like charcoal in composition for an inch below the top of the tube containing it, and after the lamp has burned a short time the heated tube fires all of the charred portion of the wick inside, and that sets the oil on fire below.

STEARSHIP MOVEMENTS.—The John L. Stephens reached Portland yesterday morning with passengers and mails for Victoria. The *Active* is advertised to sail from Portland for Victoria to-morrow, and will reach here on Sunday.

The suffering among the fishermen of Nova Scotia for want of food is declared to be absolutely appalling. The Government and individuals have contributed largely to famishing people with food, but the supply is still inadequate.

EXPLORED.—The U. S. Revenue Cutter Wyanda, Capt. White, sailed from San Francisco on Tuesday for Victoria and Alaska. She will be employed in the surveying department during the summer months. Her arrival may be looked for to-morrow morning.

ANOTHER HINT FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MAIL SUBSIDY.—The new Far Co have two fine propellers which would be just "the thing" for direct steamers. Why not consult that company before closing a bargain?

RAIN.—During Tuesday night a refreshing rain fell to the delight of our gardeners. For general purposes, however, it was by no means sufficient, and the farmers would not grumble if it rained copiously for a couple of days.

GRIST MILL REMOVAL.—Mr. Scott is preparing to remove his grist mill from Lilloget to Clifton. The saw mill for the manufacture of the lumber will be forwarded from Yale early this week.—*Examiner, Yale.*

DEATH.—James Smith, the boatswain of the H. B. Co.'s steamer Otter, died on Monday evening while being conveyed from the steamer to the hospital, of pneumonia. Deceased had been ill for some time.

The steamer George S. Wright, Capt. Langdon, sailed at 9 o'clock yesterday morning for Portland. She carried a few passengers, a small freight, and a mail and express.

WHEAT.—It is expected that 400,000 pounds of wheat will be grown this year in the country around Tranquille river.

The breastpin brought down by Captain Lewis has been identified as that of Mr. Sprague, mate of the schooner Growler.

The steamer Enterprise, with a few passengers, arrived yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

A CONVENTION of popular delegates, to arrange the details of Confederation, is proposed to be held shortly at Yale.

The U. S. S. Saginaw sailed for Alaska at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

A STURGEON, measuring seven feet, was brought down by the Enterprise.

The ship Isaac Jeans sailed from San Francisco, April 13th, for Nanaimo.

Friday, May 1
Dog Poisoning.—Poisoned meat, we learn, has been scattered about the public park at Beacon Hill and several valuable dogs have lost their lives in consequence. The poison, it is believed, was placed there by a shepherd from Portland a number of whom had been worried by curs; but by virtue of what law or custom the drover assumes the right to scatter poison through a place of public resort for the indiscriminate destruction of dogs is something we cannot clearly understand.

A NUMBER of prominent naval officers and industrial private citizens have taken an interest in the Hill Race Course, in order to give light in a rough report. It is the intention of these gentlemen to revive the sports of the turf amongst us, and bring back in this respect, if possible, the old spirit of 1861. This will be welcome news to many of our pioneers, and no doubt the public will give all the co-operation in their power to accomplish so desirable an object. An authoritative statement will be made on the subject in a few days.

It is suggested that on this bright May Day there should be a general suspension of business as a mark of the gratification felt by our people at the miraculous escape of Prince Alfred from death, and the glorious achievements of British arms in Abyssinia. The suggestion should be acted upon. The Legislative Council should also pass an address congratulating Her Majesty.

CAPT. FORSAITH, late U. S. revenue officer at Stekin, has been relieved by G. Walden, and ordered to report for duty at Sitka. Capt. F. is in town and will go north in the U. S. S. Wyanda.

INQUEST.—The inquest held over the body of James Smith, resulted in a verdict of death from violence at the hands of some person or persons unknown to the jury.

GORED.—A Mrs. Lawrence, residing in View street, was badly gored on Tuesday by a cow, while engaged in feeding the animal.

The new schooner *Kinua* (named after King Kamehameha's grandmother) sailed yesterday for Honolulu, S. I.

The steamer *Isabel* arrived from Nanaimo yesterday, having towed down the ship *El Dorado* laden with coal for San Francisco.

It is understood the Council will be prorogued to-day.

Snow fell at Clifton on Wednesday.

A Most Strange Chapter Explained
A Mrs. Clinton, Post Mistress at Broadhead, Wisconsin, has written the following to the *Cincinnati Commercial*:
Having noticed in the *Commercial* of the 12th inst., a highly incredible story copied from the *La Crosse (Wis.) Democrat*, pertaining to a person whose sex, it was claimed, was changed at the age of puberty from that of the female to the male gender, my curiosity to know what truth there might be in so strange a story led me to address the Post-master of the town where this remarkable freak of nature is said to have occurred, for information upon the subject. The following response from Post Mistress of the town of Broadhead, although not scientifically explaining the question of sex pertaining to the individual under discussion, is sufficiently suggestive to enable one to draw a tolerably correct conclusion therefrom:
Mr. Burnham, so-called, was probably born a hermaphrodite (belonging to neither sex) and was assigned by the parents to the female department of the family; but upon attaining the age of maturity, the change of the feminine voice and the growing of a "crop of whiskers," indicated a predominance of the male gender, whereupon Mrs. Powell donned male attire, and changed her relations from that of a wife to a husband, so-called.
The story of said individual having been first a mother and then a father, it will be seen by the accompanying note of the Post Mistress, is without foundation, as was to have been expected.
BROADHEAD, Wis., January 1, 1868.
Sir: The story you wish information about is partly true. Ellen Burnham was married as a woman. I attended her wedding party. She lived two or three years in that relation; then changed her clothing, lived single a year or two, then married a lady of my acquaintance. I understand they live happily together. He never was father or mother. They were some of the first people of the town. His father was a physician, and a very fine man. Yours, respectfully,
"Mrs. ELLENOR H. CLINTON,
Post Mistress."
P. S.—The young lady, Ellen, was the music teacher of his present wife.

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