

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 5.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1864.

NO. 22.

## THE BRITISH COLONIST

EVERY MORNING.

(Sundays Excepted.)

AT VICTORIA, V. I.

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THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

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NOTICE.

Agents:

John Mackin, Nanaimo

Mr. Clarkson, New Westminster

Embell & Gladwin, Yale

Barnard's Express, Forks Quenneville, B. C.

W. R. Burrage, Comox

J. M. Daly, Douglas

L. P. Fisher, San Francisco

F. Algar, Clement's Lane, London

G. Street, 30 Cornhill, London

THE MONSTER MEETING.

At eight o'clock last evening the theatre was crowded to its utmost capacity by an audience representing every class in the community and every shade of political opinion.

On the platform we noticed His Worship the Mayor, Messrs. J. J. Cochrane, A. D. McDonald, Daniel Lindsay, J. Fell, A. D. Bell, J. Arnoup, W. B. Smith, A. Austen, Mr. Fisher, &c.

One of the private boxes was occupied by Mr. Speaker Helmecken, Dr. Tolmie and Mr. DeCosmos, members of the House of Assembly.

His Worship the Mayor, who was loudly cheered on his appearance, took the chair at five minutes after eight.

Mr. Heisterman was requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman said he had been called upon to convene this meeting, and he had pleasure in opening the proceedings. He would ask the large audience before him to bear with him for a few moments, and he would express his feelings on Saturday night, but he appealed to them one and all if he had not acted as a man in his position (applause). He asked the meeting if they would bear him out, in limiting the time to 15 minutes (applause).

Mr. DeCosmos came forward and asked the Chairman not to fix so short a time (loud hisses). He would say that if he had to express his reasons for his votes in the House he would ask not to be limited to time (tremendous hissing, with cheers).

The Mayor said it was evidently the voice of the meeting that the time should be limited to 15 minutes (applause).

Mr. W. J. McDonald rose to propose the following resolution:

That we have witnessed with extreme regret the course adopted by the House of Assembly in not entertaining the question of either a temporary or permanent residence for the representative of Her Majesty Queen Victoria in this colony.

He said I am sorry that it has been necessary to call a meeting for the purpose for which this one has been called, as it casts a certain reflection on the Parliament of this Colony; but at the same time that I regret the course, there was no other course left for us but this one. We come here openly and manfully to assert that we differ from the views of the House of Assembly, and particularly on the question under discussion. (Cheers.) Assembly of course the members of the House who will appear before you to-night, to depend their policy, will fall back on their previous action with regard to the Civil List and the Crown Lands. That line of policy may be wise or it may not, but I maintain that the approval or sanction of the House for a temporary residence for the Governor of the Colony would not, justify its former action or in any way interfere with the settlement of the crown lands question. I believe the feelings to be almost unanimous that the House has done wrong in this case, and that the people at large are anxious to pay every respect to Governor Kennedy as the representative of Her Majesty, apart from his own merits, &c. I think every one has felt that on the arrival of Gov. Kennedy amongst us we have been brought more under the direct management and particular notice of the Home Government than we have been hitherto, and I further believe that we all have the firm conviction that our wants and grievances will be represented in a disinterested and conscientious manner, free from the influence of any party or clique. Gentlemen, we cannot afford to lose our present Governor. We must not drive him away from our shores in disgust. It would be a serious loss to us and a lasting disgrace to the Colony. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. J. J. Cochrane came forward amid cheers and seconded the resolution. He said he had much pleasure in seconding the resolution in his hand. It required no comments whatever from him and he was sure it would meet with their unanimous approval. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. John Arnoup was called forward and said he had been asked by the chairman to second the resolution, but he had the honor instead of supporting it to propose the following amendment. (Groans.)

The speaker proceeded to uphold the conduct of the members of the House of Assembly, but was perfectly drowned by groans, hisses and uproar. He unfortunately taxed the audience with a want of loyalty, and from that moment the audience would not hear another word from him, and he took his seat begging that if they would not hear him that more consideration should be shown to those who were to follow.

Mr. DeCosmos came forward to speak to the audience, which was the signal for a storm of hisses.

The Chairman asked the meeting to afford Mr. DeCosmos a hearing.

Silence being preserved, Mr. DeCosmos said he hoped that as men, gentlemen and Englishmen the meeting would afford every man a hearing before condemning him (applause). He thanked them for kindly allowing him to speak to the audience.

There was, he said, a serious misapprehension in the public mind in regard to the course of the House of Assembly towards Governor Kennedy. He thought the people were hardly in a position to know what passed in the Legislature, and therefore had to depend on the newspapers, and having been connected with the papers for some time, he could say that the reports were often very imperfect as they were not taken in short-hand. He had told them that there was an Executive Council, the oldest member of which was Mr. Pemberton. Now, how do you like him? (question.) The Executive Council had the Governor Douglas in trouble, and perhaps it was the Executive Council who had got Governor Kennedy into trouble. Now Mr. Pemberton expects to get £200 from the Civil List; then Mr. Cary would expect £500 per annum; next Mr. Watson, who expects £800; then Mr. Young, who expects £600 if the House will vote it. These gentlemen now surround Governor Kennedy, and they held a meeting with the Governor before these despatches were sent down. They sent these resolutions down to the House, and instead of waiting for the House to take action, they go to work and rent a house from Mr. Treat, and this they did ten days ago, before the debate occurred. The case stood thus:—if the Civil List resolution should pass, these Executive gentlemen might lose their situations. There was one good feature in Governor Douglas, that he always followed the one colony policy, and the House were only desirous to carry out the same policy. He spoke for the House, that they had no other reason in passing the resolutions, than in keeping up the prosperity of the colony as it had prospered. The audience would readily see that, as the Executive Council said, these resolutions would bring about a collision between the House and the Governor. He had gone into all the figures in the House in regard to the crown lands, although the newspapers had not reported it, because they could not afford it, and they, the House, had found that the crown lands were only worth about \$23,000 a year; and now the Duke of Newcastle asked them to pay for the crown lands a civil list of \$30,000. The Duke would saddle the hard-working people of this colony with \$30,000 in return for lands worth almost nothing. The House had refused to accept this offer, and had offered to pay one-third of the British Columbia Civil List, and have a joint staff of officials. How could the House, after passing this resolution in February last, take a resolution now? The House had simply left the matter to the Duke of Newcastle (applause).

In regard to the position of the residence the matter was left to the Duke, as all the House wanted was to keep Victoria the commercial capital. With regard to the \$1,000 for rent of a residence, the House had simply left the matter in February, and according to the rules of the House the matter could not possibly be taken up again. The question could not be brought up without prolegation. With regard to another point he had done and had cried of time! time!—hear him! hear him!

The Chairman said the time was up, but he would ask them to give the speaker two minutes more. (Hear hear.)

Mr. DeCosmos proceeded to say that it was impossible for him in less than an hour or two to give all he had to say. He would simply add this, that the Governor could take a house without consulting the colony. He was authorized by the Duke of Newcastle to do so, and he had done so, and the money comes out of the crown revenue, and the tax payers of the colony were not called upon to pay one cent towards it. This had been the course which the Legislature had followed.

Dr. Helmecken then came forward. He spoke to the amendment amid tremendous hisses, shouts and cheers. The hon. gentleman said he wanted to know whether they had all finished hissing? [Laughter.] He must say that some of the members of this committee had insulted the Governor by sending him the key of a private box to come and hear this debate. [Tremendous cries, hisses, cat-calls, &c.] Dr. Helmecken said if they did not wish to hear him he would retire. [The Doctor here retired in disgust.]

The chairman asked if he would have to say that the audience would not allow the gentleman to speak? [Loud cries of Helmecken! Helmecken!]

Dr. Helmecken—Not another sentence! Not another sentence!

The Mayor then proceeded to put the resolution.

Mr. Shanks came forward and moved an amendment which was withdrawn, as it was embodied in the next resolution.

The Chairman said, as there was no second, he would put the resolution, which was carried by an immense majority, about fifty or twenty hands being held up against it.

The result was received with tremendous applause.

Mr. Fell came forward to move the second resolution:

That this meeting of the citizens of Victoria cannot but regard the manner in which His Excellency's communication relative to a residence

and a private Secretary was received by the House of Assembly as discourteous, unbecoming and quite unbecoming the representatives of a loyal people, and believing that the present Legislative Assembly does not faithfully represent the views of the electors of Vancouver Island, this meeting will address to His Excellency the Governor respectfully requesting him to dissolve the House as soon as the public interests will permit.

Mr. Fell said the fifteen minutes would not allow him to say half he had to say. He would therefore run over the history of this colony, and see if he could learn why Gov. Kennedy had been used in the discourteous way he had been. The audience knew how this colony has been treated by a trading company; this company had driven away the first Governor—Governor Blanchard—and had got a chief factor of their own appointed as Governor, and now they were trying to do the same with Governor Kennedy (applause).

The Duke would have been justified in handing over the Crown Lands without a proper provision for the Governor. The hon. Speaker was a man of great intellect, perhaps more than all the Assembly together (laughter) and he believed this despatch has been kept back by this gentleman (Gov. Kennedy) had arrived here, with no preparation and without a home. If they had read the speech of the hon. Speaker, they would say that it was full of disloyalty (great applause). The tone of that speech tended to do away with British rule, and raise the stars and stripes among us (applause and hisses). This grasping, trading Company, only wanted to drive Governor Kennedy away, and get one of their chief factors to reign over us (applause). He, Mr. Fell would like to make a few remarks about one of their worthy representatives who had tried by clap-net to throw dust in the eyes of the people. He had said that the House would stultify itself by agreeing to the last despatches, but he (Mr. F.) believed that the matter had been carefully attended for the occasion. There seemed to be some mesmeric influence exercised over the members when they went into the House. They went in full of promises and promised to do great things, especially in the Crown Lands Committee, and this they did ten days ago, before the debate occurred. The case stood thus:—if the Civil List resolution should pass, these Executive gentlemen might lose their situations. There was one good feature in Governor Douglas, that he always followed the one colony policy, and the House were only desirous to carry out the same policy. He spoke for the House, that they had no other reason in passing the resolutions, than in keeping up the prosperity of the colony as it had prospered. The audience would readily see that, as the Executive Council said, these resolutions would bring about a collision between the House and the Governor. He had gone into all the figures in the House in regard to the crown lands, although the newspapers had not reported it, because they could not afford it, and they, the House, had found that the crown lands were only worth about \$23,000 a year; and now the Duke of Newcastle asked them to pay for the crown lands a civil list of \$30,000. The Duke would saddle the hard-working people of this colony with \$30,000 in return for lands worth almost nothing. The House had refused to accept this offer, and had offered to pay one-third of the British Columbia Civil List, and have a joint staff of officials. How could the House, after passing this resolution in February last, take a resolution now? The House had simply left the matter to the Duke of Newcastle (applause).

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was received by the House of Assembly as discourteous, unbecoming and quite unbecoming the representatives of a loyal people, and believing that the present Legislative Assembly does not faithfully represent the views of the electors of Vancouver Island, this meeting will address to His Excellency the Governor respectfully requesting him to dissolve the House as soon as the public interests will permit.

Mr. Fell said the fifteen minutes would not allow him to say half he had to say. He would therefore run over the history of this colony, and see if he could learn why Gov. Kennedy had been used in the discourteous way he had been. The audience knew how this colony has been treated by a trading company; this company had driven away the first Governor—Governor Blanchard—and had got a chief factor of their own appointed as Governor, and now they were trying to do the same with Governor Kennedy (applause).

The Duke would have been justified in handing over the Crown Lands without a proper provision for the Governor. The hon. Speaker was a man of great intellect, perhaps more than all the Assembly together (laughter) and he believed this despatch has been kept back by this gentleman (Gov. Kennedy) had arrived here, with no preparation and without a home. If they had read the speech of the hon. Speaker, they would say that it was full of disloyalty (great applause). The tone of that speech tended to do away with British rule, and raise the stars and stripes among us (applause and hisses). This grasping, trading Company, only wanted to drive Governor Kennedy away, and get one of their chief factors to reign over us (applause). He, Mr. Fell would like to make a few remarks about one of their worthy representatives who had tried by clap-net to throw dust in the eyes of the people. He had said that the House would stultify itself by agreeing to the last despatches, but he (Mr. F.) believed that the matter had been carefully attended for the occasion. There seemed to be some mesmeric influence exercised over the members when they went into the House. They went in full of promises and promised to do great things, especially in the Crown Lands Committee, and this they did ten days ago, before the debate occurred. The case stood thus:—if the Civil List resolution should pass, these Executive gentlemen might lose their situations. There was one good feature in Governor Douglas, that he always followed the one colony policy, and the House were only desirous to carry out the same policy. He spoke for the House, that they had no other reason in passing the resolutions, than in keeping up the prosperity of the colony as it had prospered. The audience would readily see that, as the Executive Council said, these resolutions would bring about a collision between the House and the Governor. He had gone into all the figures in the House in regard to the crown lands, although the newspapers had not reported it, because they could not afford it, and they, the House, had found that the crown lands were only worth about \$23,000 a year; and now the Duke of Newcastle asked them to pay for the crown lands a civil list of \$30,000. The Duke would saddle the hard-working people of this colony with \$30,000 in return for lands worth almost nothing. The House had refused to accept this offer, and had offered to pay one-third of the British Columbia Civil List, and have a joint staff of officials. How could the House, after passing this resolution in February last, take a resolution now? The House had simply left the matter to the Duke of Newcastle (applause).

In regard to the position of the residence the matter was left to the Duke, as all the House wanted was to keep Victoria the commercial capital. With regard to the \$1,000 for rent of a residence, the House had simply left the matter in February, and according to the rules of the House the matter could not possibly be taken up again. The question could not be brought up without prolegation. With regard to another point he had done and had cried of time! time!—hear him! hear him!

The Chairman said the time was up, but he would ask them to give the speaker two minutes more. (Hear hear.)

Mr. DeCosmos proceeded to say that it was impossible for him in less than an hour or two to give all he had to say. He would simply add this, that the Governor could take a house without consulting the colony. He was authorized by the Duke of Newcastle to do so, and he had done so, and the money comes out of the crown revenue, and the tax payers of the colony were not called upon to pay one cent towards it. This had