

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, May 30, 1865.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 29th May.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, McClure, Tolmie, Dickson, Burnaby, Duncan, Cochrane, Carswell and Denner.

This bill came down from the Council with amendments. It was read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

CREDITOR OF DEBTOR.

Mr. Burnaby gave notice of a bill to facilitate and explain the remedies of creditors against the lands of their debtors.

REDLESS AND HAWKERS.

Mr. Cochrane gave notice of a bill to license pedlars and hawkers.

TRADES LICENSE ACT.

This Act, in accordance with the resolutions of the Committee on Ways and Means, was read a third time and passed.

STATE OF AGRICULTURE.

Dr. Dickson asked the Speaker to fix a day to take into consideration the state of the agricultural lands of the colony.

THE SPEAKER FIXED MONDAY NEXT.

PRE-EMPTION LAW.

Mr. DeCosmos brought forward his motion for an address to His Excellency, the Governor, praying him to throw open the lands of the colony under the Pre-emption Proclamation, with such amendments as might be deemed necessary. The hon. gentleman urged the necessity of affording every encouragement to settlers, and stated that owing to the lands being held back, he knew of cases where actual settlers were prevented from obtaining lands, unless they petitioned the Colonial Secretary, which he thought was a most unfortunate thing for the colony. He understood that the Governor had withdrawn the lands from pre-emption by outside pressure from certain parties, and he did not see why the request of the proposed address should not be granted. The address also prayed for the throwing open of the Cowlitchan and other Indian reserves.

Mr. Carswell seconded. Mr. Franklin agreed with his hon. colleague in desiring that the lands should be thrown open and placed under proper provisions for cultivation. But he found that many of those parties who took up land did not cultivate it. In Comox he believed that not ten per cent., or even five per cent. of the land taken up was under cultivation. It was too often the case that settlers only built a hut, and sat down waiting for something to turn up. This was the case with a great many both in Comox and Cowichan. With regard to the Indian reserves, he thought it would be better to leave them till the Government brought forward some definite Indian policy.

Mr. DeCosmos said the motion left the matter of dealing with the reserves open to Government. It only suggested that they should be thrown open.

THE RESOLUTIONS WERE CARRIED.

POPULATED LANDS.

Mr. Duncan gave notice of motion for an address to His Excellency, praying that the bona fide settlers whose lands were to be forfeited on the 31st inst., should have till the 31st May, 1866, to make the payments, by paying interest for the accommodation.

INCORPORATION BILL.

The bill to amend the Incorporation Act of the City of Victoria was read a second time. Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Tolmie, McClure, Burnaby, Duncan, Cochrane, Carswell, Denner (5).

CHURCH RESERVE.

The House went into Committee on the Church Reserve question, Dr. Powell in the chair. The Chairman read the despatch of His Excellency the Governor, stating that the deed of the property had been made over to the Church of England, in May, 1864.

Mr. DeCosmos had only a few words to say on this question, unless a discussion arose. He did not consider the reasons given by His Excellency were good and sufficient to prevent him from taking the desired steps in regard to the reserve. He should have inquired into the history of the reserve, and the rights of the people to it as a public park, before thus throwing over the matter. This property had been open to the public for years, and we now found it being up into lots, fenced in, and the people thus deprived of the best reserve for public purposes in the city. There could be no doubt that such was not the original intention in regard to the Church Reserve, as was shown in the evidence of the Surveyor General before the Crown Lands Committee. It was also plain that it was never intended for a glebe, as the deed was made at a time when it was given to a non-contested diocese for this colony to which it could be given. But by some means the Bishop of the diocese had got it into his hands, in entire violation of right and to the injury of every person in the colony not a member of that church, and it was being used as a means of obtaining revenue for the church. He knew that many parties had bought lots adjoining on the distinct understanding with the Surveyor General that it was to be an open and public square, and these parties suffered a great wrong and loss by this appropriation of the reserve. Their property would be either sold and taken down the fences as a public nuisance, or to enter a suit against the Hudson Bay Company who sold them the lots on the distinct understanding that it was to be a public square. In order to show that the House was prepared to defend the rights of the people in this matter he would move a respectful address to His Excellency, praying him to take legal steps to test the right of the parties to enclose the reserve and lease it in.

Mr. Burnaby pointed out to the hon. gentleman that the Government had already said that it could do nothing in the matter. Besides the Governor was a trustee to the property, and could not well bring an action against himself (a laugh).

Mr. DeCosmos looked on that very thing as the most iniquitous part of the whole transaction.

The people who claimed this property had placed it in the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Governor here and the Bishop of the diocese. He looked upon it as a most disgraceful thing that a follower of the meek and lowly Jesus should be a party to so disgraceful a transaction (series of orders, order).

The honorable gentleman repeated the remark, and maintained that he had a perfect right to say what he thought on the conduct of these clerical gentlemen.

Dr. Tolmie did not know where the hon. gentleman had got his information on this question. He must have a sort of second sight to know so much. He would remind the hon. gentleman of the old maxim that a person might do what he liked with his own; the Hudson Bay Company believed that the property was their own and they had given it to the church. As to the revenue from it, he believed the original intention was that it should be devoted to educational purposes. Mr. Cochrane said as to the reserve being a park, part of it was as fine land as any in the city. So far as the bush about tearing down fences was concerned, he supposed even if that should occur the church would not go to law but simply put them up again. Dr. Helmcken did not intend to go into this subject, but as the oldest settler in the House, and one of the oldest residents in the colony, he would say that the people never had the slightest right to the reserve, and what was more, they never would have it. (Mr. Burnaby and Dr. Tolmie—hear, hear.) He would not argue the question, but would simply say that he was glad the church had got the property, and hoped they would make a good use of it.

Mr. McClure thought the question brought forward by his hon. colleague a very important one, and although it was one under peculiar circumstances difficult to deal with—as much as the property in question had actually been deeded to the Episcopal Church—he hoped the House would make the best of the circumstances. The motion of the senior member might not be the best method, but until a more practicable proposition was brought forward he would support it. He differed from the hon. Speaker and senior member for the District (Dr. Tolmie). He considered that whatever the Hudson Bay Company of Her Majesty's Government had done in the matter a gross breach of faith had been committed against the people of the colony (no, no, and hear, hear). The people were really the parties most interested in the matter, and yet this outrage of deeding over property, which had been used as a public reserve, for private purposes had been done without the first intimation being made to the inhabitants (hear, hear). It was only, however, another instance of the disgraceful manner in which the people had been treated by the Home Government. Pieces after pieces of the public domain had been either given away or allowed to be taken, and the colonists were obliged to stand by as helpless as they were indignant. With regard to the sentiment of the hon. member for the District that "a man could do what he liked with his own," he was aware that such an idea obtained in the tenth or twelfth century (laughter), but it had long since exploded before the law reformers of England. Lord Erskine gave the best illustration of the absurdity of the doctrine when he applied his own case to the shoulders of a controversialist, to show that a good deal of injury could be inflicted by doing what one liked with his own. He believed a great wrong was in the present instance perpetrated by both the Church and the Home Government. Messrs. Tolmie, Franklin, Burnaby, and Cochrane here left the House, amid much laughter. He considered it also as likely to be mischievous in its effect on the religious interests of the colony. (Hear, hear.) It raised up at once invidious distinctions, and tended to pave the way for those jealousies which were so detrimental to the best interests of religion in many portions of the mother country. When the Bishop of Columbia first landed in the colony he impressed the fact on all that the Church of England should be established on the same independent footing as other denominations, and here we had an attempt to convert a large portion of valuable public property into a means for raising a public revenue. (Mr. DeCosmos—A princely revenue, Governor Douglas said.) Well, a princely revenue for the Church of England. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Carswell would ask what about those parties who had bought property round the reserve at large prices on the understanding that it was to be kept a reserve? (Hear, hear.) He himself had sold property adjoining the reserve at high prices on that distinct understanding (hear, hear)—and he looked on it as a great wrong to those parties who had spent so much money to thus close up their windows as it were, to take away that reserve on the faith of which they had purchased their property. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Dickson said to his mind the question was, which was the property deeded to the church, and by whom? If the property had been deeded since 1862, it was certainly illegal, and if it was done by the Hudson Bay Company, he would be in favor of disputing it, if it was done by the Crown, he feared there was no redress.

Mr. DeCosmos said the land had been med as a public reserve for some years by the people, who had thus a prescriptive right to it, and could not be deprived of it. It was a fact that they had wished to see legal proceedings taken on the matter.

Dr. Dickson said even if it were given as a church reserve it was questionable whether it was given to any particular church.

Dr. Helmcken—Yes, it was!

Dr. Dickson said the hon. gentleman said it was, but that was a question for the Legislature. In Canada they said the same thing about the church reserves there, but the Legislature decided differently.

Mr. Duncan said the Church of England had no right whatever to the reserve. Christ Church itself had been built by the public money, and now they wished to rob the people of the reserve. He looked on this attempt as the most iniquitous transaction in the annals of the colony, and he thought it reflected very little credit on the cloth; he was sure if the Archbishop of Canterbury knew the nature of the transaction he would have nothing to do with it. (Hear, hear.) The motion was then put, and carried unanimously, as follows:

That this House present to His Excellency the Governor a respectful address requesting him to instruct the Hon. Attorney General to take legal proceedings to prevent the Church Reserve from being broken up into blocks, or leased out in lots, in order to test the right of any party of parties to break up the same into blocks, or lease it out for the benefit of Christ Church, or the members thereof, and for other purposes.

This bill came up on recommendation from a previous meeting. The clause providing for any member losing his seat who absented himself for ten days, in any month, without leave, was struck out.

The clause providing for changing the form of oath was carried, and the bill reported to the House.

MERCANTILE LAW ACT.

This act, as amended by the Legislative Council, came before the committee, and after being re-amended in several particulars was reported to the House. Owing, however, to the clause in the bill passed requiring the schedule struck out by the Council, the bill will have to be re-committed.

The Committee then rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned till tomorrow (Tuesday).

LEASING THE GOVERNOR A RESPECTFUL ADDRESS REQUESTING HIM TO INSTRUCT THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TAKE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TO PREVENT THE CHURCH RESERVE FROM BEING BROKEN UP INTO BLOCKS, OR LEASED OUT IN LOTS, IN ORDER TO TEST THE RIGHT OF ANY PARTY OF PARTIES TO BREAK UP THE SAME INTO BLOCKS, OR LEASE IT OUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHRIST CHURCH, OR THE MEMBERS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

This bill came up on recommendation from a previous meeting. The clause providing for any member losing his seat who absented himself for ten days, in any month, without leave, was struck out.

The clause providing for changing the form of oath was carried, and the bill reported to the House.

MERCANTILE LAW ACT.

This act, as amended by the Legislative Council, came before the committee, and after being re-amended in several particulars was reported to the House. Owing, however, to the clause in the bill passed requiring the schedule struck out by the Council, the bill will have to be re-committed.

THE COMMITTEE THEN ROSE AND REPORTED PROGRESS, AND THE HOUSE ADJOURNED TILL TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

TUESDAY, MAY 23rd, 1865.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, McClure, Tolmie, Dickson, and Denner.

CHURCH RESERVE.

The resolution requesting the Governor to take legal steps to test the claim of the Church of England to cut up the Church Reserve into lots and lease it, came up for the adoption of the House.

Dr. Tolmie rose to oppose the passage of the resolution, because the piece of land had been granted by the Hudson Bay Company to the Church, and the thing was finally settled. He could not conceive what grounds there were for such a resolution, unless to please political agitators, and till he heard some arguments in its favor, he would not vote for it.

Mr. Franklin had voted for the inquiry, but was perfectly satisfied with the explanation of His Excellency. There was no doubt that the land was given by the Hudson Bay Company to Christ Church, and belonged to that church. The conveyance was legally made, and could not be altered. He would say that the site of the reserve was a beautiful one, and it was always expected by the people that it would be kept as a park or "jungs" for the city; he thought that it might still be kept for that use by a petition to the Bishop or the Trustees. (Laughter.) Mr. DeCosmos moved the adoption of the resolution. The hon. gentleman opposite Dr. Tolmie whenever any question came up touching the Hudson Bay Company, made personal remarks, and imputed personal motives to hon. gentlemen who strove to give the people their rights. The hon. gentleman had accused hon. gentlemen of being agitators in this matter. He (Mr. DeCosmos) repudiated any wish to agitate on the question. His only aim had been to secure the rights of the people, and to prevent the misappropriation of the public reserve. He could prove from hundreds of witnesses that not only had the reserve been set aside for public use, and not for the church, but that Christ Church itself was built out of the public money, and was set down in the estimates as public expenditure. The policy of forming colonial churches by public grants had been ignored by the Colonial Secretary long ago. The hon. gentleman spoke forcibly and eloquently on this point, and on the injustice of robbing the people of a reserve to which they were undoubtedly entitled, and concluded his remarks amid applause.

The resolution was then adopted by the House.

HARBOR DUES ACT.

Mr. McClure introduced a bill to amend the Victoria Harbor Dues Act, 1862, in accordance with the resolutions passed by Committee of Supply, imposing increased permits on imports, &c. The bill was reported.

DUTIES ON STOCK.

Mr. McClure introduced a bill to impose duties on stock, &c., imposed in accordance with the resolutions on that head passed through Committee on Supply. The bill was read and reported to the House.

ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS.

The committee took up the bill to make better provision for the custody of the estates of deceased persons.

Dr. Dickson said that the only law touching the matter at present was a minute of Her Majesty's Orders in Council, which was defective in certain points, which this Act was intended to remedy.

On clause 1, which provides that any property of deceased persons in danger of being stolen shall be taken in charge by the Superintendent of Police.

Mr. Franklin objected to the property passing into the hands of the police. It should go to the Public Administrators.

Dr. Dickson said the property was generally too small to be worth the trouble of the Public Administrator; besides there was no such official, the office only being filled from time to time as occasion required.

Mr. DeCosmos was in favor of the bill, with a proviso to limit it to one year.

Dr. Helmcken would like to vote "understandingly" on this bill (a laugh). He would wish to ask whether the bill was intended for the colony, or solely for the city? As people were in the habit of dying in the country, as well as in the city, what was to be done where there was no Superintendent of Police? (Laughter.)

Mr. Denner moved that the clause be expunged. He never knew such a thing in his life as the Superintendent of Police taking charge of private property. The Supreme Court had the proper machinery to attend to the matter.

Dr. Dickson had really no interest in the bill, and as hon. gentlemen made so much fuss over it, they might throw it under the table. The necessity however of such a bill

was apparent every day. He recollected a case where a gold watch belonging to a deceased person was brought in at the inquest by the watchmaker who had it to repair, and who asked for his charge of \$2. The coroner had to funds out of which to pay the demand, so a policeman paid the \$2, and took the watch, saying that if the government refunded the amount, they could have the watch, if not, he would keep it.

Dr. Helmcken said he had been a coroner once himself, and sympathized with the hon. gentleman. He knew there was no little trouble connected with the care of property of deceased persons, as he had had the care of several gold watches once (laughter), and really they gave him no end of trouble. He approved of the bill, and would vote for it as a whole.

Clause 1 was passed; also clause 2, providing that the goods be advertised in one of the papers for one month, and clauses 3 and 4, providing for the sale of the property; the proceeds to be paid into the treasury.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, May 23, 1865.

The Council met yesterday at 3:15 p.m. Members present—The Hon. President, Colonial Secretary, and Attorney General.

GOLD MINING BILL.

This bill was sent up from the House, below as passed with amendments.

INDIAN RESERVE BILL.

The Council then went into Committee on this bill, the Hon. Attorney General in the chair, and disposed of some of the clauses.

LETTER FROM LEECH RIVER.

To the Editor of the British Colonist.—Sir,—Although we have not the opportunity here of celebrating the anniversary of the birthday of our beloved Queen, we all tried our best to show our loyalty and to spend a happy day. The stores were closed, but few of the miners worked, and no business was carried on at the Government House. Some of the stores were decorated with garlands, festoons, flags, and epigrams, and as soon as the clock struck twelve there was quite a burst of royal salutes. One of our fair ladies insisted on firing off eleven of the twenty-one guns. Before the firing was over we could hear the roaring of the guns at Esquimalt—they were even heard as far as Bacon Bar. Notwithstanding the repeated heavy showers we did our best to amuse ourselves with out-door amusements. At Mr. E. M. Walsh's there was a free lunch, and considering that it was in a log-house, I can assure you that it was very tastefully and bountifully got up. The following among other toasts were drunk in champagne: The Queen and Royal Family, by Mr. A. Barnett; Governor Kennedy and family, by Mr. E. M. Walsh; the Host, by Mr. Handerson; Barnett, the expressman, by Mr. Bevan, &c. After lunch, never heeding the rain, we got up a shooting match, four candidates competed for a sweepstakes of \$5 each, which was won by Mr. Atwood; a long jumping match, won by Mr. H. Brown; after which a first-class game of quoits for \$20, won by Mr. Cole; the village blacksmith, and Mr. Fisher, jun., of the Fisher Co. It was a first-rate and well-contested match right through the three games. In the evening the musical voices of honest miners might be heard in every lowly cabin and store, making merry although times are hard for us all here at present, the river being at such a height, I write these few lines to show the Victorians that Leech town in loyalty yields to none.

LEECH TOWN, MAY 25th, 1865.

PORTLAND ITEMS.

A private letter from Portland states that the statement published in the Chronicle a short time since that Mr. Foley had struck potolens near that city, is without the slightest foundation; in fact that it is a pure fabrication on the part of some one.

Dr. Brown spent a few days in Portland en route to Southern Oregon. The Doctor is reported to be in his usual good humor, and looks in condition to encounter all the difficulties of his summer campaign.

The Willamette is rising, and some of the wharves are already flooded. It is thought that no material damage will result unless the snow is melted with a warm rain.

Messrs. Hoffman & Moses, late of Victoria, have just opened the Germania Saloon here.

SMUGGLING FROM VICTORIA TO PORTLAND.—It has been supposed for months past that a business of smuggling cigars, &c., on a small scale, between this port and Victoria, was being carried on, but so far no persons have been apprehended, and made to pay the penalties of the law in such cases provided. On Friday, however, through the efforts of Capt. Lewis of the steamer "Geo. S. Wright" and Pilot Gilman, a box containing 8,000 choice cigars was seized and confiscated. The box was discovered as it was lowered into a small boat, from the river side of the vessel, and was traced to the store of J. Strauss, where Captain Lewis kept watch of it, until Captain Gilman informed Inspector Gray, who was attending an examination at the public school, when he immediately proceeded to take possession of the goods, and the case is now at Messrs. Richards and McClurken's, the property of Uncle Sam. The fireman of the steamer is supposed to have been implicated in the affair, but he evaded the officers, and the steamer sailed yesterday morning without him.

The English University Boat Race. The annual boat race between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge was won, on April 8th, by Oxford by three boat lengths.

The Coal Market.—We learn from private sources that the coal market in San Francisco is very firm, and Nannimo coal is in demand at steady rates.

It is announced that the Empress of the French is about to appear before the world as an authentic, and that, as a companion book to the "History of Caesar," there will shortly be published a "Life of Marie Antoinette," by Eugenie, Empress of the French.

The Queen has formally recognized Maximilian and the New Mexican Empire.

The Ministry sustained a severe defeat on March 23rd on the motion to extend the reduction of the fire duty to all kinds of insurable property. Mr. Gladstone opposed the motion, but the Government were defeated by a vote of 137 to 65. The Spectator says this takes a large slice out of the surplus. The funeral of the late Mr. Cobden took place on the 7th inst., at Lavington Church, close to which his country residence was situated. A large number of members of the House of Commons and other leading men were present, and the scene in the country churchyard was solemn and touching. Mr. Bright, who was one of the pall-bearers, was most deeply moved. The English iron works in North Staffordshire are to be re-opened at once, the men engaging not to assist those on strike. Viscount Gort will be elected a representative peer of Ireland in room of Earl Desart.

The question of an increased allowance to the Prince of Wales is for the present postponed.

The report of the Edmunds Committee will entirely exonerate Lord Brougham. The general verdict in the case of the Lord Chancellor will be that he showed undue leniency in dealing with his subordinate.

The Whitworth and Armstrong committee are deliberating on their report, and it is supposed that the probable conclusion will be a recommendation urging the adoption of the Armstrong projectile, and recommending the Whitworth gun; and, in conclusion, the report will suggest the reference of both to another committee.

Two splendid vases have just been made for Sir Rowland Hill, to be presented to him as the result of subscriptions of a penny from admirers to an unlimited amount. It is not improbable that the field-marshal will shortly be increased by the promotion of the two following gallant generals—Sir Alexander Woodford, G. C. B., and Sir Arthur Clifton, G. C. B. Our foreign friends are talking of an engagement with the Patti, which will transcend her former ones with managers. It is an engagement to be married to a Russian who has about \$360,000 a year.

Vegetable fannel is now largely manufactured in Germany from the Pique silvestris.

It is reported that the Austrian army will undergo a reduction of 70,000 of things should remain quiet.

The Law Times states that the select committee of the House of Commons on the Bankruptcy Act, have decided to recommend the abolition of the present Bankruptcy Courts as soon as practicable, and the adoption of the Scotch system.

The colony of the 85th Foot is vacant by the death of General Guise.

Major General Henry Eyre is gazetted colonel of the 58th Foot.

The latest news from Copenhagen states that General Garibaldi has perfectly recovered from his wound, and walks freely without limping, though he still uses a cane. The General is surrounded by the members of his family.

The late Duke de Normy's will entailed an outlay of about \$22,000 per annum. It is now stated that the Duke died leaving property worth from £20,000 to £25,000 a year.

On the 25th the statutes of Professor Wilson (Christopher North), and Allan Ramsay the poets, were inaugurated in Edinburgh in the presence of a large concourse of spectators.

The Law in West of Vancouver Law.—The following unique specimen is a verbatim copy of a paragraph contained in the proposition submitted by Mr. John George Wright of San Francisco to the creditors of Chitwell in this city. I am thus cautious on his account, knowing the country and the laws he has to deal with, and the miserable tendency your laws have had in retarding men of energy from staying there when in debt, but who were restrained from doing so by laws which are a disgrace to our statute book, and which your ante-silvan legislators persist in retaining. Knowing the nature of the animal, and the circumstances under which he had occasion to dread the miserable tendency of the law, my comment on the above is unnecessary.

ENGLISH ITEMS.

[From Bell's Messenger, April 8th.]

UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

This great race came off to-day. The fineness of the weather had the effect of drawing together an immense number of spectators, who lined both banks of the river, which was covered with steam-boats and craft of every description. The start took place at 12:15 from barges opposite the Star and Garter, Putney, the course being thence to a flag-boat moored off Barker's rails, 200 yards above the Ship at Mortlake. Mr. J. W. Chitty of Exeter College, Oxford, captained as umpire, and Mr. Edward Galle, sculler, the veteran John Phelps, being judge at Mortlake. The crews were as follows:—

Oxford.		Cambridge.	
1. R. T. Barker, Merton.....	11 2	1. H. Wainey, St. John's.....	11 1
2. H. E. Benson, Chr. Ch.....	11 3	2. M. B. Beebe, St. John's.....	11 0
3. H. P. Henley, Oxid.....	12 13	3. E. V. Pigott, Corps.....	12 0
4. G. G. Coventry, Pem.....	12 12	4. R. A. Kinglake, Trin.....	12 7
5. A. Morrison, Balliol.....	12 13	5. W. R. Scawson, T. B. 4.....	12 4
6. A. Morrison, Balliol.....	12 13	6. G. H. Borthwick, Trin.....	12 1
7. H. Schneider, Trin.....	12 14	7. W. R. Griffiths, Trin.....	12 13
8. M. Brown, Trin.....	13 6	8. C. B. Lewis, Trin.....	12 8
9. C. W. Tottenham, Ch. Ch (cox).....	13 9	9. F. H. Archer, Corpus (cox).....	12 0

After a severe contest victory once more declared itself in favor of Oxford! This is the fifth year in succession in which Oxford has won. She is now two races ahead of Cambridge.

The Queen has formally recognized Maximilian and the New Mexican Empire.

The Ministry sustained a severe defeat on March 23rd on the motion to extend the reduction of the fire duty to all kinds of insurable property. Mr. Gladstone opposed the motion, but the Government were defeated by a vote of 137 to 65. The Spectator says this takes a large slice out of the surplus.

The funeral of the late Mr. Cobden took place on the 7th inst., at Lavington Church, close to which his country residence was situated. A large number of members of the House of Commons and other leading men were present, and the scene in the country churchyard was solemn and touching. Mr. Bright, who was one of the pall-bearers, was most deeply moved.

The English iron works in North Staffordshire are to be re-opened at once, the men engaging not to assist those on strike. Viscount Gort will be elected a representative peer of Ireland in room of Earl Desart.

The question of an increased allowance to the Prince of Wales is for the present postponed.

The report of the Edmunds Committee will entirely exonerate Lord Brougham. The general verdict in the case of the Lord Chancellor will be that he showed undue leniency in dealing with his subordinate.

The Whitworth and Armstrong committee are deliberating on their report, and it is supposed that the probable conclusion will be a recommendation urging the adoption of the Armstrong projectile, and recommending the Whitworth gun; and, in conclusion, the report will suggest the reference of both to another committee.

Two splendid vases have just been made for Sir Rowland Hill, to be presented to him as the result of subscriptions of a penny from admirers to an unlimited amount.

It is not improbable that the field-marshal will shortly be increased by the promotion of the two following gallant generals—Sir Alexander Woodford, G. C. B., and Sir Arthur Clifton, G. C. B.

Our foreign friends are talking of an engagement with the Patti, which will transcend her former ones with managers. It is an engagement to be married to a Russian who has about \$360,000 a year.