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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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pounds per annum upon such unworthy objects as this proposed service; but with a debt of over a million dollars hanging over us—with a depleting population, and with a general outcry against the burdens of taxation ringing in our ears—for the Government to incur further liability would be to the last degree unjust and improper. Even the subsidy paid the Aovive for bringing the mails to this port we consider too high for the benefit conferred.

dinner was excellent, and ample ideas having been done to it by the guests, the President proposed, the health of "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and other Members of the Royal Family," which was drunk with enthusiasm.

The President proposed the health of "The Governor" as follows:—It is now my duty to propose the health of His Excellency the Governor. At this particular juncture His Excellency has some difficult as well as painful duties to perform. It was not to be expected on the union of two Colonies with laws different and somewhat antagonistic, that everything would work smoothly at first. Some grievances have already arisen, and

NORTHERN CANOE—We are indebted to Colonel Bulkley, of the Russo-American Telegraph Company, for a model of the canoe used by the natives of the Aleutian Islands. The frail bark upon which these people venture upon the ocean has a light frame, over which a seal skin covering is tightly drawn leaving a small circular aperture in the centre to admit one person, who draws a loose flap round his waist, and this renders his skiff watertight. With a waterproof cape over their shoulders, and a double paddle in their hands, they dart with impunity through the sea at a velocity exceeding that of an

quest communication cannot be obtained for the same or even less money.

Under Protest.
Within a day or two past, two British vessels, owned by British subjects, laden with valuable cargoes of British merchandise and Colonial produce, and bound from one port of British Columbia to another port of the same Colony, have been refused clearance by the collector of this port until the owners had first paid duties upon the value of goods on board. It is needless to say that this duty (which is practically, so far as the Island is concerned, an export duty) is levied without the faintest color of law to support it, and that it has been paid under protest. The sufferers will at once lay a statement of their grievances before His Excellency, and if no redress is obtained in that quarter, they will apply to the Courts. We have

error will do what he considers best for the Colony at large, without prejudice to any particular section of it. It is therefore our duty, as well as our interest, to support him in all his endeavors towards this end, and to smooth the way for him as far as lies in our power.

The President proposed the health of the "Army, Navy and Volunteers," and in the course of his remarks warmly complimented the three arms of the public defence.

occupied, though they are not so large as from two to four persons. They are dangerous things for the uninitiated to attempt to navigate, as the slightest variation in the equilibrium will cause the canoe to capsize, and the occupant is so firmly encased in his seat that he cannot extricate himself. The natives, however, become from habit so expert that they can capsize their canoes purposely and by the use of the paddle along right them on the other side without admitting a drop of water.

A Proposed Raid.

Already we notice that our unhappy cotemporaries at the capital are "united as one man" in urging upon Government the propriety of expending another large sum of money in subsidizing ocean steamships to carry the mails to that place. Not satisfied with having increased the liabilities of the Colony by several thousand dollars in maintaining an expensive service without a single person deriving one dollar's benefit from it, the harpies are endeavoring to penetrate the system, and to render the country still deeper indebted to the tax-ridden country which they are retrenching, and to the British Columbia debt which they are about to "change" into a paper. The proposition is no more nor less than a raid upon the name of the people of the entire Colony outside of New Westminster, we protest against the foolish and wicked expenditure of the public funds. Were any practical benefit to result from it, we should be the last to raise our voice against a subsidy being paid for a dozen steamships to visit New Westminster; but the money thus far expended has been literally thrown away—it might as well have been dropped into the capacious maw of the Fraser, as to have been paid for such a foolish object, viz.: the attempt to prove that an inland town is in reality a sea-port. Besides the waste of money, there is the injustice of subsidizing a foreign boat to deprive a British bottom of the carrying trade between this port and New Westminster. It is well known that the steamer Enterprise has performed that service cheaply and well; that she is one of the fastest boats afloat, and that she possesses first class passenger and freight accommodation. She is owned by a British Company, whose headquarters are here, and who spend in the Colony thousands of dollars annually in the repair and improvement of their vessels. We ask, then, is it fair or honorable, while the Government has this Company's boat at its command, to carry the mails, for a merely nominal sum, between the two ports, that it should be expected, at an enormous expense, to subsidize ocean steamers belonging to a company who never spend a dollar they can help in the Colony. To reduce the thing to an "allspice": Is Government prepared to pay \$10,000 per annum for a service that it can have performed for less than \$2000? We believe that it is not. The gist of the arguments of our New Westminster cotemporaries is a demand that the entire Colony shall be taxed for the purpose of subsidizing a steamship to run direct to New Westminster, while the advantage derived even by that town has been proved by trial to be mythical. Were the Treasury bursting with riches, the Government might afford to squander a few thousand

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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Monday, December 3th, 1866.
The St. Andrew's Dinner.
The dinner of the St. Andrew's Society on Friday night last, at the Colonial Hotel, was presided over by J. G. Shepherd, Esq., President of the Society, the vice-chair being filled by D. B. Blair, Esq. Among the company present we noticed His Worship the Mayor, Chief Justice Needham, Hon. Alex. Watson, High Sheriff Adamson, Hon. David Cameron, Rev. Mr. Somerville, Dr. Trimble, J. F. McCreight, A. R. Robertson, J. Graham, J. Burns, Robt. Wallace, A. E. Gray, Councillor Trahey, Thomas Lowe, Mr. Hepburn, Thomas Allsop, N. Jacob, J. G. McKay, Captain Frain, Mr. Finlayson, Mr. Charles, M. T. Johnson, and Godfrey Brown. The music was supplied by Messrs Palmer Sandrie and Wilson—the latter gentleman during the evening favoring the company with solos on the cornet—a-piston, an instrument of which he is perfect master. The

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