

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

The departure of the Hon J W Trutch is a circumstance which would appear to claim something more than a mere passing notice at our hands. It has been said that some men are born great, while others have greatness thrust upon them. But there appears to be a third class, those who attain greatness by a proper and diligent use of their time and talents. These are commonly called 'self-made men'; they are the best type of man; and it is to this class that the subject of the present article may be regarded as more properly belonging. Arriving here in 1858, Mr Trutch applied himself to the practice of his profession, that of Civil Engineer, and it was not long before he became a Government Contractor. We believe his first contract of any considerable magnitude was that of the present road connecting Victoria and Esquimalt. The faithfulness, skill and success evinced in this capacity soon won for him a reputation, and he was enabled to undertake and execute some of the most important public works upon the Mainland, amongst which might be mentioned one of the most difficult sections of the great highway between Yale and Lytton. The beautiful Alexandra bridge which spans the Fraser River fourteen miles above Yale, was built by him; not, however, as a Government work, but a private enterprise, secured by a charter, and now, by effluxion of time, the property of the Colony. It is scarcely surprising that upon a change of Administration in 1864 Mr Trutch should have been selected to fill the important office which he has held up to the present time, and it is with this period of his life that we have chiefly to do. It would be unfaithful on our part to say that Mr Trutch has throughout the whole period of his official connection with the colony, been popular with the public; but a sense of justice compels us to say that during the seven years he has had charge of the most important department in the Government, even malice has never ventured to whisper a doubt as to his honor and integrity as a public officer; and if he failed during a previous administration to secure public approval to as great an extent as could have been wished, more recent events tend to show that he owed that circumstance chiefly to the false position he was made to occupy in a false and most unpopular system. Indeed, it was not until the last two sessions of the Legislature that Mr Trutch had an opportunity of doing justice to himself or to the colony; and it is not too much to say that during these two sessions, or rather during the last session and the present one, he has not only succeeded in completely dissipating prejudices created under a previous administration, but he has earned a reputation and popularity which will cause the circumstance of his departure to be regarded with very general regret. As a departmental officer his ability has never been called in question. As an Executive officer, we have not the means of knowing much about him, but we are led to think that he has exercised so little influence in the 'secret chamber.' It is in his capacity as a member of the Legislative Council that Mr Trutch is best and most favorably known to the public; and it is in this capacity that he has made his abilities most felt. As a debater he is unquestionably able, ever inspiring the listener with a belief in his honesty and earnestness to do and support the right, wholly irrespective of men or of party. The important part which it has fallen to his lot to play in the great scheme of Confederation, now so nearly and happily completed, will cause Mr Trutch to be remembered as among the most able master-builders in laying the foundations of Empire in the West, and it is most fitting that to him should be delegated the work of giving the finishing touch to that great and beautiful edifice. It is already known that the subject of these remarks has declined to accept a public banquet in recognition of his services as a public officer. He leaves the colony tomorrow. Whether his official connection with British Columbia terminates with his present mission to Ottawa and to England it is impossible to say; but we only give form to the general wish when we express the hope that such may not be the case. The time is now close at hand when the colony will be ill able to spare such men. It is not impossible that Mr Trutch may return in a position offering a still wider field for the exercise of his talents, and which will enable him in a still higher degree to contribute towards the prosperity of a colony with the early history of which his name must ever be intimately associated. Should he return, in whatever capacity, he will be sure of a hearty welcome. Should he seek in another field a wider scope for the exercise of his talents he will carry with him the best wishes of the people of British Columbia.

Friday, Feb. 10.  
Tax label, with the semi-weekly Mail arrived at 11 o'clock this morning.  
The Fire Department will give a grand ball on the 22d inst.  
Mr Seward, who is now in Japan, has had both arms completely paralyzed.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, Feb. 9th, 1871.

Council met at 1:30 p.m. Present.—The hon Speaker, hon Attorney-General, hon Collector of Customs, hon Dr Helmecken, hon Dr Carrall, Mr Alston, Mr Humphreys, Mr Nelson, Mr Nathan, Mr Skinner, Mr Cornwall, and Mr DeCosmos.

Minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed.

MESSAGE.  
A message from His Excellency the Governor was read enclosing returns of lands sold.

PETITIONS.  
Mr DeCosmos presented a petition from Messrs Jerome Harper and Mr Irving, praying to be granted the privilege of placing Road Steamers on the Cariboo road. The petitioners ask the right to run over the road.

MESSAGE NO. 5.  
On motion of Mr DeCosmos the consideration of Message No 5 was postponed.

ROAD RETURNS.  
Mr Humphreys moved for returns of all monies expended and collected on the Douglas, Alexandra and Yale-Clifton-Cariboo wagon roads, together with the amount of indebtedness and the interest paid thereon.—Carried.

TARIFF.  
Mr Nathan moved that the Canadian tariff be further considered. The hon mover said he was more convinced now than ever that the Canadian tariff should be accepted immediately with union. The returns of imports showed a falling off in two years of thirty-three and a third per cent in general merchandise, and a decrease of 50 per cent in such articles as we are asked to protect. If thirty-three and one third per cent were deducted from the fifty per cent it would be seen that protection had done little for the agriculturist. Under the Canadian tariff cattle raisers were protected more than now, and the difference in the duties on farm products was thus more than made up. The hon mover produced statistics to show that should we retain our own tariff we should be losers to the tune of \$70,000 or \$80,000 per annum, and concluded that with the Canadian tariff farmers would be as well, if not better, situated than now. With the Canadian tariff would come less cost for living and, consequently, lower rates of wages. Some farmers really find their interests suffering from the retention of the present tariff, and it was equally true that the commercial, manufacturing, mining and fishing interests all suffered from a like cause. At Lillooet 6000 barrels of flour lay for want of a market. One of the chief objects the people had in voting for Confederation was to secure the Canadian tariff. The hon mover concluded by saying that every interest, save that of agriculture, would suffer if the present tariff were retained. He moved for an address to His Excellency the Governor requesting him to acquaint the Government of Canada that it is the wish of this Council that the Canadian tariff and excise laws be extended to British Columbia simultaneously with union, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Mr Cornwall seconded.  
Hon Dr Helmecken rose to oppose the resolution, and hoped to be able to refute some of the arguments advanced by his hon colleague. He objected to the motion, and although a member for the chief commercial city he could not allow that fact to govern him when the interests of the whole colony were at stake. For Victoria the Canadian tariff would be the best—but it would not be the best for the whole colony. Our own tariff affords protection to the farmer; the Canadian tariff protects only cattle raisers. If he wished to make a garden or cultivate a piece of ground he had to pay for it. If the colony wished the land of the colony cultivated the country would have to pay for it by protection. The land required the expenditure of an immense amount of labor before it could be converted into cultivated fields—and the reason why he asked that the duties on wheat, oats, &c, may be retained was that the poor people went on that land and cultivated it should be protected. The duty on grain was the best protection that could be afforded the farmer. If protection (as the hon mover said) had been the means of lowering the price of living in the upper country, protection ought to be retained. Protection had benefited the upper country—the whole country; and if protection be removed all the articles would be imported from the foreign side of the Straits, by which means we should encourage and support a rival to our own country, lessen the value of our land and get nothing in return. No market would exist there for our produce. Merchants here would rather deal with foreigners and buy their goods in great quantity than buy from the Island farmers. One complaint had always been that the Island farmers could never sell anything to the importers. The mover had said that he was astonished to find that there had been a very large increase in the matter of production in the last two years—but he went on and claimed that he should deduct therefrom 32½ per cent, in consequence of a decreased population. This argument was unfair if not untrue. The importation of tea, sugar and coffee had fallen off terribly, and it was a fair test that the population had not decreased materially. Few people knew what the earlier settlers in this country had to contend with, and they deserved and earned protection. The difference between the two tariffs was not \$60,000—it was not \$36,000. Everything from Canada would come in free. The importation of spirits from England would be lessened and the bulk of spirits sold would be Canadian. (Dr Carrall—Bear, hear.) The Canadian Tariff was made for the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion and would not answer here. It was not true that the maritime portion of Vancouver Island alone wanted protection. The duty of \$1.50 per barrel on flour was of as much importance in the interior as to the Island—because, strike off the duty and the interior farmers would lose Omineca trade. He held that the high rates of wages had nothing to do with the price of living. The cost of labor, a few years ago was double what it is now, but the cost of living was not double, too labor, like any other commodity, depends upon supply and demand. Confederation should

not be the means of injuring any interest; it ought, indeed, to protect the interests of all who till the land. To the telegram of Lord Lisgar it was as much as said that the Canadian Government would have no objection to allow a separate tariff for this colony. Therefore he [Dr Helmecken] had the honor of offering the following:

Whereas, in reply to a resolution passed by this Council and transmitted to the Governor General of Canada, a telegraphic message was received from Lord Lisgar stating that after the acceptance of the terms of Union by Canada the Parliament of the Dominion may, in its discretion, modify the British Columbian tariff upon the request of British Columbia; That this Council resolves that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to communicate to Lord Lisgar the desire of this Council viz: That the Governor General will be pleased to-day before the Parliament of Canada that the tariff of British Columbia may be altered as follows: That the duty upon spirits be reduced to the Canadian standard; that the duty on wheat be reduced to ten cents per bushel; that the duty on flour be reduced to seventy-five cents per barrel. That this Council asks this feeling that it will prevent a great deal of harm to British Columbia, and thus do much good to the Dominion at large.

That His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to instruct the hon Mr Trutch to explain to the Government of Canada the reasons for the foregoing, and that he may be empowered to take such steps for the purpose as upon consultation with the Government of the Dominion of Canada he may deem necessary.

The hon gentleman did not see how any reasonable person could object to voting for the amendment. In moving it he sought to serve the interests of the whole country. Mr DeCosmos seconded the amendment. Hon Dr Helmecken said that the man who cultivated a piece of land was vastly superior to the man who put cattle on the land and did nothing else to it. By the Canadian Tariff the cost of meat would be largely increased, and there were several articles that were charged under that tariff more than under our own. If everything was balanced the consumer would find very little difference. The excise laws of Canada go with the tariff and no man would be able to make a pound of malt unless he paid a cent per pound. The duty on imported malt was nearly the same as the excise duty, and the greater part of the malt would be imported from a foreign soil. In addition the brewers would be charged 5 or 6 cents a gallon on the beer they brewed.

Hon Dr Carrall rose to support the original resolution and hoped to kill two birds with one stone—to aid in the defeat of the amendment and to effect the passage of the resolution. Not very long ago the same man as the amendment was served up to this House and was allowed by the hon members. He was sorry to differ from the hon gentleman, and he was sorry that, having arrived at the very pinnacle of power (a laugh), he (Dr Helmecken) was enabled to sway this Council as frequently to his way of thinking. The hon gentleman, as a physician, administered nauseous doses some times. This was one of them and he (Dr Carrall) stood there as a corrective (laughter). The amendment was childish—simple. The only issue before the Council was the acceptance or rejection of the Canadian Tariff. We could not frame a tariff of our own. Nothing had injured the country so much as the unsettled state of the tariff, and nothing would injure the mercantile or agricultural classes more than the rejection of the Canadian tariff. If we allowed the amendment we should pay an annual subsidy of \$65,000 to the Canadian Government. To do what? To protect the Island farmers! Protection, forsooth! Why, he had dined and breakfasted without potatoes the last two days—he farmers hadn't brought a pound into town, and over and over again we were told that these would be no fresh butter until the California steamer arrived. Farming was the best protected—the best off of any interest in the Colony. [Dr Helmecken—Then why try to ruin it?] You are the one who wants to ruin it. You want to give it a monopoly, make living high, keep people away and leave the farmers without a market. They had a sower already for their protection running along the East Coast for the support of which the whole colony was taxed. The Island was not agricultural and therefore had little or nothing to be protected.

Hon Dr Helmecken here rose to correct a remark of the hon Dr Carrall, and said that he was in a position to state that not one of the people of the Lillooet District beyond those in the employ of one of the parties seeking the Bill had signed such a petition.

Hon Dr Carrall resumed, and said the petition would be down in due course and would speak for itself. He continued to explain the provisions of the Bill, and in a very able speech, moved his second reading.

Hon Attorney General explained the position in which the Government stood towards the measure. It had been fully considered in Executive Council, and it had been decided that, with certain alterations and modifications, the Governor would be prepared to sanction the Bill, if passed by the Council. He explained the changes and modifications, the chief of which were as follows: The Bill only to give the exclusive right for one year; the parties to guarantee the Government to repair the roads and to strengthen the bridges; if found necessary at their own expense; the maximum rate of freight between Yale and Barkerville to be 8 cents, instead of 10.

Mr Humphreys made one of his characteristic harangues against the Bill, denouncing it as an iniquitous measure and a disgrace to the House. In the course of his remarks he used words respecting one of the gentlemen interested in the measure which hon Dr Carrall asked to have taken down. Mr DeCosmos rose (excitedly) to a question of order, and denied the right of the House to have the words taken down. Hon Speaker informed the member for Victoria District that the Clerk had taken down the words complained of. Mr DeCosmos said the Clerk had no right to take them down. It was unparliamentary and, in his opinion, wrong. Hon Speaker said that might be the opinion of the member for Victoria District; but it was immaterial. He (the Speaker) had on the

forcefully in its support. In the very address sent home, he said, the Council had stated that the existing Customs tariff would remain in force until altered by an Act of this Legislature. If the resolution was passed the uncertainty in the commercial mind would be greater than ever; but were the amendment passed we should reap the advantage of having our own tariff altered in the respects asked. But supposing we did not, and that we should go into Canada with our Customs tariff unaltered? We should have our representatives in Parliament to press our claims and wants, and we have the assurance of Lord Lisgar that they would be favorably entertained. The hon gentleman proposed a verbal alteration of Dr Helmecken's amendment, which was accepted.

Mr Humphreys supported the amendment. Mr Banister felt like supporting the amendment. The mover of the original resolution advocated cheap labor or when we got the Canadian tariff, but the cheaper our labor the less inducement there would be for people to come here. The higher the wages the more people we would get. In the old country labor is cheap and people leave it. He did not think the Wharf street men were entitled to much consideration. The Government street men were outstripping them and they didn't want the Canadian tariff.

Mr Nathan—I said nothing about the Wharf street men.

Mr Banister—I agree with the Attorney General—that we hadn't ought to sulify ourselves with regard to the Sir James Douglas, which is really nothing against private enterprises. Instead of protecting any, the hon gentleman said that Canadian whiskey would take the place of ale. Mr Speaker—I'm afraid I shall live a long time before I die. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I support the amendment. (a laugh)

Mr Nathan replied that the Governor in his message had said that the question of tariff was one that would occupy the attention of this Council—(hear) and he rose to press the passage of the original resolution. The hon gentleman showed that with the Canadian tariff the cost of living would be so much less than now that labor would necessarily be lower and the labouring man would save more than he does now. It would be better to levy a special tax upon every man in the colony than to continue the same old and rotten system.

Dr Helmecken—Oats are cheaper here than on the other side.

Mr Nathan—People don't live on oats—at least only one class. [laughter]

The vote was then taken upon the amendment, which was carried—Ayes—Messrs Helmecken, Nelson, Humphreys, DeCosmos, Skinner, Banister, Hon Attorney General.

Notes—Messrs Nathan, Carrall, Cornwall, Hon Collector of Customs and Mr Pemberton did not vote.

EXPORT RETURNS.  
Mr Nathan moved for certain returns of export during the years 1867-68-69-70.

The motion, slightly modified at the suggestion of the hon Collector of Customs, was carried.

CUSTOMS REFUND BILL.  
This is a Bill to repeal the Ordinance imposing a duty of 50 cents a gallon on spirits.

Mr Nathan moved the second reading with a few appropriate remarks.

The hon Attorney General said he would not oppose the Bill, but he was afraid that, however much the Government might desire to abolish the tax, they had not the power, as it entered into these revenues which formed the basis of the terms of union.

Hon Dr Helmecken did not agree with the Attorney General. This tax was not known to exist at the time the terms were arranged, and would form no part of them.

Mr DeCosmos concurred in the views expressed by the Attorney General.

Hon Collector of Customs thought the opinion of the Attorney General settled the whole question; inasmuch as the Governor would be guided by it.

Mr Nelson said the real question was to whether the Council possessed the power to deal with the matter.

After some further remarks in reply from Mr Nathan, the Bill was read a second time.

Hon Dr Carrall moved the second reading of the Bill granting Beedy & Barnard certain privileges in respect to the introduction of Thomson's Patent Road Steamers. The hon gentleman gave the history and explained the advantages of these steamers, pointing out the benefits that would accrue to the country at large from their introduction, and intimating that to individuals who had a personal object in view in keeping out these steamers, he had received a telegram from Clinton, stating that the people of Lillooet District had petitioned in favor of the Bill.

Mr Humphreys here interrupted, asserting that he was in a position to state that not one of the people of the Lillooet District beyond those in the employ of one of the parties seeking the Bill had signed such a petition.

Hon Dr Carrall resumed, and said the petition would be down in due course and would speak for itself. He continued to explain the provisions of the Bill, and in a very able speech, moved his second reading.

request of a member, directed the Clerk to take the words down, and it had been done. Mr Humphreys resumed. He said something about dragging the carriage out and hanging it up before the public gaze, and gibbeting the mover of the infamous measure. These steamers, if introduced, would ruin those at present engaged in the carrying trade, those living along the roadside and the new mail contractors—but he would not be opposed to their introduction if a monopoly were not given!

Mr DeCosmos followed in opposition to the Bill. He referred to a petition from two gentlemen of large means offering to introduce steamers without any legislative encouragement. The manufacturers of these steamers would supply them on three years' credit and take them back if not successful, so that all the capital necessary to introduce them was the price of freight from England. He was not opposed to their introduction—only to granting a monopoly.

The debate was adjourned till Monday, and the Council adjourned till Friday at 1 p.m.

Police Court.

Thursday, Feb. 9th.

Wages Suit.—S Oleyer v J Kidd.—An action brought to recover wages for labor performed for the Howe Sound Whaling Co. The defence was that the plaintiff was one of the Company, and was working on shares. The case was proceeded with to a considerable extent and postponed for one day.

Bound Over.—W H Lamont, who has been in custody for some days on a charge of being a suspicious character, was yesterday required by the Stipendiary Magistrate to give bonds for good behavior for 6 months in the amount of \$50, or in default of payment, one month's imprisonment.

St. Andrew's Church Concert.—The concert last evening was largely attended by an appreciative audience. The fine edifice was filled to overflowing and much gratification was expressed. Some 50 male and female voices comprised the choir, which was successfully directed by Mr J J Austin. The selections were from Hayden's Creation, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Handel's Messiah, Samson and Judas Macabean, Costa's Eli, and other celebrated pieces of sacred music. The harmonium was presided over by M A McDonald, who performed a solo and rendered the accompaniments in a manner worthy of all praise. The choruses were all well rendered, especially 'The Hosannas are Telling.' Solos were sung by Mrs John R Adams (alto) Mrs Powell and Miss Sarah Redfern (treble); Mrs Atwood, Miss Denny, Miss Durant and Miss Branks (soprano); Mr George Grant, Mr H White and Mr O E Redfern (tenor); Mr Fraser, Mr T Wilson and Mr Chas Lombard (bass). Nearly all the solos were rendered in a manner worthy of all praise. 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