The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, December 20, 1864.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, Dec. 12.

House met at 3:30 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, Young, Tolmie, Trimble, Dickson, Dennes.

MEDICAL BILL.

This bill came up for a third reading, and after a few remarks from Mr. Franklin on the advisability of making provision in the bill for a Medical School or College, was passed.

INCORPORATION BILL.

Dr. Tolmie moved that the consideration of the Incorporation Bill be postponed till the 2d of January next. The bill required the careful attention of hon. members, and he was aware of several petitions in preparation by inhabitants of the district which he had the honor to represent objecting to nearly half the district being included in the city limits.

Mr. Young supported the motion.

Mr. DeCosmos said if the hon. mover would give notice of his motion so as to enable all the members to be present on the motion coming up, he (Mr. DeCosmos) would not object to the consideration of the motion. His own mind on this motion was that a postponement of the question was a burlesque on representative institutions. The people sent their ministers there to legislate—not to procrastinate. He felt ashamed to stand on the floor of the House and hear hon. members ask for the postponement of a subject which was as familiar to every one in the country as their alphabet. He was well aware that there were people who objected to the extension of the city limits because they were well pleased to enjoy the benefits of municipal improvements without contributing any thing towards municipal expenses. There was plenty of time for getting up petitions during the progress of the debate on the bill without our demanding this postponement. He could not understand the cause of this proposed delay. He would ask, on behalf of the citizens of Victoria, whom he had the honor to represent, that this debate be adjourned till to-morrow.

Mr. Franklin rose to support the motion of his hon. colleague, as he did not wish him to think that there was any disposition to delay the bill. He would say, however, that he would prefer to postpone the consideration of the bill till after the estimates were brought in. He was opposed to some of the principles of the bill, believing that they encroached on the prerogative of the government, and were unjust and inquisitorial in their nature. He would, however, support the motion of his hon. colleague.

Dr. Tolmie said it did not fall to the lot of all hon. members to have so much leisure as his hon. friend the introducer of the bill, nor would that be the case, he feared, till the halcyon days of paid members should arrive. Further time was therefore very desirable. It took a good deal of time to get up petitions, and a longer time to get signatures to them. (A laugh.)

Mr. DeCosmos—I'm glad to hear it.

Dr. Tolmie explained that time was necessary to go round among the people. He would press his motion for the postponement, if he was in order.

The motion for adjournment till to-morrow, instead of till 2nd January, being put, was carried by the casting vote of the Speaker.

Ayes, DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, and Dickson—4.

Noes, Young, Tolmie, Trimble, and Dennes—4.

The House then adjourned till to-day (Tuesday).

TUESDAY, December 13.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Young, Tolmie, Trimble, Dickson, Burnaby, Cochrane, Carswell, Dennes.

THE INCORPORATION BILL.

Dr. Dickson presented a petition from all the inhabitants of the southern portion of James Bay, praying that they be not incorporated within the proposed city limits. Ordered to lie on the table.

The question of the postponement of the discussion of the Incorporation Bill, till January 2d was then taken up.

Mr. Burnaby asked that the matter be allowed to rest over, as he thought the inhabitants not fully prepared for it. A petition had just been laid before the House from a large number of respectable and intelligent inhabitants stating that they did not want an Incorporation Bill, and he would therefore support this motion for a postponement of the bill.

Mr. DeCosmos moved an amendment that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Incorporation bill, which was lost; Ayes—DeCosmos, Powell, Dickson, Cochrane (4). Noes—Tolmie, Franklin, Young, Trimble, Burnaby, Carswell, Dennes (7).

The motion for a postponement of the discussion on the bill was then carried.

The Speaker said the business of the day was the second reading of the Census bill.

Dr. Trimble moved that the House do now adjourn for the holidays.

Mr. DeCosmos suggested that the hon. gentleman had better amend his motion and move that the House adjourn altogether, as hon. members seemed to think their duty to their constituents and to the country was of so little moment.

Mr. Franklin called the hon. gentleman to order; the House could not consider the question of longer adjournment than fourteen days.

The Speaker said the question was as to the adjournment till January 2d.

Mr. DeCosmos said his hon. colleague was evidently disposed to retard the business of the House, like another hon. gentleman who had been absent from his place for the last eight or nine months, leaving his work to be done by the other members of the House; and now when he had some back endeavored to postpone the urgent work of the House (hear, hear). The hon. gentleman opposed the postponement and urged the House to go on with the business before them.

Dr. Tolmie seconded Dr. Trimble's motion for an adjournment for the holidays.

Mr. Burnaby rose to ask that the House should name a day to resume the discussion on the Legislative Council. The Speaker informed the House that the consideration of the bill was the first order for Friday next, when it would be taken up.

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THEATRE—THE KEANS' FIRST NIGHT.

Last night the celebrated artistes Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean, made their first appearance before a Victoria audience, and were received with an enthusiasm befitting their world-renowned fame. The theatre was crowded by one of the most select and fashionable assemblages that ever graced its walls, the greater number of the ladies being in full dress, thus adding an unusual charm to the scene. The new drop curtain, a copy of one of the great artist Turner's paintings of Venice, was beautifully executed by Mr. Bowes, Mr. Ward's scenic painter, and added greatly to the improved appearance of the stage. A marked improvement was also visible in the orchestra, for which indeed there has been room enough of late. Mr. Ward has evidently spared neither pains nor expense in fitting up the stage in the best possible manner for the comfort of his distinguished performers and the success of the representations. Shakespeare's Historical play of King Henry VIII is rarely produced on the English boards—not that the characters of the Cardinal and Queen Catherine do not afford full scope for some of the finest acting, but because a superabundance of accessories and scenic effect is necessary to relieve the piece of a portion of its weight and carry it successfully through. It was, in a great measure, the magnificence of the *mise en scene* which made it so attractive when produced under the auspices of Mr. Kean himself, in London, who brought the piece out on a scale of magnificence never before attempted. Mr. Ward had, however, done his utmost to make the play as attractive as possible, and his efforts were successful. On Mr. Kean's first appearance last night as Wolsey he was greeted with a genuine burst of applause which detained the passing train for a long time on the stage. The same ovation awaited Mrs. Kean on her entree as Queen Catherine, and Miss Chapman as Anne Bullen. Space will not admit of our following the two distinguished actors through the play, and dwelling upon the numerous passages which, in their hands, form distinct subjects for study. The audience listened with the deepest attention while the mirror of nature was held up before them, and could not even restrain themselves during pathetic scenes from giving expression to their gratification. Mr. Kean's conception of the ambitious, haughty, subtle Cardinal is admitted to be superb. There is intense meaning in every glance, every intonation, every movement. His exclamation against the attachment of the King to the maid of honor, where he exclaims "Anne Bullen! no; I'll no Anne Bullens for him," and again, immediately afterwards, "This candle burns not clear; 'tis I must snuff it; then out it goes," were delivered with most impressive effect. The grand effort, however, is of course reserved for the downfall of the Cardinal, in the third act, commencing with the beautiful soliloquy: "So farewell to the little good you bear me." Mrs. Kean's Catherine is a noble embodiment of the high-souled and injured Queen of the dissolute monarch. Plain, quiet, unpretending yet dignified, it is not until her spirit is aroused by the consciousness of being wronged by designing and corrupt enemies, that her real power is revealed. The alternate submissive tone of her petitions to the stony-hearted King and the bitter rancor of her railings at Wolsey during the trial scene, are master-pieces of acting. The words, "Lord Cardinal, to you I speak" were uttered with a depth of feeling sufficient to make any clerical old gentleman quake. Mrs. Kean is also particularly effective in the interview between the two Cardinals; nothing can be more beautiful than her reference to the Heavenly Tribunal "where sits a Judge that no king can corrupt." After the fall of the curtain Mr. and Mrs. Kean were vociferously called forward to receive another outburst of applause. Miss Chapman is a very pleasing and graceful actress, and the fair Anne could not have been entrusted to better hands. Mr. Cathcart, who has a fine deep mellow voice, enacted Cromwell with much care and judgment. The Earl of Surrey was personated by Mr. Everett, one of Mr. Coppin's company, who is evidently a good actor, though more at home, perhaps, in comedy than tragedy. Of our old acquaintances we can only afford to mention Mr. Taylor, who in dress, appearance, and gait was a very "old Harry," and was as careful as he invariably is in rendering the text faithfully.

MR. KEAN AS LOUIS XI.

Last night Mr. Charles Kean made his second appearance in Victoria, in his favorite character of Louis XI., King of France. The story of the play was taken by a French dramatist from Sir Walter Scott's well known romance of Quentin Durward, in which the peculiar character of Louis is portrayed with all the skill of that master of the descriptive art; it was subsequently rendered into English for Mr. Kean, who has made the part peculiarly his own, and has attained in it perhaps a greater celebrity than in any other of his representations. Mr. Kean's acting last night was a splendid illustration of his great tragic power. The part is a most difficult one; the extraordinary combination of shrewdness and superstition, of avarice and apparent generosity, of insatiate lust for revenge and groveling devotion, and above all that unbounded duplicity and incredible, even agonising, love of life which so especially distinguished the infirm old king, requires the deliberation of a master-mind, and such we think the universal verdict of last evening's audience will say it received at the hands of Mr. Kean. The date of the drama is in the latter part of the fifteenth century, and the principal characters are those who figured in the stormy feuds which raged between the crafty old monarch and his chivalrous but rash prince-vassal, Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. The chief interest of the story rests in the negotiations between Charles and Louis, which are conducted by the Duke De Nemours (Mr. Cathcart) who had fled to the Burgundian Court after the execution of his father by King Louis, who made the three children of the murdered man kneel under the scaffold to be sprinkled with their parent's life blood. The scene where the envoy presents himself before Louis with the bold and haughty demands of his master, was admirable, the characteristic duplicity of the king being depicted with consummate skill; in the following scene, where Louis plots with his faithful bodyguard Tristran L'Hermite (Mr. Everett) for the "safe conduct" of DeNemours to Burgundy, and where at the call of the vesper bell he falls on his knees in profound devotion, returning at once with such facility and gleeful zest to his scheme of murderous revenge, was particularly fine; the fiendish cunning with which the wily old hypocrite gradually unfolded his design to the devoted Tristran, and the playful stab of his finger with which he significantly dismissed his ready tool, were rendered with marvellous truth and power, and called down the delighted applause of his audience. The scene with the villagers, too, in which was forcibly shown the feverish, maddened longing for life which possessed the feeble old monarch, even receiving the most intense gratification from the simple flattery of the buxom peasant dame Martha, (Mrs. Kean) that he would live to one hundred years, was a piece of magnificent acting, as was also the interview with the would-be assassin in the King's bed-chamber, and the final death-scene. Mrs. Kean, as the hearty, smiling, coquettish village matron, appeared but once on the stage, but even in the brief period of her stay gave the audience a glimpse of her great power. The remaining characters were very creditably filled by Misses Chapman and Hinckley and Messrs. Cathcart, Everett, Taylor and Irwin. The laughable farce of "Who's your Father" or "Family Jars," by Mr. Ward's company, finished the evening's entertainment. Mrs. Irwin receiving great applause. To-night Mr. Kean appears in the great character of Hamlet, with Mrs. Kean as Queen Gertrude.

THEATRE.—Mr. Kean appeared last night as Hamlet, Prince of Denmark. The attendance, though not the largest we have seen, was, nevertheless, of the same brilliant description as on the two previous occasions. Their Excellencies Governors Kennedy and Seymour, and suites, were present during a portion of the representation. The originality of idea, the loftiness of sentiment, and the enthralling grandeur of the language which stamp Hamlet as the sublimest production of the pen of the immortal bard of Avon, and place its author on the highest pinnacle of literary fame, require an exponent like Charles Kean to engraft their beauties upon the human heart. One feels after realizing his ideal of the poet's inspiration how feeble has been our own conception of it. Hamlet has been food for the greatest critics that ever lived, and we cannot pretend to add another leaf to the wreath of laurel which they have entwined on the brow of its author. Mr. Kean has personated the character, hundreds, perhaps thousands of times, and his performances have stood the test of thirty or forty years, leaving him at an advanced age without a superior, if he has an equal. The audience cheered him so constantly as almost to interfere with the effect of some of his scenes. His grandest and most powerful effort, and which drew down thunders of applause, was at the termination of the second act, after the interview with his father's spirit, when he conceives the idea of introducing the players to "catch the conscience of the king," and fix upon the usurper the "foul and most unnatural murder" of his father. In the whole of the soliloquy commencing with "O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I," Mr. Kean evinced a power which made astounded the audience, and at the end of the act he was loudly summoned before the curtain. Mrs. Kean, who is unfortunately suffering from a severe cold, has but little to do as Queen Gertrude, but that little she did to perfection. Laertes was entrusted to Mr. Cathcart, who enacted the part with peculiar pathos and feeling. Miss Chapman made a sweet and charming Ophelia, and in the scene preceding her death displayed a histrionic talent which took the house by storm and caused a shower of applause. Mr. Everett and Mr. Ward's stock company with one or two exceptions, acquitted themselves very creditably. To Mr. J. H. Taylor for his admirable representation of the Ghost especial praise is due. To-night Mr. and Mrs. Kean appear in the great characters of Shylock and Portia in the Merchant of Venice.

A BIG FISH STORY.—A gentleman who recently came down from the Boise mines tells us of a most extraordinary fish which was caught at Old's Ferry on Snake River. The manner of catching was peculiar. It appears that while the ferrymen were crossing some teams to the Oregon side a sturgeon of vast size ran against the upper gunwale of the boat. In a moment afterwards he was seen making for the Idaho shore, apparently in terrible agony. He ran half his length out on the gravelly beach and while in that position one of the men at the ferry-house ran down to the beach with a pick in his hand and struck it into his head, holding it until help arrived. He was then dragged up on the bank, killed, cut up and weighed. Its length was ten and a half feet; total weight 842 pounds; weight of head, 140 pounds. The fish's head was fractured across the front by the collision with the boat, and hence his strange freak of running ashore.—*W. W. Statesman.*

REPORTED DEATH OF JULES GERARD, THE LION KILLER.—We (*Manchester Examiner*) have been favored with the sight of a letter written by Dr. Rice Edwards to a correspondent in Manchester, dated Sherbro (about 120 miles from Sierra Leone), September 11, which has just arrived by the African mail, from which we give the following extract:—"I have just heard from my factors that Monsieur Jules Gerard, the African explorer, has been drowned in the Vong River, between Mokelleh and Woolah."

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[From the British Columbian.]

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The second session of the Legislative Council of British Columbia was formally opened on Monday the 12th inst. The following members were present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary; the Hon. Attorney General; the Hon. Collector of Customs; the Hon. Chartres Brew, New Westminster; the Hon. Peter O'Reilly, Cariboo; the Hon. H. M. Ball, Lytton; the Hon. J. A. R. Homer, New Westminster district; the Hon. H. Holbrook, Douglas-Lillooet district; the Hon. G. A. Walkem, Cariboo East; the Hon. Walter Moberly, Cariboo West. A few minutes before two o'clock, the honorable members being in their places, His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by his Private Secretary, entered the Legislative Chamber, and took his seat. The Members were sworn in, His Excellency reading the form of oath. His Excellency then invited the Honorable Members to be seated, and proceeded to deliver the following opening speech:

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—It is with great satisfaction that I meet you to-day, and invite you to enter with me upon our Legislative duties.

I think it highly desirable that we should, before Christmas, dispose of all the work of the year which is about to close. For this reason I shall only lay before you the Supplementary Estimates and the bill necessary to give a legal sanction to the payments which have been made under the authority of resolutions of the late Council, and such as an unforseen emergency has necessitated.

The late Council voted £216,400 for the Public Service of the year 1864; £135,630, by Ordinance sanctioned by my predecessor, and £80,700 by Resolutions. The total expenditure up to the last instant, has been, as nearly as it is possible for me to ascertain, one hundred and fifty-three thousand pounds, including remittances to the Crown Agents for interest and sinking funds on the loans which will not be brought to account this year, and also the arrears of expenditure of previous years, which amounted to £16,824, leaving the actual expenditure under the Estimates and Resolutions for the eleven months, a little over £136,000. The probable disbursements for this month will be £8,000, showing on the year an expenditure less by £72,000, including the unforeseen expenses, than that sanctioned. The payments made under the Ordinance fall short of the Estimates by some £16,000—those under Resolutions by £56,000. I regret to say that the Public Revenue will fall short of the Estimate by about £13,000.

The principal public works performed during the year have been:—the formation of roads in the Cariboo District, the maintaining in repair of the main lines of communication, the re-opening of the trail over the Cascade Mountains at Hope, the commencement of the road from New Westminster to Burrard Inlet, the opening of a sleigh road from Quesnelmouth to Alexandria. Much more would have been done but for two causes, which came into operation almost simultaneously. The rise of the rate of discount in England made it difficult to procure, except on the most unfavorable terms, the money proposed to be borrowed under the Act of last Session. The sudden discovery of the valuable gold mines on the Kootenay renders it expedient that a large amount of capital should be kept in hand for opening the communication between the Fraser and new diggings. We have drawn against the Loan only to the extent of £26,300, leaving £73,700 as probably available for the service of 1865. As it is of importance that the lines of travel to the Kootenay mines should be selected with the utmost care, I will be satisfactory for you to know that three distinct expeditions are now exploring in that direction.

I regret that the want of money has prevented the establishment of a Light Ship at the Mouth of the Fraser. The necessary amount shall appear again in the Estimates for 1865. An appropriation will be asked for in aid of the establishment of steam communication with Panama.

You will have anticipated my explanation that the great outlay on unforseen contingency was caused by the suppression of the Chilkoten insurrection of last summer. The expense incurred in this way was about £16,000.

A party of road makers well provided with food, but unarmed, lay down to sleep among a number of armed Indians, who were almost in a state of starvation. Let me do justice to the dead. From the scaffold at Quesnelmouth it was stated that they gave no provocation. But so it was, the Indians were suffering all the pangs of hunger, while the white men slept unarmed. An attack was make on the sleepers at daybreak, and but three of them escaped. The Indians, leaving the greater part of their booty behind them, on account of the difficult nature of the country, crossed the Cascade Range. They appear to have received considerable reinforcement before they reached the house of the settler on Beshee Lake. He was soon dispatched, and the assassins, with continually swelling numbers, advanced to meet a pack train with eight drivers approaching from Bentinck Arm. Three of these men were killed. Five, by an amount of dexterity and good fortune which seems marvelous, managed to effect their escape. Favored by impunity the assassins soon became promoted to the dignity of insurgents, by the adhesion of the whole Chilkoten tribe from the summit of the Cascade Mountains to the benches of the Fraser.

The ruggedness of the coast range, aided by the absence of all means of transport, seemed to debar us from access to the Chilkoten country from the sea, but an expedition under a gentleman of great reputation for courage and skill in dealing with the native tribes of the colony has left the Upper Fraser for the interior. The force of 25 men, suggested by my predecessor, had become by circumstances so obviously insufficient that the commander in the exercise of the wide discretion confided to him increased it to 65. That number was found in a log fort on the summit of a hill near Beshee Lake, when joined on the 6th July by another party of 38 volunteers from New Westminster, who had been conveyed by Admiral Kingcome to Bentinck Arm.

Though after a first brush with the natives the white flag floated over the fort from the 13th June to the 7th July, no steps tending towards conciliation had been made by the Indians, and when the Northern Volunteers marched at daybreak of the 7th July towards the Bute Inlet mountain they were still in doubt as to the reception they would meet with from the Indians. It was one, I regret to say, of deadly hostility.

A scarcity of food reduced the New Westminster party to apparent inaction when left alone at Beshee, but the time was well spent in securing the confidence of the Eastern branch of the Chilkoten Indians, whose chief had taken no active steps in the extermination of the whites. As women and children, and finally men, were allowed to leave the volunteer camp unharmed, according to promise, the chief was finally induced to present himself to the Governor on the 20th July, the day on which the Alexandria volunteers returned to Beshee.

It is well known to you how the New Westminster party then ransacked the remotest recesses of the Bute Inlet mountains—how the Indian chiefs, harassed by the bands of volunteers which had come upon them from the opposite points of the compass, found themselves without food or ammunition, and reduced to the sole alternative of hillside or surrender.

It is my duty to speak with the utmost praise of the men who came forward from Caribee and New Westminster to engage in a conflict formidable from the nature and extent of the country over which it raged, and one in which it appeared at one time as if famine were about to settle on either side. I say more of the party raised in the neighborhood, and can confidently say that, strengthened as it was by a large and admirable military element, the force, numerically small, could scarcely have been surpassed in efficiency and good conduct in the mother country or one of her colonies. The Alexandria volunteers presented an equally fine and formidable appearance.

With the advice of the Executive Council, the Legislature not being in session, I have ordered certain testimonials of intrinsic value to be presented to Mrs Brew and Mr Ogle, the leaders of the respective expeditions, in acknowledgment of their services.

I propose to lay before you, in January, Bills having the following objects in view:

1st. To amend the laws of bankruptcy and insolvency.

2d. To make waggons pay toll according to the amount of damage the insufficient width of their tires is calculated to inflict upon the public roads.

4th. A bill to remodel the Postal service.

5th. A bill to consolidate and amend the Mining laws.

6th. A bill to amend the law of evidence, two Telegraph bills, and others, perhaps, of minor importance.

I trust, likewise, to be able to submit to you a bill proposing to make important changes in our fiscal arrangements with a view to increase the commerce of the colony.

The present state of our north-west coast shall receive my particular attention, and the question of education shall form the subject of a special message.

I shall suggest an alteration in the mode of keeping the public roads in repair. You will find that the contracts entered into by my predecessor have caused an excess of expenditure over the estimates of a sum exceeding £3,000 on this account.

Lest I shall disappoint some persons when I state that I shall have no bill embodying an "Indian policy" to lay before you. The Government has its policy, always, we trust, just and firm, stern or merciful, as occasion may require. Last summer straining the resources of this young colony to secure justice—not vengeance—this winter to feed, if necessary, some of those whom the energetic pursuit of our Volunteers has reduced to starvation. If you can introduce any measure by which such principles of honesty and honor can be implanted in the breast of all the white traders among the Indians, the bill shall have my most cordial approval.

You are probably aware that the House of Assembly of a neighboring colony has passed certain resolutions in favor of a conditional union with British Columbia under one Governor. These resolutions shall be laid before you. Without entering into details it may perhaps be convenient that I should at once express my opinion upon the subject. I think it would be better for Imperial interests that Great Britain should not be represented by more than one Governor to the westward of the Rocky Mountains, and I can imagine cases in which both the Governors, as well as the officer in command of Her Majesty's naval forces, might be considerably embarrassed by the present state of things. But the amended prerogative is fully able to remove the present inconvenience to Her Majesty's service if it be found considerable, and I advise you merely to consult your local interests. I do not see at present how British Columbia would gain by the suggested change, and I am rather disposed to think that a longer separation is necessary before a satisfactory re-union could take place. Let time remove the impressions which exists in some minds, that the resources of the one colony have not yet been fully developed, while the prosperity of the other has been somewhat artificially stimulated.

I trust, Honorable Gentlemen of the Council, that you will close the accounts of this checkered and not over-prosperous year before it expires. We shall then be able to devote our undivided attention to the more pleasing task of contributing by every means in our power to the brighter future which seems opening before us.

The speech concluded, His Excellency retired from the Council Chamber, the Hon. Colonial Secretary taking the chair, as Presiding Officer.

It was moved by the Hon. Attorney-General, seconded by the Hon. Walter Moberly and *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed by the Presiding Member to draw up a reply to His Excellency's speech in the address of this session. Then the following Committee was appointed: The Hons. Attorney General, Collector of Customs, P. O'Reilly, J. A. R. Homer and Walter Moberly.

On motion of Hon. H. M. Ball, seconded by Hon. H. Holbrook. The House adjourned till Friday, the 16th inst., at 3 o'clock.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ITEMS.

THE WEATHER.—The snow continues to fall, and has reached a depth of eight inches. The weather moderated somewhat last night, but no understand the Fraser is frozen over as far as Fraser River. Although there is considerable floating ice opposite the city, it is hoped navigation will not be interrupted.—*Columbian.*

NO NEWS FROM ABOVE.—Up to going to press not a word had reached us from upriver. We fear the Reliance may be considered in "winter quarters."—*Id.*

THE LABOUCHERE.—This steamer came up on Sunday and cleared on Monday with a small freight for the north-west coast trade. She wooded here and left about 3 o'clock yesterday morning.—*Id.*

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS for week ending 10th December, 1864: Duties, £385; harbor dues, £8 16; head money, £11; tonnage dues, £7 0 6. Total, £412 16 6. Number of passengers during same period, 55.—*Id.*

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO THE HOPE.—The steamer Hope, Captain Elrick, left New Westminster on Monday, at 2:30 p.m., to make another effort to get up to Yale and Douglas. She got as far as Ketsey's ranch, about seven miles from here, but could get no further, and returned to Mr. Scott's wharf where she landed three horses for Mr. Barnard; and fearing the ice would come in same down to Mr. Holbrook's lower wharf, where she would have been in perfect safety, but the Labouchere would not slack her stern lines so that Captain Elrick was forced to return to No. 2 wharf where he lay all night. At five o'clock yesterday morning the watchman called up all hands, stating that the ice was coming in. Shortly after the steamer was struck by a floe which, however, did no damage, and the engineer then decided to haul her from the wharf and shelter her behind the piles, but before they could do this she was struck broadside on by a larger mass of ice, which stove a hole in her, directly opposite the boiler, and broke the spiles on the wharf like pipe stems. They tried to get up steam but before they had sufficient, the water poured in upon them, and she filled forward and went down. It was a lucky thing that there was only eight feet water near the wharf, or we should have had to report some casualty. As it was several of the hands had a narrow escape. At the time of the accident she had a quantity of goods on board, mostly provisions, nearly all of which were spoiled. She lay on her beam ends, and at high water the river is on a level with the top of her deck house. Fears are entertained that if the ice come in heavy during the night she will be broken up.—*N. P. Times.*

BLOCKADE RUNNERS.—Despite the risk, danger, and great uncertainty of running the gauntlet of the Federal Blockading Squadrons, it would seem from the following London correspondence of the New York *Herald* that this species of trade is more on the increase than the decline. I have just met a sea captain who comes direct from Glasgow, and he tells me there are hundreds of steamers building and fitting out in the Clyde and adjacent waters, all (to use the Scotsman's phrase) if the war lasts to have "a guid (good) wee (short) while days and every ship-builder in the Clyde has gaslights burning in his yard, and with relays of hands work every hour of the twenty-four. He tells me of one man who sold and successful blockade runner, T. S. Begbie—who stakes four new paddle steamers this week. Begbie though a Scotchman, resides here in London. I hope your navy now is equal to the emergency, though if fast steamers are wanted, they ought to buy some here in London. Mr. Begbie, we believe, is brother to the Chief Justice of British Columbia.