

Lumber Merchants, and all other persons performing labor or furnishing materials for the construction or repairing of any building, wharf or other superstructure shall have a lien on such building, wharf or superstructure for the work and labor done, or material furnished by them respectively.

Clause 2, enabling that every person wishing to avail himself of the lien shall file a true copy of his claim in the Land Office within 60 days after the completion of the work, and shall verify the same by oath.

Clause 3, providing for serving copies of claims on owners and non-residents.

Clause 4, providing for offset against the contractor.

Clause 5, providing that the land on which the building stands shall be subject to the lien if it belongs to the person owning the building.

Clause 6, providing for liens on personal property, and on lots graded or improved, with others enacting the details of the bill were passed.

Clause 7, providing for the standard weights to be as follows: Wheat, 60 lbs; Indian corn, 56 lbs; oats, 56 lbs; peas, 60 lbs; barley, 48 lbs; rye, 56 lbs; beans, 60 lbs; clover seed, 60 lbs; timothy seed, 48 lbs; and buckwheat, 48 lbs.

The committee rose and reported the passage of the bills.

Mr. Dennes moved that the bill regarding imprisonment for debt be read a first time.

Mr. Dennes then moved that the Standing Orders be suspended, and the bill be read a second time.

Mr. Dennes moved that the House adjourn till Wednesday next for the Easter holidays.

Mr. M. Clare said the steamer would probably be away before three o'clock, and urged that the House meet to-morrow.

Mr. Dennes supported the adjournment, and the House adjourned to-morrow (Thursday) at 3 o'clock.

THE SCHOOL BILL. Many hands make light work may be very correct aphorism in the abstract, but its application to the House of Assembly of Vancouver Island strikes our faith very much.

Yesterday we had but five or six members present, yet a greater amount of work was performed than during any two previous days of the session.

The school bill amendments were passed through Committee and reported to the House, the Lien law and the Weights and Measures bill went through the same ordeal, and the abolition of Imprisonment for Debt bill passed its first and second readings.

The School bill has been a little modified in its amended form as it came from the Council. The Board of Education has been changed from five to nine, and the power vested in the hands of this Board for the expulsion of unruly pupils has been transferred to the Local Board, or in the absence of such Board to the teacher.

It is scarcely necessary to say that this is a desirable amendment. The method of leaving to the General Board of Education in Victoria the question whether or not a refractory youth in an outlying district should be expelled, savored rather much of circumlocution. The section of the Council's amendments introducing school fees, is one that destroyed the principle of the whole bill.

It was the expressed determination of the House as well as of the people to have the Common School fees free in every sense of the words. The fifty cents a month, however, demanded by the Council, while producing no addition to the revenue worth talking about, denudes the measure of its most liberal and attractive feature.

Education has hitherto been so scandalously neglected in Vancouver Island that it seems to be the general desire to make amends for the past by throwing aside every obstacle that can by any possibility interfere with its general progress.

Fifty cents per head is not much in itself; but to the poorer classes of parents who might have five or six children of school-going ages, the expense amounts up, and might in many instances preclude the possibility of obtaining instruction at all.

It is true there was a discretionary power given to the Board to remit these fees in certain instances; but this only made the matter worse, as it brought in those invidious distinctions between the rich, and the poor, so inimical to the growth of independence, and so detestable in a young community like our own.

The section was properly struck out by the House, leaving the school privileges as they originally stood—open to all gratuitously. The amended bill will pass the House, and be forwarded to the Council in a few days, when we hope to see the message accepted without any further alterations, and with that despatch which the urgent necessity of the case demands.

At 2 p.m., we passed Cape Decision, leaving Coronation and Warren Islands, which form the mouth of Clarence Strait on our left, and steered for Cape Omny, crossing Christian Sound. The squally weather prevailing through the day gradually settled into a gale from the S.W., bringing with it a heavy sea, which caused our ship to labor very heavily.

We bore up for Port Conclusion, seven miles north of Cape Omny, on the west side of Christian Sound. At 7 p.m. anchored in 25 fathoms water, at the extreme head of the harbor with barely room for the vessel to swing at her anchor; during the night the gale increased, and we were obliged to run aways to the trees on shore to prevent the ship from dragging on the rocks, the gale continued till the morning of the 1st of April, when we steamed out of Port Conclusion around Cape Omny, meeting a very heavy sea from S.W. with the usual squalls of show, etc. At 3 p.m. we were off Sitka, fired guns for a pilot, but as we had a fine chart of the harbor and the weather looked bad, and night was approaching, the Captain concluded not to wait for him, so we obtained on and got nearly to the anchorage before the said gentleman came to us, rowed in a boat, and floated in a skin boat containing the best possible size to hold three persons.

At six o'clock we anchored, and fired a salute which was immediately returned by the Port. This is the first salute ever fired by a U.S. war vessel in this port, and the first U.S. vessel that ever visited Sitka.

On April 3, his usual official visits having been passed, Governor Matuskof and his lady visited the Sanbrock. The day was a very fine one, being the first of the kind we had experienced for a period of twenty-three days. His Excellency received a salute, which was returned by the battery on shore and the Company's ships in the harbor.

Speaking of salutes, the echoes among the high mountains close to the town gave an effect which never experienced before. An Indian, having landed Dr. Fisher, surgeon-in-chief, we left on our return passage, touching at Stekin, on the afternoon of the 4th, spoke the Hudson Bay Company's steamer 'Labretchite,' of Port Simpson. On the 5th we were boarded by a boat from the schooner 'North Star,' of the same company, and anchored in Safety Cove and all the next day were employed in outfitting wood.

We left in the evening, and early the next morning anchored at Port Rupert. The morning of the 10th we hoisted alongside the coal, wheat at Nanaimo 8 p.m., finished coaling, and left for New Westminster, arriving there the following morning. His Excellency Governor Seymour visited the vessel and was received with the customary salute. Left for Victoria next morning, and arrived in Esquimalt Harbor at 10 a.m. yesterday.

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The British Columbian Legislature, after doing some little good and a great deal of mischief, has at long last, through the great subject, that was to have shaken things to their centre, postponed the question of union of the colonies, after repeatedly coming up to the surface in the legislative proceedings, and after being as repeatedly deferred, has been pushed into the next session.

We congratulate the Council on getting over the difficulty so agreeably, for, with all the unanimity of the members on this matter, an amount of opposition would have been evinced in the debate, and a number of respectable truths stated, that would have made the anti-union element feel rather uncomfortable.

There was, however, another reason that must have had its full weight with the official members, in desisting a postponement of the question. The union resolutions of the Vancouver Island Assembly had gone to Mr. Cardwell, and there was some possibility that that gentleman might intimate to His Excellency Governor Seymour the necessity of using his influence to bring about what Imperial interests demanded, a union with the sister colony across the gulf.

It would be rather awkward, therefore, for the official element to vote against the resolutions this session and be obliged to accept them the next. To postpone the question altogether seemed the most effectual way to remove prospective difficulties, and the question was therefore postponed. The result is significant, and taken with Mr. Elliot's severe remarks on the anti-union petition of New Westminster, which he described as a hoax and unworthy the attention of the Council, indicates a rapidly increasing change in the general sentiment of that body.

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