The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, February 28, 1865.

UNSETTLED POPULATIONS.

as suddenly depressed—always hopeful but ters have come to that crisis which will never satisfied-repudiating the contiguous shortly decide whether we are to continue and enchanted with the distant, they form in possession of the British Columbian the most unsettled fraction of mankind that trade, or whether we are to lose it. can be met with in any portion of the globe. Our merchants are really the most interested sell wines, spirits, ale, porter, and cider, by The history of the past ten years in California in the present state of affairs; and they must is a record of migrations erratic enough to see plainly enough that union is our only satisfy the most itinerant Arabs. Fraser salvation, and that it must be obtained under River and Washoe, Cariboo and Boise, all and every circumstance. What is wanted, Kootenay and Mexico, are a few of the and what is only wanted, is earnest co-operpoints to which the centrifugal force of adven- ation on their part. The present is the most ture has whirled the population. The dis- opportune period for relinquishing all minor ease has, however, not confined itself to Cal- differences, and uniting on a question in ifornia. In Vancouver Island and in British which the welfare or ruin of the colony de-Columbia, in Oregon and in Washington Ter- pends. ritory it has spread with amazing effect, If a mining season proves unfortunate, or some unforeseen incident occurs to give a temporary check to the industry of the couns try, there is a perfect stampede as if its whole latent wealth had become hopelessly exhausted. To say that there is a want of reason in this morbid desire for change is taken place in Victoria on the question of ply. simply to assert a truism, and to point out Union and Tariff against ruin and free port; to the miner that this shiftless, unstable tens and are rejoiced at the progress of the dency is one which will keep him forever poor is merely to state more clearly the old proverb principles amongst the Victorians. Our long of "the rolling stone." At present the mi- preserved silence may have denoted indiffergratory excitement has almost reached its culminating point both here and in California. From the latter place the population are our fellow colonists; this is not so, however. leaving by thousands—some to Boise, some to support the new movement it is simply beto Kootenay, some to Cariboo, and a great cause, owing to our limited supply of newsnumber to Mexico. The last is probably the papers and our uncertain communication The money should be taken from the \$10,000 most serious exodus of the whole; for while with town anything we might have to say on already voted. the spring's migration to the mining regions the spring's migration to the mining regions gaze, might have been anticipated, and contains the sum being included in the vote for gennorth is only a temporary decrease in the sequently deprived of any interest it might eral educational purposes the \$800 be struck population, as the bulk of the miners return originally possess. Believe me, though, we out. Carried. again in the winter, the departures to Mexico are far from feeling any indifference on this again in the winter, the departures to Mexico matter; Cowichan, almost to a man, goes in heart and soul with the movement, and quarters, \$1500. to be wondered at, therefore, that the Cali- nothing could delight us more than not only fornia press should become alarmed, and to see union amicably achieved, but also to from the inhabitants which was on the table that all manners of restrictions should be see a judicious tariff imposed at Victoria. of the House declaring that the vote was thrown in the way of this southern emigra
I have just had yesterday's paper put into wholly unnecessary.

Mr. Franklin arguments of the United States of t tion. Every citizen of the United States is ticket carried by such a swinging majority, stating that the hon, member for Nanaimo required to take the oath of allegiance before It augurs well for the agricultural interest. had tavored the vote and had shown figures leaving, and every foreigner has to obtain Hitherto, Mr. DeCosmos has seemed to be to prove that the buildings were needed. He a passport from the Consul of his nationality. This, like obstacles generally, seems, how farmers, or that appeared even to think that ever, only to increase the desire, and it was necessary to recognize those who in dead set was being made against Nanaimo. so we have at the present time a whole, every other country are admitted to form an (Laughter.) The hon, member for the dissale emigration from California to Mexico. Important element in the community. I trict (Dr. Dickson) was assuming the posi-have strong faith in Mr. M'Clure from what I tion of the member for Nanaimo in an un-In this emigration the Confederate portion of have been able to gather from his late elect justifiable manner. the State and the Southern sympathisers tion speeches; his sentiments as expressed The item was struck out, only Mesers generally, it would seem, take the lead, on the hustings and elsewhere are such as Helmoken and Dennes voting for it. and it requires no extraordinary amount denote him a man of sense; and I trust his Additions and alterations to do-struck and it requires no extraordinary amount of acumen to perceive that Louis Napoleon is the prime mover in the whole poleon is the prime mover in the whole here. Of his colleague we have no doubt; \$1,000. matter—that a large number of the enemies he has proved himself to be an able politician, of the Northern Republic are about to go to and one who has the interest of his constitution connect two important farming districts; of the Northern Republic are about to go to ents and the prosperity of the colony at on the Newcastle side there were 14 farmers heart. Dr. Dickson's bill for the taxation of who were now obliged to take their produce better able to oppose "manifest destiny" uncultivated lands is a step in the right down to the seaboard and then ship it up to and the Monroe doctrine. The result is in direction. In Cowichan, large tracts of Nanaimo at considerable cost, whereas 41 the womb of the future; but we think on no the best land in the settlement are they had the bridge their produce could be speculators, who at present taken at once across to the town. The item part of the continent, outside the distracted will neither lease nor sell accept at fabulous was voted. Republic, are greater troubles brewing than figures. Those lands idle now might in in the new Mexican Empire. As a field for their productive capabilities contribute largethe reckless and unscrupulous adventurer, it ly to the wealth and welfare of the colony; as may possibly present an inducement, but to development of the settlement; they hinder the industrious intelligent man, who has been where they might aid the progress of the accustomed to live in a free country, where colony. I would say to Dr. Dickson-Good on the different items.

Depression may exist in Victoria; but we question very much whether emigrating at the present time for countries south is not like jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. California certainly presents no inducement. As we have shown, its population is rushing from it by the thousand, and there is in nearly every branch of business, and every skilled as well as unskilled vocation, a gen eral tendency towards the reduction of wages. Everything indicates, indeed, the approach of a pressure that will, the present summer, bring ruin and disaster to thousands. Up till the present month, our own working classes have had a hard time of it, and numbers, we are well aware, have been obliged to leave the country in order to obtain sufficient means to sustain life; but the worst phase of the depression has passed and the mining season is at hand. In a few weeks operations ship had the box seat, and after a time asked will be carried on at Sooke, and some degree of remuneration will be obtained by those driver refused, observing that his horses were who give the mines a trial. No better openour miners. Cariboo will absorb all those who are interested in its creeks, and who and Kootenay will attract the more adven- team were kept. Looking round, he partly A surous. Altogether we believe there are better prospects, in a mining point of view, before the country than there have been since 1858, and so far from seeing any cause for despondency, we feel convinced the present year will be the most fruitful in its yield of gold of any the colony has yet witnessed.

the individual who leaves either California or

Vancouver Island for Mexico in the hopes

that, by ordinary assiduity and attention to

business or mechanical pursuits, he will im-

prove his position, will be most sadly disap-

THE DUTY OF OUR MERCHANTS.

It is only natural for our mercantile class to be indignant at the recent action of British Columbia; but indignation effects but little in itself. When we feel that we are about to be injured the instinct of self-preservation The population of the North Pacific are as well as wisdom points out to us the neces essentially mercurial. Suddenly elated and sity of action to counteract the blow. Mat-

LETTER FROM COWICHAN.

THE HERMITAGE, SOMENES, COWICHAN,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST, -SIR,-We in Cowichan have watched eagerly the interesting discussions that have that amount-Referred to Committee on Supunionists and the development of protection ence to the important question that has for some time been occupying the attention of and if we have not hitherto raised our voices rational idea of what could benefit the proposed to locate the Nanaimo officials. it is they contribute nothing, they retard the 066 20.

the laws are administered with some degree your head, old fellow; I did'nt think you Mr. DeCosmos referred to the dispatch of had such a liberal idea in it. I say Mr. Cardwell dated Aug. 1st, 1864, and said he now lying. And then about the Indian Re-serves, what is to be done with them? Pr. Helmcken would decidedly object to open and cultivated produce as much wealth to the colony as all the Victoria merchants combined. Then why not throw the Indian reserves into the market? Why should men be compelled to leave the country for want of something to do, when they could to some good purpose expend their superabundant

M. SMITHE.

A BRITISH PEER AND AN AMERICAN STAGE DRIVER .- When Lord Morpeth [afterwards the Earl of Carlisle, who died recently in claim whatever on these fines, fees, &c. We England] visited us, our railroad system was paid the Chief Justice and other officials out in the infancy of its present maturity: so of the general revenue; the only color Her that the peer performed a large portion of his Majesty's Government had for claiming these journey by stage-a mode of transit always fines, fees and forfeitures was that they were pleasant to an English sight seer. Riding one day on a New England stage, his Lordpermission of the driver to take ' the ribbons' and 'tool' the concern for a while. The spirited and would not brook a stranger. The ing offers any place for the poorer class of passenger assured him of his capacity, and promised to 'stand treat' at the next baiting lace. Handing him the lines, the driver was surprised at the style in which they were will be able to risk a few hundred dollars; handled and the splendid pace at which his apologized to his fellow whip, saying'I did not know you were a driver; where did you drive?' 'Oh,' replied the new hand,' I drove a stage in England.' The New Englander was de. lighted to meet a 'man' from the other side of the waters, so be insisted on 'standing treat' himself. When informed next day of the rank of the traveler the American whip acknowledged he had meet his peer.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 23. House met at 3:15 p. m. Members pres-

ent-Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, M'Clure, Dickson, Cochrare, Dennes. LIQUOR LAW AMENDMENT.

Dr. Dickson gave notice that on Monday next he would ask the House to fix a day to consider the expediency of extending the provisions of clause 3, of the Act to provide or and regulate the sale of wines, spirits, malt and other liquors so as to permit persons without the limits of Victoria and Esquimalt and within three miles thereof, to retail, on the payment of \$100 per annum in quarterly instalments of \$20 each.

STATUTES OF THE COLONY. Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Monday next he would move for an address to His Excellency to supply the House with printed copies of the Colonial Statutes which

PILOT STATISTICS.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Monday next he would move for returns of statistics as required by the provisions of the Pilot Act.

REIMBURSEMENTS.

had been passed during '63 and '64.

The Speaker read a message from His Exellency in reference to the \$34,066 in the Estimates under the head of Reimbursements. explaining the different items which made up

ESTIMATES RECOMMITTED.

The House went into Committee on Suply, Mr. Franklin in the chair,

WORKS AND BUILDINGS. School House, Nanaimo, \$800.

Dr. Helmeken said he would be sorry to oppose any Educational vote, but he believed the amount was included in the general vote

for Education. Dr. Dickson agreed with the hon. Speaker and said the sum of \$800 was quite inade. quate to erect a school house for 90 children.

Purchase of buildings at Nanaimo for

Dr. Dickson opposed, quoting the petition

Mr. Franklin argued in favor of the vote.

Mr. Dennes said it appeared to him that a

REIMBURSEMENTS.

Reimbursements to Crown Revenue of moneys applied to general purposes \$34,-

The Chairman proceeded to read the com-

munication from His Excellency explaining

by all means put on the tax, and then per could not see any thing in the dispatch reopening in the most turbulent of the South haps the speculating gentlemen will think quiring payment of this amount. The words American Republics. It is sheer folly to talk better about keeping their lands in the of the dispatch were that the Crown Revenue of progress where everything is in chaos, and beautiful primitive state in which they are was to be placed on a proper footing " pros-

> Why sir, there is as much Indian re- the Executive taking the general revenue to serve in Cowichan alone as would if thrown pay our debts to the Crown. The Executive could not touch a penny of the general revenue without the consent of this House, and that consent would never be given to pay one cent of this \$34,000 (hear, hear). This alleged debt was partly incurred when the Hudson Bay Company held the Island, and they had always refused to hold themselves energies on the reserves of some quiet place responsible for any debts. The whole matter like Cowichan? The Indians dont want the had already been settled with the Home Govland. They can't, don't, and wont cultivate ernment, and the colony could not now be bling the Corporation to conduct the affairs it: then let the white man have it who can asked to pay this amount, and what was and will make something of it. 'Tis a more they would not pay it (hear, hear). It had for a long time been at a stand still, wealth-producing element, let us have the really had never been settled what was Crown more particularly in regard to the sanitary benefit of it. Throw open the avenue to Revenue and what General Revenue. If the condition of the town. If something were every field of labor and we have prosperity Crown took all the fines, fees and forfeitures not promptly done there was a strong probaof court it would amount to \$9,000, and al- bility of sickness and disease arising though this was claimed by the Government, they would not take it till the expenses of the court, salaries, &c., were paid. He did not think the Government had the slightest streets. This measure was the result of an collected in the name of the Queen.

Mr. DeCosmos would move the following resolution, which he thought covered the

whole ground: Resolved,-That this Committee does not consider the general revenue liable for the payment of the sum of \$34.066 20; that this view of the question is supported in dispatch No. 27, of August 1, 1864, where it speaks of placing the Crown Revenue "on a proper footing prospectively," not retrospectively; and any moneys that have been voted heretofore out of the Crown Revenues have been assented to by the Governor for the time be-

ing and finally by Her Majesty.

Resolution carried, and the amount struck

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. Grapt in aid of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, \$500

Dr. Helmcken said he could take the \$500

and buy a better show complete than the one

last year. The Agricultural Shows here were simply a disgrace to the colony.

Mr. Cochrane said the Society was now in different hands, and they hoped for a great

improvement under the new management. The amount was voted.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS. The additional amounts asked for for the

crew of the dredger were voted, in accordance with His Excellency's message to that effect.

The committee rose and reported that Supplies to the amount of \$298,618 had been The House will take the adoption of the

Report into consideration to-morrow (Friday) till which time it stands adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 24.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present -Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Tolmie, McClure, Dickson, Southgate, Carswell, Dennes. OFFICIAL ADMINISTRATOR.

Dr. Dickson gave notice that on Monday next he would ask leave to introduce a bill for the appointment by the Chief Justice of an official administrator, who shall take charge of the effects of all deceased persons who have no legally authorised party to administer to their estate after death. And such ad the first section pass with verbal amend ministrator shall annually return a true and authenticated account of the disposition made of such effects to the Governor of the colony

THE SUPPLIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on Supply reported that the committee had voted the sum of \$298,618 as supplies for the year

RECOMMITTAL OF THE ESTIMATES. Dr. Dickson moved for a recommittal of the

Estimates on the following heads: Post Office-Postage stamps \$500:

bags and and petty expenses \$100. Judicial-Chief Justice \$5,820; clerk to stipendiary magistrate at Nanaimo \$485. Police-Superintendent of, \$2,000; In-

spector \$1,200. Conveyance of Mails-Between Vancouver Island and New Westminster \$1000; between Vancouver Island and Washington

Cerritory \$500. Works and Buildings-Nanaimo Post-

Mr. M'Clure also moved for a recommittal of the Attorney General's salary.

The House then went into Committee on Supply on the above items-Mr. Franklin in

Chief Justice, \$5,820-Dr. Dickson moved as a rider to this vote, that the Justice be appointed in pursuance of the "act to appropriate the sum of £1200 per annum from the general revenue of the colony for the salary of a Chief Justice," until such Chief Justice shall arrive-in conformity with the said act the salary of the present Chief Justice shall be subject to the Resolutions of July, 1864, respecting the civil list. Carried.

POLICE-Superintendent and Inspector of Police, \$2 000.

Dr. Diekson said he had moved for a recommittal on this item to know the mind of the House. He was of opinion that this salary was much too large, and that the services of the Inspector should be retained. He would move that the salary of \$1200 be voted for an Inspector, and that the salary of others would do the same if those in arrear of ation of the item was postponed.

NANAIMO POST OFFICE-Clerk for Post office, \$485.

Dr. Dickson said now that the item for post office was struck out, a vote for a clerk was necessary; he thought however that \$485 was too much: he would therefore move

that \$250 be voted. Some discussion took place on this item when the committee rose and reported pro-

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS. Dr. Powell asked leave to introduce a bill

for the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Leave granted.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S FEES. Mr. McClure moved for returns of all fees connected with the Attorney General's office for 1864. Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

FRIDAY, Feb. 24.

The Council met at three p.m. Present-The Hons. Colonial Secretary (presiding) Attorney General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, R. Finlayson and H. Rhodes.

VICTORIA INCORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL The Hon. Colonial Secretary moved the second reading of this bill. He said the bill had been introduced for the purpose of enaof the city, which hon. members were aware Governor thought that something should be done to assist the Council in attending to the regulation of the city and the cleansing of the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown. It had been ruled by the Chief Justice that the offer a choice of several situations with sufficers of the Crown. Corporation had not the power to pass a bylaw imposing a tax on trades and professions, and the bill would supply that defect. Hon. members would observe by the provisions it contained that the people as well as the lands were to be incorporated, and that retrospective power was proposed to be given to render valid the past acts of the City Council.

The Hon. Attorney General also explained the defects in the original charter, as to the incorporation of lands and not the people, and according to the opinion of the Law Officers the decision of the Chief Justice had been sustained, and trades and professions could not be taxed except the power was conveyed in direct words to that effect.

Hon. Treasurer enquired if the words "trades and professions" generally were sufficient or whether the trades should not be specially enumerated?

The Hon. Attorney-General and Colonial Secretary thought the words as they stood

enable the Corporation to enforce payment of arrears of taxes during the time they became inoperative, because if so, in view of the present dulness of the times he would

oppose it. The Hon. Colonial Secretary considered that the object of the retrospective power was more to remove any doubt as to the validity of the Act of Incorporation.

The Hon. Attorney General said that certain parties might take it into their heads to sue the Mayor for convictions if he were not protected. There had never been a doubt in his mind as to there being a Corporation, but only as to their powers in certain cases which this act was intended to remedy.

Hon. Mr. Finlayson doubted the propriety of legalizing the collection of taxes which fell due under the by-law during the period

in which the Corporation was dormant. Hon. Treasurer coincided in that view but thought that the previous arrears due by Mesers. Ring and others who had refused to pay should certainly be collected.

The Bill passed the second reading on motion of the Colonial Secretary, and on motion of the Hon. Attorney General standing orders were suspended and the Council went into Committee on the bill, the hon. Attorney General in the chair.

Section I .- Attorney General moved that ments. Considerable discussion followed The Hon. Treasurer reminded the Council that the Legislature had already made a special enactment legilizing the collection of the tax of one-half of one per cent. on real estate, and he thought the taxes should be equalized and no distinction made between real estate and trades' licenses. Many merchants and tradesmen had already paid their trades' taxes, and there was no alternative but to make the Corporation refund to them, which was of course out of the question, or to

make the defaulters pay up.

Hon. Mr. Finlayson explained that he was not averse to legalizing the collection of taxes due before the Corporation was declared not to have the power to enforce their bylaws, but simply the taxes accruing in the

interval of their abevance. Hon. Mr. Rhodes was a strong advocate for equalizing the payment of the taxes so that those who had paid their taxes in good faith should not be placed in a worse position than those who had refused to pay, otherwise the Corporation must refund.

Hon Colonial Secretary said the only way that he saw of getting over the difficulty was to make the act wholly retrospective. There might be endless law suits against the Coun-

The Attorney-General said he should oppose that as he thought it was inequitable He reminded the Council of the legal maxim that inadvertence might be excused but igno-

rance could not. Hon. Surveyor-General coincided and did not see the advisability of giving the Council so much money to expend.

Hon. Colonial Secretary thought it would

be extremely unwise to give tax-payers the power to recover from the Corporation.

The Hon Attorney General said the law would not allow them to recover.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes agreed and said the House of Assembly had already taken action in regard to the Real Estate tax by protecting that, and he thought it would be most unfaint to those who had already contributed to the improvement of the city on the faith that

Hon. Attorney General thought it would be monstrous and a case of great hardship to those who had stood up for their rights in the first instance when they were proved to be right that they should now be compelled

to pay for being right. Hon. Mr. Rhodes said that was all very well in theory but did not invariably answer in practice, He remembered a case where he went to law with what he thought a very good and just case, and after a few hours in

court came out with about \$700 costs to pay. The section was amended two or thi times and eventually, on motion of the Hon. H. Rhodes, seconded by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, passed, with the omission of the retrospective power, it being intended to give

On clause 2 coming up considerable discussion again arose as to the propriety of The House then adjourned till Monday granting retrospective powers to the corpo-

The Hon. Attorney General again urged his objections to back legislation. He thought it would ruin some tradesmen to demand their half year's arrears of taxes which they had properly refused to pay.

The Hon. Treasurer said the corporation

had made one trades assessment and there would only be one year's taxes to claim.

The Hon. Col. Secretary remarked that there was an accumulation of work on hand for the corporation to perform, and it was only right that they should have the accumu-

lated funds to work with. It was finally agreed that the considera-tion of clause 2 should be deferred. Council adjourned to Monday next.

THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE FARM COTTAGE, Victoria District, February 22nd, 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISM COLONIST: Sir,-With regard to your suggestion, in your paper of yesterday, that landowners around Victoria should offer a site for the cient land attached. I so state publicly as competition for that honor ought to be open.

The amount voted by the House will be sufficient to build and furnish the reception rooms of a dwelling fit for the reception of Her Majesty's Representative, considering the infancy of this colony, if not frittered

away in payments for land.
Should the Victoria School Reserve be se lected for this purpose, for which it is in some respect adapted, notwith-tanding the want of ornamental timber and shade, I should be willing to give an equal quantity of land, or more if thought necessary, for a school in some situation more central as re-

I have the honor to be, sir, Your obedient servent, J. D. PEMBERTON.

[The suggestion of our correspondent, in relation to public competition, is one well worthy of attention, and on the grounds of Hon. Mr. Finlayson asked if the retrospective powers proposed to be given would warmly to the Executive.—ED. Cot.]

reported to-day tions made in th ecutive will exce pruning that oug stitutional grumb omy, however, t There are indeed ductions would gance. We m items which we works of utility necessary officia face of it a reduc be increasing lar country. That so the present House tion of economy various necessar misconception of others were retain business in the en lieve; but the fa much with the H of Government, Chamber of the that can afford th mation. As an chievous effect o all the officials in mention the vote salary. This of so largely in fe months of last reached upware in order to red thing like a defi figure fixed the no one, howeve stances at the legislators went

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Tuesday,

The Estimates

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about £1000 a The amount Executive was not include the which would \$298,000, leavi tion of \$142,0 however we m a large portion was intended desirable ente \$25,000 for st ama, and \$10. tion. The fir Francisco, an all a reduction son in the col these enterpr it is the gen a most the money. struck out we ments. The House conc should have the Home Land Fund diated on the

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