The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday March 1st, 1871

The Franchise Bill.

This long-looked-for measure is at length before us, but, owing to the pressure upon our space, we cannot do more at present than glance hastily at one or two of the most important of the fifty-five sections of which the Bill is made up. The qualification of a member is the same as that of a voter, with the following additions: That he shall have been a resident within the colony for one year previous to the date of election, and provided that he shall not be a minister of any religious denomination, whatever be his title, rank or designation. The following are the qualifications and disqualifications of voters: Every male of the full age of twenty-one years, not being disqualified by this Act or by any other law in force in this colony, being entitled within this colony to the privileges of a natural-born British subject and being able to read English, or if a natural-born British subject being able to read the language of his country, having resided in this colony for six months previous to the registration of electors, made in pursuance hereof, who shall have a freehold estate in possession, situate within the electoral district for which his vote is to be given, of the clear value of two hundred and fifty dollars above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, or shall have a leasehold estate in possession situate as aforesaid of the annual value of fifty dollars above all charges and incumbrances affecting the same, or shall be a householder within such district occupying any house, warehouse, counting house, office, shop, or other building or premises of the clear annual value of fifty dollars, or shall pay for lodging the sum of fifty dollars annually, or for board and lodging the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars annually within such district as aforesaid, or who shall hold a duly recorded pre-emption claim to not less than one hundred acres within such district as aforesaid, or a free mining license on which a claim has been duly recorded within such district as aforesaid shall, being duly registered under the provisions of this Act, be entitled to vote at the election of a member or members of the Legislative Council. Provided that no person shall be entitled to be registered unless he shall have been seised or possessed of, or occupied used, held or enjoyed the qualification in respect of which he shall claim to be registered for the period of three calendar months at least previous to such registration. Provided also, that no person shall be entitled to be registered as aforesaid who shall have been convicted of any treason, felony or other infamous offence, unless he shall have received a free or conditional pardon for such offence, or have undergone the sentence passed upon him for such offence. Provided also, that no person shall be entitled to be registered as aforesaid in respect of such estate or occupation unless at the time of such registration he shall have paid up all taxes and taxes which shall have become payable by him as owner or leaseholder in respect of such estate, or as occupier in respect of such occupation, except such as shall have become payable during three calendar months next before registration. Provided also, that no naturalborn British subject who has renounced his allegiance or sworn allegiance to any foreign State or become the citizen of any foreign State shall be entitled to be registered under the provisions of this Act, until he shall have taken the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty before some Judge of the Supreme or County Courts, Magistrate or Justice of the Peace in this colony. No Judge of the Supreme Court or County Courts, no Stipendiary Magistrate, no Constable or Police Officer, no Returning Officer, except in cases to be hereafter provided, no Deputy Returning Officer, Election Clerk or Poll Clerk, and no person who at any time, either during the election or before the election, or in reference thereto, or for the purpose of forwarding the same by any candidate or by any person whomsoever as counsel, agent attorney or clerk, at any polling place at any such election, or in any other capacity whatever, and who has received or expects to receive either before, during, or after the said election, from any candidate or from any person whomsoever for acting in any such capacity as aforesaid any sum of money, fee, office, place or employment, or any promise, pledge or security whatever, for any sum of money, fee, office, place or employment, shall be entitled to vote at any election of a member for the Legislative Council. Provision is made for the publication, on 10th May, 1871, of notices requiring persons entitled to vote to send in their claims accompanied by a declaration, on or before the 10th of June, the Voter's lists to be completed by 20th June, and submitted for approval of District Registrar by 1st July. We merely pause to remark that in making the franchise, the Government would appear to have hit upon the happy medium.

Wednesday, Feb 22.

BOLD ROBBERY.—On Monday night last a burglar entered the Union Saloon on Johnston street through a rear door in the side alley. He was discovered by night watchman Hartt who, hearing an unusual noise, walked into the alley to the place where the thief had entered, who upon being detected ran to the front of the house and escaped through the window of the saloon breaking the sash and several panes of glass. The only property missing is about $6 in silver which was in the drawer of the bar. Diligent search was made by the police yesterday but no clue could be had to the thief. It is thought that he escaped on one of the Sound boats.

ASH WEDNESDAY.—The forty days of Lent, instituted about the year 130 in reference to the miraculous fasts of Moses, Elias and our Lord, commences to-day. Ashes were formerly placed on the heads of penitents, flesh is forbidden to be eaten, milk and wine have also at times been interdicted. After the Litany the Communion Service will this day be said in the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches.

Legislative Council.

TUESDAY, Feb 21, 1871.

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

Minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

P J O'Reilly, Esq. was sworn in as a member of the Council *vice* the hon Chief Commissioner, and took a seat.

MESSAGES.

A message from His Excellency was read enclosing returns of road tolls collected, and customs statistics as asked for by motion.

A message from His Excellency enclosing the Supplementary Supply Bill was read

The bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time.

A message from His Excellency was read enclosing a bill to amend the electoral laws and fixing the qualification of members of the Council.

Read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next meeting of the Council.

NOTICES

Hon Dr Helmcken gave notice of the following:

That whereas the wagon road, via Fraser River, is ill adapted for the purposes of driving cattle from the interior of the country to the coast; and whereas it is all but certain that lines very suitable exist from Lillooet to Howe Sound and probably Burrard Inlet and from the Chilcoaten plains to the Cardera Channel; and whereas it is desirable at the present time for various purposes to obtain information of the routes from the interior to the coast; Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be humbly requested to cause a reconnoissance or exploration of the said lines so to be made, and if found, that His Excellency will cause a cattle trail to be constructed from the interior to Howe's Sound, Burrard Inlet, or such other point as may be found most expedient and suitable; this Council being of opinion that after this Colony has been united to Canada there will be sufficient means disposable to meet the comparatively small outlay required for the above purposes.

Mr Humphreys gave notice that he would on Friday next move at the next meeting of the Council for an address to allow all newspapers published in the colony to be sent through the mails free.

Mr Humphreys gave notice that he would on Friday next move a respectful address to His Excellency the Governor to send down a bill to provide for the appointment of competent legal gentlemen as County Court Judges, upon our entering Confederation.

Mr Humphreys, on Friday next, would ask the Attorney General what bonds, if any, the Sheriffs and deputy Sheriffs of British Columbia gave for the proper discharge of their duties.

EDUCATION.

Mr Nathan moved that a Select Committee be be appointed to consider the petition of the Mayor and Council of Victoria respecting education, and reviewed the action of the Mayor and Council in imposing a poll tax of two dollars on each male adult. It was estimated that this tax would create $1500, which added to the Government grant would cover the expenses of conducting the schools. The tax had fallen short, however, the Government had failed to do its share and there was now due over $800. He was prepared to move that the Government be asked to pay these arrears and the amount of $350 to enable the Board to meet the indebtedness which had been incurred in the advancement of education.

Mr Alston asked in respect to which year was the arrears due?

Mr Nathan—1870.

Mr Alston thought the hon gentleman in error. Every farthing due had been paid over by the Government.

Mr Nathan—The more necessity for a select committee to inquire into the case. The Council have exhausted all the means at their disposal.

Hon Dr Helmcken complained that the invariable rule of the Corporation, in any difficulty, was to appeal to this Council. A stop must be put to this course. The Mayor and Council had undertaken certain duties and they ought to go through with them. If this system was encouraged every district in the colony would incur expenses beyond its means and then petition this Council to come to its relief. He (Dr Helmcken) was confident the $480 promised by the Government had been paid over to the Council and the hon member forgot to say that the Government had paid for the improvement of Victoria schoolhouse. The Corporation had made very little effort to carry out the school system and if we adopted the plan of relieving them of their responsibilities there would soon be an end to the applications from all parts of the colony.

Mr Humphreys was opposed to granting any special sum for any particular district. If money was granted it should be general in its application.

At the request of Mr Nathan the petition of the Mayor and Council was read.

Mr Alston said the Government had paid every cent they had agreed to pay; and that the Mayor and Council of 1869 had neglected to do their duty in collecting the tax. He could not see, therefore, that the Council should be expected to pay debts that had been incurred through the neglect of the Mayor and Council, who were legally bound to pay them. He had no objection, however, to the appointment of a select committee to examine into the working of the Act. The principle of the Act was voluntary and left to the decision of the people whether or not they would pay a tax for school purposes. Victoria, which arrogated to itself all the wisdom and intelligence of the colony, was the only place in the country in which there were no schools. At the last meeting of householders only two were found to vote in favor of a school tax. The rest wanted their children educated by the colony. The Act worked badly here, but not elsewhere. The hon gentleman quoted from a letter from one of the school trustees in a district where interest was felt in the cause of education. The letter alluded to the prosperous state of the school and its finances.

Mr Bunster said he thought that couldn't be a very large school.

Mr Alston—Nanaimo District for two years in succession had refused to tax itself for school purposes and the school there was now supported by fees. He was happy to see that, in this case at least, the sins of the fathers were not visited on the children (a laugh). The principle of the bill was a good one, and a poll tax was an eminently fair one. Added to a tax on land the system would be successful. The tax for roads and a tax for schools were among the most proper ones. He would not consent to vote for the reference of the petition to a select committee if it were not for the last clause, which pointed out the necessity for a change in the system.

Hon Attorney General said the Act was like a new piece of machinery which worked stiffly until it had been used some time. The Act was a good one. Under it the Government helped those who helped themselves. It was unfair to ask the Council to pay out of the money owned by the whole of British Columbia the debts incurred by the Board of Education of Victoria. It was quite true that the schoolteachers should not suffer, but they should be assigned by the City of Victoria. He opposed the reference of the petition to a select committee because it was late in the session, a great deal of work remained to be done, and it was impossible to pass any well-digested measure at present. The subject of education should be left to the next Council.

Mr Bunster favored a tax on real and personal property, and supported the reference of the petition to a select committee.

Mr Nathan contended that the responsibility of the failure of the system was as much upon the shoulders of those who framed the Act as upon those of the Mayor and Council. The Board of Education had acted in good faith throughout in this matter, and he wished that the committee should be appointed to inquire into the discrepancy in the statements of the Government and the petition, and to devise means to provide for an improvement in the system.

Mr Humphreys asked if the inquiry of the committee would be general?

Mr Nathan said it would.

Mr DeCosmos favored the select committee.

Mr Nelson and the hon Attorney General said if the motion was made for a general inquiry into the system of Education they would not oppose it.

Mr Skinner said the law had worked very comfortably on the Mainland, and he could not see why it should be upset to suit the views of the Mayor and Corporation of Victoria.

The motion was lost—6 to 8.

Mr Nathan said he should give a notice of motion with respect to Education to-morrow.

CATTLE TAX.

Hon Dr Carrall asked the Council to postpone consideration of the motion to impose a tax on cattle and sheep until this day week. Granted.

ROAD STEAMERS BILL.

Council went into committee on the Road Steamers Bill, Mr Pemberton in the chair.

To clause 1 the hon Attorney General moved to insert 'that the tires of the steamers shall be 12 inches, and the tires for the wagons 6 inches in width respectively.'

Mr DeCosmos asked if the roads would be safe for the passage of these steamers.

Mr Cornwall said he was about to propose an amendment that they should not be used below the 93d milepost on the wagon road. The road above that point was safe and safe below that post there would be danger. If such an amendment were passed there would be no necessity for the firm to enter into bonds to keep the roads and bridges in order. Mr Cornwall moved the following: 'Between words patent road steamers on and the words 'the public road,' insert the words 'such part of 2 and at the end of the clause add 'as lies between the 93d-mile post from the town of Yale on the said road, and the said William Creek.'

In answer to questions by Mr Bunster—

Hon Dr Carrall said the weight of a road steamer with water and fuel was 9 tons and of 12 horse-power.

Mr Humphreys moved to strike out the names of Beedy & Barnard and substitute therefor 'any person or persons'—so as to give every one the right to put on road steamers.

The amendment of the hon Attorney General was passed.

The amendment of Mr Cornwall was debated by Messrs Helmcken, Carrall, DeCosmos, Humphreys and the Attorney General.

The amendment of Mr Cornwall was lost—ayes—Messrs Cornwall, Bunster, DeCosmos, Humphreys.

Mr Humphreys' amendment was next put and was vigorously opposed by Mr. Nelson, who said that any person now had the privilege of putting on road steamers, and no such resolution was necessary.

Mr Humphreys' amendment was lost—the vote being as before, 4 to 9.

Hon Attorney General moved to amend the second clause to limit the time of the operation of the bill from the time of its adoption to the 1st October, 1872. To which

Mr Nathan moved an amendment that the bill be limited to one year from the date of the passage thereof.

Mr Humphreys moved as an amendment to the amendment, limiting the action of the bill to one year from the date of its passage, provided the clause fixing the maximum of freights and passage was struck out.

The vote was then taken on Mr Nathan's amendment and carried—Messrs Carrall, Nelson and Skinner in the negative.

Mr Humphreys' amendment to strike out the whole was put and lost—ayes, Messrs DeCosmos and Humphreys.

On motion of hon Dr Helmcken the latter part of the clause was struck out, and the clause as passed reads as follows:

'II. On and after the passage of this bill for the period of one year, to be computed therefrom, the said Josiah Crosby Beedy and Francis Jones Barnard, their executors, administrators and assigns, shall, on compliance with the requisitions of this Act, have the exclusive privilege of using the said patent road steamers, and suitable carriages and wagons for the said purpose on the said road and during the said period it shall not be lawful for any other person or persons, company or companies, to use such engines on the said road.'

Hon Dr Helmcken moved that the 3d clause be amended so as to read thus:

'III. It shall be lawful for the said Josiah Crosby Beedy and Francis Jones Barnard, their executors, administrators or assigns, for the period of one year from the passage of this bill, to make such reasonable charges in respect of the conveyance of goods and passengers that may be offered to them for carriage, as the said Josiah Crosby Beedy and Francis Jones Barnard, their executors, administrators or assigns may from time to time determine upon.'

Carried—Messrs Humphreys and Carrall in the negative.

Hon Attorney General moved to add two sections to the Bill—one to the effect that any work required to be done on the road by the company in altering gradients and strengthening bridges be done under the supervision of the Lands and Works Department, and the other regulations as to the weight of freights carried over bridges, not to be greater than that allowed heretofore.

The committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again on Wednesday next.

Council adjourned to meet on Wednesday at 1 o'clock p.m.

A CANDID ADMISSION.—Our contemporary of the Seattle *Intelligencer*, in an article upon the High Commission about to sit at Washington, concludes with the following candid admission:—"Neither is it desirable for this Administration to effect any settlement just at present, however much private interests may suffer in consequence of a prolongation of the enforcement of those $13,000,000 due our citizens—and we are satisfied that such demands will be made by us as to defeat the apparent object had in view. These Alabama claims could have been settled two years ago. That was too soon. It is too early yet by about a year. But in the meantime this joint commission will look like business and an honest effort toward the restoration of cordial and friendly relations, and after months purposely wasted in unprofitable discussions, we can expect a decided stand will be taken on this subject by the Administration just in time for the Presidential campaign during next year, '54-40 or fight' elected one President, and these Alabama claims will undoubtedly be used as the means for the election of another."

BEET SUGAR DON'T PAY.—A writer in the San Francisco Commercial *Herald* argues that the manufacture of beet sugar in California will not pay, and submits an elaborate statement with estimates in detail, to fortify his position. According to his figures, the cost of working up six thousand tons of beets—including cost of beets—would be $121,286, while the sugar produced would be worth but $67,200. The editor of the Commercial *Herald* gives a qualified endorsement to his figures, and seriously doubts whether the business can yet be made to pay.

THE SCHOOLS.—Yesterday Mr Nathan's motion for a Select Committee to enquire into the working of the School Act brought out a curious fact. The Victoria Board of Education had petitioned for pecuniary assistance in discharging liabilities to teachers amounting to upwards of $800, and it was shown by the hon Colonial Secretary that there is standing to the credit of the local Board of Education at the Treasury the sum of $480, said sum having been granted in 1870 for the use of the local Board by the Government. The local Board, it appears, was notified of the existence of the grant, but, for some unexplained reason, had failed to draw it.

HONOLULU ITEMS.—The schooner Robert Cowan, on the 25th of January, was still awaiting the arrival of sugar from the interior before sailing for Victoria.....Frederick Riley, second mate of the brig Robert Cowan who fell from aloft a few weeks ago, died at the Queen's Hospital on the 23rd of January .....The sch A P Jordan had arrived from California with lumber and would load for Australia.

ASSAULT.—Robert Mitchelby for assaulting Charley, a Hydah Indian, by striking him in the eye with his fist, was yesterday fined by the Police Magistrate $10, or in default of payment thereof seven days imprisonment.

FINED.—Ah Ket, the Chinaman who was arrested on Saturday last for setting off fire crackers on the street, was yesterday brought up on remand and fined $2 50 and $1 costs.

SING VEREIN.—Last evening the Germania Sing Verein sat down to a bountifully spread board at the Pacific Telegraph Hotel, which was presided over by J L Jungermann, Esq. President of the Society. The enjoyment was unalloyed and the repast was prolonged till a late hour.

THE new steamer now being built for Capt E. A. Starr at San Francisco will have a length of 180 feet, 30 feet beam, 10 feet hold and a walking beam engine. The machinery was made at New York.

A CIRCULAR from Vienna, Austria, informs us that Mr Julius Grunbaum, of the firm of Grunbaum Bros of this Colony, has been admitted a partner in the mercantile firm of S Spitzer & Co of Vienna.

ARRIVAL.—The sh p Elmstone, Capt Thomas, 10 days from San Francisco, arrived last evening. She will go to Moody & Co's mills to load with lumber for Callao. The Grappler, Captain Devereaux, will tow her out to-day.

SKEENA AGENTS.—Messrs Hankin & Cunningham are the agents for the sale of the *Daily* and *Weekly British Colonist* on Skeena River.

THE new custom-house and post-office at Portland, Oregon, will be built of Bellingham Bay stone which is of a similar character to that of Newcastle Island.

THE steamboat Fortynine is being overhauled at Colville and will shortly recommence regular trips to Big Bend.

STEAMER DEPARTURES.—The Douglas for the East Coast, and the Olympia and Isabel for Puget Sound, sailed yesterday.

ROYAL HOSPITAL.—There are thirteen patients at the Royal Hospital.

What is Bunster About?

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—I have been expecting that some of Mr Bunster's Nanaimo friends would have shown through the press the anomalous position he occupies as the Representative of this District. Nobody ever thought he would vote against the adoption of the Canadian Tariff. On the contrary a general impression was formed from his speeches before the election that he was in favor of that tariff, which everybody knows is lower than our present one; and to go a little further he was not for a tariff at all, but avowed himself to be a consistent free-trader! Now what do we find? He votes against accepting the Canadian Tariff, a measure that would greatly reduce the cost of living, and thus benefit to a considerable degree the community of Nanaimo. When the Canadian and British Columbia Tariffs are compared, and the conditions whereon we enter the Dominion are borne in mind, is it not astonishing that any person professing to represent this District should vote against the change? It must be from motives of self-interest that it is done. At all events the interest of Nanaimo, it seems, are to be disregarded when those interests clash with the ephemeral success of Bunster's Brewery. Bunster, indeed, appears to be a Protectionist out and out, and would not object to the retention to the present turnout, 35c. of duties charged on the necessaries of life which is so hurtful to the working men of the country, especially if such retention would benefit Grow.

FREE TRADE.

NANAIMO, 16th February, 1871.

THE Steamer Otter was announced to sail at daylight this morning. The passengers went aboard last night.

APPOINTMENT.—Mr Thos Hankin has received the appointment of Postmaster and Government Agent for Skeena River.

GEROW & JOHNSON'S

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Express & Stage Line

CARRYING HER MAJESTY'S MAIL.

WILL LEAVE YALE on or about the 4th March next for CARIBOO AND WAR STATIONS.

One trip during March, and weekly thereafter.

EXPRESS MATTER of all kinds forwarded with regularity and at CHEAPER RATES than by any other line.

Passengers Carried at Greatly Reduced Rates.

AGENTS:

G. C. GEROW, Victoria—Office Government street, between the Post Office and Custom House.

J. T. SCOTT, New Westminster.

C. G. SAWERS, Yale.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 8th, 1871. fo14 6m&w

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SHIRTS & UNDERCLOTHING

Suitable for Miners, or any other trade

—AT—

W. J. Jeffree's

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SAW MILL

FOR—

Germansen Creek!

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS IN PROCESS of construction at the Albion Foundry, in this city, machinery for a 10 horse power Sawmill to be erected on Germansen Creek, six miles from its mouth. This machinery will be sent to its destination at the earliest possible day, and miners and others may depend on being supplied with

All Kinds of LUMBER at Reasonable Rates.

Workmen are now engaged at the creek in getting out timber for erecting the buildings. The mill will be in working order before high water next Spring.

JOHN QUADRA STEWART.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL

CORNER FRONT AND MORRISON STREETS,

PORTLAND, OREGON.

JOHN J. JACOBS, Proprietor

HAVING LEASED THIS NEW AND Elegant Hotel, which is built throughout with Family and Single Rooms, SPLENDIDLY FURNISHED for ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY GUESTS and supplied with all the modern improvements for their comfort, with fine Ventilators, Baths, Gas, etc.

The Proprietor trusts that a reputation won by the St. George Hotel in Victoria, B.C, while under his management, will be a guarantee to his numerous friends and the public of his purpose and ability to maintain the well celebrated and worthy establishment.

Cosmopolitan Hotel,

SEATTLE, W.T.

Leary & Wheeler, Proprietors

THIS HOUSE IS SITUATED ON THE corner of Commercial and Washington streets, in proximity to the Post Office, Bank, etc. Travelers can rely on good accommodation. aug1 6m&w

FARM FOR SALE.

A FARM CONTAINING 160 ACRES—80 acres of which are under cultivation, 25 acres under fence, and 100 acres good tillable land, with the usual Buildings, and with or within 1000 dollars of improvements. It is situated seven miles from town in a thriving district, and will be sold LOW FOR CASH. For particulars apply at this office.

C. Strouse,

Importer of

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WHARF STREET, VICTORIA.

A CARD.

HAVING LEARNED THAT CERTAIN interested parties are spreading the report that Barnard's Express and Stage Line will not continue to Beaver Creek and Cariboo as heretofore, I hereby state that not only will that business be continued in all its past efficiency, but the arrangements are nearly matured for greatly reducing the rate of charges and increasing the efficiency of the service, as soon as the Spring opens fairly.

A. N. BARNARD.