

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, February 12, 1867.

The Differential Duties Act under Union.

The collection of duties on goods shipped from Victoria to New Westminster, which has been persisted in by the Government since the Union, on the ground of expediency, although admittedly known by them to be a wrongful act, is about to be made legal, not merely as regards the past, but also for the future; as there is but little doubt that what with propriety may be termed His Excellency's Legislature will pass whatever bills he requires, and his Attorney General says these illegal exactions are justified by expediency. Until this doctrine was urged by that official we used to think that whatever was "morally wrong could never be politically right," but there is one part of this business, which is not merely grossly unjust, but so dangerously inexpedient, that public attention should at once be called to it with a view, if possible, to prevent a dangerous abuse of power. It will be recollected that the present "Customs Ordinance" of British Columbia was expressly framed for the purpose, and has the effect of levying differential duties on goods imported from Vancouver Island. When the miners and others petitioned against it as calculated to increase the price of necessaries at Cariboo, and, like sensible men, complained that it was hard that they should suffer merely because New Westminster envied Victoria her trade, His Excellency admitted that the measure had the appearance of hostility towards Victoria, but justified it on the supposed ground of "expediency," (we fear we shall hear a great deal of this word), pointed out with much clearness that every Colony should endeavor to establish a commercial centre within her own limits, and complained that the profits of the mercantile transactions of British Columbia should be enjoyed by Victoria, which (so he said) in no way contributed to the revenue of that Colony. Now, this reply of His Excellency, written early in 1865, is valuable as avowing the views he then held, and his reasons for the peculiar framing of the Customs Act, both which may be concisely stated as the doctrine of building up New Westminster at the expense of Victoria; and it seems incredible, although we fear it is too true, that this hostile measure, framed before the Union, terminated by the proclamation of the Union Act, but since then deliberately put in force in defiance of the law, is to be re-enacted with reference to Vancouver Island, now a portion of the united Colony. The result is, that direct shipments to New Westminster are still, as heretofore, to be discouraged by the Legislature, and the trader and consumer in the interior of British Columbia is to pay for the great expense of endeavoring to divert trade from its established channel, and of artificially restricting Victoria to her commerce on the Island. It is to be observed likewise that the exigencies of the revenue will require that the Customs Duties should be higher than heretofore, and as those imposed on, many at least of the necessaries of life cannot be increased, other necessaries and luxuries in general must be taxed on a very high scale. The effect of this, as an inducement to direct shipments, is well known to merchants; but as the matter concerns the public in general, it may not be amiss to give an illustration of the working of the "Customs Act," passed at New Westminster, in this respect. Liquors, which are invoiced in London, say at \$100, on their arrival in Victoria, for the purpose of estimating duty, would be, and we believe are, valued by the Collector of Customs at \$133. Now, we will suppose the duty payable by the new tariff on such luxuries to be very high, say 100 per cent. (we assume this purely for the sake of illustration), then such goods, going from Victoria, will be laid down at New Westminster for twice \$133, or \$266. On the other hand, if shipped direct

from London to New Westminster, they would be laid down there for \$100, added to the duty calculated on the London value, or \$200—leaving a balance in favor of the direct shipment of \$66. The freight and other charges payable on the respective routes for the purpose of this inquiry, and so far as the action of the Legislature is concerned, need not be carefully calculated, although no argument can be adduced, that we are aware of, that offers any commercial inducements for shipments to New Westminster, instead of Victoria, but certainly the reverse. If the reader will now substitute for the supposed cent. per cent. duty others of less amount, say \$50 or \$25 on the different articles imported, he will find an injury is inflicted on Victoria in each case, by what we may term the Differential Duty Act, diminishing, it is true, along with the scale of charges, but in every instance a matter of serious importance. We are aware that a drawback in practice is allowed on goods, which, since the Union, have paid duty in Victoria, and if this practice is continued, what we have said will only apply to goods now actually in Vancouver Island, and which were imported before Union; but on the owners of such goods this great injury will in any case be inflicted. And we must protest against our rights being, in any case, regulated by practice, which, after all, means no more than the tender mercies of the Collector of Customs. In this, and in every case, where the delicate subject of the people's pecuniary rights is involved, we demand that the matter should be regulated by law, which it is the bounden duty of Her Majesty's representative to see justly framed and righteously enforced.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Wednesday, February 6.

FREIGHTFUL AFFAIR AT COREA.—News from Corea, says the Hong Kong Mail of November 1, has arrived to the effect that the French have initiated proceedings to teach the Coreans that murdering foreigners is an unlawful pastime. The French admiral has sailed with his squadron to the Corea, but active operations will be deferred until after the winter. A sad tale of Corean barbarity accompanies this intelligence. The master and crew of an American schooner, named the General Sherman, with two English gentlemen, a Mr Thomas and Mr Hogarth, have been roasted to death by order of the king or his father—some accounts say the latter—the unhappy victims having been tied down in their berths and the ship then set on fire. We may suppose that some notice will be taken of this by the British Government. Whether lawfully there or not, their semi-barbarous murderers have no shadow of excuse for this atrocity, and it is to be hoped that prompt and effectual punishment will be inflicted; not a pecuniary one only, let us trust, as there is but too good reason to fear will be the case where the lives of British subjects are concerned.

ACCIDENT TO THE SCHOONER MEG MERRILLIES.—About 11 o'clock on Monday night, the schooner Meg Merrilies, bound for Victoria with a load of produce from Penn's Cove, Whidby Island, ran on a sunken rock off Beacon Hill, and went over on her beam ends. The crew saved themselves by means of a small boat, in which they managed to reach the shore, notwithstanding a heavy swell. The wind was blowing a perfect hurricane at the time of the accident, and the schooner struck so heavily as to lose her false keel and start her timbers. A part of the cargo floated ashore during yesterday, and the high wind that prevailed prevented any communication being had with the vessel. The Meg Merrilies is an American built schooner of some fifty tons; is owned by P. McQuade, Esq., and is valued at \$3000. The cargo is worth some \$700. An effort made by the Sir James Douglas to tow the schooner off, failed.

HANOVER.—A Berlin letter in the France has the following:—The news from Hanover is alarming. Serious disturbances are apprehended, and it is said that Count de Bismark desires to proclaim the state of siege. Similar intelligence arrives from Saxony. The Prussian soldiers are frequently insulted in the towns, and those belonging to the country loudly declare that they will recommence the war in a year. These facts are such as strongly to excite public attention. On the other hand the peace which seemed to be final between the Government and the Opposition in the Chamber was only a truce; hostilities are again commencing, as you may judge by the debates of the last few days, and all earnest and patriotic minds are preoccupied with the subject.

IMPORTING SALMON.—The Fidelity brings to Messrs. Everden & Bebee a large lot of Fraser River salmon. To the uninformed this may appear as silly as the shipping of coals to Newcastle. Messrs. E. & B. know what they are about, and they have learned that the salmon from the Sound and Fraser river are more palatable to the Hawaiians than those from the Columbia river, the latter being too fat to eat raw, as Salmon is universally eaten in that country. The shipment will be placed in a bonded warehouse until the departure of the next vessel for the Sandwich Islands, when the invoice will be shipped to Honolulu.—Oregon Herald.

PORTLAND STEAMER.—It is rumored that the present is the last trip of the Pacific to this port. The Orizaba is to be docked and rebuilt, and the Pacific will take her place on the Southern route. The screw steamer Ajax will be put on the line between this place and San Francisco. During the past month workmen have been engaged remodeling the upper works of the Ajax, and enlarging the passenger accommodations. She is a very large ship, and will be without doubt the largest craft that ever entered the Willamette.—Oregon Herald.

THE SOIREE DANCE OF THE Victoria Dancing Assembly came off on Monday evening, and whether we speak of the number and beauty of the fair guests, the agreeable character of the re-union, the delightful music, or the elegant supper, we unhesitatingly pronounce it a complete success. Dancing was kept up until a very early hour yesterday morning.

Mrs. DIGBY PALMER'S Soiree Dausante will take place this evening at Germania Hall. Every exertion has been taken by the lady promoter and her efficient committee to render the soiree one of the most brilliant and respectable of the season. A large orchestra will be in attendance, and we hope to see the room well filled.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.—The Council met on Monday evening, the members all present but Councillor Trahey. Mr C. Gowen took the chair in the absence of His Worship. The publication of the By-law for Municipal revenue purposes was discussed and laid over till next meeting, which will be held on Friday next.

THE FIDELITER sailed from Portland for Victoria on Thursday last, and is probably detained in Baker's Bay. Her freight is as follows: 7 pkgs mds; 460 boxes apples; 3,200 qr sks flour; 95 sks wheat; 50 pkgs bacon; 10 hl bbls butter; 7 cs lard; 34 boxes eggs.

CONVALESCENT.—Dr Tolmie, who has for several weeks past, at different periods, been seriously unwell, is progressing favorably, and will shortly, we learn, be able to undertake his daily visits to town. The doctor's many friends will be glad to hear of his convalescence.

THE NICHOLAS BIDDLE.—This ship lies in Esquimalt harbour waterlogged. She has received injuries of a serious character, and a survey will be held as soon as the weather moderates.

WAGES.—J. Smith recovered \$15 from J. Costello, before the Magistrate, yesterday. Old John Brown was not so fortunate, a suit which he brought against the same party being frowned out of court.

FROM THE WEST COAST.—The schooner Surprise arrived yesterday from a trading trip to the West Coast of the Island. She reports rough weather, but nothing in the way of news of interest.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On Thursday evening the following questions will be brought up for consideration: "Is the present form of Government the most suitable for this Colony?"

THE CONCERT in aid of the Female Infirmary came off last evening, and was an entire success, both in the respect to the attendance and the performers. An extended notice will appear to-morrow.

KEEPING UP NEW YEAR'S.—A son of the Flowery Kingdom was arrested yesterday for endangering the public safety by setting off fire-crackers on a wooden sidewalk.

THE WIKES continued down north and south of this place yesterday, with no hope of being replaced until the storm shall have abated.

Another Indian whisky-seller was bottled last night by the Police, and will be unceremoniously taken by the Police Magistrate.

THE EVANS BROS. will come before the Bankruptcy Court for their first examination to-morrow, at New Westminster.

A young man in Illinois was greatly smitten with a neighbor's daughter, and wanted her for his wife. In order to win her unsophisticated heart, he invited her to go with him to a circus that was shown in the vicinity. She accepted the invitation, and as they neared the ticket wagon, the young man rushed upon his fate by asking her suddenly if she would marry him. "No, I thank you," she replied. "You won't, eh?" exclaimed the ardent youth, "then buy your own ticket!" She took his advice and enjoyed the show greatly, but he didn't.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

Canada.

[Dates to December 28th.]

Mr Southernland, of Peterboro, C. W., writes to the Examiner of that place, stating that he had tried the experiment of shipping flour to Brazil with excellent success. According to a statement which he furnishes, the transaction stands as follows: Cost per bbl, at Peterboro.....\$6 50 Freight to Montreal.....40 " Rio Janeiro.....1 40 Commission, insurance, duty, &c.....1 07 Value at Janeiro.....\$9 37 Profit.....\$3 28

The following very comical but genuine letter was actually received by the prisoner Lynch at the goal in Toronto from Roberts, the President of the Fenian organization: New York, Nov. 30, 1866.

Robert Bless Lynch, Esq., Toronto Gaol: Sir.—Your letter requesting me to send to Washington affidavits of your non-military connection with the Irish Republican army has been received and the request complied with, in the care of Capt. Fitzpatrick, and I will write to Gen. McNeil on the subject. I regret to tell you that you are not going to be hanged. So great a crime upon a non-combatant like yourself would make every Irishman in America a Fenian, and furnish our exchequer with the necessary means to clear Canada of English authority in short order—a consummation devoutly to be wished; and therefore I say I regret that you will not be hanged. It would be a glorious death for you; and a life that would otherwise pass away unknown in a few years, at most, would become an honored portion of the history of our race and of the times.

But whatever be your fate, pray God that you will act a brave dauntless part to the last. Remember that you not alone represent your own weak nation, in the position in which you are placed, but your country and your race also, and though much I regret that you are in the power of bloodthirsty foes, I still trust and hope that, under any and all circumstances, you will make your country proud of you, and your name honored. I remain yours sincerely,

W. R. ROBERTS, Pres. F. B. The match of this production would be hard to find. Only fancy a man writing to a friend under sentence of death with great regret that he is not to be hanged, and coolly giving as a reason for this regret that his execution would bring a pile of money into the Fenian exchequer.

It is stated that the military authority have in contemplation the transportation of works and machinery from England for the conversion of all the Esfields in the Provinces into breech-loaders.

MONTREAL, Thursday December 20.—James Griffin and Frank Knapp, who robbed the Royal Insurance Company's office, New York, of \$250,000 in bonds, were traced to this city and found at the Ottawa Hotel with two women; there was nothing on their person to prove guilt, but both were well armed, the manager of the Royal identifies the prisoners, one of whom managed to steal a box with the bonds out of the safe while the other conversed with him. Capt. Young of the New York police, states that they are professed thieves, and he recognizes others in our streets. A reward of \$10,000 was offered for the arrest of the said prisoners.

The court of inquiry, composed of Cols. Denison, Shanly and Fairbanks, assembled at 2 1/2 P.M. to inquire into the case of Lieut. Col. Dennis, who presented his report of \$10,000 worth of all blame for his conduct in the skirmish that took place there on the 1st of June—Col. Denison dissenting. The Commander-in-Chief, however, has appended remarks to the report concurring in it, and acquitting Dennis of everything save an error of judgment in precipitating an encounter with the Fenians before he knew their strength.

Nova Scotia.

From the report of the Nova Scotia Gold Commissioners for the last quarter, we learn that the total amount of gold obtained during the three months named was 7184 oz. 4 dw. 16 gr. In the corresponding quarter of 1865 there were 6468 oz. 6 dw. 9 gr. produced, showing an increase of 716 ounces.

It is stated that a man employed about some of the wrecks on Sable Island lately lost his life in a distressing manner. It seems that he was crossing the Island during a storm of wind, became blinded with sand, and when found by a party of men was insensible. The sand had to be spooned out of his throat and nostrils, but the poor fellow died shortly after.

Margret Langley, the woman arrested on Tuesday on a charge of having passed a counterfeit \$20 Confederate note, was found dead in one of the cells of the Police station, on the following morning. An inquest was held before Coroner Jennings, and a verdict returned to the following effect:—"That the deceased Margret Langley came to her death by valvular disease of the heart, accelerated by intemperate habits, on the night of 4th inst., in the cells of the Police Station. The jury further state that from the evidence adduced the cells for the incarceration of unconvicted prisoners are barbarously unfit for the designated purposes, and should be at once reformed."

DEATH OF A CATHOLIC PRIEST.—The Sacred Union of Monday says:—During the morning, the Rev. Father Criman, who occupied apartments in the building adjoining the church, was struck with paralysis. It at once became evident that the case was critical. Several physicians were at once sent for and soon arrived. The patient expired in a few hours.

A new mode of dispersing mobs has lately been discovered, and it is said to act like a charm. The mode is to pass round a contribution box!

Execution of the New Zealand Thugs. Extraordinary Dying Speeches.

(From the Otago Daily Times, Oct. 20.)

In our last summary it was stated that Burgess, Levy and Kelly had been tried and found guilty of the murder of Felix Mathieu, one of four persons who were murdered by the prisoners, in company with James Thomas Sullivan. Sullivan was afterwards tried and convicted of the murder of J. M. Battle, an old whaler; but the sentence of death passed upon him was commuted to penal servitude for life, in consideration of his having been the means of convicting the other three, who were left for execution.

On Friday, Oct. 6th, the sentence was carried into effect on Burgess, Levy and Kelly, in the Jail Yard at Nelson. All the men died protesting the truth of the statements they had made, and Kelly and Levy repeatedly declared themselves innocent. Burgess was the first to speak. He declared that Sullivan was the murderer of Battle, of Mathieu, and of the Surveyor Dobson; and that Levy and Kelly were entirely innocent of all the murders. He acknowledged himself morally guilty of Dobson's murder, because he knew it both before and after it was perpetrated; but he asserted that Sullivan was actually concerned in all the six. He expressed himself happy on a morning as glorious and bright; and had it not been for the regret he felt at the unmerited fate of Levy and Kelly, he could die happily and almost joyously.

Kelly read a long statement, of the style and character of which the following extracts will give an idea. It commences:—"A good morning but an unpleasant morning to you all, gentlemen, countrymen, brothers and spectators of one of the most awful, terrible, dreadful, fearful, shameful, painful, mournful, revengeful, hateful, wrongful, unjustifiable, ignominious, inglorious deaths and murders that ever took place in the wide world since the creation of Adam, and a sad morning to my poor self; and may God be merciful to me a sinner and not a murderer!" After referring to the atonement of Christ, he continued:—"Since I have been bound as I am, Almighty God has searched and tried me, to see if there has been any such wickedness in me as ever to know the certainty of the Maungatapu murders until Sullivan confessed. May I never be forgiven my sins upon earth, or after I shuffle off this mortal coil and appear before Almighty God, if I am not innocent of killing or being with any person that did kill, on the Maungatapu or elsewhere any other murdered men in the world. If my assertion and dying word be not the truth, I hope that after I ascend the fatal and unwelcome scaffold and the bolt is drawn that will launch me out of this world and that whilst my frail and worthless body of clay is dangling in the air, the devil will be watching for the moment my soul departs from this body and that it may be borne on the wings of the devil to the bottomless pit of hell, at a speed more rapid than the light of the sun reaches our earth. Yes, at a speed as quick as lightning which I believe to be the fastest thing that travels, for I can think to Heaven in an instant." He next termed Sullivan "The Demon of the West Coast and the Maungatapu Mountains Assassin." He prayed for a blessing on the heads of the people of Nelson for their efforts to discover the bodies of the murdered men. He praised what had taken place on the part of the people of the town named after the gallant hero of the sea and ocean and the conqueror of old England's enemies. Nelson, the intimitable wounder of sea fights and war, and hoped he was happy; calling upon God to bless him, for he liked a patriot. He then copied a hymn referring to the hour of parting with all earthly things and concluded his dying speech thus:—"And this hour has been fully before me the great part of my life, but never as it should have been, until after my arrest. But may I find life and Heaven with my God. So farewell to everybody, from Tommy Noon, called Kelly."

Levy evinced the least emotion. He complained that the authorities did not allow him money to secure witnesses, that he had been unfairly treated by the press, and that had he been tried elsewhere he would have been acquitted. He appealed to the editor of the Colonist to give his statement full publicity, and declared by Jehovah (putting on his hat), and mentioning the place of the murder of the four men, that he and Kelly had been six hours away from the society of Burgess and Sullivan. He complained of his treatment in prison, and of favor having been shown to Sullivan, and concluded by protesting his innocence. The preparations being completed the men ascended the scaffold with their religious advisers, and all knelt down in prayer. Burgess professed penitence and hope in God; thanked all the officials for their kindness, and said he was quite ready to submit to the sentence of the law. Kelly ejaculated, "Oh! God! I am not ready. Give me a few more minutes to speak!" The ropes were adjusted, and the caps drawn over their eyes. Levy, who was still kneeling on the drop, cried out in a loud and distinct voice, "I am innocent." Kelly, while kneeling, attempted to rise and address the people assembled. He called out, "I am not being hanged, I am being murdered!" The drop fell—in a short time the men were dead. Burgess appeared to die instantly, without a struggle; Levy suffered two or three slight convulsions; Kelly showed signs of life the longest.

BOLD ROBBERY.—A St. Louis correspondent of the San Francisco Bulletin, upon date of November 21st says: E. Jaccard & Co., jewelers, of this city, were yesterday robbed of ten thousand dollar set of diamonds, in a very ingenious manner. The thief was an elegantly dressed, genteel looking man, and claimed to be looking for a large assortment of jewelry to stock a store in St. Joseph. He was shown an assortment of valuable diamonds among other things, and while the salesman was engaged in waiting upon some ladies, the gent made an urgent excuse for a trip to the basement in a confidential whisper, and passed down, leaving his hat on a counter. He then passed through a side door into Leitch's drug store, and drawing forth a cap concealed about his clothes, passed out. When the salesman finished serving the lady customers, he discovered that a casket containing a ten thousand dollar diamond set had gone with the stranger.

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The Question of the "Capital Connection with our Bondholders."

The consideration of the local Capital of the United Colonists of being considered in so many points of view, all tending, we think, to show the necessity of establishing the seat of Government in Victoria, that one is apt to overlook many which, properly viewed, are more important; and we now propose to consider briefly the question chiefly regards our credit abroad, and especially in London, where our bondholders chiefly reside, as in case by mismanagement we excite disfavor among them, the consequences would be ruinous, not merely for a time, but permanently, by our want of confidence in capitalist reference to the Colony. We then inquire first, on what security did such bondholders advance money? Next, what policy should be pursued to prevent that security being diminished to their advantage? Now, the British Colonists were, doubtless, purchasers of full confidence, not merely in the existence of the resources of the fields, but in the expectation that the resources would be developed by legislation, such as would keep in view, as a primary object, the sufficiency of the security for debt due by the Colony to the capitalist. At the time the loan was made, those resources were in way to be opened up satisfactorily the usual and necessary means, namely, by the establishment of a suitable depot for supplies accessible to shipping (not merely to steamers that is at Victoria, and the roads from the head of navigation to the Fraser to the goldfields, steamers supplying transport, intervening space. It will be noted that in the expression "for supplies" we include the and credit brought here from countries, chiefly by merchants of business, without which even the richest mines could not profitably worked. It is need to add that, when by mismanagement or any other cause, such credit becomes exhausted or drawn, the Colony is in danger of reverting to its original state to their introduction. The and energy with which Sir Douglas accomplished these will long be remembered, sagacity met with the best results, the confidence of monied-men and without the Colony. The tenance of that depot for supplies a centre of commerce, is in its essential to the cheap and profitable working of the of Cariboo as good intercommunication; if either fails, the yield of gold comes affected, and this, the security of the capitalist, being diminished, he naturally becomes alarmed, need not say that the first in line as duty of the Legislature retain his confidence. But our Westminster friends will say build up a new centre of credit and depot for supplies on the last two or three years, and backed by the British Columbia legislature you have utterly failed have succeeded only in alarming impoverishing the rest of the and our public and private of you have scarcely added a your town, and your merchants rather storekeepers) have a capital and credit than ever. would ask, are you satisfied that who have advanced some fourteen hundred thousand upon the good faith and security Colony in general, approve of the contemplated proceeding of pulling Victoria and building up New Westminster, which is, and to all appearances clearly ever will be, a like for a like? Surely honesty at least be trifled with. With respect tenderness for those resident