The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, February 9, 1864.

LAW MAKING.

If a strong argument in favor of a Ministerial Council were wanted, it would surely spring out of the very weakness of the bills that are presented to the House by what a learned senator once called "adventurers in political science." The glaring errors and countless mistakes which occur in bills introduced by independent members are certainly somewhat amusing to by-standers, but withal rather an expense than otherwise, to the Colony. When a bill is very imperfectly drawn it requires a vast amount of settling and arranging in committee, or perchance it is a bill of no very great public interest, and it slips through without a remark, and it is only when the Legislative Council begin to bring their solemn and secret wisdom to bear upon it, that the errors are detested, and to avoid [illegible] as to clauses, the bill is pitched out altogether, room being left for another parliamentary beginner to try his hand at drafting a second bill which will probably meet with a somewhat similar fate. If there were a responsible ministry they would attend to the preparation of all measures in the nature of public bills, and the responsibility of settling them would be removed in a great measure from independent members.

We cannot compliment any of our law makers upon the general wording of their acts of parliament. The bill introduced by the hon. member for Salt Spring, for the more easy Recovery of Small Debts and Demands in this Colony, although apparently drawn with some care, is by no means perfect in its verbiage. The third clause is obscure in its meaning, and scarcely defines with sufficient clearness the duties and privileges of the Judge. If in the face of the notice given by one of the honorable members for the city with reference to the Chief Justice of the colony, the Small Debts Bill is to be persevered with, we should like to see a clause added giving the Governor the power to appoint a court to be held under this Act in any of the country districts in the colony, as from time to time may be necessary, and to appoint any fit and proper person being either the judge of the court held in Victoria or some duly qualified person, not necessarily a Barrister, to hold the district courts. This arrangement would obviate all necessity for any separate Act giving jurisdiction in matters of debt to Justices of the Peace. As with such a clause in the county court act, the Governor would have the power of appointing the magistrate of any district, a judge of the county court of Vancouver Island for his particular district, thus obviating the necessity of separate legislation altogether. There can be no good end served by incumbering the statute books, the smaller the number of Acts for any particular purpose the better it is for the ends of public justice, more especially where they relate in any way to the administration of law or justice.

If, however, the House adopt the same policy which they seem very wisely determined to follow in passing the estimates, they will hardly be prepared to saddle the colony at once with the salaries of two additional judicial officers, until they are satisfied that an urgent necessity for such a course exists, and can it be alleged that such is the case in this Colony? It is perfectly true that the business of the Courts, and more especially the Small Debts Court, is in arrear, and the evil ought to be remedied, but when we consider the work done by judges i[illegible] colonies, we really can only come to [illegible] sion that with our popu[illegible] judge could get through [illegible] business of the colony. [illegible] take Australia. In the [illegible] with a population of ab[illegible] upwards of 200,000 ma[illegible] Fields population, there [illegible] the Supreme Court, with [illegible] for the Gold Fields. Up [illegible] that is to say after the population [illegible] large as above mentioned, two judges took all the criminal cases in the gold fields districts except those of murder, perjury and other crimes of equal gravity, their jurisdiction in fact is larger than that of the Quarter Sessions in England. All the civil cases where the claim was under £200, came before them, and was disposed of without many appeals going to the higher court. Subsequently five additional Gold Fields judges were appointed—and the seven now easily get through the business with a population of 200,000, and in a country where the percentage of crime is acknowledged to be ten fold heavier than in this colony. In addition to the criminal and civil business that comes before them, these seven judges dispose of all the mining business, which in that large gold region is by no means inconsiderable. It cannot therefore be supposed that an efficient judge could not get through the entire legal business of this Colony without any difficulty or delay. The proper course for the supporters of the Small Debts Bill to take would be to pass an act in substance similar to that brought in by Mr. Dennes, but with a clause providing for the appointment of the Judge of the Superior Court to be Judge of the County Court, until it becomes absolutely necessary, from the increase of population, or other causes, to appoint a separate judge.—The Registrar of the Supreme Court should also be the Registrar of the County Court. The Colony is not in a position to vote additional salaries to additional officers, the interests of economy forbid that we should have two judges to do the work of the colony, if it can be accomplished by one.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Recapitulation of the Abstracts of Revenue Received during the Year 1863.

CIVIL.		TOTALS.
Real Estate Tax	$42,945 25	
Harbor Dues	17,294 66	
Land Sales	23,759 39	
Land Revenue	395 84	
Victoria Street Tax	12 85	
Liquor Licenses	23,833 94	
Trades Licenses	17,884 61	
Postage	2,258 45	
Fines, Forfeitures and Fees of Court	3,602 78	
Fees of Office	3,669 47	
Reimbursements in aid	1,790 50	
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,305 25	
Rent	1,261 25	
Interest received	2,740 16	
Deposits	337 31	
Total Colonial Revenue		$149,281 71
Vancouver Island Road and Harbor Loan		$164,085 20
Advances accounted for		39,017 04
Repayment of Advance to Municipal Council		5,362 00
G. T. Gordon's Defalcations		72 06
Balance in hand, January 1st		3,219 15
Total		$361,037 16

Recapitulation of the Abstracts of Payments made during the Year 1863.

CIVIL.		TOTALS.
ESTABLISHMENTS,		
Salaries Fixed	$15,354 39	
Salaries provl. & temp'y	32,616 71	
Office Contingencies	7,373 30	
	$55,344 40	
Revenue Services, exclusive of Establishments	887 25	
Administration of Justice	3,833 60	
do	3,253 00	
Education, do	1,050 00	
Police and Gaols do	8,484 29	
Rent	757 00	
Conveyance of Mails	10,896 35	
Works and Buildings	7,775 11	
Roads, Streets and Bridges	50,697 18	
Miscellaneous Services	5,687 17	
Interest	952 29	
Drawbacks and Refund of Taxes	233 83	
Light Houses	7,436 01	
Deposits	247 83	
Total Colonial Expenditure		$157,632 41
Temporary Debenture Loans Repaid		24,444 00
Advances to be accounted for in the Colony		91,507 26
Temporary Loans to British Columbia		43,650 00
Advance to Municipal Council		10,724 00
MILITARY.		
Colonial Pay, &c., to Royal Marines	$ 9,643 31	
Balance in hand, 31st December	23,825 68	
Total		$361,037 16

ROBERT KER,
Acting Colonial Auditor.

AUDIT OFFICE of Vancouver Island, January 25th, 1864.

EXPLORATIONS.

VICTORIA, 2nd February, 1864.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—SIR: That the Island of Vancouver, on the southwest coast of which is planted the rising and important town of Victoria with her neighbouring settlements, should remain up till now, in point of fact, almost unknown, is, to say the least, very surprising, and it is with much gratification we perceive our Government have explorations in view, when we find an item of $5,000 in the estimates for that purpose. Essays have been written from time to time in affected description of our Island, and in detail of its natural resources, its climate, etc., but the burden of them all has only been the narration of a few facts, such as—the Island great in potatoes; the enormous size of vegetables in general; magnificent pines, so many feet in diameter; fish in fabulous numbers; salubrious climate; the natives, their propensity for thieving—all very true and important information. In reality, however, these essays could not give a substantial account of the general resources, aspect and capabilities of Vancouver Island when we know a great portion of it has never been subject to a thorough practical exploration. No doubt it is supposed that the same rugged inequalites of ground present themselves throughout the entire area of this Island, but that we have not fallen forever asleep on mere supposition, as is seen by the steps in view by the Government, ought to be a source of thankfulness to all interested in this colony.

Let us recapitulate the main points that are known of this Island. First and foremost, where known, wood is found in quantity and quality second to no other country in the world; and the coast with its many arms and creeks offers very favorable opportunity for shipment of timber of all sizes. Second, the soil, where known, is on the average very good, and has been proved to grow cereals superior in weight and quality to many other places. Third, that minerals abound, (*vide* Stock Brokers' Share List). Traces of gold, and any amount of copper, are found wherever sought for. Fourth,—and who will deny it—in all sections of the [illegible] and that have been surveyed, there are [illegible] allowances of rock and swamp (*vide* [illegible] Lands Committee report); and, fifth [illegible] that a large proportion of Vancou[illegible] remains up till this day *terra in*[illegible] Now, with the exception of the [illegible] coal, specks of gold, lumps of [illegible] otatoes, &c., might as well have [illegible] red in a flower pot, for all the [illegible] hat has yet arisen from the dis[illegible] gold has been found in small [illegible] not to mention the specimens of [illegible] metal, copper, that lie in accumulating heaps in every office in Vict[illegible] is it not a natural inference that subst[illegible] findings would be made upon a thorough e[illegible]ploration? Also, larger and better facts o[illegible] land might be found, larger pines, coal to any amount, fish!—well, we will let fish alone, they have been found quite numerous enough, if good clerical authority be correct.

Another sound reason for having an immediate investigation of the Island is, that we at present cannot honestly induce a large immigration to this Colony until we have a truthful idea of the Island's capabilities. People in the mother country complain of knowing very little about the Island; but really we know very little ourselves. Many varied and conflicting reports are, and have been afloat of late in the newspapers of the mother country, and we think that it has now become imperative to be up and doing in the matter.

It is annecessary for us to make any further strictures on this interesting subject, as its importance will at once impress it upon all thinking men in our midst. Our mercantile community, and indeed all who have the interests of the Island at heart, ought at once to co-operate with the Government in sending forth a party of scientific men to thoroughly explore and prospect it, that a full and honest knowledge may be obtained of its qualities, good and bad.

The geographical importance of Vancouver's Island, in a commercial point of view, is of course an established fact, but, and we put it to honest men, can we, as we are at present, honestly induce a large immigration to flock to the picturesque Island of Vancouver. We are, &c.

HONESTIS ET PRUDENTIA.

CITY COUNCIL.

MONDAY EVENING, Feb. 1st, 1864.

Present—His Worship the Mayor and Councillors, Lewis, Stronach, Wallace, and McDonald.

The minutes of last meeting, January 7th, were read and confirmed.

Mr. Lewis rose to a question of privilege, to comment upon what he considered as "crude and rude remarks made at the meeting of Monday last. If the report which appeared in the COLONIST was to be taken as correct, as he supposed it was, those remarks were made when there was no properly organized meeting, there being no quorum. He said he meant no disrespect whatever to the Bench or his brother councillors, but it was well understood by the councillors who were present that he had an important meeting to attend at half past seven, and it only wanted ten minutes of that when His Worship came in. Mr. Lewis then called in question the right of the Mayor to criticise or arraign councillors for presumed shortcomings; he had only the power of calling them to order, and he hoped this would be the last time that it would appear he had assumed that authority. He thought it right that he should express himself publicly, and he would now state, that he was satisfied after the opinion he had himself obtained, that there was a legally constituted Mayor and Council; but with the exception of the power to levy taxes on real estate, he considered they were inoperative. Entertaining that view, although he (Mr. L.) was in favor of the Council discharging all its liabilities, he would be averse to their passing any money bills. He would rather contribute personally towards the culvert on Johnson street than vote the money for it.

His Worship remarked that Mr. Lewis was labering under an entire misconception as to there being any business transacted. There was no quorum, and he and the Councillors present had a desultory conversation while waiting for a quorum. He expressed his regret that Mr. Lewis should have taken offence, as he said nothing derogatory to Mr. Lewis' position as Councillor; but he certainly thought it hard when there were two or three matters of emergency requiring attention, that they should be unable to form a quorum. He (the Mayor) did not think the papers would report all that had taken place, but he had said nothing which he was ashamed to see in print. The papers could say anything they pleased about him; if they praised him him well and good, and if they chose to blackguard him it made no difference.

Mr. McDonald commented upon the desirability of members working harmoniously together for the transaction of business, instead of pulling in different directions. He thought the Johnson street culvert must be attended to at once, though Mr. Lewis was opposed to voting money.

FIRE WARDEN BILL.

The bill passed second and third reading.

JOHNSON STREET CULVERT.

Tenders were opened from Messrs. Fuller, [illegible] and Williams.

Mr. Stronach moved that they be referred to the Street Committee, as the Committee on [illegible] declined to act.

Mr. Lewis referred to Sec. XXII, of the Incorporation Act, and argued that the Council could not vote any expenditure beyond the Municipal Revenue. The Council he said had no revenue.

His Worship and Mr. Stronach contended that the Council had a revenue.

Mr. Lewis said he must leave the board if the motion was to be proceeded with, and accordingly left the table and waited behind the bar.

His Worship informed Mr. Lewis that his leaving the board made no difference as far as the work was concerded, as he (the Mayor) should order it to be done on his own responsibility.

Mr. Lewis.—Is the business disposed of?

The Mayor.—No, I shall sit for 15 minutes and see if another Councillor takes his seat so that we may dispose of this matter.

Mr. McDonald said he did not see that they were called upon to sit there and wait the pleasure of others. The Councillor was about to leave the board when Mr. Lewis returned to his place and moved an adjournment.

Council adjourned to Monday evening next.

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From C. V. Ridout, Esq., Surgeon, Egham: "As an astringent in severe Diarrhœa and an antispasmodic in Colic and Cramps in the Abdomen, the relief is instantaneous."

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1st Stage of Premonitory—In this stage the remedy acts as a charm; one dose generally sufficient.

2nd Stage, or that of Vomiting and Purging—In this stage the remedy possesses great power; more than any other we are acquainted with, two or three doses being sufficient.

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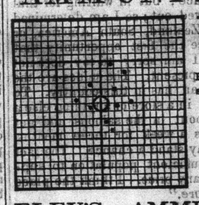

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The wholesome effect exercised by these admirable Pills over the blood and fluids generally is like a charm in dispelling low spirits, and [illegible] cheerfulness. Their general aperient qualities well fit them for a domestic medicine, particularly for females, of all ages and periods of life. They never betray any disagreeable irritating qualities; they quickly eject all impurities from the system, and regulate every function of the body, giving wonderful tone and energy to weak and debilitated persons, while they brace and strengthen the nervous system in a most extraordinary manner.

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Whenever persons find themselves in that state termed "a little out of health," and there are so many causes at work to shorten life, it is necessary that Holloway's Pills, the finest purifier of the blood ever known, should be at once taken, as they not only rid both solids and fluids of all morbid matters, but regulate all disordered actions, and strengthen the frame in a most extraordinary manner.

ld Coughs, Colds, and Asthmatical Affections.

These Pills, assisted in their action by rubbing Holloway's Ointment very effectively twice a day upon the throat and chest, and keeping those parts covered with the preparation, will be found the most effective remedy for asthma, coughs, colds, bronchitis, and influenza. These remedies tranquilize the hurried breathing, soothe the irritated air tubes, and assist in dislodging the phlegm which stops up the air passages. This treatment has proved wonderfully efficient in not only curing old settled coughs and colds, but asthma of many years' standing, and even when patients who were in so bad a state as not to be able to lie down on their beds lest they be choked by phlegm.

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Rarely but little notice is taken of costiveness, yet at certain periods it is a sure sign that danger is near. All who are seized with apoplexy and paralysis, have previously suffered from costiveness; in the former case the blood flies to the head, a small vein is ruptured on the brain, and we know the rest. Let wives counsel their husbands and husbands their wives, never to go to bed a second night if the bowels have not been properly moved during the day, particularly if they feel heavy and drowsy. A few gentle doses of these fine Pills will regulate the circulation of the blood, and remove all dangerous symptoms.

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Constipation of Bowels	Gout	Retention of Urine	Weakness, from whatever cause, &c., &c.
Consumption	Head-ache	Scrofula, or King's Evil	
Costiveness	Indigestion	Sore Throat	
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