The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday May 4 1870.

The Registration of Titles Bill.

It is one of the prerogatives of an irresponsible Government to do exactly as it pleases without reference to the popular wish or the object for which, theoretically at least, all Governments are supposed to exist. Notwithstanding this fact one would naturally suppose that the powers that be would not be unambitious of so exercising their superior rights as to acquire and enjoy a reputation for that dignified wisdom and that consideration for the public welfare which alone can win for them the respect and confidence of the people. Especially might such conduct be looked for at a period like the present when the chronic dissatisfaction of the public with the constitution of the Government has culminated in the loud and general cry for Responsible Government. Bearing in mind that, on the one hand, such a display of liberality and simulated deference to public feeling, in respect of the very important measure which we are about to allude to, could not affect in the least degree any of the cardinal features in the Government policy—such as keeping up the existing establishments, defeating all attempts at retrenchment and providing for the due payment of all the officials—and that, on the other hand, it might, happily, tend in some measure to make the Government popular and cause the cry for a change in its form to abate, it is difficult to understand why our official statesmen have so capriciously wielded their power. A bill respecting the transfer of realestate and registration of titles passed the necessary readings in the late session of the Council. It now awaits the assent only of His Excellency to become law. It may easily be conceived that such a measure invited and received the serious consideration of the principal realestate owners in the colony as well as that of the legal profession. The result of such consideration was that all concerned united in condemning the system embodied in the bill as unsound and unsuited to the requirements of the colony. Accordingly the popular members resisted the measure until they found that it was in reality a Government scheme, and then, seeing that opposition was useless, several of them abstained from taking any part in the discussion. The Hon Mr Drake pointed out time and again the obscurity of some parts of the system, and by dint of hard exertion succeeded in introducing some amendments that have the effect of rendering the bill less injurious than it would otherwise have been. In his efforts to defeat the measure he was supported by a numerously and respectably signed petition to the Council—but nothing availed; as we have said, the bill passed its several readings. So strongly was it felt, however, that the scheme was thoroughly bad, that two of the Banks of the city have requested their legal advisers to report their opinion on the subject, and they have done so. We have been favored with a perusal of a copy of their report—which, by the way, is a very luminous and able document. It is not necessary to specify in this article the many and serious defects in the bill which are pointed out in the report in question. It suffices to say that upon the strength of it a number of influential property-holders have caused it to be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, with the request that if he should see fit to assent to the bill, he would forward the report to the Colonial Office in England. It is hoped that on examination of the matter, Her Majesty will be addressed to disallow the bill, even if His Excellency should see fit in the meantime to assent to it. From these facts it is apparent that we are now in imminent danger of having a law forced upon the colony that is, we believe, as replete with serious objections as can well be imagined. We will not here reflect upon the misfortune of having such a system of Government that renders it possible for crude and incongruous laws to be made in defiance of the respectful and well founded protests of the men who are most deeply interested in the prosperity of the Colony. We shall content ourselves with expressing our regret that this Land Registry Bill has inopportunely come into existence, to aid in lettering and impeding the free alienation of real estate by rendering dealings therein insecure. There is some consolation, however, in thinking that the evil will be only temporary. Certainly the first popular Council under Responsible Government in this Colony will write it off the statute book.

The Constitutional Controversy.

Elsewhere we publish copies of correspondence between His Excellency the Governor and His Worship the Mayor of Victoria, arising out of the public meeting held at the Theatre Royal, a short time ago. This correspondence is scarcely complete without a copy of the Petition, which we have been unable to procure. We have, however, succeeded in obtaining the addendum which the Mayor made to the petition, and which appears to have constituted its most objectionable feature. It runs as follows:

"As Chairman of the meeting held at the Theatre, I cannot call to mind nor have I been impressed with the idea that Mr Humphreys used language calculated to show that Mr Trutch was a dishonest man; but that he did say the Legislative Council was 'a rotten affair' is true, which I fully endorse.

[Signed] JAMES TRIMBLE, Mayor."

Although obviously intended as merely an expression of the Mayor's own personal views, this addendum is held, and perhaps not incorrectly so, to cover all the names placed under it. We must express regret that the Mayor should not have rested content with subscribing to the petition itself; and the addition was all the more unfortunate from the circumstance of its having been the means of placing some other signers in a position they had no intention of occupying. We expressed sincere regret at the time on account of the personalities and inuendoes indulged in by one of the speakers at the public meeting which has resulted so unhappily. While heartily sharing the hope and belief that there are but few in the colony who have so far forgotten their manhood and self-respect as not to condemn the present system of Government, we are still of opinion that the best way to obtain relief is not by unseemly indulgence in unreasoning denunciation and abuse of those who conduct the affairs of the colony, in most instances, we are led to believe, to the best of their ability. Such a course is calculated to put a more liberal form of Government farther off, rather than to accelerate a change which most persons desire. It is by a firm but dignified opposition to the *system*, not to the individuals who carry it out, that we shall most surely and speedily obtain those full powers of self-government without which there can never be either contentment or prosperity. Let us hope that we have heard the last of the unfortunate meeting and its unhappy results. The letter of the Mayor is undeniably an able and dignified document, and it may well be permitted to form the conclusion of the whole matter.

Friday April 29

BENEFIT OF MR E C MELVILLE.—The benefit of Mr E C Melville, one of the most accomplished actors and popular gentlemen connected with the Bates Company, will take place this evening, and a splendid bill offered for the occasion. The pieces are extravaganza of "Aladdin, or the Wonderful Scamp," and the comedy of the "Barrack Room." Of Mr Melville's merits we need not here speak. The public have a keen appreciation of dramatic ability, and the beneficiary's appearance on the stage is always greeted with applause—strong evidence of the esteem in which he is held by Victoria audiences. We hope and believe a rousing house will greet the gentleman this evening.

MAY DAY.—The first of May falling upon Sunday, Monday will be observed as a holiday by the Fire Department of this city. The Firemen will turn out in full force and walk in procession to Government House with their two new steam engines, their two hand engines and four hose carts. The Governor will inspect the Brigade and their machines; after which the procession will re-form and return to the city, proceeding to the City Hall, where His Worship the Mayor will inspect the Department. We venture to suggest that Monday should be generally observed as a holiday in this community, so that all may have an opportunity of enjoying themselves.

RUNAWAY—SMASH!—Last evening a pair of spirited horses and a covered carriage belonging to Mr Bowman were standing in front of Mr Cameron's shop, and while the driver was engaged in depositing some articles in the shop the horses took occasion to run off. Coming up Government street they made a beeline for Uncle Frank's Alhambra Saloon, as if in quest of 'cocktails.' In turning the corner too sharply, however, they left the upper part of the carriage on the sidewalk and continued up Yates street with the running gear.

ORIENTAL LODGING ROOMS.—The rooms lately prepared for lodgers in the fireproof building of Roscoe, Tye & Co, by Mr Wm McKeon, are provided with every convenience that will conduce to the comfort of guests. The establishment is one of the most attractive and cleanly in the city and will, no doubt, attract a fair share of public patronage.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE.—Yesterday Mr Franklin sold three valuable residences with the lots at what are considered good prices. The one-story house on Fl[illegible]ora street, occupied by Mr John Dickson, was sold for $1325 to the tenant. The two-story house next adjoining on the west brought $2300, to Mr Denny; the one-story cottage on Bird cage walk, James Bay, occupied by Mr Guild, was sold to Mr Williams for $1625. A lot on Broad street, adjoining Seymour's furniture warerooms, brought $300; and lot 30, Block 22, New Westminster, $10, to Mr Pearden.

UNDER THE GASLIGHT has been acted in reality in Tennessee. A scoundrel ascertained that a poor German had $22 50 upon his person, and after knocking him down and robbing him of that vast amount, placed him while insensible upon a railroad track while an approaching train of cars was within hearing. The German was discovered in time to save him from the train, but he was in a dying condition when rescued.

THE adjourned inquest upon the body of the Indian woman found floating in the harbor has been further postponed until Thursday next.

Correspondence between the Executive and the Mayor.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
April 20th, 1870.

SIR,—I am directed by the Governor to acquaint you that he has received a memorial signed by yourself and others, having reference to proceedings taken in the Legislative Council respecting language alleged to have been used by a member of their body at a public meeting held in the city of Victoria casting approbrium upon the character and constitution of the Legislature of the colony. The Governor desires me to express his surprise and regret, that you and other gentlemen signing the memorial in question, should so far have forgotten your self-respect, and the respect due to His Excellency as the Queen's Representative, as to state formally that you 'endorse' the language or expressions which you admit that Mr Humphreys used on the occasion to which reference is made with regard to the legally constituted Legislature of the Colony.

Such a course, in His Excellency's opinion, is not calculated to foster any confidence on the part of Her Majesty's Government, or to raise intelligent public opinion in other places as to the fitness of this community for representative institutions or responsible government.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

PHILIP J HANKIN,
Colonial Secretary.

VICTORIA, B. C. April 25th 1870.

SIR.—In reply to your communication of the 20th inst., I have the honor to state for His Excellency's information, that I presided at a public meeting held at the Theatre to take into consideration the question of responsible government in connection with that of confederation, and also the question of the delegation about to proceed to Ottawa, to carry out the views of His Excellency on that all important question.

His Excellency has been pleased to acknowledge, through you, the receipt of a memorial signed by myself and others bearing upon the character and constitution of the Legislature of the Colony, and having reference to alleged remarks made by one of the speakers at that meeting, a member of the Legislative Council, and whose observations at that time became the subject of subsequent discussion and disapprobation in the Legislative Council. I am heartily sorry at the course pursued by His Excellency in expressing his surprise and regret that myself and other persons who signed the memorial in question did so at the expense of their self respect and the respect due to His Excellency as the Queen's Representative.

It may not be out of place, and I trust His Excellency will pardon me in making the remark when I state that His Excellency has scarcely well considered these expressions before they were uttered.

These expressions were altogether in my opinion misapplied in this case as His Excellency must, I presume, be aware that Her Majesty does not possess in her broad domains more devoted or loyal subjects who yeild to none in their attachment to her Majesty Her Crown and dignity, than the signers of that Memorial

If the honest sentiments expressed at the meeting by one of the speakers having allusion to the constitution of this colony, in condemnation of a system so harrassing and degrading to free people, be a crime then his Excellency will find himself almost entirely alone on this question, for there are but few in this city, and I trust in this Colony, who have so far forgotten their manhood and self-respect as not to condemn a system so inimical to their best interests. Having considered the last paragraph of your letter as to the views Her Majesty's Government may entertain respecting the fitness of this Colony for Self-government, or as to public opinion elsewhere, it would, in my opinion, be paying a poor compliment to the wisdom of Her Majesty's Government or to the intelligence of other communities to say that they consider this Colony unfit for Responsible Government, because the citizens of Victoria, in the exercise of their undoubted right at a public meeting, held at the Theatre on the 11th inst, did give vent to their indignation against a system so regardless of the rights of free born Britons.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES TRIMBLE,
Mayor of Victoria, B. C.

THE THISTLE NUISANCE is likely to be greater than ever this year. The Corporation should compel the poundkeeper who don't look after the Widow's Cow and who won't repair the sidewalks, but who does draw his forty round dollars every month, to cut them down *now*, while they are young and tender.

THE Enterprise will sail at 10 o'clock this morning. Barnard's Cariboo and Peace River Express will close at 9:30.

SEVERAL parties paid the amount of their road tax at the Police Court yesterday, under gentle pressure.

A GERMAN COLONY is coming up on the Moses Taylor to settle in Washington Territory.

DOWN.—The line was down South of Seattle last night.

Dominion Mail Summary.

The *Broad Arrow*, usually well informed upon military matters, states that the expedition to Red River is to consist of 300 regular troops, accompanied by an auxiliary force of our own militia. Col. Wolsely is expected to take command.—We are disposed to feel something like gratitude to the home authorities for their deference to Canadian feeling of resentment as expressed in their determination to permit this Dominion to do the major part of the work of retribution. And while there exists throughout the country an ample sense of righteous indignation to guarantee eager competition among our volunteers for place in the Legion of Honour by whom Scott is to be avenged, it may not be out of place to suggest that among Her Majesty's faithful subjects domiciled in Canada there is one not insignificant section upon whom firm reliance may be placed, and whose training and habits especially qualify them for North-West service. It is rumored that Chief Johnson of the Six Nations has offered a force of 800 warriors ready to place themselves at the disposal of the government in this matter. No troops could be found anywhere better adapted to the work before them. They are devoted to the Crown: they are adepts in irregular warfare; and they are thoroughly amenable to the recognized canon of civilized humanity. We shall be glad to learn than their assistance has been accepted, and by-and-by, to congratulate them warmly on our joint success—when Louis Riel, rebel, coward, and murderer, shall be satisfactorily hanged.

The Ottawa papers state that a deputation of six chiefs of the Six Nation Indians waited on the Hon. Secretary of State for the Provinces, for the purpose of paying their respects to him, and laying before him a statement of the affairs of the tribes. The body to which the delegation belongs is the Six nation Stetlement of Tuscarora, on the Grand River, one of the most prosperous Indian settlements under the Canadian Government. In 1864 the band numbered 2,718 souls, and has been steadily increasing since that time. It had then, as now, eight schools, well attended and conducted, and over 13,000 acres of land under cultivation. Their medical wants have also been admirably cared for, two practitioners of ability being resident among them. They have also flourishing agricultural and temperance societies. The party also waited upon His Excellency the Governor-General on the subject of repealing the Act of 1869, affecting the Indian treaties, and for the purpose of representing its unfairness. Chief William Jacobs stated the object of the delegation as follows.

"We have come as a portion of the Six Nations to lay before you the regulations we have so long existed under. There are many of us who still adhere to those regulations. It is a long time since have had the pleasure of appearing before the representatives of Her Majesty. We have always adhered to the treaty made by our forefathers in keeping the grass and bush from growing between us. We adhere strongly to the belief of the Great Spirit, although we are called pagans. When we came to this country our regulations or agreement was shown us, our nation was strong, and the agreement was strong, and we still wish it to remain so, that you keep in your ship, and we in our canoe. It never was expressed or understood we were to abandon the rules of our forefathers. The late Act passed in 1869 conflicts with the agreement made with the British Government and our forefathers. We were never consulted, and think it will not work satisfactorily. We beg the repeal of the said Act; it never was contemplated we should be the same as the whites. We prefer living as our forefathers did. I speak on behalf of the Cayugas, Onondagas and Linecas. Should any of our people remove from the reserve they are still a part of the Six Nation, and entitled to all benefits, let them be were they will."

The Kingston *Whig* says: We are informed that the Supreme Grand Lodge of Canada is to hold its next Annual Meeting in the Kingston Orange Hall Building, on the twenty-first day of June next, and that notice of motions and other proceedings are already on the Registry from all parts of the Dominion. We are also informed that one of the questions to be disposed of is, the expediency of directing that each of the 2,000 Lodges do furnish two proper persons to send to Red River to subject the rebels, and properly colonize the great garden of the North-West. The order is not be promulgated or take effect until the Dominion Government guarantee to receive them as special Volunteers for the term of two years, and give a free grant to each of 200 acres of of good prairie land in the vicinity of Assiniboia and Red River.

The Toronto *Globe* of 6th inst, says;

The British Minister at Washington has intimated to our Government that the American Executive have received warning of a projected Fenian raid all along the frontier from Fort Huron to St. Albans. The American troops have been put on the alert to stop this threatened invasion.

European Mail Summary.

The particulars of the International Rowing match will be read with interest. The course was from Putney to Mortlake, about four miles and a quarter. Notwithstanding great pressure was brought to bear upon the Conservancy of the Thames to allow a private steamer to follow the boats, none but two official steamers were permitted to do so. London poured out hundreds of thousands to witness the contest, and the numbers were increased by excursion parties from the country, brought by trains from all directions. Among the spectators were the Prince of Wales, Prince Teck, son of the Pasha of Egypt, and many Lords and members of Parliament. The bets which at one time were 11 to 8 on the Oxfords, were so eagerly taken by the friends of the Cambridges, that shortly before the start the odds had receded to 5 to 4 on the Oxfords. The excitement of the waiting multitudes became intense as the hour for the start approached. At exactly five o'clock the Oxonians shot out from their boathouse at Putney and received an ovation from the spectators almost equal to that given the Oxford four when they ran against the Harvards last year. The men rested on their oars in midstream nearly eight minutes, when the Cambridges made their appearance and took up a position on the Middlesex side of the river. They also had a most enthusiastic reception from the multitude and seemed in splendid condition. An even start was effected and the boats went off with a strong tide in their favor. At the aqueduct fifty yards, the Cantabs began to gain, and when they reached the Cover Cottage, three quarters of a mile, they were half a length ahead. Here the Oxfords spirted and kept it up for some distance. Their friends on shore wildly cheered them but without effect. The momentary struggle turned in favor of the Cantabs, though the latter were evidently rowing within their strength, and at Hammersmith bridge, Cambridge was clear of the Oxfords. Under the arch the Oxonians again spirited, and succeeded in reducing the gain of their opponents to half a length. A sharp struggle followed in Corney reach, but as they passed the Isle of Air, two and three-fourths miles, the Oxonians began to fade, and the Cantabs, who were still fresh, rapidly drew in front and won the race. The enthusiasm of the spectators found expression in storms of screams and cheers as the Cambridge boat reached the stakeboat. The boat race is now authoritatively stated at 20 minutes and 20 seconds. The Cambridge crew on the morning of the race weighed eleven pounds more than the Oxfords. The winners owe in no small degree their success to the advice of Morrison, who coached the Oxford four last year for their match with the Harvards. A Ghent paper, the *Stad Gend*, publishes the following statement:—'A correspondence has been carried on during the last few days between the English and Belgian Governments upon a subject of some gravity. Mr Gladstone recently received a letter, bearing an illegible signature, in which the writer conveyed violent threats. Among other things the letter stated that if Mr Gladstone persisted in the measures adopted in respect of the Rustchuk Varna Railway Company, he must be prepared for a dagger thrust or a pistol bullet. The letter was written and posted at Ghent. The English Government handed the letter to our Ambassador at London, who forwarded it to our Government to make inquiries into the matter. An investigation has been commenced in this city, but, notwithstanding all efforts, the writer has not yet been discovered.' Mr Bright's health has improved, and he has left Norwood for Brighton. The Marquis of Ailsa has died from the effects of a fall while hunting. The Earl of Roden, Lord Graves, an Irish peer, and Mr E Denison, M P for Newark and nephew of the Speaker, are dead. Dr T Parry, the Bishop of Barbadoes, also is dead. Jacob Spinas, the Swiss porter convicted of murdering an unfortunate woman, and Susannah Hyde, convicted of murdering her infant child, who were condemned to death, have had their sentences respited. The visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to Bombay has been celebrated with great public rejoicings. The royal Duke laid the first stone of a Sailors' Home, towards the construction of which a native Prince, the Guicowar, contributed £20,000. A telegram from Galle announces the arrival of the February Mail from Australia. There was depression in New Zealand, and hostilities had re-commenced. The National Press in Ireland continues to denounce the Peace Preservation Bill as a measure of gross tyranny. A Fenian demonstration was made in Dublin on Sunday, on the occasion of the funeral of Casey, a national poet. About 15,000 persons wearing 'national' emblems were present. Several fresh instances of violence, attempted assassination, and threatening letters have been reported.

Sir H Storks is announced as a Liberal candidate for Newark. Scarlet fever has broken out on board the Britannia cadet training ship, at Dartmouth; and scarletina having become prevalent at Marlborough College, many of the pupils have been sent home. The so-called 'Coercion Bill' continues to be denounced by the Radical press in Ireland, but there is a widespread conviction among the middle classes that some such measures are absolutely necessary. The Farmer's Clubs continue to discuss the Land Bill, which they regard as unduly favorable to landlords, insisting, in some cases, upon nothing less than fixity of tenure as the positive right of the tenant. A Protestant clergyman, Mr Crofton, was fired at and wounded at Kilbeggan, Westmeath. His offence was having given notice of raising his rents. The petition against Mr Heron's return has been presented. The death of Countess Blucher [formerly Miss Dallas] has caused the Queen and Royal family the deepest sorrow. The countess was one of her Majesty's truest and most valued friends, and her loss will be irreparable not only to the Queen but also to the Crown Princess of Prussia, to whom the countess was ever truly devoted. At Accrington, on Saturday last, a young woman named Susannah Horsfall went to have some teeth extracted. The teeth were difficult to extract and the doctor administered chloroform. After having pulled out the third tooth he observed that his patient was dying, and life was very soon extinct. She had had chloroform given a week before but it did not take effect. The death is announced of Mr J. W S Wyllie, late Foreign Secretary to the Government of India. Mr Wyllie was returned to Parliament for Hereford in the liberal interest, at the general election in 1868, but was unseated on petition. Mr Wyllie was one of the most distinguished of the younger members of the Indian civil service, and was the author of several review articles of great ability. He was in his 35th year. Mrs O'Donovan Rossa lectured at Tipperary recently and received an enthusiastic ovation. The hotel where she was staying and some other houses in the town were searched by the police for arms, but without success. General Lord Napier of Magdala, commander-in-chief of the army in India, attended by Colonel Dillon, C B, his military secretary, has left England *en route* for India, via Marseilles.

When all employment becomes irksome and the mind incapable of continued applications to any subject through weariness and exhaustion of the body, than some healthful tonic, acting gently but surely upon the liver and stomach, and gradually increasing the force of the circulation, and of the digestive system will be found to remove the difficulty. Such a medicine is DR. WALKER'S VINEGAR BITTERS, which, in purifying the blood, renovates the system giving it renewed vitality and force as of youth again.