

country? We fear it will be attributed to the tardy, ill-digested, and ill-advised policy of our Executive that thousands have left the colony in disgust.

We firmly believe that the intentions of our Executive were good; that he is too honorable a gentleman, and too sensible to contemporaneous and posthumous fame, to have entertained other than an honest desire to benefit the country; but to the preponderating influences of the Hudson's Bay Company's counsellors—ever hostile to the interests of civilization—we may attribute in a great measure these disastrous consequences.

For a long period the Hudson's Bay Company claimed, under the license of 1858, that the "exclusive right to trade with the Indians," meant an "exclusive right to trade and navigation." To us it was always a doubtful claim, and are now confirmed in our opinion that it was based on unwarrantable assumption. The proclamation annulling the license of 1858, does not mention any right but the "exclusive right to trade with the Indians." In the conference between the Executive and House of Assembly a different position was affirmed, though it apparently differs with Her Majesty's proclamation. If that Company did have the exclusive right, they have it still, as far as the public knows, for it is not annulled in the proclamation. We hope that the government will enlighten the public on this matter, which has had such an important bearing on the present administration.

We did suppose that the mistakes of the past would have been remedied by a more consummate policy in the future. But judging from a recent proclamation, establishing a tariff, and declaring Victoria a port of entry for British Columbia, we think there is still great room for amendment; and that the Executive must be surrounded by sordid advisers who desire to prostitute public good to suit private ends. If it was intended to retard the advancement of British Columbia, we believe it is well calculated to accomplish its purpose.

Though the tendency might be to the interest of Victoria, still as a lover of our common country, we cannot shut our eyes to the insane and unjust policy of excluding British Columbia from the direct trade of the world.

The reasons for this given in the proclamation are the most peevish that were ever offered by a law making power. We quote: "There is at present no officer in British Columbia empowered to levy the duties aforesaid, nor any station in the said colony at which the said duties can be conveniently levied, or at which an officer can conveniently be posted." This we view as a great blunder. For why were not the interests and convenience of British Columbia consulted instead of the convenience of an officer? It cannot be supposed that Gov. Douglas wishes the public abroad to understand that Langley is an unfit place for a station. At home the people will shortly demonstrate its practicability. By order of Gov. Douglas lots were sold at Langley to a very large amount. Did it occur to His Excellency that in mak-

ing this the port of entry that it was virtually a direct injury to the purchasers? Why was it not made known at the time of sale? It was either his intention before the sale or after it to make the proclamation. If before, we believe that in all fairness it should have been made public. If after, then it must appear as a cool design to check the spirit of enterprise in that direction.

For the future we trust we will have the pleasure of chronicling measures bringing honor to the administration, and a greater degree of prosperity to these colonies.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, DEC. 7.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Present.—Hon. Speaker Helmcken, James Yates, T. J. Skinner, Dr. Kennedy, and J. W. McKay, Esq.

The Speaker said the first in order was Mr. Pemberton's motion relative to public roads.

Mr. McKay moved to defer it as Mr. Pemberton was not present, and it was agreed to.

The Speaker said the next in order was the road by Mr. Skinner's, to unite the Hospital road with Craig Flower.

Mr. Skinner stated that the object of the road was to afford greater convenience in travelling between Craig Flower and the Hospital; that it would run around Esquimalt Harbour, and that the cost was trifling.

Mr. Yates thought it was necessary to appoint two disinterested persons Road Commissioners to view the road before any appropriation was made.

Mr. Skinner suggested Mr. Langford, as a gentleman well qualified for the duty. Mr. McKay differed with the hon. gentleman, and thought Mr. Langford had enough business of his own to attend to.

The Speaker thought it would be better to leave it to the Surveyor's Department. Mr. Skinner deprecated any interference with the duties of that department.

Mr. McKay inquired what fund would defray the expense?

The Speaker replied that new roads were made by appropriations from the Crown Land Fund.

Here an irregular discussion occurred on the suggestion of Mr. McKay relative to the East Road; that it was inconvenient to travel from that road to Esquimalt Harbour, as you had to either go by Craig Flower Bridge or Victoria. The Speaker remarked that the Saanich Road was finished. Mr. Yates said that if the old bridge at the rapids was in good repair, and a road connecting the East road with the bridge, it would shorten the distance very much to Esquimalt Harbour, and the regular order was resumed.

Mr. Skinner said he was uncertain whether it would be necessary to purchase the land over which the road would run or not.

The Speaker replied that it would depend altogether on the character of the title whether the colony would be required to purchase the land. Allowed to lay over.

The Speaker asked for an appropriation of 1000 dollars to build a bridge across the gully at the junction of Johnson and Government streets.

Mr. Skinner wanted to know if it was intended to make it level with the grade of the street.

Hon. Speaker replied affirmatively, and that he did not ask for the appropriation now; but wanted to know if it was agreeable to the House to vote it on a future occasion. He would now mention that it would be necessary also to vote money

for a bridge across the gully at the end of Waddington street.

Mr. Yates said that Mr. McKay had some time ago made a motion for the "Blue Book." He now wished to know if the Speaker had received any message from the Governor on the subject.

The Speaker replied that he had received a message from His Excellency, that there was a "Blue Book" in his possession at the service of any person who would make application. He would see that the hon. member should have it.

He would now give notice of an address to the Governor which he would move at the next sitting, relative to equalization of the duties on British and Foreign vessels; the repeal of license of steamers and lighters plying between Victoria and Esquimalt, and for the abolition of charges for clearance on vessels in the coasting trade, and steamers and vessels running between this port and Fraser's river, and that the regulation of the Custom House making it necessary to land or ship merchandise between the hours of 9 a. m. and 4 p. m., should be altered, and that the House should see that it was done.

Mr. Yates said the Custom House closed at 1 o'clock for dinner. It interfered with business, that it ought to be kept open all day.

Mr. McKay said there was no Custom House, and that it was unnecessary.

Mr. Skinner differed in opinion, and thought a Custom House necessary.

The Speaker said some appropriations were necessary for petty roads. He would not ask the House for them to day.

Mr. McKay was in favor of road commissioners.

Mr. Yates said it was absolutely necessary to appoint road commissioners. Without them the public highways could not be kept in good condition.

Dr. Kennedy concurred with the hon. member.

Mr. Yates moved that the House grant permission to repair the road in the vicinity of Dr. Kennedy's farm.

The Speaker informed Dr. Kennedy that permission was granted, and that the House would make an appropriation to meet the expense.

Adjourned till Tuesday next at 11 A. M.

ARCTIC.—Owing to causes beyond our control, many items of interest have been deferred, and our paper delayed. We will be careful that our next issue will appear punctually on Saturday morning, and contain a greater variety of reading matter.

A Proclamation, dated Dec. 3rd, having force of law, is stuck up on the Fort gate, giving power to the Governor of British Columbia to convey lands in that colony.

Removal note.—Mr. Donald Fraser will be appointed a member of the Council for Vancouver Island, in the place of the Hon. Mr. Todd, resigned.

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Sfr Pigeon, Jones, Port Townsend.
Sfr Spray, Barber, Olympia.
Sfr Beaver, Swanson, Fraser river.
Sfr Otis, Mount, Fraser river.
Sfr Mary Ann, Tucker, Langley.
Sfr Mary Ann, Tucker, Langley.
Sfr Mary Ann, Tucker, Langley.
Sfr Mary Ann, Tucker, Langley.
Sfr Mary Ann, Tucker, Langley.

CLEARED.

Dec 7th.—Sfr Wild Duck, Ross, Port Townsend.
Sfr Morning star, McKay, Nanaimo.
Sfr Pigeon, Jones, Port Townsend.
Sfr Spray, Barber, Olympia.
Sfr Beaver, Swanson, Fraser river.
Sfr Otis, Mount, Fraser river.
Sfr Mary Ann, Tucker, Langley.
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