

A Dishonest Policy.

The utter recklessness that characterizes the course of the New Westminster contemporary of the *Examiner*, when dealing with questions that are likely soon to agitate, if they do not shake to its political centre the entire Colony, is to be deplored and regretted. All sensible people are agreed that the Colony cannot support the expensive system of Government which had obtained through times past; and one of the principal arguments advanced by those who favored Union, was that the Government of the united Colony could be conducted with a very small additional expense to that required in the government of one; that but one set of officials would be necessary instead of two; and that in all matters connected with the Government of the country, the most rigid economy could be observed without detriment to the public service. Long before Union, the most careless observer of the affairs of either Colony must have been aware that a "deadlock" was approaching, and that with a rapidly decreasing revenue, a depleted population, and an official staff out of all proportion to the requirements of the country, there was but little hope of either section, if they continued apart, escaping the clutches of the officers of the Bankruptcy Court. After the proclamation of Union, it was understood that the Governor would carry out to the letter a rigid retrenchment policy; that all salaries would be materially reduced, and that all unnecessary expenses would be cut off. It was while actuated by a desire to carry out this understanding, no doubt, that His Excellency commenced the work of reducing the salaries of some of the officials—his own, it is said, among the number—but the moment the first notices are served, the *Examiner* is found snapping at his heels—recommending that the notices shall be recalled, and that he underworked and overpaid servants shall be reinstated in their salaries, because some of them "have families and others have establishments to maintain!" The hundreds of poor families in the Colony must bear excessive taxation without wincing, because, forsooth, a few official families will have to discard wine from their dinner-tables and substitute the more plebeian beverage of "bee-ah!" in its stead; and because a few gay young bachelors will have to "break up" their "establishments." The good of the many must be sacrificed to advance the interests of the few—the poor taxpayer's nose must be kept to the Governmental grindstone while a few pampered officials turn the crank for their own benefit and advancement. Such is the reasoning of the *Examiner*—not implied, but outspoken—on the retrenchment question. But it was reserved for a writer in the *Columbian* to cap the climax by openly announcing, in the most cold-blooded manner, that a reduction in the salaries of the officials was to be deplored and deprecated, and should not take place because Westminster trade would suffer in consequence—the money being all spent and circulated in that town! To the honor of the editor of that paper it must be recorded that he did not endorse the sentiments of his selfish correspondent, and that he support the retrenchment policy as a beneficial measure for the whole Colony. In dealing with the mail subsidy, however, the last-named sheet is equally dishonest with its contemporary. It ignores the wishes of the entire Colony save New Westminster. So long as the capital is served with the mail, and the rest of the Colony foils the bill, everything is "all serene" with the *Columbian*. Hence he proposes to continue the extravagant (we had almost said, iniquitous) mail subsidy, and demands that the trips of the steamers shall be extended to New Westminster. So far as Victoria is concerned, were the place polled, to-morrow, we

believe there would be two votes to one cast in favor of abandoning the subsidy altogether, rather than continue it at the present ruinous rate. Our people are too sensible not to see that to incur liabilities that there are no prospects of discharging, would be not only dishonest, but, in the long run, disastrous. However much they might strive to avert the reckoning day, come it must; and they are too unselfish to demand that the Colony shall be plunged deeper into debt for the purpose of fostering the peculiar interests of Victoria. While the Island, to insure Union, has given up the great blessing of Free Trade, and is prepared to make still greater sacrifices to secure the general prosperity of the Colony, New Westminster is not only not willing to forego a single advantage she previously enjoyed, but actually demands new ones in addition. The old selfish spirit that kept the interior of the mainland from progressing that New Westminster might reap the benefit of public money spent in her midst, is at work endeavoring to shape the policy of the Government so as to involve the Colony still deeper in debt by the erection of public buildings on the mainland, and by the continuance of the seat of Government at a point where neither regard for the health of the officials nor the proper discharge of the public business demand it should be established. It is the old game Westminster has always successfully carried on with the interior towns and Cariboo that is about to be played on Victoria now. It is the pitch-and-toss trick of the sharper with the rustic—"heads, I win; tails, you lose." Whichever side of the coin comes up, Westminster grabs the stakes. We know not whether the articles that have appeared on these important questions are the result of official inspiration, or whether they are purely the ideas of our Capital contemporary; but we do know that if the mail subsidy be renewed, the official staff kept up to its present standard of inefficiency and expenditure, and the Capital continued in its present location, the revenue of the country will not suffice to meet the expenses of Government by many thousand dollars, and that the Colony will be simply running a race with the constable which must terminate in an easy victory for the latter.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, Jan 15

Wreck of the Cyclone.—Twenty Lives Lost.

Most of our readers will remember the clipper ship *Cyclone*, belonging to Aberdeen, and commanded by Captain Alexander Bruce, which twice visited our port, with English freight. We regret to notice in our exchanges that a despatch has been received at the Foreign office from Her Majesty's Consulate, at Nagasaki, announcing the total wreck of the unfortunate ship, on the southwest coast of the Island of Tanega Tima, and loss of the Master and nineteen of the crew. The following is a transcript of the deposition on oath of the three survivors: "We left Sydney on the 22nd of last June, bound to Shanghai and experienced strong fair winds until about latitude 6 south; afterwards winds light and variable. On the 12th of July, in latitude 12 N, lost our fore and main topmasts. On Thursday, August 8th, it was blowing a gale from S to S E, with a very low glass and heavy sea, steering W 1/2 N. At 4 p. m. gale increasing; hauled by the wind on her port tack under close-reefed fore and maintopsails, and foremast-stay-sail. During the night wind still increasing, very dark, with vivid lightning and heavy rains; glass 29.30; corpses flying about on the yard-arm. About 1.45 a. m. on Friday, the 9th, was roused out of bed with the cry of land to leeward. Jumped on deck; captain going up at the same time. The ship having scarcely any headway on her, tried to wear her, but whilst hauling in the weather main braces she touched on a reef, but went over it, and the next sea was broadside on against the rock, the lightning showing it to be about fifty feet high, completely smooth, and we and down; the second sea the masts went; and the third she turned over on her beam ends, deck towards the rock, and went down, she being then almost entirely broken up. Not more than five minutes elapsed from the time she first touched till she was completely broken up. I was in the water about three-quarters of an hour on some of the spars, when I managed to reach another island at daylight; found that I was on one of a group of five small islands close to the mainland, and the rocks on which we had struck were about half a mile to seaward. I managed with the help of a spar to reach the mainland. As soon as I landed the Japanese went off in their boats, and found Thomas Goymar, A. B., and George Brown, the cook, on another island. All of us were badly cut and bruised. All that we saved from the wreck were two shirts and a pair of trousers, which the natives picked up on the beach and brought to

us. On Saturday, we found the body of Joseph Macnamara on the beach, and we buried him in the afternoon, the natives digging the graves for us. On Sunday afternoon, the sea having gone down considerably, the Japanese officers took me off to the rock the ship struck on, and likewise to the other islands. There were no pieces of wreck on or about the rock; but the weather boys of all the other islands were full, even the lower masts and beams being splintered up into small pieces, and some of the wreck jammed into small crevices of the rock forty or fifty feet high. During the three days, we were stopped in the village no other bodies were washed on shore. On the 12th we went in a junk to another village along the coast, and from there took ponies across the island to a town on the other side. We stopped there, living in a temple till Monday, August 26th. We then started in two junks to Prince Satsuma's head town, Kagosima. It took us three days to get there. Left Kagosima for Nagasaki, in a Japanese steamer belonging to the Prince of Satsuma, on Tuesday, Sep. 10th, and arrived in Nagasaki on the 12th. The Prince of Satsuma was most kind to us, supplying us with clothes, and whatever else we required, and forwarded us at his own expense to the Consul at Nagasaki. We were never without guards, and wherever we went the people followed us in hundreds from testifying our sincere thanks to Prince Satsuma and his people, for the affable and kind manner in which they treated us during the time we were in their country, which we shall ever bear in remembrance." (Signed.)

FREDERICK TAYLOR, Second mate.
THOMAS GUYMAR, A. B.

Petition from the Settlements.

The following petition from settlers and residents in Chemainis district has been brought down by Mr. T. G. Askew, for presentation to His Excellency the Governor: To His Excellency the Governor of British Columbia and its Dependencies. We, the undersigned, settlers of Chemainis District, Vancouver Island, most humbly beg to call your Excellency's most serious attention to the great inconvenience that we now labor under from the want of a regular steam communication with Victoria and Nanaimo. There being now upwards of thirty (30) individuals in this settlement, and our produce—which is now considerable—we hope, be on the increase, and it is well known that there is a large amount of good agricultural land in this district, as yet uncultivated, which we think would be immediately settled on if the steamer were to call regularly on her way to and from Nanaimo and Victoria, as she passes only about a mile and a half from Horseshoe Bay, which is a good and convenient harbor and handy to us all. We have this year cut a road through the settlement to this place, and George Askew has put up a good wharf there, in the vicinity of his sawmill, so soon as he knows that a steamer will call regularly. At present the only means we have of communicating with Victoria and Nanaimo is with our boats or canoes, which usually take us from six to twelve days, and is attended with considerable personal risk as well as loss of time, besides having to leave our places to the mercy of the Indians during our absence, and often when we return find them stripped of nearly everything movable; and our letters, which are sometimes of great importance, are sometimes left at Maple Bay for a week before we receive them, and some of us have paid five dollars (\$5) for the bringing up of a single letter, and other things in like proportion. And further, we beg to state that our settlement is often the scene of the most fearful intoxication amongst the Indians, who are regularly supplied by certain crafts from Victoria, and of which we regret to say we are in a measure prevented from informing against, as they are the only means of communication we have, except by our boats or canoes as before stated. So, from the above mentioned facts, your Excellency will readily perceive the necessity of the steamer calling here, as well as at the other settlements; seeing we have to pay the real estate tax, while they do not (except Salt Spring Island). We, therefore, hope your Excellency will cause the steamer Sir James Douglas, or any steamer that may be on the route, to call here. The bearer of this, Mr. G. Askew, will give your Excellency any further information you may require. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray. Signed by John W. Edwards, H. Fuller, C. Loat, and sixteen other settlers. Chemainis, V.I., 10th January, 1867.

POLICE COURT.

Jim, a Fort Rupert Indian, was fined \$10, or in default, a month's hard labor, for stealing a blanket from Charley, of the same tribe. Jim, a Bella Bella Indian, was visited with a like penalty for assaulting Bill, a Simpsen Indian with a knife. It appeared that the two tribes had a drunken free fight on the Reserve on Sunday, and Jim had recourse to cold steel, inflicting an ugly wound on the arm of his opponent. Moses Solomon, Indian trader, was charged with obtaining a sum of \$19.50 under false pretences from a Stickeen Indian chief, named Ned. The charge arose out of a trading transaction for tobacco; the Indian alleging that he had deposited the money with Solomon, who undertook to furnish him, in return, with a particular kind of tobacco, and when he called for it, the former said, Ned must take a whole box, valued at \$50, or he should not have either money or tobacco. The trader was allowed to return the money, and the charge was dismissed.

THE BOAT.

It appears that the shale has been reached at this institution at last, and coal is hourly expected. The depth of the bore, we have been told, is upwards of 73 fathoms.—*Nanaimo Gazette*.

Municipal Council.

MONDAY, JAN. 14.
Council met at 7:45 p. m. Present, His Worship the Mayor and Councillors Gowen, Lewis, Layzell and Hebbard.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Gowen stated that a Committee of the Fire Department, headed by the Chief Engineer, had had an interview with members of the Council, who furnished a statement to the position of the Department, showing that a balance of \$2,700 and over was due by the Department, and that the agents of the Insurance Companies had signified their willingness to supply the immediate wants of the Department by advancing an amount equal to the rate levied upon their respective Companies under the Municipal By-law, provided that such amount be placed to their credit should the provisions of the by-law be enforced. Attention was also called to the defective state of the hoses, and the necessity of its being placed in proper order. He suggested the appointment of a Committee to wait upon the Fire Agents with a view to perfecting the arrangements for procuring such temporary aid. Section 8 of the rules of order having been suspended, a resolution passed on motion of Mr. Lewis, and after consulting the Fire Wardens a Committee for the purpose.

MUNICIPAL BY-LAW.

Council then went into Committee of the Whole on this by-law, and after passing some amendments, reported progress and adjourned till Monday evening next.

Summary Court.

(Before Chief Justice Neidham.)

MONDAY, JAN. 14.

Rabson vs. Williams—Action to recover \$112, value of a load of potatoes which it was alleged defendant failed to deliver plaintiff as per agreement. Judgment for defendant.

Ewing vs. Wilson & Murray—Action to recover a balance of account alleged to be due for labor performed by plaintiff while in defendant's employ in Big Bend. Offsets were proved, and the Chief Justice allowed \$53 to plaintiff.

Trade Assignees of "Grotto" vs. King—Action to upset a bill of sale of effects alleged to have been improperly made by bankrupts to defendants. Jury trial. The case, which promises to be a long one, was partly heard, when it was laid over until Tuesday.

King vs. McCann—Nonsuit ordered.

COMOX.

A correspondent writing to us from the above settlement, says: "It is a great pity that the settlers in a district like this cannot have a justice of the peace and constable the same as in Cowichan, so that in a case like that of Harrop's they should not be compelled to act without the sanction of any law save that of self-preservation. I do not mean to insinuate that we should have a highly paid stipendiary magistrate; on the contrary, I consider that such an institution among poor people is a curse more fatal than no authority at all. I repeat that a system which works well in Cowichan will work equally well here."—*Nanaimo Gazette*.

THEATRICAL.

Everybody, of course, intends going to the theatre to-morrow evening to see the entertainment given by our Amateurs for the benefit of that useful and deserving institution, the Fire Department, and it would be well to bear in mind that the box office will be open for securing seats between 11 a. m. and 2 p. m. to-day and to-morrow. We learn that the Amateurs expect a company of distinguished male and female artists by the Sound steamer, who will furnish an interlude of rare attractions in music, song and dance.

WESTLEYAN MISSIONARY MEETING.

The Rev. Mr. Hines, an eminent and gifted speaker from the American side, the Rev. Mr. White, of New Westminster, with some able laymen, will address the meeting in the Wesleyan Church this evening. Methodism in America is just completing a century of existence, and its almost unprecedented progress during this period, no less than its potent influence in fashioning the future of the Continent, which owes it so much, will, no doubt, be eloquently illustrated and enforced to-night. Chair taken at 7 o'clock.

DIRECT TAXES.

The Assessor has left notices demanding the returns for transactions under the Trades' License and Salaries Acts. It is presumed that when the Legislative Council meets these bills will be repealed at once. Now, these collections bear heavily on the people after an unusually dull season; but as the Governor does not appear disposed to suspend their operation, we suppose they must be paid for the last time.

ENGLISH SHIPPING BOUND HERE.

The Hudson Bay Company's bark *Princess Royal*, loading at London, will be commanded by Capt. Anderson, formerly of the *sch. Alberni*, and is well known here. The ship *Asarte*, is coming out to load with spars at Capt. Stamp's new mills, Barrard's Inlet; she is a very large and fine vessel. The bark *Aid* was loading at Liverpool for Janion, Green and Rhodes, to sail shortly with a miscellaneous cargo.

Snow continued to fall throughout Sunday night, and how lies fully six inches on the ground. Yesterday was bright, clear and mild; more snow fell last night.

The "Grotto" will be reopened to-day under the proprietorship of the two Messrs—Messrs McNiff & McDougall. Mr. McNiff is well known as the popular Boniface of the Vancouver. The saloon has been very handsomely decorated and the bar well supplied with the best brand of liquors.

THE REBUS.—The answer to the enigma propounded in yesterday's *Chronist* is thus furnished by the author—Yacuna, Iris, Caligula, Terminus, Odysseus, Rha, Ilione, Astyages. The New Westminster papers refused to publish this trifling reason of the answer.

Mr. Nicol, the *Nanaimo Gazette* says, has resigned as Legislative Councillor. Private information received at this office, however, leads us to the belief that our contemporary's statement is incorrect.

AUCTION SALE OF TOYS.—The remainder of Zinn's stock of toys will be sold by J. P. Davies & Co., at the store, Government street to-day. A chance is offered to any person desiring to go into the toy business.

The Dry Dock—Necessity of.

MESSRS EDITORS:—I am glad to see by your issue of this morning that the opening of the Bute Inlet road is to be carried into effect. This will unquestionably be one substantial step towards progress in the Colony. Its ultimate consequences are incalculable. The next step in the same direction will perhaps be the contemplated rail road across the British North American Continent, which will constitute a high way from England to the great possessions in the East—placing them within one-third of their present distance from the old country. This will necessarily lift British Columbia from its present miserable insignificance into untold importance. But while this great scheme is under consideration and is occupying years of thought and energy to mature, we require some more immediate movement to resuscitate and keep us in life or we shall inevitably die out, and never behold the grand consummation. We have, it is true, at length realised the long talked of and much desired Union. We have also in process a system of retrenchment that our current expenses may not continue in excess of our returns, and we may succeed in securing the location of the Capital at Victoria and Esquimalt. But what then? With all these advantages we must continue poor and miserably small unless we convert some of our vast resources into millions of circulating dollars—unless we open up some source of wealth that shall roll in upon us in a perpetual tide. We have seen enough of the futility of gold mining to depend (if we are wise) any longer upon that. We must know, if we have common reason, that a Governor, how wise soever or well intentioned, is but a human being whose powers are necessarily limited, and that it would be unjust to expect from him what mortal man cannot accomplish; we must therefore look further if we would reasonably expect substantial and growing prosperity. Now there is a resource (among many) to which we have never resorted, and one which if it had been sufficiently appreciated in the past, would have contributed largely towards the prevention of our present collapse. I refer to the construction of a dry dock at Esquimalt. We sent out of this Colony a large sum of money last year for the repairs of our fleet, and lost the opportunity of realising a much larger sum from other vessels, because, forsooth, we had no dock into which a boat of any magnitude could be received. Nor is there the required accommodation nearer than San Francisco or the Sandwich Islands, while there is a repeated and most urgent demand for such accommodation here. Look at the plain facts of the case. If we had a dry dock in our beautiful land-locked and spacious harbor we should at once open a refuge for every disabled boat in the Sound—repair every damage sustained by that part of our mercantile navy which visits these shores—retain for circulation among ourselves the vast annual sums necessarily expended on our fleet, lay Russian America under tribute, and last of all, but not least of all, hold out a most attractive inducement to the entire North Pacific whale fishery, to make Vancouver their winter quarters. Some men can see no gold but in nuggets—no advantages but in wild speculation in lands, or investments at a ruinous rate of interest; but let us not be deluded, some thing very different, something more certain is essential to colonial greatness. It has been estimated by a competent judge that if we had a dry dock, not less than two hundred barrels would be kept in daily employ. If we reckon the wages to average five dollars per man per day, there would be one thousand dollars per day paid in wages. Three hundred thousand dollars per annum; and every dollar of this money would be circulated among us. Consequently there would not be a man in any business or profession but would be advantaged, while the smile of hope would play upon the countenance of all. I have written before on our neglected agricultural interests, and I am pleased to know that the work of raising our own supplies has been commenced. "God speed the plough!" But we must not rest here; we must find remunerative employment for skilled labor. We must not allow valuable men, shipwrights, joiners, &c., to leave our shores for want of employment, when the work which would feed themselves would enrich our colony—when their labor would convert our oak and pine forests into dollars. We have the prerequisites to an unproductive extent. We can fell our own timber, make our own pitch, dig our own coal, &c. In fine, if we set to work in earnest, that a very few years will bring an amount of commercial prosperity that will be worthy of the salubrity of our climate, and the beauty of our scenery.

J. C. DAVIS, M. R. C. S., &c.

The Portland papers recommend that an effort be put forth to keep the Fidelity in the Victoria trade.

An Executive Usurpation.

The Imperial Act that united the Colonies of Vancouver Island, British Columbia under one government, provided that the extension should enjoy a representation of eight members in the Legislative Council. It was not set forth these members should be elected; whether they should be official or non-official—or whether should belong to the British Justices lately gazetted by His Excellency. The rule is laid down law is established—that eight members shall be the number of representatives. There is no exception in the terms of the Act or any other respect—no hole which either Daniel O'Connell or Frederick Seymour could coach-and-four or any other large or small. The Act distinctly and unequivocally lays down that, that the Island may be represented by the number of representatives be twenty-three instead of eight and that Act is as binding on Governor Seymour as it is on any of the and dutiful subjects" of Her Majesty who recognize him as their Governor. How has His Excellency carried the law? By neglecting or overlooking to give the Island more than eight representatives. The mainland, therefore, is secure in possession of members out of twenty-three; it must be clear to every unprejudiced mind that it can only rightfully claim to fifteen. Why are the of the Island thus ignored? We are compelled, day after day, to demonstrate against the unconstitutional acts of the Executive towards the people who, in the trusting loyalty of their hearts, placed themselves in the hands of a Governor which, if it studied its own interests would foster and encourage than destroy their liberties? the mere mockery of representation such as we now have, there is hope for; but such as it is we demand every right guaranteed under the Union Act. The Governor has no power to curtail our representation, and any attempt to do so is an usurpation of one of the most privileges of a Briton that he is excused or palliated. Governor Seymour has never recognized the section to which we refer. He is not aware that while he is for loyalty from the people, he is actually guilty of an act of disloyalty towards them that savors of despotism. Eight members are laid down in the number of our representatives. His Excellency can with impunity override the Act in one respect, in all. If he can deprive us of our representative, he can sweep all. If he can disregard one Act of the Imperial Parliament, he can disregard all the rest. He is a greater power than is vested in Majesty,—and may by a dash of pen, at any moment reduce us to the level of Russian serfs. Here is a section of the Union Act, which we recommend to the careful attention of His Excellency: "4. On the Union Act taking the form of Government existing in Vancouver Island as a separate colony shall cease, and the Power of the Executive Government and of the Legislature of British Columbia shall extend over Vancouver Island; and the Representation of Vancouver Island in the Legislative Council of British Columbia after the Union shall be the maximum number of Council members in the Legislative Council of British Columbia after the Union shall, unless otherwise provided by law, be Twenty-three instead of Fifteen."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Star* tells of an old lady who lives somewhere in Norway, who sent her husband to the search for eggs. He went, succeeded in finding a few, and when returning broke his neck. A little girl while by saw the mishap, and ran to tell her mother the news. "Oh, Lord, she," "I wonder whether the darned saved the eggs."