

This is the only country where Anglo-Saxon predominates, in which Taxes are levied, collected and expended *without the consent of the People*. I have read of absolute monarchies elsewhere, but the Anglo-Saxon's birthright is never to endure Absolutism long.

I ask you in all sobriety, is a population in this age of England's history and the world's civilization, to have *no voice in its own taxation*.

Are we so few in numbers or so dull in intellect, that we cannot be entrusted with privileges accorded to a sister colony?

Is British Columbia to remain longer under this sort of "Martial Law."

Is "Proclamation" Taxation just, as the Colony is now constituted? Is it "just and equal" in practice?

The Governor of the Colony appeals to his Patent and the Queen's sanction. We contend that what *has* been is not to go on, when a population "now" exists, perfectly competent to arrange its own taxation. We assert this without fear of denial. Are there not sufficient voters and persons permanently interested in British Columbia, resident in New Westminster, Douglas, Hope, Yale, Lytton, Cayoosh &c., to choose a body of men who know enough about taxation and are sufficiently interested in it, to Legislate on such a question "justly and equally?" The "absolute ruler" system has surely survived its age and wisdom, judging from the trial it has had in this colony. We want something very different. Experiments in Legislation are doubtless pleasing to the operators but certainly not to the unfortunate subjects! Had Legislators come out from England with ready knowledge on Colonial matters, or had we been blest in trying times, with a Head chosen from a full grown colony, instead of one offering no experience, British Columbians would not have complained with so much reason; as it is, they have every reason to complain, and they ask for something very different to Absolutism. But let us descend to particulars; the first to meet us on the entrance to the Colony is *Customs*.

CUSTOMS DUTIES are collected without regard to business habits or commercial usage. "The importer has no security." He may make a heavy importation and be ruined where no foresight could save him.

Take the instance of Liquors. At present the importer pays a duty of \$1.50 per gallon. He knows his market and is prepared to pay it. Very well; he imports 10,000 gallons of Liquor; he pays at Westminster \$15,000 duty; but the importer does not know that the Absolute Ruler may not suddenly conceive a plan of reducing the duty to 50 cents: consequently he rises next morning a loser to the tune of \$10,000.

But this instance has a bright as well as a dark side. "Its an ill wind that blows nobody good." Perhaps the absolute system may raise the duty to \$2.00.—No proper notice is given on such occasions, no voice can stay the "Fiat," but nevertheless some favorite speculator, posted in State measures, makes a bold and safe stroke and pockets his pile!

People of British Columbia these things *have been and are* going on amongst us: where is it to end?