

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, July 5, 1864.

YESTERDAY'S DEBATE.

The debate in the House yesterday, although, like many other debates, terminating in nothing, was nevertheless highly suggestive. One of the most remarkable features in the discussion was the willingness of the Speaker to accept the proposition of Her Majesty's Government to take the Crown Lands and pay the Civil List. When we recollect that it was through the energy and plausibility of Dr. Helmcken that the resolutions of February were passed by the present House and transmitted to England, the suddenness of this transformation is, to say the least, remarkable. Dr. Helmcken proposed that in order to get rid of paying four officials, without an equivalent, they should pay the six salaries, which embrace the Civil List, and take the Crown Lands. There was something unusually illogical for the Speaker in the details of the argument; for one of the principal statements put forward by him in connection with the despatch, was that the Governor really had the power to pay the four officials out of the Crown revenue, and that at the worst Mr. Cardwell would make it all right. Overlooking this view which he put forward, Dr. Helmcken at once found his argument on the premises that the House would have to vote the salaries; therefore it was better to pay £5,800, and obtain something near its equivalent, than vote about £2,000 and get nothing. We are not disposed to quarrel with the Speaker at the means he employed to arrive at a right conclusion. "To err is human," and we suppose Dr. Helmcken is subject occasionally to the same weaknesses as others; still, there was something exceedingly grotesque in the second transformation of the Speaker yesterday. While a member of the Committee of the Whole, it would appear that a Speaker should look, with his Parliamentary position, his Parliamentary knowledge, and become as liable to overstep "May" as other members. There is a kind of irresponsibility in this Committee business, that too often induces gentlemen to see how far their erratic propensities can really lead them. Dr. Helmcken yesterday spoke on a question, drew up a motion on a question, and so soon as the Committee rose on a point of order as to whether the matter could be discussed, and submitted the question, as members of the House, to the Speaker, that gentleman calmly and in a dignified manner decided that the subject was not in order. It was rather a novel sight—Dr. Helmcken in the Speaker's chair rebuking Dr. Helmcken speaking on the floor. As we have said of the Doctor's previous inconsistency, we repeat in this; and all well that ends well, if we lose a little of our confidence in the gentleman's judgment in Committee, it is more than made up by his marked integrity and shrewdness while in the Speaker's chair—an integrity that sacrifices the individual opinion or feeling of the man to the justice and dignity of the office.

The decision of the Speaker, therefore, ended, and very properly, this unparliamentary discussion. The question, however, has still to be settled. The communication of Governor Kennedy must be replied to. His Excellency states that unless the House makes provision for the four officials, their salaries must cease. Something, therefore, requires to be done, and that at once. If the officials should think proper to resign, the machinery of the Government would come to a dead-lock, and His Excellency would be required to prorogue the House and call it immediately together, in order that the whole proposition of the Civil List might be again brought up for consideration. That the present House cannot, as we said yesterday, go back on the action it has already taken, is evident;—the Governor will not, with his present want of authority, pay the salaries is equally clear; the difficulty, therefore, resolves itself into two propositions: either the officials must wait for their salaries until such time as Mr. Cardwell authorizes His Excellency to pay them—or the House must indemnify the Governor for the necessary outlay until the matter is definitely settled. We know that the members are sick of the interminable session, and that important as the question is, there is a feeling to get rid of it quickly; but we also know that the surest and most effectual way to decide the matter would be a prorogation and re-assembling. The whole question of the Civil List could again be gone into, and as it is this time unhampered by the subject of Union—as there is nothing now to be gained by any further postponement of the Crown Lands question and the Civil List—the wisest thing the members could do would be to accept the proposition of Her Majesty's Government. Dr. Helmcken, no doubt, saw the matter in this light yesterday, and was, like a prudent man, willing to recant his former opinion when the time had gone by for their adoption, and when, nothing could possibly be gained by adhering to them. We have frequently alluded to the fact that the colony must, one way or the other, pay the Civil List. If the Crown lands proceeds will not enable the Imperial authorities to pay the whole of it, the members may make up their minds to be obliged to vote the remainder. It, therefore, does not matter one straw, so far as economy is concerned, whether we accept the proposition or not, but as a question concerning the stability of affairs, it matters very much that these disagreeable controversies should, for the future, cease.

"AVOID" ENTERPRISE.—There is something always amusing in the self-glorification which the boy evinces when he dons his first pair of manly trousers. Our juvenile contemporary's gyrations over his first "newspaper" enterprise, yesterday, are equally provocative of risibility. With a praiseworthy effort, he launched his four-cared canoe, and like Ulysses, braved the whirlpools of Scylla and Charybdis. The goal is safely reached, the bold express messenger secures a copy of the Portland paper, and fair Olympia is left far behind. Amid raging tempests and a turbulent ocean, the "express" wends its way; with nerves strained, muscles stretched, eyes expanded, the Siwash barman propel the tiny craft, until at length Victoria's once more in view; the wearied souls throw themselves with relief and thankfulness upon the wharf, and three Indian chiefs upon their noble heads bears to its destination the precious freight. "Sherman presses forward," "Beauregard retakes Vicksburg," and several other alarming heads next morning meet the eye. Unfortunately, however, for the credit of this newspaper enterprise—the things are old. The only item really worth noticing—the retaking of Burnside's works—was performed on the seventeenth—while that general's exploit in capturing the Confederate redoubts with 500 prisoners, and eight field pieces on the morning of the nineteenth—only two days after the "very latest news," and previously published in the Colonist, is never hinted at. However, we do not wish to underrate our juvenile neighbor's first exertion in attempting to accomplish what the Colonist has been doing repeatedly, but we would advise it to be more careful about its statements. Its assertion that "our contemporary has spread a report," etc., is about equal to its own veracity. The fact of "our contemporary" (the Colonist) not being published between Saturday and Sunday, makes our contemporary, the *Chronicle*, only guilty of another slight misstatement. We had hoped this first genuine attempt to obtain news, (although forced on our contemporary by its recent unfortunate peccadilloes,) without taking it unblushingly from the Colonist, was an indication that it was trying to follow the paths of newspaper integrity as well as independence; but we are afraid the one is of an spasmodic and temporary character as the other.

LIFE IN THE SOUTH.—A Southern woman, who had supported herself in a Northern city by teaching, was some time ago induced by a report that her uncle was on his deathbed to return to the home of her childhood. She has since returned to the North, and contributed to *Harper's Magazine* a very readable tale, from which we make the following extracts, descriptive of what she saw and heard. "The country had been ravaged by two armies, wasted by fires and guerrillas, and scourged as by a sirocco. Twenty-three engagements, of more or less importance, had taken place within a circuit of twenty miles of the plantation where my childhood had been passed, and one not two miles removed. The country, with its deserted plantations, its tenantless negro cabins falling to decay, its senseless gardens and fields overgrown with rank weeds, all proclaimed some unusual state of affairs. Go where I would I met no young men, except an occasional soldier on the march. And the old men were organized into Home Guards, with their drille and regular military duties. No young woman or child over six years was found who was not a member of some military company. I had heard much of the Union sentiment at the South. I found no evidence of its existence in this locality; and unmitigated hatred of Northerners and a determination to endure all things before surrender was the universal sentiment. 'Fighting to repel invasion.' 'Defending our hearthstones.' was the language of every lip. Our homes and our firesides! Nothing will rouse and stir the people like that cry. The watchword of our flag and the Union was but a sounding word, and the flag but a patchwork of bunting. But when the leaders cry 'Our homes are in danger; the invader is upon us!' Our homes are in danger! If my heart had burned because of the 'honors and injustices of the Northern people concerning the South,' the ignorance and injustice of Southerners toward the North was enough to make the very stones cry out. And in this mutual misunderstanding between the sections may, in my opinion, be found the cause of all our troubles. The Southern people would never have sustained their leaders in the secession movement had they not been misled as to the feeling of the North concerning them. A single example will give some idea of the delusion prevalent among the people. I was conversing carefully and cautiously for three hours in their excited state an imprudent word would be like a spark on their freshly-glazed cotton—on the all-absorbing topic with a company of intelligent ladies, when one of them asserted that before Fort Sumter had been fired upon, the churches of New York, and Beecher's church in Brooklyn, had flaming placards above the pulpit headed, 'Beauty and Booty,' containing a call for men to go South—that the offending ministers took their texts from the placards, and gave flaming harangues, which, eliminated and reduced, meant that the South was to be sacked and pillaged, and Southern women given up to outrage. To my indignant denial of this, she replied that G— was in New York at the time, and saw and heard these things. The said G— is a New Englander by birth and education. His story has received universal credence in this place. As I looked into the honest honest line of eyes, my heart sank. Not until that day when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed, will the masses of the Southern people be convinced.

THE GRAPE CROP OF SONOMA.—Colonel Harashty informs the *Alta* that the prospect for a bountiful grape crop in the Sonoma valley was never better than at the present time. The amount of wine made by the Buena Vista Vinicultural Association last season was smaller than had been expected, but owing to the increased demand for the California grown article at the East, the sales netted more than the estimate, and this season the tariff amendments will operate still further to the advantage of the California wine growers, so that this branch, at least, of the agricultural interests of our State is likely to be more prosperous in the immediate future than any other.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Wednesday, June 29.

CORONATION DAY.—was observed very generally yesterday as a holiday, all the public offices and banks, and most of the places of business being closed, and the citizens devoting themselves heartily to enjoyment. A royal salute was fired from Beacon Hill at 12 o'clock, and the town was gay with the bunting of all the various nations whose representatives are to be found in our cosmopolitan city.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.—The following days have been declared by His Excellency to be public holidays, during which the government offices will be closed: Queen's Birthday, Accession Day, June 20th, Coronation Day, June 28th, Prince of Wales Birthday, November 9th, Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Christmas.

NEW MAGISTRATES.—His Excellency the Governor has appointed three new Justices of the Peace for the Colony, viz: A. C. Anderson, Esq. of Saanich; M. T. Johnston, Esq. and C. S. Niel, Esq. of Nanaimo.

COURT OF REVISION.—Messrs. Southgate and Richard Lewis have resigned their seats at the Board of Revision. His Excellency has appointed Captain Reid and James Langley, Esq. to fill the vacancies.

THE TRIBUNE.—This unfortunate vessel is likely to be soon relieved from her unpleasant berth on the sands of the Fraser. During the last four days she has been fairly about three or four times and but for some untoward occurrence early this week she would have got off. As it is, she now lies about 250 feet from the channel. Another effort was to be made to get her off last night, and should the weather be calm, she would in all probability be got into deep water. We hear it stated by nautical men that she is badly injured, the effects of the straining being plainly visible while passing on the Enterprise. We trust, however, that the injury may be over-estimated.

THE ALBERTA EXPEDITION.—Mr. Robinson, who was sent down to Alberta about a month ago, by some private parties here, chiefly to exploit for coal, returned to town yesterday. The search for coal was unsuccessful, neither well-defined seams nor promising indications being discovered, although detached croppings consisting of flakes about half an inch thick and two or three feet long, were met with. Several very good copper reefs were found however, and specimens brought down, which will be submitted to an assay.

A most comfortable dwelling house is about to be erected on Pandora street for Mrs. Munro, the widow of the unfortunate gentleman who was accidentally shot at Keskeemo last fall. The amount of money raised in the city for that purpose was, we understand, about \$3,000.

OLYMPIA.—The offensive smell arising from the defunct Siwash who are accumulating on Colma Island, in the entrance to the harbor, frequently greases passing navigators in a manner more pungent than pleasant. Steps should be taken to abolish the nuisance of a burying ground in that locality.

BANKRUPTCY COURT.—W. A. Cooper, bankrupt, appeared and passed his final examination. F. Engell, bankrupt, appeared, but his examination was postponed for Wednesday, the 6th proximo.

FOR BENTINCK ARM.—In obedience to an order from Admiral Kingcome, the Grappler will shortly be despatched north to relieve H. M. S. Sutlej at Bentinck Arm.

Mrs. Pike, wife of Capt. Pike, pilot, and Mrs. Parsons, wife of Mr. Parsons of the H. B. Co.'s service, arrived by the Chrysolite yesterday.

Friday, July 1.

FROM THE SAND-HEADS.—The gunboat Grappler arrived at Esquimalt from the mouth of Fraser river early yesterday forenoon. She left the Tribune night before last at 12 o'clock, still fast on the sands. The gunboats and Beaver had got the ship afloat several times, but from the nature of the bottom, she grounded again almost immediately. Should she not be got off in a day or two, she will probably remain aground for a month at least. Strong hopes are entertained, however, of getting her off this time. She has been lightened as much as possible, and her topmasts, etc., lowered. The Beaver has taken off eleven tons of powder, and the Forward the rest of her shot, shell, etc., which she has taken up to be stored at New Westminster. The Grappler brought down the spare part of the Tribune, and discharged it on the H. B. C. wharf.

COMMENDABLE.—At a meeting of the butchers of the city, on Wednesday evening, at which Messrs. Reynolds, Hutchinson, Carson, Makin, Shearman and several others were present, it was resolved that after the 3rd day of July, their respective establishments would be closed on Sundays. The meeting, which was presided over by Mr. Barnett, was unanimous in agreeing to the above resolution.

THE CHRYSLITE.—This vessel is already being unloaded at Esquimalt, and the freight brought round to the city. Her draught, loaded, is 18 feet, but when she has been lightened to 15 feet, she will be brought round by pilot-pike to this harbor.

FOR BENTINCK ARM.—The gunboat Grappler, after receiving some repairs to her boiler, will sail for Bentinck Arm to-night or to-morrow, to relieve H. M. S. Sutlej.

FOURTH OF JULY.—A considerable number of our American fellow-townsmen, including Consul Francis, Messrs. McCrea, Curtis, and about a dozen ladies, went over on the Eliza Anderson yesterday morning to spend the "fourth" in Olympia. A large party were also expected at Olympia from Seattle by the steamer J. B. Libby.

FROM THE WEST COAST.—The sloop Leone arrived last evening from Pachea Bay, and Port San Juan, with a cargo of seal, bear, and sea-otter skins. She reports a ship off Cape Flattery, yesterday morning, bound up, but too far off to make her out. The pilot boat was seen cruising outside Race Rocks.

ASSAULTED.—Four of the hostages given by the Hydah Chiefs, in the matter of shooting Mr. Garrett's cows, "made tracks" yesterday afternoon for the "far north." Capt. Jefferson, the "hyas tykes," laid a complaint against them last night.

Saturday, July 2.

JUDICIAL EXERCISES.—We understand that His Lordship, the Chief Justice, contemplates taking up the civil cases at the ensuing assizes before the criminal ones, the former on Tuesday, and the latter on Wednesday. This, we believe, is a mode of proceeding totally unprecedented in English Courts, at least when there is a manifest injustice on those imprisoned for criminal offences, some of whom may be innocent of the charges preferred against them. Judging from the time usually consumed in carrying through the business of our Courts it is extremely improbable that the civil cases will be completed in one day, as contemplated, and even should this be accomplished, the precedent is not at all a desirable one. We hope His Lordship may see fit to reconsider his intentions in the above matter.

REMOVED SALE.—We are informed by passengers by the Alexandra yesterday morning, that Mr. G. B. Wright has sold the steamer Enterprise to the upper Fraser, and all his establishments, to a gentleman, formerly a Victoria merchant, who has lately returned from Cariboo.

FAST RIDING.—The mounted messenger who brought down Mr. Cox's letter to the Colonial Secretary of British Columbia, travelled night and day at full gallop from Alexandria to Yale. At one place he paid \$50 for a horse for 20 miles.

STOCK AT CHERRIMAIN.—Messrs. Stafford & Hobart have about 75 head of fine cattle on their ranch at Cherrimain, among which number there are 20 milch cows. Stock seems to thrive well in that neighborhood.

FOR REPAIRS.—H. M. S. Beaver came down to Esquimalt yesterday, to be repaired, having suffered considerably in her efforts to assist the Tribune.

Tuesday, July 5th.

THE "FOURTH."—Yesterday was observed as a general holiday by nearly the whole population of the city. The various places of business were closed, and everybody seemed to lay himself out for a day of genuine recreation. Out of compliment to our American fellow-townsmen, who never fail to do full honor to our national holidays, nearly every British building which boasted a flag-pole spread to the breeze "the flag that's braved a thousand years," while the other nationalities were not behind in similar gratulations, so that the whole city was gay with fluttering banners. Every horse, carriage, and pleasure boat was in requisition, and hardly a strip of pebbly beach or nook of bosky dell in all our picturesque neighborhood was left unvisited by merry groups. The whole day's proceedings were a pleasing evidence of the thorough amity and good feeling which prevail between us and our "American cousins."

THE CANDIDATES.—The near approach of election day has at length bestirred our sluggish politicians, and already there are three "Richmonds in the field." Messrs. Cruikshank, Alston, and C. B. Young, make their appearance before the electors to-day to contest the honor of representing them in the fourth parliament of Vancouver Island. The gentlemen, doubtless owing to this being their maiden essay at electioneering in this city, are modest, and refrain from expressing their political views through the medium of the press. There will, however, be abundant opportunity for them to declare themselves to-day at the hustings, and enlighten the electors on the opinions they hold in regard to the great questions of the day.

THE ALEXANDRA.—This steamer, which was to take the excursion party to San Juan yesterday, was unfortunately delayed at Saanich, and so prevented from fulfilling her engagement, to the mortification of her owners and the disappointment of the excursionists, who had set their minds on a dance on her spacious deck. The cause of her delay at Saanich was a gale which came on while she was towing a raft of logs at Sayward's mill. She had also a difficulty in getting a supply of fire-wood to bring her down in time.

RACES YESTERDAY.—A large crowd of pleasure-seekers wended their way to Beacon Hill yesterday, the principal attraction being a race between three well-known colts—Messrs. Silvertail, Voltree, and Boston Colt. The contest, however, lacked interest, from the belief that the powers of the horses were not fully brought out, each of the three winning a heat. A number of scrub races occupied the afternoon till nearly six o'clock, when the crowd made their way homeward.

THE EXCURSION.—Owing to the detention of the Alexandra at Saanich, the steamer Enterprise was chartered for the Fourth of July excursion, to San Juan, and about ten o'clock steamed out of the harbor laden with a godly freight of some 250 jovial pleasure-seekers—men, women, and children, all intent on celebrating Independence Day in as hearty and delightful a manner as possible. The weather, although a little cloudy and cool in the morning, brightened up towards afternoon into a very pleasant day. In due time the excursionists arrived at the pretty little port of Bellevue, where they were received in the most cordial manner by the inhabitants. They then proceeded up to the American Camp, at which they found every preparation made, and where all at once began to enjoy themselves to the best of their ability. The fine grass plot in the barrack enclosure was speedily occupied by a "gay and festive" crowd, who to the music of Allen's band, disposed themselves in the grassy dance, while others formed pic-nic groups, little walking parties, or engaged with the soldiers of the garrison in various athletic sports. A number of soldiers from the English Camp on the north end of the island were also down, and joined with their American brethren in arms in running, jumping, blindfold wheelbarrow races, &c., causing great amusement among the excursionists. Several horse races also came off, which added to the day's enjoyment. At length, as the sun began to touch the western rim of the horizon, the now sated pleasure seekers began to wend their way towards the steamer, and were taken on board by boats, owing to the shallowness of the water. About half-past six all were safely embarked, and the gallant little Enterprise turned her prow homeward, where she arrived at half-past eight, thus terminating a day of hearty and healthful enjoyment, without a contretemps further than the slight tribute which Neptune invariably exacts from those who first intrude themselves on his domain.

NEWS FROM THE EXPLORERS.—The sloop Random, which was despatched a few days ago to Port San Juan, on the west coast of the island, with supplies for the public exploring expedition, returned yesterday with the tidings of their having arrived at that port from Cowichan. The sloop had been some days beating up to San Juan, and consequently was in a hurry to get back, so did not have time to bring much news from the party, the second detachment of which only arrived an hour or two before she left. They were all well however, and so far much gratified with the results of their expedition. Dr. Brown promises to send another despatch by first opportunity.

NO VESSELS IN THE STRAITS.—The master of the Domitilla reports that during the three days he was in sight of this coast, no vessel of any kind was to be seen. There are now three vessels overdue from San Francisco—the brig *Crimes*, and bark *D. M. Hall*, and *Panama*, and two ships overdue from England—the *Royal Charlie*, and *John Stephen*.

DRAWING-ROOM CONCERT.—Mrs. Swainson Willis, of whose admirable performances as a pianiste the public have heard too little, gives a drawing-room concert on the 18th inst., in the Lyceum Hall, under the patronage of Mrs. Kennedy.

FROM UTSALADY.—The steam tug, *Mary Woodruff*, arrived from the Utsalady Mills yesterday, with Captain Tom Wright on board, to procure supplies for the two steamers now building at that port for the Columbia river.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.—We understand that His Excellency the Governor will formally prorogue both Houses of Parliament on Thursday next.

COLONIAL SCHOOL.—The examination of this institution has been postponed to Monday next.

THE ST. LOUIS FAIR AND MRS. PARTINGTON.—Mrs. Partington (Shillaber) of Boston, was not able to attend the great Sanitary Fair of St. Louis, although she was specially invited; but she forwarded to one of the lady managers her excuses in the following characteristic note:

Boston, April 11, 1864.
My Dear Madam.—Not being very detestable with a pen, me'am, and troubled with a romantic twinge in my right shoulder, my little boy, which is Isaac, writes for me to say how facilitated I should be to make your invitation acceptable, and come to your Sanitary Fair on the 17th. Most satisfactory it is, to be sure, where war is so destructible to human life, dear me, and clothing is nothing. What would the poor soldiers have done if that excellent body and soul hadn't come, with healing on its wings, bringing consolation and new clothes, to say nothing of the stockings and the old shoes torn up for bandages for the sufferers, blessings upon 'em, and amen to it. Tears come into my eyes as I think of all the good it has done and may do—may heaven be rewarded for it—and I am very sorry that I cannot come and be one of the features of the Fair, though my features are not fair; but, bless you, you may have the features without my coming at all, for I have got a friend to go and sit for me at a photographer's, whose likenesses I send in this. They are not handsome, but that is not his fault nor mine.

I wish I was as rich as Croesus, and had a bank of money, to send you, but alas, she will must be taken for the dead, though that may not bring the fracture of a cent in the great aggregation. That the purpose of the Committee may be crowded with greenbacks, and their hearts strengthened for good by your Fair, is the desire of my heart, which it is my prayer that it may be realized.

Yours, devotionally,
RUTH PARTINGTON.
Her signature.
Attest: IRE PARTINGTON.