

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, May 9, 1865

LONG PARLIAMENTS AND THEIR REMEDY.

After a storm comes a calm. After the recent commotion in the political atmosphere, the elements seem to have become exhausted, and we have a placidity on the surface of affairs that amounts to perfect stillness. Yesterday matters had simmered down into such quietude that the Assembly was disinclined to disturb it by the slightest approach to work, and so, after the Crown Lands resolution had finally passed without further debate, one member after another rushed for his hat and left the House. The bills that were awaiting, and have been awaiting for months past, the analysis of the Committee of the Whole, were for the hundredth time, sent back to the clerk's room. It is natural enough that the members, after nine months' labor, should be anxious to relieve themselves of the cares of State—especially when so large a bulk of the work has proved fruitless—but there are measures nevertheless before the House which require their most urgent and serious attention—measures both in the abolition of imprisonment for debt, the want of which, as is shown in unmistakable events every day, is vitally affecting the best interests of the country. However much, therefore, the members may be disgusted with their tedious labors, there is an absolute necessity for continuous work until the bills at present before the House are finally passed.

Whatever peculiarities the future history may record of the infancy of Vancouver Island, we think standing out prominently in the foreground will be discovered its Long Parliaments. From 1859 till the present time it is safe to compute the average duration of each session at three quarters of a year. Nine months legislative labor every year or a community of six or seven thousand people was there, over such a thing known in the whole history of representative Government? Yet, although every one—though as well as inhabitants—is convinced of the absurdity, not a single step has been made to remedy the abuse, and there is no guarantee that the next session will be any shorter than the present or preceding ones. Surely it is time that the House should seriously turn to this matter, and endeavor to preserve the dignity as well as purity of the Legislature. Under present circumstances both these qualities are sadly deteriorated, with, but the inconvenience is as great to the members as the injury is serious to the country.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Yesterday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, a man named Thomas Goddard, residing near the French Laundry, on Chatham street, and who has been ailing for the last two years, was observed by some neighbors to fall suddenly down in front of his house. He was started, but expired immediately. Deceased was a married man, Mr. Sutherland, and brandishing a knife. Mr. Courtney defended a boy, who claimed him to be a thief, and who had been engaged with the deceased in a struggle.

OFFICIAL ASSAULTS.—By the departure of the late official assignee in bankruptcy, that office is rendered vacant, and several applicants, we hear, are already in the field with recommendations from their friends to the Chief Justice in their favor.

GENERAL RAIN.—Refreshing showers have continued to fall at intervals during the last few days, and the effect is most beneficial, the beautiful verdure that new clothes the fields and the healthy appearance of the vegetation in the gardens.

REDUCED FARE.—It will be seen by an advertisement that the fare from Victoria to New Westminster by the Enterprise has been reduced to \$2. The Vale or Douglas, connecting with the Reliance or Hope, the fare has been reduced to \$4.

MAY DAY.—Yesterday was observed as a half-holiday by the majority of our citizens, the banks and most of the shops being closed in the afternoon. The streets were thronged with people looking at the Firemen's procession, and numerous boating and riding parties were out in all directions, tempest by the delightful weather.

AN INQUIRY.—An inquiry was held yesterday morning on the body of Messrs. Alway, who died suddenly at the St. Nicholas Saloon on Saturday night. A verdict of death from apoplexy was returned.

THE ELEPHANT.—The dredger has been moved to the end of the spit at the entrance of the harbor and placed in position to dominate active operations to-day. She has been supplied with new and heavier chains and is made fast with the heavy anchors from the Royal Charles. The horrors of the mud bank are being altered, instead of being enveloped out as her heritors have been. In vulgar parlance we can "cut off our nose to spite our face," for stopping the supplies in Vancouver Island simply means putting an end to all public works, and bringing the colony to stand-still.

UPPER HOUSE.—How we look over the history of the present session, we shall find the measures from the Assembly in almost every instance twisted and turned until their framers would find it an impossibility to recognize them. The seal of the Council must be affixed to every emanation from the popular body—the impress of its wisdom must be stamped on every bill from the Lower House—if for no other reason than to show that it can make improvements.

The public are, however, getting tired of this childish see-saw between the two Houses, and desire something more appertaining to business. To bring matters to a practical issue we have advocated the amalgamation of the two Houses, and we do so still. The objections against the measure are small in comparison with the benefits we should derive from a vigorous and harmonious Government. The only danger indeed that could possibly arise from the union of the two branches would be the interference of the officials with propositions that might concern

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themselves or that might be brought forward for the purpose of retrenchment. This peril could, however, be very easily avoided by precluding the officials from voting on any money bill that might come up before the House. By this provision we should have all the benefits of official information and assistance, without any of the evils of centralised power. One of the principal advantages of the amalgamation would be to remove the present labor and responsibility imposed on members with regard to the introduction of bills—a labor and responsibility which frequently place an effectual bar to legislation altogether. The routine work would be removed from the shoulders of individual members and placed on those of the Attorney General or his colleagues who are paid from the public purse. We know that the proposition of amalgamation is a little hurtful to the self-love of the members, but the welfare of the country and the dispatch of public business and offices of greater solicitude than the private feelings of the most sensitive representative.

PRESENTATION.—The Rev. Jas. Nisbett, of the Church of Scotland, who is about to leave the colony, was presented last evening, at the residence of Mr. J. G. Mackay, on Rae street, with a handsome English gold watch, and a purse, the gift of the members of his congregation. Mr. Long made the presentation, accompanying it with a few appropriate remarks to which a feeling response was given by the reverend gentleman.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.—Tuesday, May 2. **HOMESTEAD LAW.**—This excellent and humane law passed the House of Assembly finally yesterday, and will be at once sent to the Legislative Council. We hope that body may see the propriety of passing a law, which none is more earnestly desired by a majority of the people of this colony. By the enactment of such laws as the Homestead Bill, Imprisonment for Debt Bill, &c., others, we may hope to render this colony at least as an attractive a place of residence as our neighbor States.

POLICE COURT.—Thomas Lever and Mary Sheldon were each placed under bonds yesterday for creating a disturbance in the streets; the former in \$100, with two sureties in the sum of \$50 each, to keep the peace for three months, and the latter in \$200, with two sureties in \$100 each, for six months.

William Howard was fined \$25 or three months' imprisonment, for violently assaulting Wm. Sutherland and brandishing a knife.

Mr. Courtney defended a boy, who claimed him to be a thief, and who had been engaged with the deceased in a struggle.

CIVIL LIST RESOLUTIONS.—We understand that His Excellency the Governor will not take on himself the responsibility of accepting the Resolutions on the Civil List passed by the House, but will send them home for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

RECEIVED.—Sellick vs. Hawkins for trespass. The hearing of this case was resumed, yesterday before the Chief Justice.

Mr. Cary, instructed by Mr. Copland, for Plaintiff vs. Mr. McCreight, instructed by

Messrs. Drake & Jackson, for the defence.

Several witnesses having been heard for the defence, His Honor gave judgment in favor of the defendant.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE.

CHOLERA, DYSENTERY, DIARRHEA,

CRAMPS, AGUE, FEVER, RHEUMATISM, CONSUMPTION, ASTHMA,

COUGH, & COLD.

COLIC, STOMACHACHE, AND DISTRESS.

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