

The Weekly British Colonist,

AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, July 17, 1866.

The Message and its Object.

The more we ponder over the recent message from Governor Kennedy to the Legislative Assembly, the more strongly are we confirmed in the opinion that the despatch was written not for the effect it might have here

which could be nothing else than unfavorable—but with a view to preju-

dice the Legislative Assembly in the eyes of the Colonial Office.

It was necessary that an impression should go home that our Assem-

bly were acting in an obstructive

manner, that when they declined to

vote the Auditor's salary, when they

were out of the fees of the Attorney General, when they amalgamated the offices of Registrar of the Supreme

Court and Register of Deeds, or that

when they declared one measure

after another insufficient for the public

benefits they were actuated by a

petty spirit of factiousness and oppo-

sition not justified by the exigencies

of the country. The impression is

longing to be created by the message

that the country is rolling in wealth

that real estate is advancing in

price—that gold is being produced in

fabulous quantities—that the val-

leys are waving with rich returns

for the labor of the husbandman—and

that the cattle of a thousand hills

are pastured within our borders. If

the Governor intended to convey any

different meaning, than this in his

despatch, it does not appear on the

surface. His Excellency knows well

that had the Assembly voted the Es-

timates as sent down, the country

could not have paid them. He knows

well that the Assembly has already

voted too much money; and he also

knows that the Colony is smothered

beneath a load of debt that the im-

providence of previous Legislatures

has fastened upon it. We search

through the message of a column and

a half in vain to find a single word of

sympathy with a struggling people

bedeviled and condemned by a

climate in the management of schools in

the Colony. They had suggested to His

Excellency the removal of Mr. Duff's school

into the city, giving Mr. Duff Mr. Nicholson's

position, and transferring the latter to Craig-

flower. The Cedar Hill teacher, they pro-

posed, should have \$500 instead of \$750, and

that the salary of the school master at Craig-

flower should be \$750 instead of \$1000, mak-

ing a total saving of over \$2000.

Superintendent, \$1500.

Mr. Pidwell rose to object to this item. He

thought the Superintendent of Roads, whose

salary had been dispensed with on the score

of retrenchment, had much more work to per-

form than the Superintendent of Education, who had only the supervision of 250 scholars.

Dr. Powell corrected the hon. member, and

told him to multiply his figures by two.

Mr. Pidwell thought the office, any way,

could be easily dispensed with.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the item pass, and the motion was agreed to, Mr. Pidwell dissenting.

Teacher, Victoria School, \$1200; assistant,

\$1000.

Dr. Powell moved the postponement of

these items until the item of the Teacher of

the District School had been considered.

Dr. Helmcken was opposed to the Victoria

Schools remaining in town, and paying high

rents. He thought they should be removed to

the district, where rents would be cheaper

and the children would have fresh air and

more room to play. The distance would

have been thought nothing at all, when he

was at school.

Dr. Tolmie said the Board of Education

had considered this subject, and submitted

their views to the House, of the best mea-

sures observing, prevent, retrenchment.

They hoped by and by to erect a large and com-

modious building for school purposes.

Dr. Powell said the question of altering the

District School was considered but it was

found to be too old and rickety to imple-

ment.

Mr. DeCosmos was at present inclined to

support the recommendation of the Board of

Education, although he agreed with the Hon.

Speaker as to the advisability of removing

the school, when it could be conveniently done.

Mr. Cochran thought that no parents could

object to sending their children to a school

as good as Smithe's.

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