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DAVID W. HIGGINS.

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ALTHOUGH we have already expressed our opinion on the subject of Investment and Loan Societies, yet as the bill for an Ordinance to encourage their establishment in this Colony will come up for its second reading to-morrow, we think that on a subject of such general importance to all classes of the community, it would be well to set forward some of the advantages which may be attained if the bill is passed into an Ordinance and a society established under its provisions. It would afford to

MECHANICS, ETC.,
of provident habits a safe mode of investing their money; and to others an inducement to save, an easy method of saving, as well as of accumulating their savings and investing them at a profit;

TO CAPITALISTS
An opportunity for the investment of their money under competent supervision, and to secure payment of their income within certain intervals;

TO BORROWERS
A mode of obtaining money at a fair rate of interest, repayable by instalments within a given time, at stated periods, to be arranged by themselves;

TO THE PUBLIC
The accumulation, investment and re-investment of money, at present lying idle and distributed amongst the community in small sums.

It is worthy of notice that in addition to the advantages afforded to the public already referred to, there is one class of securities in which the funds of societies we are now advocating, might be invested with advantage to the Colony. We allude to the securities of the Colony for loans to the Government at a nominally small rate of interest. In the present state of the Colony it may to some people appear an absurdity to advance a proposition of such magnitude, but we cannot see that there is any reason why the operations of such a society should be more limited in extent than those of any Banking establishment, for we are satisfied that there are ample means in the Colony available for the accumulation of the capital necessary for the successful working of one at least of the proposed institutions, and for performing all that we anticipate. In the management of the operations and carrying on of the system, nothing more is required than integrity on the part of the officers, and ordinary care and vigilance. As the Attorney General has already introduced and obtained the passage of the Savings Bank Bill, we take it for granted that the principle herein advocated is admitted; we therefore take it on ourselves to say that although it is his undoubted duty to raise such objections to the proposed Bill as he may think advisable for the protection of the public, yet it is also his duty to find a mode by which any such objections may if possible be obviated.

Friday Feb 5
Police Court.
(Before Hon. A. F. Pemberton.)
February 4, 1869.
Mr Hayward, of the firm of Jenkinson & Hayward, Undertakers, &c, was summoned at the suit of Mr J G McKay, for injury done to a post on the grave of his brother, in the Cemetery.
It appeared from the evidence that Mr Hayward, in the construction of an entablature over a grave adjoining that of Mr McKay, had removed a certain post of Mr McKay's fence. After hearing the evidence of Mr McKay and Mr Spell, the Sexton; and Mr McKay having proposed to withdraw the summons if the damage was made good, but which Mr Hayward declined to accede to, his Honor decreed to fine defendant £5, according to the acting if he did not come to an arrangement with the complainant by Monday next.
Mr Bishop for complainant.

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MASONIC INSTALLATION.—The ceremony of the installation of the W M and officers of Victoria Lodge No 78, E R, took place on the 4th inst, at 12 o'clock noon. The following officers were installed by D G M Bro Robert Barnaby, viz: Joseph Blackburne, W M; Godfrey Brown, S W; S L Kelly, J W; A R Robertson, Treasurer; Wm Leigh, Secretary; J G McKay, S D; Fred Daily, J D; Thos Allison, D of C; A W Barnett, J G, W H Thain Tyler. After the installation, Bro P M Lewis, with a few appropriate remarks, on behalf of the officers and members, presented Bro McGrath, the outgoing Master, with a Past Master's Jewel, as a slight token of appreciation of his valuable services during his term of office. The recipients of the Jewel with appropriate remarks. Bro Lewis then presented the hall of the members, a very unique Gold Pen, Pencil and Case, with suitable inscription, to Bro Secretary Leigh, in recognition of his valuable services as Secretary for the last five years, which was acknowledged in appropriate terms. At seven o'clock in the evening the Masonic Brethren sat down to a sumptuous repast provided by Astico, and presided over by W. M. Blackburne. Among the guests present were the officers and members of the D. G. Lodge of England officers and members of Vancouver Lodge, 783, officers and members of British Columbia and Nainaimo Lodges, and many visiting Brethren. The banquet passed off happily, and with an interchange of brotherly sentiment.

THE THEATRE.—We last evening enjoyed one of those rich feasts of intellectual enjoyment that flow from the correct rendition of our greatest poets through the medium of their representatives, the votaries of histrionic art. In Mrs Bates' 'Julia' we have the purest picture of a wayward woman's heart we ever witnessed. Her representation of the character is poetry itself. Mr Bates' 'Master Walter' did him infinite credit and stamps him as truly wedded to his art. 'Helen,' 'Clifford,' and the other characters in the piece, were well supported. The house was the best we have seen this season. This evening 'Rochester' will be presented.

The bark Maria J. Smith, bound for Sydney, Australia, was towed down from the B. C. & V. I. Mills Barrard Inlet, on Wednesday night by the Inlet. She has on board 500,000 feet of lumber and will sail for her destination to-day. The ship Corisco, which arrived on Wednesday from San Francisco, is ordered to load with lumber at the same mill.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, YESTERDAY.—The Affidavit Bill was read a third time and passed. The report of the committee on the petition of Robert Homfray was read; the committee took a favorable view of the petitioner's claim; on motion the report was adopted. The Council then took up the mineral Lands Bill, and passed nine or ten clauses. A debate took place on the price to be fixed on mineral lands other than coal, when the following were decided on: \$25 for 200 feet and \$100 for 300 feet, exclusive of cost of survey. The committee rose and asked leave to sit again. After some further business of an unimportant character, the Council adjourned till 1 p m to-morrow.

We were taken to task touching certain expressions which appeared in our item on the Legislative Council yesterday, where we stated that a 'free fight' had occurred. We sincerely regret that any misapprehension of our meaning should have occurred, as the term 'free fight' was only used figuratively. Far be it from us to entertain the possibility of physical force ever being brought into play in a British Legislative Assembly. The mere supposition of such a reversal of all our ordinary habits is almost incredible. We only alluded to a free fight in words.

It has been suggested that the guns of steamers arriving at or departing from the harbor be fired outside, if possible—the sudden shock caused by the reports having been found injurious to patients at the hospital. The condition of Mr Camm, so lightly injured at Burrard Inlet a few weeks since, has been greatly aggravated by the firing of the arrival and departure guns of the Active. We trust we have but to call the attention of the agent to this circumstance to insure a change in the practice.

GOOD TEMPLAR'S INSTALLATION.—At the regular meeting of Victoria Lodge, No 1 O of G T, held on Wednesday evening, the following were installed as officers for the ensuing term by Lodge Deputy, David McFadden: John Vaughan, W C T; John Goodaers, W V T; J E McMillan, W S; R. Butler, W F S; H. Waller, W T; J. Work, W M; Miss Gough, W I G; Oliver Jackson, W O G; Ernest Leigh, W A S; J. Friedman, W D M; Miss Jeffrey, W R S; Miss Overstrum, W L S; D. Richards, W C.

PARTIS of hunters are now engaged in shooting sea gulls, the skins of which have lately come into fashion and favor for ladies' hats in Europe and elsewhere in lieu of feathers, which have 'gone out.' The gulls abound in great numbers near the mouth of Fraser River. At and near San Francisco it is estimated that one thousand gulls are sacrificed daily on the altar of fashion, the greed of which for victims is more insatiable than the 'prevailing epidemic.'

The steamer Sir James Douglas, Captain Clarke, arrived from Nainaimo and was port pestered yesterday evening. She brought a quantity of Island produce and some lumber for Lachapelle, the boat builder. Rough weather was experienced on the upward trip.

The SS Geo. S Wright, Captain Langdon, arrived at 8 o'clock last evening from Portland. She was detained at Aatoria five days by a rough bar. She brought seventeen passengers for Victoria, and 150 tons of freight for Puget Sound. We are indebted to Purser Tarball for the customary favors.

NEW SHOW ROOM.—Turner & Co. have commenced the construction of a commodious and spacious show-room at the rear of the London House. The room will be about twenty feet square and will extend across the alley which runs through the East street, entrance of the Occidental Building.

The Active sailed yesterday morning for Portland, Oregon. She had about 30 passengers from Victoria.

The steamer Fly came in yesterday laden to the gunwales with Island produce raised at Saanich Inlet.

By Electric Telegraph.

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST

Eastern States.

WASHINGTON, Jan 29.—A bill was introduced into the Senate to provide for the construction of a line of telegraph between New York, Boston, Baltimore and Washington, under direction of the Post Office Department. Referred to Post Office Committee. The Constitutional amendment came up as originally introduced, as follows: Article 15.—No State shall deny or abridge the rights of its citizens to vote or hold office on account of race, color or previous servitude. Second—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. The Judiciary Committee reported as substitute, the following: The rights of citizens of the United States to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of race or color, or previous condition of servitude. Stewart addressed the Senate, advocating the committee's substitute, which was then adopted.

A joint resolution was introduced that Presidential electors be chosen by the people. Referred.

Davis offered an amendment proposing that all constitutional amendments shall be submitted directly to the people.
WASHINGTON, Jan 29.—The Constitutional amendment passed the House—150 to 42—as follows—Sec. 1. Right of any citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by reason of race or previous slavery of any citizen or any class of citizens. Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article.

NEW YORK, Feb 2.—A bill was introduced in the House for the admission into the Union of St. Domingo and other West India Islands upon application of such Governments. The bill was tabled.

A bill was introduced in the House to increase the President's salary to one hundred thousand dollars; also to widow and children of President Lincoln to seventy five thousand; also, to deliver two Government Monitors to the Greek Government.

NEW YORK, Feb 2.—English papers say passports are dispensed with to Americans arriving in the South of France. The Minister of the Interior issued a circular declaring that all citizens of the American Union are permitted to travel and sojourn in France on a simple declaration of nationality.

NEW YORK, Feb 2.—It is stated that the almost individual sentiment in Congress is adverse to the ratification of the protocol of the Alabama Treaty in its present form. The Senate will never agree to a settlement of the claims on the basis proposed.

CHICAGO, Feb 2.—The Times' special says that the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department is likely to fail this Session.

Europe.
LONDON, Jan 29.—An invitation has been tendered to Beverly Johnson to dine with the Corporation authorities of Glasgow, in February, which was accepted by Mr Johnson.

MADRID, Jan 29.—It is stated that members of the Provisional Government are in favor of the Duke de Montpensier for the Spanish throne.
The Provisional Government has issued an address to the nation, in which they decline to take active steps against reaction, and declare they are closely watching and if necessary, will combat it.
Religious questions are left to final disposition by the constitution to the Cortes, to which they also refer the petition relative to the abolition of slavery.
The Diplomatic Corps have addressed to the Government a protest against the treatment of the Papal Nuncio.

ATHENS, Jan 29.—It is reported that Burgole, Prime Minister, has resigned. The action of the King of Greece upon the terms submitted by the recent Paris Conference is considered uncertain. Nothing definite concerning his intentions relative to the matter is as yet known.

VALENCIA, Feb 1.—The storm has prostrated the telegraph lines connecting with European cities and the cable.

LONDON, Feb 2.—The afternoon despatches from the Continent to-day report that a bloody battle occurred between the Turks and Montenegrans.
A heavy rain storm prevailed throughout Great Britain yesterday, and much damage was done by small streams overflowing their banks. Several marine disasters occurred, but no lives lost.

There is reason to believe that the Ministry, in their forthcoming Budget, will reduce the Army and Navy Estimates a million sterling each.

The Grand Jury found true bills of indictment against the Directors of the Overend, Gurney & Co. Bank, for a conspiracy to defraud and share noteholders of the Company.

MADRID, Feb 1.—It is probable that Marshal Prim, General Serrano and Senor Bivero will constitute the proposed directory. All those opposed to monarchy are to base their hopes on the permanency of the directory when once they established a government. A reinforcement of a thousand men sailed last week for Havana. The Papal Nuncio departed from Madrid last Saturday on his way to Rome, but explanations have been made which induced him to return. The Cortes will probably make great reductions in the cost of the army.

PARIS, Jan 31.—The Russian Government, through its minister at Athens, urges Greece to accede to the proposition of the Conference at Paris. It is rumored here to-day that the Greek Government has yielded and will sign the protocol.

PARIS, Feb 1.—Gen Diaz received yesterday the Hon. Anson Burlingame and suite. The Princess Olotida gave a reception this week to the Chinese Embassy.

In the Corps Legislatif an opposition member demanded restoration of diplomatic relations with the Mexican Republic on the ground that French interests suffer by the interruption.

MADRID, Feb 3.—The French Minister and the Papal Nuncio are about to withdraw from Madrid. All the foreign ministers except the Russian have protested against insults offered the Nuncio.

MADRID, Feb 1.—The first business of the Constitutional Cortes, soon to assemble, will be to establish a Directory to govern the country until a sovereign is chosen. A delegation composed of citizens in favor of a Republic and free religious worship, waited upon the Ministry yesterday and requested them to issue a decree declaring a separation of Church and State. An immense crowd gathered in the street in front of the ministerial palace and clamored for religious liberty. The Ministry replied that they would refer the subject to the Constitutional Cortes; that government would prohibit large popular demonstrations and the utterance of political cries in the streets, as liable to cause the disturbance of peace and order.

LONDON, Feb 1.—A despatch from Athens dated yesterday announces that a majority of the Greek Cabinet have decided to agree to the proposals of the Paris Conference. Four ministers voted for signing the protocol, and three, including Bulgaria, present minister, against.

VIENNA, Feb 2.—The Reichrath adopted a bill allowing trial by jury in all cases of violation of law regulating the press.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb 1.—A telegram asserts that Mr Morley, American Minister, instructed by Secretary Seward, offered the Sublime Porte mediation of the United States in the Grecian trouble.

West Indies.
HAVANA, Jan 31.—Sainave seized two French vessels in the harbor of St. Mary's for running the blockade. The French Admiral compelled the Government to surrender the vessels, declaring that Hayti had no right to seize foreign vessels coming into her ports under a paper blockade which the Government could not maintain.

Canada.
MONTREAL, Jan 29.—The billiard match last night between Foster and Dion was won by the latter. The score stood 1200 to 1114. The game was very exciting.

California.
SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 30.—Heavy rains have caused considerable damage in the Western Addition; streets and roads have been gutted in many places at Mission and 19th streets, and crossings have been gullied out to a depth of 10 to 12 feet.
Steamer Golden City sailed for Panama to-day with 174 passengers.

Sailed—Bark Camden, Teakale.
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 1.—Legal Tenders are quiet at 75% buying; and 75% selling.
Flour—Superfine, \$4 62½ to 4 75; extra, \$5 62½ to 5 75.
Wheat—Fair milling at \$1 70 to 1 80.
Barley—Coast feed \$2 27½; choice, \$2 87½; the range of the market is still \$2 to \$2 30.
Oats—\$2 15 to 2 20; Oregon, \$2 20 to \$2 25.

Sailed, 30th—Bark Camden, for Teakale. Arrived, Feb 1st—Ship Top Gallant, from Burrard Inlet. Sailed, 31st—Ship Aurora, for Port Discovery; bark Banier, for Teakale; bark Ionomu, for Port Orchard.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 2.—Arrived—Schr. James Townsend, Burrard Inlet; bark W H Galloway, Port Madison.


SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 3.—The steamer Japan sails for Yokohama and Hong Kong to-morrow noon.
Mining stocks still maintain an upward tendency.

Flour—City brands are unchanged.
Wheat—Ordinary to fair, \$1 50@1 75; air to choice, \$1 70@1 81.
Barley—Feed, \$2 10@2 20; brewing, \$2 20@2 30.
Oats—California range from \$2 10 to \$2 25; Oregon from \$2 20 to \$2 30.
Gold in New York to-day 135½.
Wheat quiet but steady. Flour nominal, \$6@11 30.
Arrived, Feb 2.—Bark Gold Hunter, Port Madison; bark Huntsville, 25 days from Port Madison.

Sailed—Ship Elizabeth Kimball, Teakale.

HOMER MANUFACTURE.—We have seen a portable copying press on exhibition at Messrs Hibben & Co's, Government street, designed for use at the mines. It is an ingenious combination of iron and wood, ensuring strength, compactness and lightness, the weight being only ten pounds. The freight betwixt Victoria and the mines on the ordinary screw press, which is made entirely of cast iron, is in most cases more than the original cost of the machine. In the new press the pressure is applied by means of two short levers and four eccentricities, so arranged that the pressure is more equally and simultaneously distributed than by the old screw press. Another advantage is that it can be used on any ordinary press.

copy can be produced with less expenditure and in a shorter time than by the ordinary method. The machine was constructed by Messrs Spratt and Kremler for the Inspector of the Bank of British Columbia from that gentleman's own design. We recommend those who require to send a copying press to country to look at this one.



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