

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, March 6, 1869

We were startled out of our propriety yesterday on hearing of a rare usurpation of power by the Legislative Council, who have presumed to interfere with the Municipal Council in matters quite foreign to their position. We never for a moment supposed that the Legislative Council would attempt any such encroachment upon the rights of our citizens or our civic functionaries, but such would appear to be the intention in the amendment introduced by Mr Trutch to the Municipal Amendment Ordinance. It would seem to be the desire of the Government to cripple the Corporation by every means in its power. After a lengthy period of incubation an Act of Incorporation is hatched so notoriously defective that the City Council may be said to have been hopping on one leg ever since. The Municipal By-law Act, which was thrown out a few days ago, was intended to straighten the rickety measure we have alluded to, but contained in its construction so many incongruities that it would only have added to the Municipal difficulties. Another Ordinance, called the Municipal Amendment Act, has been introduced, and after undergoing an immense amount of lopping and amputations has acquired an addition from the facile hands of Mr Trutch, who has robbed the citizens of the control of their own park by placing it outside the city limits. We presume every one is aware that the park has been under the control of the City Council since Victoria boasted a Corporation; and our citizens are equally alive to the fact that their administration has been most creditable. Why, then, take away a part of the corporate functions? Are the citizens to be benefitted by the change? This we strongly doubt. Will our taxes be lightened by the transfer? This we need hardly answer in the negative. Is the Legislative Council more capable of watching over the interests of the people than the Town Council? This we deny. What, then, can have induced the Legislative Council to step out of its way to meddle with matters that must necessarily bring them into conflict with the people? They surely cannot imagine themselves too popular; or, worse still, are they so confident in their power over the people that they rush into direct conflict in order to enjoy their triumph? It must be remembered that the Mayor and Town Council is a part of ourselves—fellow citizens chosen from our own ranks as a mark of our respect and esteem for them, and who are specially chosen to govern all matters pertaining to the civic administration of our city and its privileges. Any attack on that body, therefore, is a direct insult to the people, and must be met in such a spirit as to teach these official legislators that there is a power even greater than theirs. Had their wisdom been equal to their arrogance, they would have observed that the City Council enjoyed a freer atmosphere than the Council Chamber at the other side of the bay, and that the public business was more faithfully attended to in the former than in the latter establishment. We can, without exaggeration, boast of the best governed city on the Pacific; and we doubt whether anywhere in the world a similar amount of improvement has been achieved with the like quantum of means. All this, however, is beside the question of the administration of our Park which we insist must and ought to be in the hands of the Mayor and Council of this city, and we sincerely recommend Mr. Trutch to undo as quickly as possible what he has done in relation to the exclusion of the Park from the city limits. It is quite true that our Legislative Council may have been misled on the subject by interested parties, or some idea emanating from the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works may have led him to think that were the Park in his own hands he could do more for the public good than is now being done. We are prepared to admit this, and much more; but at the same time we recommend an immediate transfer, or if he doubts what we now advance as the opinion of the people on the subject, let him attend at the Theatre on Monday night and hear the opinions of the ratepayers as they will then be expressed. We assure him he will go away convinced of the wisdom of our counsel. We would suggest that so long as the attention of Legislative Councilors is confined to matters connected with the general Government, the people are inclined to give them a good deal of latitude; but when they trench on the functions of the people they will find themselves in the most uncomfortable position they ever occupied. What they had better do is to pass a good useful law in order to arm the Municipal Council with powers sufficient to carry out their bylaws with proper effect, and

having done so, let them leave the Corporation to take care of themselves. No body of the citizens are watched by the people with more zealous care than our City Fathers, who are our own offshoots, and related to us by so many ties of association and friendship that we would allow a stranger to interfere in our domestic affairs, as we would allow our civic dignitaries to be robbed of a single privilege they ever enjoyed.

City Council.

FRIDAY EVENING, Feb. 26. The meeting was convened by his worship the Mayor to consider the propriety of calling a meeting to learn the sense of the public relative to the proposed withdrawal of Beacon Hill Park from the control of the Corporation. Mr. McKay, seconded by Mr. Allatt, introduced the following preamble and resolution: Whereas, Beacon Hill Park was placed under the control of the Corporation of the City of Victoria by virtue of an Ordinance entitled 'The Victoria Municipal Ordinance, 1867,' to incorporate the said city; And whereas the Legislative Council, without consulting the citizens of Victoria, attempted on Feb. 25, 1869, to withdraw the said park from the control of the said Corporation; And whereas it is the unanimous opinion of the Council that the withdrawal of the said park from the control of the said Corporation would be a great public wrong; And whereas this Council is unanimously of the opinion that steps should be taken to remonstrate against and prevent the withdrawal of the said park from the control of the said Corporation; Resolved, That his Worship the Mayor be, and he is, authorized to call a Public Meeting, to be held in the theatre on Monday evening next, the 1st March, at 8 o'clock, to acquaint the citizens with the attempted withdrawal of the said park, and to take such other steps to prevent the same as the citizens may determine. The Mayor stated that in proposing the resolution to the Council to withdraw the park from city control the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works had stated that the Corporation was destroying the beauty of the park by blasting the rocks, and that they had given permission to a gentleman to erect a stable in the park grounds. The Corporation workmen were blasting rock in the same place that the Government workmen were blasting; and as to the story of the stable, it was utterly without foundation, no such permission had been given. Mr. Gibbs strongly supported the motion for a public meeting. The Corporation is a representative body, while two-thirds of the Council is not. The Corporation had proposed to make some improvements last spring at the Park, but were told that the Jockey Club (J) held supreme control. He trusted that such action would be taken as to confirm the city in the control of the Park. Mr. Russell and Mr. Allatt deemed the action of the Council an infringement upon the public rights. Mr. Gerow said that if the Government took the Park from the people they would soon want something else. Let the Council not give way one inch. [Hear.] Mr. Allatt could only repeat what Mr. Gerow had said. He would go for the park through thick and thin. The Mayor remembered when the Educational Bill was before the Legislative Council, Dr. Helmcken moved that the local board be the Mayor and Council, when one of the members exclaimed, 'What place the Schools in the hands of a set of fellows who can neither read or write?' If the Government attempted to take a single stone from the Park, they could be prevented by an injunction. If this right escaped through the people's fingers, the next thing would be that the whole affair would be placed under the Lands and Works Department, and we should be placed under the feet of despots. [Hear.] The resolution was carried unanimously and the meeting then adjourned. Ours vs. Gars's—About a year and a half ago a brig called the 'Roma,' laden with tropical fruit, arrived at this port from Tahiti. She was commanded by a Captain Hayes—an enormously stout man—who had fled from California and Australia to avoid answering to the law for the commission of acts of at least a questionable character—among others for stealing the Park Ellipsis, from San Francisco, in 1858. It was understood that Hayes' real following was that of kidnapping, native to the Tahiti Islands and conveying them to Australia, where they were apprenticed for long terms to stock-raisers. After leaving Victoria, the doughty captain—who appeared to have piles of gold—crossed among the Tahitian Islands in pursuit of his infamous calling, and upon an unlucky day fell out with his first mate and challenged him to fight a duel. The mate accepted the challenge, the brig was brought to an anchor, a boat was lowered and the two combatants, accompanied by the crew, went ashore. The weapons used were pistols, and Hayes was shot through the body and killed at the first fire. Upon his fall the natives, who had stood aloof and watched the proceedings, rushed forward and cut off Hayes' head, and drove the mate and the crew back to their vessel. Hayes was both feared and hated by the Tahitians. These facts are gathered from a private letter received by a resident of this city. DEATH AT THE HOSPITAL.—Jeron Bodet, aged 45, a native of France, died at the Royal Hospital, yesterday of dysentery. He went to the hospital suffering from small pox, which seems to have terminated in the malady that carried him off.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—Mr. Robson laid before the Council the draft of the address to Her Majesty on the subject of the Supreme Courts. Referred to Committee of the Whole. Mr. Holbrook's motion recommending Labor Exchange was carried after a short discussion. The Victoria Water Bill was read a first time; second reading fixed for Wednesday next. Dr. Helmcken withdrew his motion relative to the route to Cowichan, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works promising to take care that the best line should be chosen when the Government was in a position to make a road. The Stipendiary Magistrates Bill, the Partnership Bill and the Civil Cases Bill were each read a third time and passed. The Supreme Courts Bill gave rise to a warm debate on the amendment of Mr. Drake, who moved that it be read three times. On division the Bill was carried; ayes 10, noes 9. The Drawbacks Bill was recommitted for amendment and reported complete, and standing orders being suspended the third reading was carried. Governor's message No. 17 informed the Council that he had assented to the Reconveyance Bill. The Volunteer Bill was postponed till Friday. The Victoria By-law Bill was also postponed. The St Andrew Church Bill was taken up in committee and the greater part of the clauses passed; it was agreed, however, to postpone the 8th and 9th clauses, and the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again. The Municipal Amendment Bill was then taken up in committee of the whole. After some progress had been made the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again. The Council then adjourned during pleasure to meet again at 7 o'clock p. m. last night.

FROM THE NORTHWEST COAST.—The Otter arrived from the North early on Friday morning; she reached Sitka on the 3d Feb. Two white men who were on a trading expedition in an open boat were killed near Sitka by the Kaika Indians to revenge the death of some of their friends who had been shot by the gentry at Sitka. The United States steamer Saginaw, with General David and still, was to leave for Kaika on the 10th. No other news. The Revenue Cutter Riffance was still at Sitka. The Otter left on 9th Feb., touched at Sitka and Tongass, and arrived at Fort Simpson on the 14th; saw a schooner, supposed to be the Favorite, abreast of Point Harrington; left Fort Simpson on the 19th, called at Metlakatla, Bella Bella, Oolich, Fort Rupert, Saquah, Comox and Nanaimo. The schooner Margaret was off Saquah on the 22d. The steamer Geo. S. Wright was coaling at Nanaimo on Thursday.

STAMPSHIP MOVEMENTS.—The Active will sail at 4 this morning for all the ports on Puget Sound. She will proceed thence to Nanaimo for coal and return here on Thursday to meet the steamer Gussie Telfair, which will sail from San Francisco for Victoria direct on Monday. The officers of the Active will then be exchanged into the Telfair for Portland, and the Active will run down direct to San Francisco. Such is the programme as at present decided on. YESTERDAY was one of the finest days of the season. The air was soft and balmy as in June, and the sun shone out so brightly and warmly that woollen clothing became uncomfortable. The recent frosts have inflicted no damage upon vegetation, if we except a few flowers 'nipped' at the bud. Peas, asparagus and budding fruit trees continue to put forth their shoots and tendrils, and the indications of an early spring are quite favorable.

The mail steamer Active, Captain F. O. Sholl, arrived at 3 1/2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from Portland, bringing 43 passengers, a full freight of live stock and merchandise and a small mail and express. The Active sailed from Portland on the afternoon of Thursday. Captain Sholl reports a pleasant run up. Passer Goodhue has placed us under obligations for the customary favors.

ISLAND RAISED HOGS.—Mr Rowland, of Burnside road, drove to town on Tuesday fifty large, fat porkers, raised on his farm. They were bought by Heywood. The man who thinks that hogs cannot thrive on this Island should go and look at these porcine specimens. Before the lapse of another twelvemonth the colony will produce all the stock required for home consumption.

CONFIRMATION.—The son of Mr Samuel Harris will be confirmed at the Jewish Synagogue at ten o'clock this morning. Persons who have never witnessed a ceremony of the kind will be interested by attending.

TO BE WITHDRAWN.—We learn that the steamer Active is to be withdrawn from the Portland and Victoria trade, and that the steamer Gussie Telfair will shortly arrive to take her place.

PROBATION.—The Council, it is expected, will be prorogued on Saturday next. WHEN YOU FEEL a cough or bronchial affection creeping on the lungs, take AYER'S CURE, and cure it before it becomes incurable.

By Electric Telegraph.

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST

Europe. LONDON, Feb. 25.—In the House of Commons this afternoon an inquiry was made whether legal investigation had been made before the pardon in the case of the Fenians recently liberated. Fortescue replied that the investigation made was quite sufficient to show that the cases were quite different from ordinary commutations of sentences.

In reply to a question, Lord Granville said that negotiations for a settlement between the Hudson Bay Company and the Dominion of Canada are still pending. It was unavoidable to make a statement of the prospects of building a telegraph line through the territories of the company, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, until the complete adjustment is reached. Gladstone stated in reply to an inquiry from Torrens, that the Government had received no authentic advice of the rejection of the Alabama Convention by the United States, nor any information of the naturalization protocol.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 24.—General Kaasloff, Minister of War, urges the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. BERLIN, Feb. 24.—The North German Parliament meets on the 4th of March. The Prussian diet closes its session on the 6th. MADRID, Feb. 24.—The vote in the Cortes, thanking the Provisional Government, and authorizing Serrano to form a new Ministry, stood 81 in favor to 62 against. PARIS, Feb. 26.—The bulletin of the Bank of France has increased eleven millions. In the Corps Legislatif to-day Rouher, Minister of State, acknowledged that the loans to defray the expenses of improvements in Paris had not been raised in strict accordance with the law. Satisfaction was generally expressed by the members with the answer and explanation of the Minister.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 26.—The Sublime Porte has issued a circular of thanks to foreign Powers for their attitude in the late difficulty. LONDON, Feb. 26.—The Cobden Club's gold medal is awarded to Dr. Joshua Leavitt, of New York. The Marquis of Huntingdon is elected to Parliament for Rodney. The War Office has received official dispatches from New Zealand announcing further success over the rebels. The troops carried by assault a stronghold. The matter made a desperate defence and lost two hundred killed and wounded. The British loss was 22. MADRID, Feb. 26.—The modification of the Spanish Cabinet is likely to introduce a radical element.

EASTERN STATES. WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—It is said that General Grant, in conversation, has intimated that 'all the Southern military commanders removed by Johnson and Alabama were the best reconquered States of all. When the rest were safely restored ours would be the happiest country in the world. Grant said: "I am not myself a representative of any political party, although the Republican party elected me." A caucus of the Republican members of the forty-first Congress will be held on Tuesday evening, March 2nd, with the view of making nominations for officers of the House. A caucus of Democratic members will be held at the same time. WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—In the Senate, Chandler reported, with amendments, a bill to preserve the harbors of the United States against encroachments. It provides for the appointment of a mixed board of officers and civilians to have general supervision of the subject and make recommendations to Congress.

In the House a bill passed which provides for the coinage of nickel five cent pieces. Bentwell submitted a report from the Conference Committee on the Constitutional Amendment, as follows: The right of any citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. The Conference report was adopted, 142 to 43. The amendment to the appropriation bill, giving female clerks in the Treasury Office the same pay as males when doing similar work, was adopted. The annual postal route bill passed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The President's veto of the copper tariff bill was read and the bill passed over the veto—38 to 12. NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The Tribune's special thinks the bill strengthened the public credit and legalized gold contracts will probably not pass the Senate. WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The Conference Committee on the Constitutional Amendment, have decided to adopt it about as it originally passed in the House, and not the clause conferring the right to negroes to hold office; and the report will probably be made to-day. FRANKFURT, Feb. 26.—The Senate Finance Committee in amendments to Schuck's bill declare the faith of the United States; it solemnly pledged to the payment in coin or its equivalent of all obligations of the United States except where otherwise expressed. The section legalizing coin contracts is not changed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the San Francisco Mint was rejected. The Military Committee's report recommends the creation of a supply department and of the quartermaster's subsistence and pay departments and the consolidation of the ordnance and artillery corps, and engineer and signal corps. They think the engineers can do the work of coast survey, and recommend the substitution of annual salary for commutation and allowances of officers. They condemn and urge the abolition of the present system of brevet rank. Callen, on leave, introduced a joint resolution declaring that Congress and the people of the United States are not indifferent to the struggle for national independence and emancipation in Cuba, so long delayed by

the monarchies of Europe, and now begun under American auspices in the interests of universal freedom. In the Senate, evening session, the Senators resumed the consideration of the Constitutional Amendment. Pomeroy raised a point of order that the Conference Committee had exceeded its powers in striking out that in regard to which there was no disagreement. The President overruled the point. The vote was finally had and the Amendment announced that two-thirds of the Senators present having voted affirmatively the joint resolution was adopted. Davis raised a point of order that the Constitution expressly required for the passage of a proposition to amend the Constitution a vote of two-thirds of the Senate, and not merely two-thirds of those present; and three-fourths of the States of the Union being represented in the Senate, there would be sixty-eight members, of whom two-thirds would be forty-five.

Cuba. HAVANA, Feb. 24.—The naval expedition to Lagunaga was completely successful. The insurgent fortifications were first bombarded by the fleet, then the troops landed and carried the place by assault. The rebels retreated. Two battalions have marched to the relief of Puerto Principe. Accounts from Santiago are unfavorable. The cholera is unabated. The insurgents are plundering and destroying plantations. The revolutionary General Figuera has issued strict orders to his associates to respect private property and the estates of French citizens. Cane grinding has commenced at a new plantation in Santiago district. It is not expected that more than half a crop will be realized.

HAVANA, Feb. 15.—A newspaper calls attention to the law making all foreigners who have resided five years in Cuba, subjects of Spain. It says they must submit to the condition or leave the Island. The resignation of the American consul at Trinidad has been accepted. HAVANA, Feb. 23, via Key West, Feb. 26.—Orders have been given to the troops in the field to take no prisoners in arms, but to shoot all. The Government of Spain is much incensed at the conduct of the Cubans in refusing to accept its conciliatory proposals and will crush the rebellion if it takes 500,000 troops. The volunteers have become quiet.

CALIFORNIA. SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—New York quotations of Gold 132 1/2. Wheat dull and nominal, \$1.80 @ 1.90; flour, \$6 @ 6.10. Pacific Mills, 98 1/2; Liverpool wheat, 109 1/2; Legal Tenders, 76 @ 76 1/2; flour, Oregon extra, at \$4.75 @ 5.25; and City Mills as follows: superfine in sacks 196 lbs., \$4.62 1/2 @ 4.75; extra in sacks, \$5.82 1/2 @ 5.75; wheat, choice shipping grades, to arrive, \$1.75; fair shipping, \$1.70; choice, \$1.75; coast, \$1.60; choice, Santa Clara, \$1.75. We quote common good milling, \$1.60 @ 1.70; good to choice, \$1.40 @ 1.75 per 100 lbs. for a lot of choice small advances on the latter figure might be obtained. Barley, choice feed, \$2.20, quoted at \$2.10 @ 2.20; good brewing quotable at \$2.20 @ 2.30 per 100 lbs.; we quote California at \$1.75 @ 2.15; Oregon at \$2.10 @ 2.20.

Arrived, Feb. 24.—Bark Gem of the Ocean from Bellingham Bay, bark Leonore from Port Blakely, barkentine Accident from Umpqua. Sailed, Feb. 24.—Bark Jessie Pitts, Seabeck, bark Anglo-Saxon, Bellingham Bay. SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—From a telegram received by Collector Miller from the Secretary of the Treasury, it appears that all trade with the Islands of St. George and St. Paul is to be cut off until further orders, and that no merchandise or persons will be allowed to be landed at such points. The indiscriminate slaughter of seals will doubtless receive a check by this new regulation. It is currently reported that the Pacific Mail Company intend to run, but three steamers to Panama after March.

Flour—City brands, superfine in sacks, per 100 pounds, \$4.62 @ 4.75; extra, in sacks, \$5.82 @ 5.75. Wheat—Choice shipping, \$1.70; common, to good milling at \$1.60 @ 1.70; and good to choice milling at \$1.70 @ 1.75. Barley—Market is quiet at \$2 @ 2.20, for feed, and \$2.20 @ 2.30 for brewing. Oats—California, \$1.75 @ 1.85; and Oregon at \$2 @ 2.10. Legal Tenders 76 @ 76 1/2. Sailed, 26.—Ship Marion, Port Blakely, schooner Clara Light, Port Townsend.

GOLDSTREAM—AN ACCIDENT.—A party of gentlemen, comprising some naval officers and a civilian, were on their return from a prospecting trip to Goldstream on Thursday evening, when the back seat of an open buggy in which they were seated tipped over and landed two of the parties in the road. The occupants of the front seat proceeded about 500 yards before they were aware an accident had occurred. The gentlemen escaped with a few slight bruises. Previous to the accident the party prospected vigorously in the banks of Goldstream and secured a fine prospect, which was lost in the tumble. Some fine specimens of quartz from the old Parmer claim—which some of our citizens have reason to remember with sorrow—were brought in, and will be sent to New Westminster for assay.

FRANK JOHN, whose patronymic is Costello, but whose pet-name is Billy, the Bgg, yesterday observed a man in a state of intoxication in the act of being hurried into a boat at the foot of Johnson street. Believing the man to be abandoned, he interfered to rescue him from his custodian, when a fight ensued, which ended in Billy and one of the men being locked up. Both found bail, and to-day they will be arraigned for trial.

Advertisement for PERRIN'S SAUCE, featuring a bottle illustration and text describing its quality and availability.