BRITISH COLONIST--SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. 5. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1864 NO. 28.

COLONIAL STATISTICS.

Above all the drawbacks which a Governor is likely to experience on taking charge of the administration of affairs on Vancouver Island, the total absence of statistics is probably the greatest. We cannot, of course, expect so young a colony to have its affairs arranged in that systematic order which is so perceptible in England and in the European countries generally; but we have a right to demand that our legislation shall not be merely experimental—that the government of the colony shall be based on facts—tangible and indisputable facts—upon which the law maker can at once lay his hand. At present there is scarcely a single subject which comes up for legislation that is thoroughly weighed or understood in its bearings on the inhabitants. When taxation becomes the matter of debate, we have one member putting down the total inhabitants of the Island at 5000 and another at 10 000, just as the figure may suit the gentleman's arguments or fancy, and again we have the available agricultural land stated by one member to be almost illimitable and by another to be but a few thousand acres. Our imports and exports—things which our Legislature never touches upon—are probably the only subjects of importance with which the Government is thoroughly acquainted. The industrial resources of the country—the real elements of our future prosperity—are never thought of. The first move has yet to be made to acquire a knowledge of the number of actual settlers, the amount of land under cultivation, and the description of the crops. Then we have the lumbering, the boat building, the fishing and the coal mining interests, about which there is not a single official record.

We cannot wonder that in this blissful but unprofitable state of ignorance, there is a most reckless determination to carry out experiment, in the absence of proper data. It is not surprising that we have had governmental action sometimes based on the supposition that we were a population of 100,000 instead of about 6,000 taxable souls—that we have a staff of officials numerically sufficient to carry on the work of a colony ten times our size—and that a scheme should be proposed for improving our harbor, that could certainly not be borne by a population less than that number. We have no authentic or reliable means of judging of the progression of the colony—either in population or in wealth. We cannot tell the yearly number of our immigrants, nor approximate the sum total of those who leave our shores. There is no registrar to point periodically to the reproductive character of our inhabitants—to the number of those who enter the marriage state and become literally "settled"—or to those who depart for "the bourne from whence no traveller returns."

In the chaotic state of the first few years of Vancouver Island's colonial existence—in the confusion and unsettledness of '59, '60 and '61—there was a legitimate excuse for inaction in this matter of statistics. Happily, however, we have now become more of a permanent population. Interests have arisen and grown up amongst us that promise to become the mainstay of the country's existence. Our buildings, as well as occupations, now indicate a stability to which they had no pretension a few years ago. Everything, in fact, is assuming an air of substance and regularity that leaves no further excuse for remaining in ignorance of our actual condition. The expense attendant on the compilation of official statistics on the important subjects mentioned would be trifling in comparison to the satisfaction of the results. One of the officials might be appointed, at a very slight increase of salary, Registrar of births, deaths and marriages. The taking of the census, which we hope to see done before the expiration of the present year, will also be a matter of trivial expenditure, and might be done as before, as far as Victoria is concerned, by the police. The other statistical information connected with our resources is of too great importance to be treated with any further neglect, and we therefore hope to see His Excellency and the Government generally treating the matter with that consideration which it demands.

THE FIRST LINK OF OUR OVERLAND RAILWAY.—Mr. C. J. Brydges, manager of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, writing to the Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick, states that he proposes, on behalf of a substantial and influential company in England, to construct an Intercolonial Railway, between Halifax and Riviere du Loup, in Canada. The proposal seems to be favorably received by the eastern provinces. Should it be accepted and carried out, the first great steps towards the completion of a British American Atlantic and Pacific Railroad will be made.

THE CHARGE AGAINST QUARLES.

POLICE COURT.

THURSDAY, 19th May, 1864.

(BEFORE T. L. WOOD, ESQ.)

William Frederick Quarles appeared yesterday in the Police Court to answer a charge preferred against him by George Cruickshank, Esq., of obtaining money under false pretences. The court was besieged at an early hour with eager listeners and so soon as the doors were thrown open a rush was made to secure places.

The prisoner was defended by Mr. John Copland.

George Cruickshank was sworn, and confirmed the complaint lodged by him, which was as follows:

On or about the 6th Jan. last, I discounted F. W. Quarles' promissory note, at 90 days after date, for $1000, as an advance on three bales of merchandise, which he represented to me, by an invoice in his own hand writing, to contain 300 pairs of blankets, the invoice value being stated in the invoice to be over $1500. No portion of that advance has since been refunded by the said F. W. Quarles. On Monday last, the 16th inst., I examined the said three bales of merchandise, and found them to contain in all only about 100 half-blankets in an unmerchantable condition, and, from information I have received I believe they are not worth more than $100; and I charge the said F. W. Quarles with obtaining from me the sum of $1000 by a false pretence.

By the Court:

The goods were stored in the H. B. Co.'s warehouse; I have their storage receipt (receipt produced dated 4th Jan.) Saw the bales referred to for the first time on Monday last; they are marked 1 to 3 Q in diamond in invoice produced marked B, in Quarles hand writing; I saw him write it; he copied it from the English invoice. He stated that it was the bare cost in England without adding freight and charges. He wanted an advance for $1000 upon it at 90 days. I drew out a premissory note for $1000 at 90 days to his own order, which he signed and endorsed. He could not meet it himself and I was therefore obliged to retire it myself at the bank. I discounted the note at the rate of interest agreed, and gave him a cheque for the balance, which cheque was duly charged to my account by the bank. I produce a note marked C, dated 6th, which I received from Mr. Quarles. The policy of insurance dated 5th for $1200 produced marked D was handed to me at same time as the bill was discounted. A few days before the maturity of the note I had a conversation with Quarles; he wished to have the note renewed. I took up the note myself and entered into a fresh arrangement for the payment of the note. There were other matters to be settled at the same time. I renewed the note and the documents remained undisturbed in my possession.

[The Official Assignee was here directed to produce all papers connected with the enquiry.]

Witness continued—The note which I discounted I now produce (mark E) it is dated 6th. I find I am mistaken in one respect, the note was not written by me.

Mr. Copland declined to cross examine.

Hy. Rushton, examined—At the time of the payment of the cheque I now produce, (marked F.) dated 6th Jan. '64, I was cashier of the Bank of British Columbia; it is signed by Geo. Cruickshank, and was paid on the same day; the endorsement is in the prisoner's hand writing; I know his signature well; I took the cheque myself this morning from the voucher drawer; I produce the cash book; the entry of the payment of the cheque for $907, on 6th Jan. is in my hand writing, and was taken from the cheque itself.

Mr Sebright Green here asked leave to conduct the case for the prosecution.

Geo. Cruickshank recalled—On reference to my cheque book I find that the discount was made on the 6th January; on the 8th April, I find that I paid the note then due.

Mr. Wood here intimated that numerous vouchers and documents had been handed into Court and marked, but he considered it unnecessary and highly inconvenient to the parties concerned to impound their papers in depositions only; they should be subpœned to produce them at the proper time.

The prosecuter here amended the information charging the prisoner with obtaining $907 under false pretences, that being the actual amount which the prisoner received.

T. Sullivan, sworn—I am storekeeper in the service of the Hudson Bay Company. I find, by referring to the warehouse books, that about two months ago some bales came into the warehouse for Quarles. They were marked from 1 to 3 Q in diamond. They were in my custody and no one had access to them so as to open or tamper with them.

Cross examined by Mr. Copland—Could not speak with certainty as to the time the goods were deposited in the store. Could swear that the goods were never touched while in the store. Quarles had other goods in the store at the same time.

Examined by Mr. Green—It is no part of my duty to keep the books. Could not say who brought the goods to store. The bales in question were covered with sacking and sewn up like other bales, but had no iron hoops round them. I was never away from the store during the day-time that I am aware of for more than half an hour.

By the Court—There is no one else in charge of the warehouse. I keep a warehouse book or my own convenience, but do not think I made any entry of these particular bales. I only knew from hearsay that they belonged to Quarles. The bales were very loosely put up, and did not appear to have been skilfully packed. It is impossible that 100 pairs blankets 60 in. by 84 in. could have been packed in such.

Warren R. Cushnan, sworn—I am in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company, assisting in the superintendence of the wharf and warehouse department. I enter all goods received on storage. Know the prisoner Quarles. Received on January 4th three bales from the order of Quarles marked Q in a diamond, which I entered.

Mr. Green—Will you produce the entry?

Witness—No.

The Magistrate—Have you it with you?

Witness—Yes (producing paper.)

Magistrate—Then why do you refuse to show it?

Witness—It is the only means I have of knowing the date.

Magistrate—Is it the original or a copy?

Witness—The original, and shows the whole thing.

Magistrate—(Smiling) I must commit you to prison if you do not produce it.

Witness here handed the document to the bench and said, the Magistrate might have it in his charge, but he (the witness) would not part with it unless he was compelled.

Mr. Copland asked to see the paper.

Witness—Oh no! you can't have it (laughter.)

The Magistrate after a while succeeded in convincing the cautious witness that it was essential to the ends of justice that all parties should be permitted to see any papers produced in court, and Mr. Copland having seen the disputed paper the examination continued:

I saw the bales when they were stored, they were covered up and bound with cord. They could not contain the number of blankets stated, as bales containing 100 blankets 60 by 80, weighing 8 lb. 6 oz., would measure 55 feet, and these measured only about 12 more or less. I don't think the bales had been openedin the warehouse. They are no longer there, having been removed by Mr. Cruickshank.

By the Court—The packages were not in my opinion specimens of English packing. They were certainly not done up by a skilled hand. A piece of white cord was tied round them, and they were covered with ordinary baling or coarse canvas. I have, I believe, a memorandum somewhere, sent by Quarles with the goods.

John Wilkie, merchant, sworn—Examined the three bales in question; they were badly packed; opened two of them in his own store at the request of Mr. Cruickshank; in one of them found about 20 half blankets, all very badly damaged, stained, faded and cut. The other bale contained about 40 single blankets, which were similarly damaged; opened one end of the third bale and finding the contents to be the same proceeded no further with the examination; there was nothing else inside; there was no paper round the blankets which is very unusual; they were badly tolied, and had only a single wrapper round them without any waterproof lining; blankets from England invariably have two wrappers and a waterproof lining between; never saw any English bales packed like these.

Charles W. Wallace, Jr.—I am manager of the house of Dickson, Campbell & Co.; have had considerable experience in the packing of goods; bales containing 100 blankets of 60 by 84 lbs. 6 oz., will average about 45 feet. It would be perfectly impossible to place 100 blankets of the size given in a bale measuring only 12 feet; I have never seen English bales containing 100 blankets each that were not strapped with iron.

Mr. Copland said this being a preliminary enquiry, and not a trial, he did not think he should be justified in submitting his client's defence, and should therefore defer his answer until the case came to trial, although there was nothing before the Court in his opinion to send the case for trial. He certainly did think that a great deal of the present charge arose from the public outcry raised against his client. He did not look upon Mr. Cruickshank as a gentleman so easily to to be taken in as was alleged. He alluded to a discrepancy in the dates of the alleged fraudulent transaction. It did not appear clearly whether it had taken place on the 4th or 6th. He dwelt, however, mainly on the want of identity. Mr. Cruickshank could not swear to the bales, he had not even seen them until the 16th inst. and none of the other witnesses (whose evidence he would entirely pass by) could identify the bales or prove that $1,000 had been raised upon those bales. He argued that Mr Cruickshank never having examined the bales could not be said to have exercised sufficient caution to justify the present proceeding. He compared the entire charge to a disjointed body, *the head not fitting the arms nor the arms the legs*! [Laughter]

The Magistrate intimated that there was proof of the intent to defraud, though he thought the evidence as at present adduced was somewhat weak. A strong feature which implicated the prisoner was the invoice of the three particular bales made in his own handwriting and handed to Mr Cruickshank. It was advisable, however, to have all the main facts brought out at the preliminary enquiry, so that all parties should know at the trial the nature of the case and what they had to meet, and he should wish Mr. Cuthbert to be recalled.

Mr. Green asked for a remand for another day as he should then be prepared with evidence to show what had been the position of the prisoner previous to and at the time of his flight, and the circumstances under which he attempted to evade his creditors.

Mr. Wood said he thought that would be essential to the present enquiry.

Mr. Copland asked if any other charges were to be gone into?

Mr Green—No, I am not instructed.

Mr. Rhodes—Not at present.

Mr. Copland objected to such an expression as that, he said it was very unfair to his client. He wished every thing to be brought to light at once, and if Quarles was guilty let him be punished, but innocent (which he must be assumed to be until proved guilty,) let him not be thus accused in the dark.

Mr. Rhodes said he had not had time to prepare a charge, but had no doubt he should be able to do so.

Mr. Wood said the remark was perhaps not in order, but he did not think Quarles had been taken at all by surprise by it.

Mr. Drake—We shall bring several, one after the other.

Mr. Rhodes explained that his remark was intended only to correct Mr. Green when he said he was not instructed to prepare any other charge. He (Mr. R.) intended preferring a charge against the prisoner but had yet to consult with Mr. Green on the subject.

Mr. Cuthbert was here recalled, and examined as to the marks entries and identification of the three bales deposited by Quarles' order in the Company's warehouse, and the prisoner was remanded for 24 hours.

SUPREME COURT.

[BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE CAMERON AND A SPECIAL JURY.]

Thursday, May 19.

Carswell & Co. vs McInnes—The hearing of this cause was resumed yesterday. The defendant and Mr. Drake, solicitor, were examined for the defence and counsel having been heard at length on both sides, His Honor summed up the evidence and instructed the jury, explaining to them that there were three separate accounts mentioned in the pleadings, the Nanaimo account, the trade account, and the private account. The principal point for the jury to consider was whether the defendant had been guilty of fraud. If the defendant had in their opinion concealed any portion of his assets or effects from his creditors, and had realized such property for his own benefit, it would vitiate his composition and entitle the plaintiff to a verdict.

The jury retired shortly after 4 o'clock, and after an hour-and-a-half deliberation, returned a verdict for the plaintiffs for the full amount claimed.

We understand that the defendant will move for a new trial.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, May 19, 1864.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Jackson, Franklin, Tolmie, Dennes.

THE CORPORATION QUESTION.

The bill to enable the Governor to advance the Corporation $6000 for civic purposes, and the one-half of one per cent. bill, were read a second time and the House went into committee on them, Mr. Jackson in the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the passage of both bills, and the House adjourned till Friday.

COMIAKEN COPPER CO.

NANAIMO, May 14, '64.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—Having an interest in the Comiaken Copper Mine, and finding that the work is suspended I should feel greatly obliged could I ascertain what are the intentions of the Directors who have been appointed. I am informed that the Managing Director has had orders to proceed with the work, and yet no effort has as present been made. I may say that two of the shareholders were ordered by the Manager to work for the company, and appointed a day to leave this place, but the Manager has been taking a parade round here, viewing the scenery and putting off the men in such a manner, that I think it time we had a manager who can attend properly to the business, so that better satisfaction may be given to the shareholders in this place, who are daily complaining, and require a little more attention to the matter. I hope you will oblige by inserting this in your valuable paper and oblige

FAIR PLAY.

[It will be seen by an advertisement appearing in our column that application is invited for a Foreman and two competent men to work the mine in question.—ED.]

A MANCHESTER MERCHANT'S OPINION OF MATTERS AND MEN IN VANCOUVER ISLAND.

We have been favored by a gentleman in this city with the following extract from a private letter dated March 15th, 1864, received from England by the last mail. Although the opinions expressed may not be palatable to many of our readers, they nevertheless are to a great extent incontrovertible, and it is always beneficial to "see ourselves as others see us":—

Judging from the newspapers which I occasionally get from London (the British Colonist) I am obliged to form a very low estimate of the Colony's immediate prospects. I feel that we have really insufficient means of estimating those prospects, but still I can see no agricultural reports, and scarcely any commercial ones that evince life and vigor, and immediate prospects of prosperity. The affairs of the Legislature seem to me conducted more like those of some little corporation town—constant squabbling, with no settled or enlarged policy. Vancouver and British Columbia haggling about one or two Governors, and the Governor's income; the expense of a packet line between Panama and the colony thought too great for the advantage it would confer; some members of the Legislature fearful that more direct communication would bring you too great an influx of immigrants, and that there would not be labor enough found to maintain them; whilst others think that labor, especially if accompanied by a little capital, would be a boon to the colony, some thinking that intimate relations with the United States are of more importance to you than with England—some thinking that the colony should provide itself with means of defence against America; others that the *poverty* of the colony is its surest defence, and that England will defend her if necessary—that America would be too wise to *annex* her, as she is a customer now for what she cannot grow for herself, but would be quite swamped and no good to anyone if she were annexed. Really such language is calculated to lower the colony very much in the estimation of "us Britishers," for if true, she does not seem worth having for the sake of England, nor worth maintaining for her own sake. To descend from larger to smaller matters, the land jobbing exposed seems highly unsatisfactory. I may be forming too hasty and unfavorable a judgment, but were I to judge from a two hours' perusal of the BRITISH COLONIST before me, I should think that the sooner you "cut the connection" with Vancouver Island the better. I may add that the above opinion which I have formed of your colony and its resources is that held by many of my friends and the leading merchants and capitalists in the North of England.

[The above letter has been in type for the last three days, but has been unavoidably crowed out. We observe yesterday that a contemporary has had access to the same communication, and in the mode in which it publishes the extract would lead the public to suppose that the writer intended to reflect disparagingly upon the BRITISH COLONIST. To prove the utter falsity of that supposition, we may state that the same writer in a recent letter remarks that the COLONIST is *the only paper published in the colony worth perusal.* Had not our contemporary intentionally stepped out of its way to put a wrong phase upon the letter it quotes, merely from a paltry feeling of jealousy, we should have allowed its insignificance to be its protection and not alluded to the contents of the other letter.—ED.]

MR. PEMBERTON AND HARBOR DREDGING.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I noticed in the report made by the Surveyor General to the Government relative to Harbor Improvements, and published in your paper yesterday, one very serious error, and as the error is calculated to injure the mechanics of this place, as well as others, I trust when this communication comes under the eye of His Excellency the Governor he will send to the Land Office for a copy of Mr. Trahey's tender for building Dredger and Mud Punts, when he will find the tender was $21,564 for building the hull of Dredger and not $33,864 as stated by the Surveyor General. He will also find the tender for four Mud Punts was $13,000 and not $1200, as stated in the report. If His Excellency will take the trouble to examine the contract he will find it was made strictly in accordance with the tender. Thus he will readily see there is a small error of $11,300 made in a contract of $13,000.

How this serious error could have arisen I leave to Mr. Pemberton to explain, but he certainly has endeavored in his report to show that the reason why the Dredging apparatus cost so much more than his estimate is because the work is so much more expensive here than in San Francisco. Now when it is borne in mind that Mr. Trahey's tender is about $11,750 less than Mr. Donohue's, which amount would certainly go far toward purchasing the necessary machinery for a Dredger; and when it is also stated that the Dredger proposed by Mr. Donohue was much less expensive than the one now building here, it will be clearly seen that Mr. Pemberton's argument with respect to the hull of the Dredger costing more here than in San Francisco, is entirely groundless; and what is of much greater importance to the community can I think be as clearly shown, viz.: that this is a much cheaper port to build ships at than San Francisco, owing in a great measure to our facilities for procuring suitable timber and other material at a much less cost than they can be had for in San Francisco.

It is certainly only fair to the community that this journal should be convinced in order that people should not be led to conclude that ships can be built in San Francisco for less money than here, which is certainly not the case.

That the dredging apparatus at present being built is altogether too expensive and entirely too large for the purpose of dredging this harbor, there cannot be the slightest doubt; at the same time deepening the harbor, could it be done at a moderate expense, would prove of immense advantage to the port, and materially tend to increase the real value of the entire town site.

S.

May 19th, 1864.

MAIL CONTRACT.—We are pleased to learn that our townsman, H. Winsor, Esq., has received from Government the contract for carrying the mails between Portland and this place tri-weekly, by steamboat and stage, to commence in September next. When this service is commenced we predict that no more complaint will be heard on this portion of the overland route. Mr. Winsor is a man who everybody knows will perform what he undertakes.—*Puget Sound Paper.*

THE CARIBOO.—The hull of the steamer Cariboo, which has laid at Lang's ship-yard since she was blown up, in 1861, was bought at auction by Dougal & Son. The same parties bought her machinery shortly after the explosion, and now intend to fit her up immediately for service. She will probably be placed on the route to New Westminster.