

The Weekly British Colonist
AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, April 24, 1869

THE appointment of a Commission to revise the Customs Tariff is a step of the utmost importance to the welfare of this Colony; but that importance will depend very much upon the alterations suggested by the Commission. The question, however, very naturally arises, "for what purpose is the revision to be made?" For the purpose of increasing or diminishing the revenue? for the purpose of fostering our nascent and productive industries? or, for the purpose of fostering and improving trade with foreign countries? If one of these designs be completely carried out by the revisors, it must for the most part be detrimental to the others. It is necessary, then, in revising the Tariff to consider the requirements of the whole Colony and to make a Tariff to meet those requirements. We have been strenuously advocating the settlement of farmers upon the lands of the Colony and the encouragement of various productive interests, having in view the increase of the wealth of the Colony, by the prevention of the export of more than half a million of dollars annually for the purpose of purchasing in a foreign market those things that we ought to produce ourselves. We believe that the Tariff at present ruling has a tendency to encourage that settlement and the increase and development of our local industries, but at the same time it is capable of improvement—as, for instance, a reduction of the duty upon wheat for the purpose of allowing the profitable production of flour, and the use of the secondary articles resulting therefrom for other purposes. Whilst, then, this portion of the Tariff tends to enrich the country, there is still another means of enabling the people of the Colony to make a profit and thus enable a greater number to live in the land; we mean the allowing of the importation of such goods as can be sold by the Importers to foreigners at a profit, at a low rate, or, if possible, free from Customs duties. By such a system the country would be able to employ the capital of the producer and make a profit thereon. The goods that can be sold to a foreign market are generally considered to be for the most part articles of European production, coming under the head of clothing, dry goods, and hardware, the importation of which will not do any injury to any of our growing industries, and care must be taken that it shall not do so. There are other descriptions of European goods that can be sold; these can, however, be conveniently purchased in bond; but with regard to dry goods and hardware the case is different; they must in the first place be exposed to the public gaze; and secondly, the parcels imported containing a vast variety of articles would occasion great inconvenience to be continually hunting for, opening and picking out the article required, the inconvenience and loss of time being equivalent to increasing the cost of the goods, and would prevent their being sold at as small a figure as they otherwise might be, and thus be destructive to trade. No merchant can take a customer into the bonded warehouse and show him all his goods. We know that when a buyer goes into a shop to purchase a certain article, he often buys a great many others that he sees, but which, before entering, he either had no intention of buying or did not know of their existence. To increase trade, restrictions must be removed and the duties must be reduced very greatly, say to 5 per cent. Anything less would not produce the benefit desired. Where the duty is reduced to five per cent, it would be worth while to consider whether any bonding should be allowed save for temporary purposes—such as when the importer did not wish to pay the duty at the moment. The question of revenue here steps in and opposes a formidable obstacle, namely, the reduction of the income of the government. The government must have an income. We believe that the dry goods and hardware imported into this Colony during the year 1868 amounted in value to about half a million of dollars, and the duty received thereon to about sixty-nine thousand dollars; that sixty-nine thousand dol-

lars is rather a serious item to deal with, under the present Executive and the present system. The expense of government can hardly be reduced so much, and we do not believe that such a sum could be raised by increasing the Customs duties upon other articles. If five per cent. were charged and no bonding allowed, it is evident that at least half a million dollars worth more of dry goods would have to be exported, paying the five per cent, in order to keep the income what it now is, and this is even taking into consideration the profit to be obtained from increased traffic and influx of purchasers, who would contribute to the revenue in other ways. If these goods were admitted free of duty the revenue would suffer to the tune of nearly \$69,000. If, by reducing the duty to five per cent, the trade with foreign ports would increase so much, it is evident that it would be beneficial to the whole country, because the consumers in the country would be saving seven per cent. upon certain goods consumed; but supposing the trade did not quite reach the amount, the people would still be saving and it would therefore be better for them to have another tax than the additional seven per cent upon their hardware and dry goods. It is true that the Commissioners, well versed as they are in commercial matters, may be able specially to say what particular goods are required for export, and by altering the Tariff to suit these particularly, there might not be any loss to the revenue, although trade would be greatly benefited. It is a great pity that the drawback system is not now in force to show its working; but we have much faith in the Commissioners and believe they will do the best and give satisfaction to the whole Colony and every interest in it.

We would seem to be more highly appreciated than we ever supposed. Our Governor is especially required to submit all his legislative measures to the censorship of the Home Government. The wonderful capacity of the Secretary for the Colonies is beyond our conception, as he can administer the government of a Colony with 180,000,000 of inhabitants, and one having but 20,000, with equal precision. Still more extraordinary is his marvellous perspicacity in singling out this place, with about the smallest population of any of Her Majesty's colonial possessions, for the particular display of his Colonial Office formalities. It would appear, then, that our Governor is a mere puppet; a kind of automaton that is worked by the intricate machinery of the office in Downing Street. The Secretary for the Colonies is more powerful and more autocratic than the Czar of all the Russias. He has the power to order the conquest of a nation or to refuse his assent to a Drawbacks Bill and thus prevent the sale of sundry invoices of goods to our neighbors over the Sound. From what we can learn, however, from the journals of other colonies he does not appear to exercise so stringent a supervision over any of Her Majesty's dependencies as he does here; he seems to have made this Colony a sort of a pet thing on which he tries how much absurdity he can practice on a small number of colonists before they can muster up courage to resent such ill-usage. That the Governors usually appointed should be dunderheads no one can be surprised at, or that the officers sent out to assist them should be perfectly ignorant of anything relating to governmental duties, is nothing to call for remark. The Secretary for the Colonies retains the power of governing the Colony himself; therefore, the officers here are mere men of straw required to fill certain niches for the sake of appearance. Some people might think that the position of the Governor of a colony under such circumstances, did not imply a situation to be envied; in fact, rather one to be despised, because we never could see any dignity in a lay figure, and the living white man that would accept such a post for the sake of being addressed as "Your Excellency" and enjoying the emoluments, can be little better than a specimen of the genus *mulusca*. Sensible men might look upon such officers as occupying positions analogous to that of a chignon on a lady's head—as being more for ornament than use—and that Governors and their official trains might be abolished altogether, like the office of kings' fool. For instance, a few chosen citizens like our Mayor and Town Council might assemble now

and then decide upon the advisability of certain measures; having drawn them up in proper form they could put them in the Post Office addressed to the Colonial Office and go about their business, till they got an answer from Downing Street with permission to call their proposed measure law, or a decided negative; and there would be an end of the matter. Such an arrangement would very much simplify government, and save a very large sum to the Colony, which might be applied to some useful purpose. There are two very strong reasons for such simplification of our Government; the first is because we are too poor to pay for the luxury of mere show; and the second, because the Secretary for the Colonies is more unkind to us than any other colony. He is much more particular in requiring all our Ordinances being sent to him before we can turn them to account; and then he has sent us a Governor and retinue on a more expensive scale than we ever intended; they are of too fine a quality for us. We want a commoner material, what a good housewife would call a useful article, and one that would assert his identity, have an opinion of his own, and act with and for the people. We rather like the institution of Governor when the word is meant to imply a sort of judicious control, and we should have no objection to his having to assist him a proper number of subordinates who understood their business and faithfully performed the duties that devolved upon them. In the foregoing will be seen the very humiliating position the apologists of the present Governor would place him. In their eagerness to make a case for him they would bring him into public contempt. That any gentleman of spirit would permit himself to be steered and driven like a velocipede, is too ridiculous, and it would be well if his Excellency took the earliest opportunity of convincing those who express such opinions, of the egregiousness of their error. It is the mission of such people to create dissension wherever that is possible, be it between the Government and the people or between two portions of the same community. Nature formed them to secrete and distribute venom, and for this purpose their nature is to crawl.

Wednesday, April 21.
ARRIVAL OF THE U. S. R. C. LINCOLN.—The United States revenue cutter Lincoln, Capt. J. M. Selden, 4 days and 19 hours from San Francisco, cast anchor in the harbor at 7 1/2 o'clock yesterday morning. A boisterous passage is reported by the officers. Since her last appearance here the Lincoln has been overhauled and repaired and is better adapted than ever before for service on the Northern coast. The Lincoln was built in Baltimore, Maryland, and was brought to this coast by Captain J. W. White in 1866. She is of about 640 tons burthen, a screw steamer, carries a crew of 57 men and is armed with 7 inch guns. Capt. Selden, her present commander, is well known in this vicinity, having commanded revenue cutters on Puget Sound both before and since the war. The present officers of the Lincoln are: Captain, James M. Selden; First Lieutenant, E. B. Furlong (Executive Officer); Second Lieutenant, J. Healy, J. R. Kelso and George B. Hansell; Chief Engineer, James A. Doyle; First Assistant Engineer, W. Clyde; Second Assistant Engineer, J. B. Lucas; Pilot, Mr. Ainsley; Surgeon, Mr. Whitehouse. In addition to the above there are on board: Third Lieutenants Henderson and Barnes, to be stationed at St. Paul and St. George's Islands; Dr. McIntyre, Special Agent of the Treasury, bound for Sitka, and Mr. Merritt, Inspector, who will relieve Lieutenant G. W. Moore at Fort Wrangel. The Lincoln will sail hence for the North via Nainaimo at daylight this morning. Capt. Selden, Lieutenant Henderson and Chief Engineer Doyle have placed us under obligations for files of late papers.

A RECENT decision in the House of Lords establishes the proposition that a foreign national has no authority, so far as any consequences in England are concerned, to pronounce a decree of divorce *a vinculo* in the case of an English marriage between English subjects, unless such subjects are, at the time of such decree, pronounced *bona fide* domiciled in the country where that tribunal has jurisdiction, and the suit is prosecuted without collusion. This reading of the law has been adopted for some time past in the Courts of this colony by his Honor Chief Justice Needham.

POLICE COURT, YESTERDAY.—Chas. Montgomery, arrested by officers McMillan and Rappet, as convicted of selling liquor to an Indian, and sentenced to pay a fine of fifty dollars, or in default to ornament the chair-gang for six months. The Indian arrested a few days ago at Cowichan, on suspicion of having murdered an Italian fisherman, was discharged, there not being sufficient evidence against him to warrant his detention in custody. Ah How, for stealing chickens from Mr. Hamley, was further remanded for three days.

ANOTHER BRITISH COLUMBIAN INVOLVED IN A BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.—The papers received by the Lincoln yesterday, contain an account of the adventures of Dr. John Armstrong Bradshaw, a resident of Fort Hope, on the Mainland, for years, and now of Chicago, Illinois. The doctor while here was regarded as a confirmed old bachelor. Being of a saving turn of mind he amassed a considerable fortune with which he started East some years ago. Settling down in a quiet little village in Illinois, he became interested in a young woman named Mary Ferguson, a milliner, of twenty-six summers. Mary, it seems, was boarding in a house in the village, to which came the defendant when the two were thrown together. This throwing was rather too much for the old chap, who straightway became most ridiculously spoony, permitting his young affections to be gobbled (he is only forty seven) and, under the influence of the dreamy eyes and voluptuous form of the captivating brunette, investing (as the result has proved) to the extent of \$10,000 in matrimonial promises. The next peculiar feature of the affair is that the Doctor is charged with making the same promise of marriage not less than three times, and in each instance by "going back on it," lacerating the fair milliner's heart to the extent of \$10,000. According to the testimony the several promises were made in the year 1865, 1866 and 1867, at the rate (according to Mary's estimate of the value of each) of \$10,000 a year, and according to that of the jury at \$3,333 33. During the trial a great many letters from the defendant to the plaintiff were read to prove the existence of an engagement between the parties. These exhibited devotion and extravagance of passion on the part of the mature disciple of Esculapius decidedly refreshing, and also proved beyond a doubt the existence of such an engagement, and by certain expressions therein containing a desire to postpone his fulfilment against the wishes of his loving milliner, who evidently desired an early consummation. These letters were written in 1866, while Miss Mary was spending a few months at Germantown, a village but a few miles from Springfield. Mary, it seems, from the first rather suspected her aged and enthusiastic lover of an attempt to seduce her under promise of marriage, and with a view to circumventing the old chap, steadily refused his advances and carefully preserved all documents for future use. The Doctor having on these several occasions refused to fulfil his promise Mary secured the services of attorneys and instituted a suit for damages, when her devoted lover set up in defence that she was of African descent, and for that reason he could not, under the laws of Ohio, legally wed her. This was met by demurrer on the ground that the law of 1861, forbidding the union of a white person with one having a distinct admixture of African blood, was superseded by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or if not by that by the Civil Rights Bill. The demurrer was not sustained by the Court, however, and the case was sent to the jury on its merits. The trial lasted a whole week, the Court room being crowded during the time. The jury returned a verdict of \$10,000 for the plaintiff, after being out a few minutes. Bradshaw claims to be the descendant of the English regicide Bradshaw.

THE CURIOSITIES OF OUR IMPORT LIST.—The Government Gazette came to hand yesterday, and afforded us an opportunity of seeing what we spend our money for.—We imported ale and porter to the value of \$31,553; spirits, \$57,556; wines, \$29,565; and we paid as duty on these articles \$24,320; making a total of \$142,994 for stimulants alone. We must smoke pretty freely, for we gave \$134,060, inclusive of duty, for cigars and tobacco, and we spent \$6,450 in matches to light them with. Not content with puffing our cares away on eddying clouds of tobacco smoke, we seek oblivion from our troubles under the influence of the deadly opium, (at any rate our celestial fellow citizens do,) and accordingly \$57,024 were invested in that expensive drug. We do not wonder at the anxiety displayed by our Legislators in passing a Game Ordinance for we imported 763 lbs of gunpowder and 68,460 lbs of shot (entirely for sporting purposes) for which we pay \$7,334 with duty. Considering our small population, the above figures show anything but symptoms of poverty, the articles above enumerated being principally luxuries, not to mention \$500,000 sent out of the Colony to buy agricultural produce.

THE GOLD DISCOVERY AT ALASKA.—Intelligence brought by Captain Robinson of the bark Washington, lately from Kodiak, confirms the report (published some days ago) of the discovery of rich gold deposits in Alaska Territory. The captain brought with him a number of astonishingly rich gold-bearing quartz specimens. The place whence the specimens were taken is Cook's Inlet, about 90 miles north of Kodiak. So soon as the White Pine fever shall have abated, there will doubtless be a great "rush" to Alaska; and the attraction of population to that quarter cannot fail to benefit this colony, which is a sort of half-way house between San Francisco and Sitka.

THE SONGISH VILLAGE.—Yesterday we strolled through the Indian village, attracted thither by the large number of Indians there assembled in anticipation of the potlatch which will shortly take place. The village was in a unusual state of excitement and bustle. The number of strangers already gathered in is about 700, representing thirteen tribes, viz: the Cowichan, Tauso, Saanich, Discovery Island, Nanaimo, Sooke, Chemainus, Quamichan, Pinalakites, Skadget, Nittinat, Clallam and Clemenalls. About 200 canoes are tacked up on the beach, and a great many presents, such as blankets, guns and *iklas*, are stored in the different lodges. During our visit, we observed a number of adult Siwash in the various stages of intoxication; two little boys were staggering about in imitation of their elders. The sale of spirituous liquors by whites is almost unrestricted; and the most fearful consequences are anticipated unless more vigorous steps are adopted to prevent the traffic. Behind one of the lodges about forty savages were gambling with the hard round bits of wood which they hide in oakum. Upon the mats in front of the gamblers were scattered any number of four-bit and \$20 pieces. The gambling is done by "guessing" and sleight-of-hand, not unlike the "little joker," or the "now-you-see-it-and-now-you-don't" game at home. Two or three Indians who are called professional gamblers and travel about from camp to camp "cleaning out" the unsophisticated occupants, were pointed out. They look fat and sleek and evidently make good livings. About one-third of the Songish tribe, including "Jim," the great war chief, decline to enter into the festivities incidental to the potlatch, or to have anything to do with that interesting event. This division of feeling arose from the expectation of "Harry" a few weeks ago, "Jim" and his adherents recognising the hanging as eminently proper, and those who differ with him asserting that it was wrong. While at the village we met Rev. Mr. Owens, the missionary, who was ministering to the wants of sick Indians and looking after the welfare of his flock generally. Mr. Owens notes a satisfactory improvement among some of the Indians; but shares in the popular belief that permanent good cannot be effected until the Indians are placed under an efficient agent. The Indians anticipate a visit from Governor Seymour upon the day of the potlatch, about 1st May.

IMMIGRATION BOARD.—Those who prefer waiting to see whether they are to get the servant they apply for under the auspices of the Female Immigration Board before they pay the money, will be gratified to learn that well indorsed promissory notes will be received by the Board instead of cash; rendering a transfer of their obligation to some friend easy, in case they should change their minds before the arrival of the servant assigned to them. Parties who prefer, as most sensible people do, to have a "voice" in the selection of their servants, can employ their friends at home to select for them, and still bring them out under the advertised arrangements of the Board.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER.—Judge Cox was entertained at dinner by a number of his friends last evening at The Richmond. The gathering was distinguished for its social character, and as a deserved compliment to the genial gentleman in whose honor the entertainment was given, proved a marked success. Mr. Cox will leave by the next steamer for California. He will carry with him the best wishes of hosts of friends from Victoria to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

IMPORTANT CAUTION.—The unprecedented success of Rowlands' Macassar Oil during the last half century in promoting the growth, restoring, and beautifying the human hair, has caused imitators to spring up in every possible variety; some so far copy the label as frequently to deceive the unwary; some offer to dispose of the recipe of a Macassar Oil (omitting Rowlands' name), with other recipes of a similar character for a few postage stamps, whilst others profess to manufacture the real (?) article at a considerably reduced price, if the public will only purchase it. Indeed, the name of these wretched purveyors from cheap and trashy receipt books is "Legion," and calls for more than usual care on the part of the purchasers in their selection of articles for the toilet. Messrs Rowlands have complaints repeatedly from parties who have materially suffered from the use of these trashy compounds; and to frustrate to some extent such impositions, purchasers should see that Rowlands' name is on the wrapper of each bottle.—Daily Telegraph.

The Supreme Court of the State of N Y have issued a perpetual injunction against Eaton and Jenkins for counterfeiting Ayer's Cathartic Pills holding them responsible for the cruel imposition in what they have done and restraining them from further like injury to the public. If any class of our people more than another needs the interposition of law to shield them from imposture, it is the sick and suffering who are unable to protect themselves. A remedy so universally employed as Ayer's Pills by all classes, both to cure and prevent disease, should, as it does, have every security the law can afford it from counterfeits and imitation.—(Cabinet, Schenectady.)

FELL'S COFFEE has become the favorite Colonial beverage, and is to be found on every breakfast table from Victoria to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

WATCHES

ent, with extra Jewels, Chronograph, Patent Safety Pin, movements, in a solid 3 oz. Gold case, \$47 coin.

In 6 oz. case, \$53 coin.

movement, with extra Jewels, Patent Dust Cap, Patent case, Gold joints, \$54 coin.

In 6 oz. case, \$60 coin.

18 karat Gold Hunting watch, in 2 1/2 oz. 18 karat Gold case, \$20 per oz. extra.

Wells, Fargo & Co's delivery, and give the purchase money to the purchaser. The watch is remitted to pay the Express charges, and sending money, drafts on order.

Understand that these Watches are the latest improvements, and being order (a guarantee from each watch), and if any we will exchange it, or refund the money.

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