

The Weekly British Colonist

Tuesday, December 5, 1865.

THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE

The last session of the present House of Assembly was opened yesterday by His Excellency Governor Kennedy, and the Executive's programme laid before the two branches of Legislature. It was a source of disappointment to the public, as no doubt, it was to His Excellency, that the expected despatches on the Union question were not received from the Imperial Government.

The first question to which His Excellency draws attention is the vexed one of the Crown Lands. As despatches on the subject have been received from the Imperial authorities, it is needless discussing the matter until these documents shall have been laid before the House.

The necessity of proper steam communication with San Francisco is next touched upon. The subject is one which we think a Governor Kennedy has by no means overrated, and we have no doubt the House will be willing to take into consideration any feasible plan that may be proposed for remedying the present unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The legislative programme which His Excellency presents to us, is unfortunately an old story. Out of the ten bills promised by the Government, seven were passed last session by the Assembly, but through the Executive or the Upper House—it matters not which—were prevented from becoming law.

lation emanates so long as we get good laws on our statute book, and the gentlemen whose bills have been quietly assumed by the Executive have as little reason to grumble; for they have brought the latter body down to the necessity of borrowing its legislative inspiration from the representatives of the people.

THE COLORED CONVENTION.—We see by a late number of the Elevator, a colored organ in San Francisco, that the statement which has figured in some of the California papers in reference to a proffer of assistance from the colored people to the Fenians, is to some extent denied.

ELECTION INCIDENTS.—The following is related among the curious incidents of the recent parliamentary elections in the mother country: "Last month, one Mr. Reardon, a Connaughtman, who keeps a provision shop in London, stopped a night at Athlone, Ireland, on his way to Galway, made himself very friendly with the boys in that borough, who were dissatisfied with their late member; treated them all round to drink, and talked politics between each tumbler of punch; was waked up early in the morning and invited to go on the hustings to witness the nomination; heard the late member proposed for election, and two of his new acquaintances proposed Patrick Reardon, Esq.; replied in a slashing manner to the rival candidate's feeble speech; received the greatest show of hands; and his opponent having retired in disgust, was duly declared member for the ancient borough of Athlone, as much to his own surprise as satisfaction."

THE PORTLAND DREDGER.—This machine has closed operations and been stored for the season of 1865. Our shippers, by looking over their bills of lading for the season, can see the amount of good the dredger has accomplished. Usually, heretofore every ship and every steamship arriving during a portion of September, October and November, have been obliged to lighten at great expense. This year but one vessel has been lightened, and she but twice, on the inward voyage, and but one on the outward voyage, at a cost of not more than \$2,200. The expense of the dredger has been but a fraction above that sum, and the stigma of the bar is sufficient to remove it entirely.—Oregonian.

FREE MASONRY IN THE STATES.—The grand officers of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Pennsylvania have issued an appeal to the Brotherhood in the United States, to renounce the bonds of union. They say: "We owe our country and the world the duty of our example. Let us make it apparent. Come among us, we will go among you. Your temple is our temple; your masonry is our masonry; whither masonic teachings bid us go, let us go together. Brethren, we invite you, by the great glory of our indestructible Order, by the undying light which illumines our pathway to and from the communion of the craft, by your precept and example, and efforts among your fellow countrymen, to begin the great work of reconciliation."

NEW MANUFACTURE.—A new specimen of "Brummagen ware" has been invented in England. It is the manufacture of precious stones and mosaics out of mineral earths. The mineral earths are pounded into a paste and in that state can receive any tint. The paste can then be converted into brooches, door knockers, gates, chimney pieces, picture frames, crucifixes, and an infinite variety of articles.

CITY COUNCIL

The Council met last evening at a quarter past seven. Members present—The Mayor and Messrs. Gowen, Lewis, Layzell, Hebbard, Jeffrey, sen., and Jeffrey, jr.

Mr. Hebbard wished to know if the Council took their position at the table according to the number of votes they had obtained in their respective wards, or in the numerical order they were elected as Councillors.

Mr. Elford asked for permission to lay a sidewalk before his house on Fort street. Granted, under the supervision of the Committee on Sidewalks.

Mr. Earles asked for permission to lay a crossing from the Red Lion public-house across the street. Granted as above.

Mr. Fischer solicited the patronage of the Council on the occasion of his benefit at the Theatre on Wednesday night.

Mr. Norris' bill of expense for election services came up, when the Mayor said that the Act stated that the candidates should bear the election expenses equally—the whole amount not to exceed £20.

Mr. Layzell thought that the Council had nothing to do with the matter. It was left to the candidates of the respective wards, and he therefore moved a resolution to that effect.

Mr. Lewis was of the same opinion. Mr. Jeffrey seconded the resolution, which was carried.

A communication from Mr. Hemmingway, regarding an election account, was read and referred to the candidates according to previous resolution.

CHANGE OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS.—Mr. Lewis brought up his motion in reference to changing the present Council Chamber to the Police Court. He did so on the ground of economy. The Council had no funds, it had, in fact, not been able to meet its liabilities, and, therefore, under present circumstances, had no right to incur any expenses. The Council got along very well previously in the Police Court, and he saw no reason why they should be paying rent when they could obtain chambers gratuitously.

Mr. Gowen thought if their constituents could not afford to pay \$25 for rent it was high time they should all leave the Council Board. He was opposed to giving up the present Chamber where a good many fixtures for the Council's convenience had been erected. The councillors gave their labor gratuitously and he thought that it was as little as the city could do to pay the small rent of \$25. He was of course opposed to giving out contracts or plunging into great expense.

After several communications had been read in reference to the dispute between the first Council and Mr. Pemberton on the Police Court question the motion was put and lost, Mr. Lewis only voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Gowen gave notice of the following motions: "That all communications between the Corporation and the Government bearing upon the subject of the financial position of the Corporation be laid before the Council." "That the Council take into their consideration the subject of the making proper arrangements for having certain streets and sewers of the city cleansed."

At the request of Mr. Hebbard the name of Mr. Gowen was substituted for his own as Fire Warden for Johnson street Ward.

Mr. Layzell called the attention of the Committee to the dangerous state of the public landing at the foot of Yates street. Some railings being absolutely required to protect life and limb.

The Mayor thought the matter was important. The only question was, what could be done? Mr. Hebbard was glad to see that the Council had real estate to protect.

Mr. Gowen drew attention to the fact that no Councillor belonging to Johnson street was on the Street-nuisance Committee, and he could point out numerous nuisances in the ward.

Five of the Council, it appeared, resided in the ward, and the Mayor thought that Mr. Gowen and other Councillors might assist the Committee.

On motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Gowen, Mr. Leigh was appointed Clerk of the Council.

On motion of Mr. Hebbard the services of the messenger were retained.

An account of \$5 from the Evening Post was ordered to be laid over. Council adjourned till Monday evening next.

LONDON LETTER.

FROM THE DAILY POST. LONDON, Sept. 30. PIPING TIMES OF PEACE.

The condition of things in England may be gauged by the fact that the military are turning grocers. At Woolwich they have established stores for the use of the garrison—but in their zeal for business they have been pushing the trade outside, and the consequence has been that the tradesmen have protested against such competition, and the Grocer's newspaper comes out strong against the government grocers.

THE GOLD RETURNS. I have on previous occasions pointed out that the official returns ignore British Columbia or place it in a blank where its gold is conspicuous by its absence.

Imports of gold and silver to England. I also send you the official statement published of the imports of the precious metals. It will be observed that quantity of silver sent through Egypt is very large, and a note explains that it is for India and China.

Another Atlantic telegraph. It is evident that John Bull and Jonathan are determined to have close talk, and not to depend on peppery despatches or sensation leaders in the Herald and the Times.

The week the announcement of a new route is at length publicly brought forward. The route selected is by Falmouth, Oporto, the Azores, and Halifax. Application is now made for so much of the capital (£150,000) as will complete the line from Falmouth to Oporto, a distance of 600 miles, and in itself a line of telegraphic communication which is much needed, and will doubtless be remunerative.

The Columbia River Defences.—The detention of the Active at Baker's Bay enabled some of the passengers by that steamer to inspect the fortifications erected to protect the entrance to the Columbia River.

THE COLLISION IN THE BAY.—Mr. Tomlinson, who was killed on Thursday by being run down in a boat by the steamer Louise, in the bay, was, as we learn, an Englishman by birth, and the son of John Tomlinson, who was formerly engaged as an oyster peddler in this city for quite a number of years.

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THE GAMBLING CASE.—Carlos Dherregus was charged on remand at the Police Court yesterday with being a banker and dealer at the game of monte. Similar evidence to that adduced at the examination of W. H. Wheeler was heard. The prisoner pleaded in extenuation that the country where he came from all played at monte, that was the national game.

THE BANK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. The meeting which is to take place during the next week will no doubt be a cheerful one; the report which has been issued to the public, and is then to be presented, states that after paying all charges, deducting rebate of interest on

will not due, and making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts, the undivided profits amount to £20,078 13s 8d, which sum it is proposed to appropriate as follows, viz: £9,375 in payment of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum; £7,000 to reserve fund which will then amount to £20,000; leaving £3,703 13s 8d to be carried forward to the current half-year.

A GOOD MINE. The Devon consols, on which £1 only is paid, has just declared a dividend of £3 per share, and the price of the £1 share is £580.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL. This great building is now almost deserted, the old salts being allowed to have a pension and live at home. The men are going home in cart and omnibus. The average pension given is 14s 6d per week.

LETTER FROM QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLAND.

SCHOONER "GOLDSTREAM," SKIDEGATE BAY, 31st October, 1865. To the Editor of the British Colonist, Sir,—Allow us to send you a short account of our trip to Queen Charlotte Island, which you will favor us exceedingly by publishing in your widely circulating journal, for the benefit of our friends and those interested in this expedition, as well as to thank the gentleman who superintended the arrangements in fitting out the expedition.

After leaving Victoria on the 7th, we arrived at New Westminster in 36 hours, and being detained by the Custom authorities for a much shorter time than we anticipated, were enabled to leave again by 4 p.m. on the 9th for this place. The early part of the voyage we had a continuation of light winds with thick fogs and calms, and day after day we made but small progress. We arrived at Fort Rupert on the 23rd at noon, and at 8 a.m. on the 25th left again on our route, with still light winds and fine weather, which continued till nine o'clock the next evening, when the wind shifted and commenced to blow from the south-east just as we entered Queen Charlotte Sound, and blew fresh all night.

We must again beg to thank the gentlemen of the Company who so kindly thought of our every want up here, and beg to assure them that our only anxiety during the passage was the want of winds during the early part of it, to take us to our journey's end. Should anything worthy of communicating take place during our stay here, we shall feel great pleasure in forwarding you an account of the same, and by placing this in your columns, you will greatly oblige

TEN OF THE PASSENGERS, Per schooner Goldstream.

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CONFEDERACY.—The desks of the late Confederate Congress have been sold at auction in Richmond. They brought only 25 cents a piece. Confederacies are as ungrateful as the older Republics.

Tuesday, D

THE TEST

Colonial loyalty It is as malleable as tempered as Damascus as the finest gold, vigorous hammering and the most unimpaired helplessly to the bounding to its origin Like an opera ball it in our pocket again to its form. If in fact we looked expresses at one at most pliability and should seek for "colony" produced in "Brummagen" in colonial manufacture, deceit or wrong of it will hopelessly the load; we may rights of kings and we cannot make of an additional of article is, however sterling stuff. It cuffing—beating a heap on its back wrongs that the mind can conjure the burden with Christian. This is rife, it prevents the colonial mind in its vain our Atlantic, with gives us a good—rib, gores us loving horns, and sends motion of his hind look, if not indeed much hurt no doubt still a docile creature of paternal With all the ordinary weather at in a great measure rainbows, and the human humanity floats on the surface probably never give for the vigorous we receive ocean street. To such & Co. we are indeed the most sublime we hope we should show in a becoming and make a fitting the parental kind. We hope Vancouver how its patrimony its trustees—and office consented to Island a pauper—despatches which the purity, the realm of those great foci in the British substance that made with the settlement of over Island—whether "wise" iniquitous, is—while being the all concerned in its say in its settlement an instance of by even the Khan who had nothing 1862, should be the "outrageous" morality of a street! The things we were called interest of the of justice would lated, nor reason amends, however our sense of right allows us to form he says, "under compromise (1) matter of which entitled to form to knock you down pockets. If you of improvident titled to form transaction; but under any and the dime's." Wh footpad he is to however, not but he mistakes notion with the grant, that it plainly recognizes party's claim, expression of d tion of the lands selves entitled party." What Exhington may we have a much Newcastle—who property claimed repeatedly decl