

The Weekly British Colonist,

Wednesday, January 25th 1871

The Tariff Question.

The reader will quite understand that the choice between the Canadian Tariff and our present one has been remitted to the Legislative Council to decide, and that it stands completely dissociated from the main question of Confederation. We confess to some disappointment at the remarks of the Hon Mr Trutch upon this subject, on Wednesday, when moving to go into Committee on the Confederation Terms. He said that if called upon to make a choice between the two tariffs he would not hesitate to accept that of Canada, as it meant reduced taxation; but that, inasmuch as it was not absolutely necessary that the question should be decided now, he thought it might be better to delay the decision till some future period. So very much has already appeared in these columns upon this subject that we trust we shall be justified in assuming that the general public fully understand its merits. Indeed, the unanimity with which the electors throughout the Colony pronounced in favor of the Canadian Tariff at the polls would appear to dispel all doubt upon that point. And it would, indeed, be strange if the colonists should prefer to retain the present high and ill-adjusted tariff, under Confederation, thereby paying into the Dominion Treasury a little short of one hundred thousand dollars a year more than their fair share of Customs revenue; and all for the sake of securing to the people of Vancouver Island, the Lower Fraser and the seacoast settlements, the luxury of paying a tax of \$1 50 instead of 25cts per barrel on flour, and the people of every part of the Colony paying \$2 50, instead of 80 cts per gallon on spirits. But, it appears to be agreed on all hands that the Canadian Tariff will be preferable to our own, under a system which takes the revenue derived from customs duties away out of the Colony. The only dispute is as to whether a decision should be come to now or at some future time. We are utterly at a loss to discover a cogent reason for postponing the decision; but we can furnish more than one against delay. Admitted that the Canadian tariff is preferable to the present one, why delay the acceptance of an acknowledged good? Admitted that the change is to be made, the sooner it is made the better. To the commercial mind the objections to such delay must be clear and irresistible. To suspend such a change over the commerce of the country is to paralyze trade, it can be no secret that under Confederation, with the Canadian Tariff, our commercial connections will undergo material changes. The sooner an end is put to all suspense upon the subject of tariffs the better. If we are to have the Canadian Tariff, the sooner we accept it the better for all interests and all classes. Any delay must operate most injuriously to trade. Were there any reason to think that the mind of the Colony had not been intelligently and conclusively made up in reference to this question one could understand the proposition to postpone its settlement. But no pretence of the kind can be urged. Perhaps no question has ever been more fully discussed and better understood. Certainly none has ever evoked a more unequivocal verdict at the polls. In every constituency, save one, has the verdict been distinct and emphatic—"Let us have the Canadian Tariff." And even now do we see the Mainland holding public meetings and resolutions in favor of accepting the Canadian Tariff. But, we do not for a moment imagine that the Legislative Council will hesitate. Eight out of the nine elected members are pledged to vote for the immediate acceptance of the Canadian tariff, and there is no reason to think they will counter to their pledges. The appointed members know that the people have pronounced in favor of the immediate acceptance of the Canadian Tariff, and there is no reason for supposing that they will set themselves in opposition to the intelligent wish of the people. Both the elected and appointed members must know that it is the true interest of the Colony to accept the Canadian Tariff, and they are not likely to run counter to reason, and interest, and common sense.

ARRIVED SAFELY.—A telegram from Yale yesterday announces the safe arrival there of Mr Aasen Johnson, before reported lost in the snow. It is reported that Major Downie and many others from Downsville, California, are coming to Omiseca.

Legislative Council.

FRIDAY, Jan 20th, 1871. Council met at 1 P.M. Present.—The hon Speaker, hon Chief Commissioner, hon Attorney-General, hon Collector of Customs, hon Dr Carrall, hon Dr Helmecken, Mr Nelson, Mr Nathan, Mr Skinner, Mr Banister, Mr Alston, Mr DeCosmos, Mr Pemberton, Mr Cornwall. Mr T B Humphreys, member for Lillooet, was sworn in by the Speaker and took his seat at the Council board. Minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. MESSAGE From His Excellency the Governor submitting to the Council a Bill providing for the contingent service for the year 1871. The Bill was read a first and second time and ordered to be committed on Monday next. PRIVILEGES Mr Humphreys said he had understood that it had been stated by the Speaker that each member of the Council elect had had six weeks' notice of the sitting of the Council. The hon Speaker replied that it had been stated that the returning officers were instructed at the time the writs were issued that the Council would meet the first week in January. Mr Humphreys said that he waited upon the Magistrate to learn when the Council would assemble, and that officer was unable to inform him. He (Mr Humphreys) thought such neglect quite unfair, and that a member residing at so great a distance from the capital as he did should have had ample notice of the time of meeting of the Council. Hon Attorney General.—When the writs were sent to the Returning Officers they were informed that the Council would meet the first week in January. This was done to save time, for they knew that in order to hold the session in time to legislate on the question of Confederation so as to secure union by the 1st of July there would not be time to notify the distant members after the returns were in. Mr Humphreys said he spoke of the matter now more for the purpose of preventing any such neglect in the future, so that no honorable gentleman should be neglected in regard to getting timely notice. ROAD STEAMERS Hon Dr Carrall gave notice that on Monday he would ask leave to bring in a Bill to facilitate the introduction into this colony of Thompson's Patent Road Steamers. ROAD TOLLS Mr Nathan gave notice that he would on Monday move the adoption, simultaneously with Confederation, of the Canadian Tariff. ROAD TOLLS Mr Humphreys gave notice that he would on Monday move that all flour manufactured from wheat raised in the colony be exempt from road tolls. ORDERS OF THE DAY JAYON The Council went into Committee of the Whole on the ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN praying for Confederation, Mr Pemberton in the Chair. Hon Chief Commissioner proposed as a proper division of Districts in the colony for the return of representatives to the House of Commons of Canada, the following schedule to be added to the Address (published on Thursday): That New Westminster District and the West Coast District as defined in a public notice issued from the Lands and Works Office on the 15th day of December, 1869, by desire of the Governor, and purporting to be in accordance with the provision of the 39th clause of the Mineral Ordinance, 1869, shall constitute one district, to be designated as New Westminster District and return one member; that Cariboo District and Lillooet District, as specified in the said public notice, shall constitute one district to be designated Cariboo District and return one member; that Yale District and Kootenay District as specified in the said public notice, shall constitute one district to be designated Yale District and return one member. That those portions of Vancouver Island known as Victoria District, Esquimalt District and Metohosin District, as defined in the Official Maps of those Districts in the Land Office of Victoria, which maps are designated respectively Victoria District Official Map, 1858, Esquimalt District Official Map, 1858, and Metohosin District Official Map, 1868, shall constitute one district to be designated Victoria District and return two members; and that all the remainder of Vancouver Island and all such Islands adjacent thereto as were formerly dependencies of the late colony of Vancouver Island constitute one district to be designated Vancouver Island District and return one member. Hon Chief Commissioner said he now laid this proposition before the Council as one which he thought fair and equitable, but if they thought differently they could of course offer such amendments as they pleased. Mr Cornwall moved the following as an amendment: That four members be appointed to the Mainland and two to Vancouver Island; that the Mainland Districts be the following: 1 New Westminster and the Lower Fraser, including Yale. 2 Lytton, Okanagan and Kootenay. 3 Lillooet and the West Coast, 4 Cariboo and all the country to the north. Mr Cornwall thought the division as proposed by the schedule submitted by the hon Chief Commissioner manifestly unjust to the mainland portion of the colony, and with considerable force urged the consideration due to the Mainland, both in regard to population and extent of territory. Mr DeCosmos very briefly remarked that he thought the proposition made by the hon member for Yale was not so fair as the one made by the Government. He thought population was the true basis of representation. If the basis was made on territorial grounds, Vancouver Island would only be entitled to a fractional portion of a member. The civilized population was as great on Vancouver Island as it was on the Mainland. With regard to the division made of the Island into two Districts, only. The population outside of this city was sufficient to justify

two Districts. Victoria City has always had two classes of voters—one doing business and residing in the city, and another class doing business in towns and residing in the District. The District be represented and numbered as many native-born British subjects as there were in the city. Mr Nelson thought the population of the Mainland was greater than that of Vancouver Island, and at no time in the history of British Columbia has the population of Vancouver Island been equal to that of the Mainland, and he knew the increase of the population on the Mainland would be far greater for the future. It was not fair to take the present time for making such an unequal division. The probability of the increase of the Mainland population should be taken into account. Mr Humphreys would support the amendment, not because he was a Mainland member, but because he was right. This was not the only blunder the Delegates had made. This question should have been previously considered. They should have known that six members would cause a squabble. Had they made the number seven there would have been four for the Mainland and three for the Island. He could show why the Mainland should have more members than the Island. The Mainland was vastly more extensive and the interior for agricultural purposes far surpassed Vancouver Island, which he described as being rocky and worthless except as to its coal. He thought the population of the mainland exceeded that of Vancouver Island. The balance of power had always been held by the Island. They had the advantage of concentration. To go through a District on the mainland took about two months. Some of the Districts were larger than Ireland, some as large as all of Vancouver Island. He was not influenced by any feeling of jealousy towards this Island. He was under great obligation to the people of Victoria, and he wanted to see it fairly represented. It was but fair and just that the mainland should have the same representation as the Island. He was a feeling on the mainland that the Victoria men wanted to hornswoggle everything, and he thought the dry dock and other things were considered. He thought they were really trying to hornswoggle everything. Mr Nathan said the hon member for New Westminster called everything unjust that was in favor of Victoria. He (Mr Nathan) thought the population of Vancouver Island equal to that of the mainland at the present time, and the future should legislate for itself. He thought an equal division fair and equitable. Mr Humphreys said that something more than the mere assertion of the junior member for Victoria City was necessary to decide the question. He (Mr Humphreys) reiterated what he had said about the superiority of the mainland over Vancouver Island, and said that this Island had more power than would make up for the difference of members for the Commons by having the Senators, whom he had no doubt would all be appointed from Victoria. Dr Carrall said the number was even and the population on the Mainland greater than that on the Island; and as the increase would be in favor of the Mainland, he thought they should have four members instead of three. He would therefore support the amendment of the hon member for Yale. Hon Dr Helmecken said should the amendment be carried he would oppose Confederation. He was sorry to hear the words Mainland and Vancouver Island mixed up together. We should know only the whole colony. He had not the slightest doubt that the population of Vancouver Island was greater than that of the mainland, and of what effect was the amount of land? None. The land had no effect, but only the people. There was no other possible division but three and three. We were asked why we did not get seven members instead of six. We have a larger number of representatives now than our proportion. The hon member for Cariboo wanted to pour oil on the troubled waters, but instead of that he makes the matter worse. He did not think the feeling prevailed in Victoria that was attributed to it by the Mainland members. We have endeavored on all occasions to do more than justice to the Mainland. There are no districts on the Mainland that can give as large a population as the districts proposed for Vancouver Island. This matter should not be treated as purely local. There are no local questions to be dealt with in the Canadian Parliament—only Dominion matters come up there. It is wicked, therefore, to raise local questions in such a case as this. As to what was said about the selfishness of Victoria, they looked after their own interests just as people of the other districts looked after theirs. As regarded the population, he did not think the increase of the Island was as great as on the Mainland. So far as he was able to see he would back Vancouver Island against the Mainland on the score of population for ten years to come. Mr Nelson remarked upon the inconsistency of the hon member for Victoria City in saying that locality should not be considered in this matter, when he had said in the commencement of his speech that if four members were given to the Mainland he would vote against Confederation. Mr Humphreys said the hon member for Victoria had made many blunders besides those made on the delegation. He said Vancouver Island must have three members, but she must put up with two. He also said population would increase on the Island faster than it would on the Mainland. In this he was also mistaken. The Island had no land for people to settle on and the Mainland had. The Mainland was entitled to a larger representation in regard to population, wealth, intelligence and every other thing that makes a country great. He would warn hon members. He knew where the strength of the Victoria party lay—every nominated member was a Vancouver Island man. Mr Banister replied to Mr Humphreys' derogatory remarks respecting the land of Vancouver Island and instanced the productiveness of the Island soil in support of his position. Mr Alston said it was a matter to be arranged annually he would vote to have the representation equal, but as there could be

no readjustment for ten years he would vote to give the Mainlanders four members, as the population would certainly increase more rapidly than that of the Island. Hon Attorney General said according to the British North America Act representation is based on population, and according to the population which we have we should have less than six representatives; but the Dominion Government, in view of the probable rapid increase of our population, have given us a larger number. If the division made was to last for all time we might give the Mainland a larger number, but as the representation is to be according to population, we should do as other provinces have done—make the representation according to population when we enter the Union, and as the population of the two sections was considered about equal, he thought the members should be equally divided now; and when the census was taken ten years hence let the representation be regulated on the basis of the increased population. Hon Chief Commissioner said this was not a Government measure. Each member of the Government was at liberty to vote according to his conscientious convictions. That we could not equitably divide the six otherwise than was proposed. If there were five or seven to be divided he should give the majority to the Mainland, but with the existing number he thought the proposition equitable. There was a larger white population on Vancouver Island than on the Mainland, and there was a larger amount of land under cultivation on the Island than on the Mainland (hear, hear). Considerably more than one-half of the money-worth of the country was on the Island, but in the future there was much more room for expansion on the Mainland than on the Island. If there were any way to give the Mainland a majority without giving it double the number given the Island, he should cheerfully acquiesce; but he saw no way open for the Government to do so. Finally, in giving a vote, he wished it to be understood that he gave it independent of the Government. Mr Humphreys contended that the Mainland was entitled to four members and the Island only two. Mr DeCosmos said that the Registrar General was wrong in stating that the number of representatives must remain the same as now until 1881. The hon Attorney General in reply quoted from the British North America Act and showed that a readjustment of the number of representatives could only take place after each decennial census. The vote was then taken upon the amendment with the following result: Ayes—Mr Cornwall, Mr Skinner, Mr Nelson, Mr Alston, Mr Humphreys, hon Dr Carrall—6. Nays—Hon Chief Commissioner, hon Dr Helmecken, Mr Nathan, Mr DeCosmos, Mr Banister, hon Collector of Customs, hon Colonial Secretary, Hon Attorney General—8. Mr DeCosmos moved— 1. That all that portion of Vancouver Island north of the 49th parallel, with all contiguous islands of the late colony of Vancouver Island, be one Electoral District to be called Nanaimo District and be entitled to one member. 2. That the City of Victoria and Victoria District, formerly electoral districts of the late Colony of Vancouver Island, be one electoral district to be called Victoria City District and be entitled to one member. 3. That all that portion of Vancouver Island, not including any portion of the aforesaid Districts of Nanaimo and Victoria City, be one electoral district, to be called Vancouver District and be entitled to return one member. Mr Banister seconded because he did not think two Victoria members would protect farming interests. Hon Dr Helmecken rose to support the original resolution because we should have then an equal division of the Island, &c, that Victoria District with two members would comprise two-thirds of the population leaving the remaining third one member. So far as the farming interests were concerned they would have little or nothing to do with them at Ottawa. Mr Humphreys supported the amendment of the hon member for Victoria District. Hon Attorney General would vote for the resolution for the same reason that he had voted against the amendment, viz: According to the spirit of the British North America Act, which makes population the basis of representation. Such a division as the amendment proposed would be unfair to the Mainland as well as the Island. The amendment was lost—4 ayes to 7 noes. The original resolution was carried—8 ayes to 3 noes. The noes were Messrs DeCosmos, Banister and Humphreys. The Committee rose and reported and the Address and Terms were declared to be adopted—Mr Humphreys voting only in the negative. Hon Chief Commissioner—Is that vote unanimous? Mr Humphreys—No. Hon Chief Commissioner—It is not? Very well, then. Mr Speaker, I call for the ayes and nays to be recorded. Mr DeCosmos (turning to Mr Humphreys)—Does the hon gentleman know what the address means? Mr Humphreys—Oh! Do you mean the address? Mr DeCosmos—The whole thing. Mr Humphreys—Oh, then I vote for it. (a laugh) Hon Chief Commissioner—Then, Mr Chairman, I move that it be recorded that the vote is unanimous. And it was so recorded. Hon Chief Commissioner, seconded by Mr Nathan, moved the following address: To His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR: May it please Your Excellency,—We the members of the Legislative Council, in Council assembled, having agreed to an address to Her Most Gracious Majesty, praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased by and with the advice of Her Most Honorable Privy Council to admit British Columbia under the provisions of the 14th section of the British North America Act into the Union or Dominion of Canada on the basis of the terms and conditions offered to this colony by the Government of the Dominion of Canada, as is in such address set forth, do hereby pray that Your Excellency may be pleased to transmit such address to

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be laid at the foot of the Throne. THE LANE-KURTZ BILL Hon Dr Carrall asked leave to introduce this Bill. He alluded to the importance of encouraging the introduction of machinery and the employing foreign capital in the development of the mineral wealth of the colony. He gave a brief history of the "Meadows," the ground to be worked by the Lane & Kurtz Co, and expressed his belief that it would yield large returns and that it would encourage similar effort in other localities. Leave was granted. The Bill was read a first time, and the second reading was set down for Monday. NANAIMO RIVER BRIDGE Mr Banister moved for the sum of \$2000 to be placed on the Estimates for the purpose of constructing a bridge across Nanaimo River. Hon Dr Carrall remarked that it was rather late, inasmuch as the Estimates had been finally disposed of, and a Bill of Supply had passed a first reading. Mr Banister asked that Supplementary Estimates might be made for these expenditures. (laughter) Hon Chief Commissioner asked for information about the number of farmers who would be benefited by the proposed bridge. Mr Banister mentioned the same farmer who required the bridge, and said that one farmer had told him that his wife waited a whole day to get across the river and nearly died for want of company. Hon Chief Commissioner said to locate the bridge at the spot proposed would render the construction of two roads of approach necessary. The Council might vote the sum, but he was puzzled to know where the money was to come from. Mr DeCosmos supported the motion. Mr Nelson opposed it. Two-thirds of the revenue appropriated for such purposes had gone to the Island, and if there was any more money to be spent it should go to the Mainland, where there were far more necessary works than the one under consideration. The motion was carried. Mr Banister moved for a sum of \$750 to build a bridge at Comox. Hon Chief Commissioner stated that provision was made for that in the Estimates. Resolution carried. The Council adjourned till Monday at 1 o'clock p.m. DEATH OF JOHN COSTELLO.—John Costello, better known by the sobriquet of "Billy the Bug," died at Race Rocks Lighthouse on Thursday morning under very distressing circumstances. On Tuesday afternoon the poor man left Victoria in an open boat with supplies for the lighthouse, twelve miles distant. A gale sprang up shortly afterwards and he was driven past the rocks to the American side. During the blow he lost the sail, next the oars and finally the rudder. He was exposed to the fury of the storm all Tuesday and Wednesday night, and early on Thursday morning managed, with a piece of board which he tore from the bottom of the boat, to reach the shore. He was in a terribly reduced state from exposure and his wants were at once attended to by the lightkeepers. But he sank rapidly and died shortly after reaching the shore. A boat sailed last evening to bring the remains to town for interment. Costello was a kind-hearted man—his own worst enemy—and was ever foremost in relieving distress while he neglected his own wants. He was a native of Ireland and started in life as a blacksmith and was once a diver. Arriving here in 1858, he took up boating, and in 1860 was carrying pilot Brodick to a vessel outside this harbor when the boat was upset and Brodick drowned. Billy, after clinging some hours to the bottom of the boat, reached shore. He leaves a wife and several children quite destitute. The funeral will take place from his residence, Bastion street, to-morrow at 2 p.m. A voluntary band will be in attendance. The Fire Department have been solicited and citizens generally are invited to attend. A VICTORIA ITEM FROM A PORT TOWNSEND PAPER.—Our lively contemporary of the Port Townsend Message furnishes the following amusing paragraph. The wag will be easily recognized:—There is a gentleman in Victoria who has a natural talent for drawing animals. Not long since he executed two very nice pictures, one of a wounded lion and another of a dying lion. These drawings were given by him to the Governor. Recently(?) as a party given by His Excellency, His Grace the Bishop of British Columbia, who had been examining the pictures, remarked to the gentleman who drew them, who was also a guest on the occasion, "My dear sir, I have been admiring your lions; pray tell me if you made the sketches of the animals in the East?" "Yes, your Grace," was the reply. "My dear sir," says the Bishop, "pray sit down. I am delighted to have met you, and we will now have some conversation about the East." Whereupon His Grace gave a very animated description of his visit to the Holy Land and in the course of the conversation asked the gentleman if he remembered a particular view on the road between Damascus and Jerusalem. "No, your Grace," was the reply. "I never was there." "What," says the Bishop, rising from his seat, "you never were there, yet you assure me you sketched those lions in the East?" "So I did," replied the graceless wag. "But it was in the Eastern States, in a menagerie." The Bishop, who had thought there was no other East than the Levant, was struck with profound admiration and immediately retired within himself for reflection. S I SUGAR.—Heavy rains prevailed through December at the Islands and the Commercial Advertiser says there will be but little sugar to ship before New Year. Some of the dark sugars sent to Europe, this year, have cost fully one cent per pound over San Francisco prices, and that sent to New Zealand and Sydney from 1 1/2 to two cents per pound more. THE BRIG ROBERT COWAN was expected to sail from Honolulu for Victoria about the 12th of January. OR SALMON is selling at \$12 per barrel at Honolulu and \$25 per barrel at Melbourne.

Table with financial data for the Colony, including revenue from the Dominion Government, local government, and various taxes. Total revenue is listed as \$282,301.96.