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NOTICE

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AGENTS.

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THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN ESTIMATES.

By the arrival of the *Fideliter* last evening we are placed in possession of the estimates of the neighboring colony. We regret that we cannot attempt to give them in detail; for they are certainly the most interesting items we have received from British Columbia for some time back. The amount of the estimated colonial receipts the present year is £153,000, which is supplemented by nearly £74,000, the unexpended portion of the £100,000 loan. This with £3,000 due by the Home Government on regimental pay account gives, as the anticipated funds in the hands of the Government the present year, the sum of £230,000. This is interesting; and so we have an increase in salaries and in offices to correspond with the presumed augmentation of revenue. It is rather refreshing in this matter of fact age to witness the members of a Legislature almost quarrelling as to who shall be first to propose additions to the official salaries. One amiable gentleman, out of breath with eagerness, articulates a proposition to put another thousand pounds on to the Governor's salary, and hopes that next year he will be able to add a second thousand. The proposition is seconded by a member from the gold fields and of course is carried unanimously. After this substantial homage to the Grand Lama, the proposer and seconder feel relieved and immediately make energetic efforts to prevent any increase to the salaries of the subordinates. Fortunately these salaries are well protected. An admirable phalanx of ten courageous and devoted men oppose all nefarious attempts at retrenchment. With a self-sacrificing and sleepless energy these ten members of the Government maintain their cause, vote themselves good round salaries, and magnanimously stand up for an increase. A system of Government that enables the officials to concoct their own estimates, and vote them, is one which we cannot too highly extol, inasmuch as it tends to produce harmony and unanimity in the Legislative proceedings. And we are not surprised to find that one of our New Westminster contemporaries acknowledges, with a kind of self-gratulation, that the estimate debates have been characterized by courtesy and concord. We are afraid the hybrid Legislature at New Westminster is becoming too unanimous. Junkyardism never dissent from the commands of its masters, and it would really appear that the old spirit of British Columbia had come down to an over-weening anxiety to assist a large official staff to plunge its hands deeper and deeper into the treasury of the country.

We have said the estimated receipts the present year, coupled with the loan, and the moneys due by the Imperial Government, amount to £230,000; but although this sum is £35,000 more than the total revenue of last year, there is not much chance of a very large surplus; for we find that the estimated expenditure reaches £228,000. Out of this is voted the enormous sum of £40,000 for official salaries,—about £8 per head on the population. Never since the days of Adam has so monstrous an incubus been imposed on any population; yet so far has New Westminster sunk into something almost approaching to heliottism, that it actually boasts of the increase to the country's expenditure. We must, however, do the *Columbian* the justice to say that it does not with all its admiration of official affairs, support so scandalous an extravagance. "The wholesale increase of salaries" says our contemporary, "indulged in so recklessly yesterday, was a grave mistake;

and our only consolation consists in the hope that the Governor will withhold his sanction. In one or two instances the thing would have been justifiable; but, as it is, the game is too palpably indecent to pass. No strong argument in favor of union could possibly be adduced than the legislation of yesterday." Can any one wonder after this that union should be anathematized by the honorable members of the Council. Surely it is fighting for very substantial slices of bread and butter when this body declares itself opposed to any change that would curtail or limit its control over the colonial revenue. There is something so exceedingly ridiculous in some of the estimates the present year, that we are glad to see the Governor's estimate. The anticipation of £62,000 for import duties is extravagant enough; but to fancy that the road tolls during this year, with the small travel to Cariboo, will actually exceed the road tolls of 1863, is beyond all reason. Then we have that sage measure—the export duty—which is doomed to drive all the Kootenay gold by way of Oregon—we have this experiment put down as a probable contributor to the revenue to the amount of £25,000. This is based on the supposition that \$4,000,000 will not only be extracted from the soil but that it will all pay the 50 cents duty. If the Government of British Columbia gets anything like as much out of the export duty as its cost of collection it will be accomplishing miracles. One of the few items in the proposed expenditure that possess any real merit is the £30,000 for opening up communication with the Kootenay country. The other road estimates are:—Road from Alexandria to Quenellemouth £12,000; from Cottonwood to Williams Creek £25,000; from Cameron town to Richfield £1,200; Quenellemouth to Cottonwood river £3,573. Large sums are also put down for repairs, making altogether a road expenditure of £78,000. The sum of £4000 appears for a light-ship at the mouth of the Fraser. The judiciary is to be increased; there is in future to be a judge of the Supreme Court at £1200, and a puisne judge at £800. Looking at the figures of this large budget the only instance of economy that strikes us is in the estimated expenditure on education. Here the Government show a scrupulous care of the public purse-strings, having placed opposite this subject the small amount of £1000. What a pity education has not a seat at the Council board; if it had, judging from the recent events in the Legislature, it would put itself beyond all necessity. We are sorry we cannot echo the joyful peans of our riverine contemporaries over the British Columbian budget. We cannot subscribe to the meaningless and obsequious declaration that it is "sagacious, prudent, and liberal," nor do we see any reason for introducing, as one of our contemporaries does, the name of the Creator, in his burst of religious gratitude at an estimated increase based largely on purely hypothetical grounds.

THE LATE FIGHT FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

The following brief particulars of the recent contest for the champion's belt between Wormald and Marsden is given in the *Cork Reporter*: After the twelfth round Marsden was fearfully distressed, but he boldly faced his opponent and was fearfully punished in the thirteenth. In the fourteenth he was struck down like an ox. Four times more he faced his opponent only to be struck heavily down again; and just as he was coming up for the nineteenth round the sponge was thrown up by one of his seconds and Wormald was hailed the winner after contesting for thirty-seven minutes. Marsden was very severely beaten, and for some time after the ring was cleared he remained in his corner in an almost fainting condition, having his face and temples bathed with water. Wormald, on the other hand, walked away apparently unharmed; a slightly swollen black eye being the only mark on his face. At the commencement of the fight the odds were six to four on Marsden.

SOME QUASI CLASSICAL GENIUS IN NEW WESTMINSTER.

With more leisure than brains, has been of late occupying his spare time by inditing for the *N. P. Times* a series of the silliest diatribes the hollowest vituperation against Victoria and her people that it has been our misfortune to peruse for a very long time. The articles abound in outrageous dog-latin phrases and quotations that would make a boy in the first form—the veriest tyro—blush to acknowledge; the most villainous attempts at Greek, and excruciating verses of poetry. They are certainly not written by the acknowledged Editor of the paper, as we do not give him credit for so total a lack of sense and education, and we cannot help thinking there is a semi-official odor pervading the articles in question that renders their authorship not too difficult to divine.

DR. WALKER.

Lately of this city, having enlisted in Uncle Sam's service came up on the Sierra Nevada to Portland on route to Fort Vancouver, where he is to be at present stationed.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

LONDON, January 14, 1865.

PARLIAMENT.

The time for opening Parliament has been officially fixed since my last. It is neither the 2d nor the 9th, but the 7th—precedent for once having gone for nothing—it being most unusual to open a session on a Tuesday. Nothing is authoritatively announced yet about the attendance of the Queen; but two significant facts have occurred to confirm the statements I have already sent you, and which lead to the inference that Her Majesty will, on the 7th February, assume her place in public life. For three years no military band has been permitted to play in the town of Windsor. On one occasion the officers of one of the regiments of Foot Guards directed their band to play music. They were

stant tendency to increase in spite of the attacks made on its sources. We are all pleasantly aware of great reductions having been made last year. Yet the stream of taxation flows steadily into the Exchequer with scarcely a perceptible diminution in its volume. We have the receipts for the three quarters, and although we have had a monetary crisis yet the total revenue received is no less than £51,136,000. Now assuming that the current quarter only yields revenue at the same rate there will be by the first of April in round numbers not less than £88,186,000. But it is a known fact as a general rule, that the last quarter is the most prolific, and if the increase be as great as usual the actual receipts will exceed £70,000,000. That amount is largely in excess of the estimated yield for 1864 on the supposition that no reductions were made in taxes and

will be paid on them. And while these results have been obtained the Treasury has lost 5,600,000 by the suppression during the second half-year of half the second decade upon registration. 3. There are supplementary credits in the rectificative budget for 1865, to the amount of £2,000,000, but experience has shown that 36,000,000 less will be needed; the anticipatory budget will therefore be only 48,000,000, against which there will be 64,000,000 of receipts, thus showing a balance of 16,000,000 available for the extraordinary budget of 1866. 4. In 1866 the taxes upon equippages and horses, kept by private persons, cease; but nevertheless, the ordinary budget balances with a surplus of over a million, and this notwithstanding the Minister of Marine spends an increase of 2,500,000, and the Minister of Public Works an increase of 2,000,000.

After all my knowing friend is compelled to admit that France is in the position of a man who lives beyond his means. The Emperor Louis Napoleon has added scores of millions sterling to the national debt of France, and all that M. Fould has been able to do is to prevent the growth of the unfunded debt. But even this is problematical. The French are in the happy condition of paying £3 per head for the luxury of being ruled by an Emperor. If they like it, of course it is nothing to us. But experience has demonstrated that a Bonapartist Emperor is a much more costly article than an Orleansist King. Good—but the Emperor furnished glory,—that food much coveted by Frenchmen. So, according to the saying of the "peepshow demonstrator"—"They pay their money and they take their choice." However, Louis Napoleon is about to choose; begin, at last, at the right end—for it is important to know—if only so far as the peace of the world is concerned—that it is intended to reduce the military expenditure of France for this year by 21,000,000, and the naval expenditure by 23,000,000. If no circumstances intervene to prevent these savings being effected, M. Fould expects to be able to carry forward to the Budget of 1866 18,000,000 out of the Budget of 1865. All I can say is, "I wish he may get it!"

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

By the arrival of the schooner *Domitila*, from Honolulu, we have dates to February 15th:

The Island Legislature has passed a law prohibiting suits for the recovery of debts contracted in liquor houses. The *Advertiser* says the law practically outlaws the business of liquor vending, and adds that no one would be surprised to see the Legislature go a step farther, and compel liquor dealers to support all those made sick or incapacitated through dram-selling. A singular law has also been passed prohibiting all females, white or colored, from visiting Oahu, the metropolis, without a passport.

A Lahaina gentleman, acting under commission from Brigham Young, has just bought a large plantation in Oahu, with the intention of raising cotton and tobacco for the Mormons in Utah. A small colony of Mormons will soon be placed on the estate, about 100 acres of cotton will be planted by April 1st, and in a short time from 500 to 1000 acres of cotton and tobacco. It is proposed shortly to establish a cotton factory with 1500 to 2000 spindles. The *Advertiser* welcomes the Mormons to the Islands.

The *Themis*, an English pleasure yacht of 160 tons, built of iron, arrived lately at Honolulu. She is owned and commanded by Capt. T. B. Hanham, a retired naval officer, who, accompanied by his wife, is cruising about the world for pleasure.

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The local trade at Honolulu was extremely dull, and the arrivals and departures of vessels very few.

The Legislature had voted \$15,000 to establish a government newspaper, \$12,000 for an Insane Asylum, and \$9,000 to complete the Royal Mansoleum in Nuanuu.

The British ship *Egeria*, from Albemarle to Shanghai, with lumber, had called at Honolulu.

IMPORTATION OF BREEDING STOCK.—Dr. Haggis

of this city imported last week by the steamer *Geo. S. Wright*, from Portland, fifteen fine brood hogs, which he has sent out to his farm at Saanich. The animals are a cross between the Berkshire, Essex and Suffolk, and were reared by Mr. Thomas Cross, of Salem, Oregon, who is known as one of the best stock-breeders on the Pacific coast. They were laid down here at very considerable expense, and the enterprise of the importer in making this important addition to the breeding stock of the colony, is deserving the thanks of the agricultural community.

to the music on a general order from the Queen. This prohibition has been removed, and military strains once more gladden the streets and barracks-yards of Windsor. For three years no ship saluted the royal flag flying at Osborne. That prohibition has also been rescinded. These are trifles, but "like straws" they show the set of the wind. I am told to-day, however, that Her Majesty will not open Parliament. She will be most unwise if she does not. That is the least I would say of such a determination. The authority for this is not as good as that on which I based my previous statements. My own belief is that she will go down to Westminster—once more be what she ever should be—"Every inch a Queen!"

THE PRINCESS MARY OF CAMBRIDGE.

The report I mentioned in my last letter turns out to be a canard, and the so-called inventor ought to have been ducked for their pains. That there has been something going on between Her Royal Highness and Viscount Hood—that is the nobleman on whom she is said to have placed her affections—is more than probable; but it is certainly no marriage has yet taken place. It is greatly to be regretted that gossip will not let the life of the royal lady alone, for all who know her speak well of her, and admit that she is as good as she is fat and handsome. Everybody, indeed, would rejoice to hear the lady made a suitable match, and that the Queen and Parliament had assented thereto, and given such a provision as might be deemed fitting.

THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL LETTER.

Poor old Pío Nono has taken nothing by his folly but disappointment upon issuing his extraordinary specimen of bigotry and intolerance. The Emperor of the French has prohibited its publication in France, but some of the Ultramontane Bishops, who detested him, and the prosecution of one or two of them is expected. Before the Pope issued the letter there existed a strong feeling of opposition between the French Government and the Episcopate. The feeling is now at a much higher pitch. In the controversy the Bishop of Montauban follows in the wake of his brother of Cambria, and has entered a protest against the Government in preference with the liberty of the clergy-poor lambs! they of course must have freedom, though all else in the world be enslaved mentally and bodily—lauding the courage of Pius IX., who, he says, "Within a finger's breadth of ruin, displays the greatness of his soul!" This, of course, refers to the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome, when the poor old Pope and Cardinals will be left alone in their glory, to withstand, if they can, the torrent that will swoop down upon them, and when about the former of whom it will probably have to be sung—

O rare Pío Nono! swaggering Nono!
Runaway Nono! where are you now?

As a proof that Louis Napoleon's Government has its eye upon the Pope's defences, a clerical Legitimist journal has just been sentenced to two months' suspension by M. Barole for criticism of his circular forbidding the publication of the Encyclical and its sequent propositions.

NEW ZEALAND.

The last news from this colony shows that Sir George Grey, as Governor, was at the time the mail left, intent upon dictating a policy to the colonists, and stopping the war by a disgraceful compromise, un mindful of any other interests than his own. He had been compelled to call the Assembly together, but he had committed the Government by tying the hands of General Cameron, and offering terms of peace to the natives, which, if accepted, can only lead to a truce. The actual state of things appears to be this. The native advisers are to the effect that the feeling in favor of separation from England was increasing, and also that the South Island was talking of separation from the North. If either event happen, it will be the fault of Sir George Grey, who has been more successful than any of his contemporaries, not excepting Mr. Disraeli—which is saying something, is it not—in appearing to be a statesman. The Home Government ought to know better than to allow such a man to deprive England of one of her best colonies. But Mr. Cardwell does not seem to understand the facts, having permitted the pro-native party to exercise too much influence over his mind.

THE BUDGET.

Parliament has not yet met and yet people are beginning already to speculate upon Mr. Gladstone's Budget, although three months at least will elapse before it can be brought forward, and as far as the Cabinet is concerned there may be "a man's slip between the cup and the lip" many a time and then. Of what the budget all consists it is impossible to assert. Mr. Gladstone does not often permit people to be as wise as himself. He hates nothing so much as to be anticipated. But although no one can say for certain what he will do, no one may guess at his probable surplus and be pretty near the mark. Under the present system revenue has a con-

stant tendency to increase in spite of the attacks made on its sources. We are all pleasantly aware of great reductions having been made last year. Yet the stream of taxation flows steadily into the Exchequer with scarcely a perceptible diminution in its volume. We have the receipts for the three quarters, and although we have had a monetary crisis yet the total revenue received is no less than £51,136,000. Now assuming that the current quarter only yields revenue at the same rate there will be by the first of April in round numbers not less than £88,186,000. But it is a known fact as a general rule, that the last quarter is the most prolific, and if the increase be as great as usual the actual receipts will exceed £70,000,000. That amount is largely in excess of the estimated yield for 1864 on the supposition that no reductions were made in taxes and

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