The Weckly Colonist.

Tuesday, February 7, 1865.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday afternoon from New Westminster with passengers and a small letter Express.

There is nothing of interest from Cariboo; the

N. P. Times says:

A few claims were working on Williams Creek, among which were the Grizzly, Moffatt, Camerona Caledonia and Never Sweat. The weather was frosty, but fine, and the sun gave out apparently more heat than in previous winters. The snow was over two feet deep, but dry, and for some distance down the malking was good. ance down the walking was good. [From the British Columbian.]

THE WEATHER—The weather has been mild and soft during the last three days, and the snow which fell on Friday has nearly all disappeared. We understand the river is again clear of ice above but as no express has come to hand we have

CUSTOMS' RECEIPTS for week ending Saturday, January 28th, 1865: Duties. £88 10s.; harbor dues, £11 4s. 8d; head money, £9 4s.; tonnage dues, £3 3s. Total, £112 1s. 8d.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[From the N. P. Times.]

GOLD EXPORT DUTY BILL.

Hon. Attorney General, in moving the second reading of the bill, explained its principles. It was to impose a duty upon all gold in a natural state, whether dust or otherwise. The tax would fall upon the persons best able to afford it—viz. those who came to the country and dug out the gold—and it was quite right that they should pay a small toll. It particularly affected the transient population, who otherwise often reaped great benefits without contributing at all to the revenue. The Government would ask the Council to form a separate fund of the sums derived from this tax, to be expected in opening and improving roads. separate fund of the sums derived from this tax, to be expended in opening and improving roads to the mining districts, and in improving their sanitary and social condition generally. To facilitate collection, opportunity would be given to those who had gold assayed to pay the assay duties and obtain a certificate. The rate placed was two shillings per ounce, and so en for aliquot parts of an ounce, In order to assist the miner, and give him good value for his money, the tax was reduced to one shilling and sixpence for those was reduced to one shilling and sixpence for those taking their gold to the Government Assay Office. He thought it probable that the Government might establish Branch Assay offices at the differ-ent mining districts. To facilitate collection the rate was made Customs duty, and was made levi-able under the Customs Act, and to avoid smuggling local magistrates were empowered to impose the penalty of imprisonment. These were the principal features of the bill. Hon. Mr. Walkem had been laboring under the

impression that a much lower rate would have been fixed, and he feared that the tax proposed would produce general dissatisfaction and create much mischief. He was in principle favorable much mischief. He was in principle favorable to the imposition of as large a tax as possible, but thought that is or is 6d would have been enough for the first year. If a man went up the country and put \$10,000 into a claim, and coming down at the end of the season with only \$2000, had to pay 2s per ounce on all he had to show for his \$10,000, he thought it would be felt by many to be a great hardship. He thought grumbling should be avoided as much as possible.

Hon. Mr. Cornwall thought the high tax should be tried first, and then if it did not answer, it might be reduced. He disagreed with the clause providing that the whole proceeds should be spent in the mines. It would be a bad precedent. He thought that the disposal of it should be regulated by the policy and the asset of the second of the second

Hon. Mr. Moberly thought it was most impor tant to improve the roads to the mines. The revenue could no be increased in any other way, and the money was wanted. At present the successful miner took all his gains out of the country, and left the burden of taxation upon the unsuc cessful one. The rich men ought to he venue. He was in favor of establishing Branch Assay Offices.

Assay Offices.

Hon. Mr. Haynes supported the bill. It would not touch the poor man, but come only on the rich. He did not think there would be much difficulty in collecting the tax, in fact it would scarcely require a single additional officer.

Hon. Mr. Ball was much pleased to find so many hon. members supporting a measure he had advo-cated from the first. He thought they might safely reckon on an increase of £30,000 to the revenue by it, and when the miners found that their position was to be improved by it they would pay cheerfully. The hon, member for Cariboo West had said they would grumble, but everybody grumbled at paying taxes, and it was to be expected. He did not think the amounts too high, and indeed thought the tax would not really be more than is 6d, as every one would go to the Assay Offices if they were established. He supported both the principal and the amounts of the bill.

Hon. Peter O'Reilly supported the bill, and did not think the amount too high.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary was of the same

Hon. H. Holbrook was in favor of the bill, but did not think mere than £16,000 or £20,000 would be gained by the tax. He disapproved, however, of the whole amount being expended on the miner, and thought it should be bestowed upon the whole colony. He thought also that there was no necessity for an assay office in Cariboo, as all the gold from that region would find its way to New West-

Hon. Attorney General said that it would be Hon. Attorney General said that it would be difficult to smuggle, as there were only two or three passes on the southern boundary line, and they might be easily watched. Possibly a debateable line might be made, some half-mile or so above the Forty-minth Parallel, to prevent people settling there to assist smuggling. It was designed to improve all roads leading to the mines, and therefore the hon, member for Douglas might possibly get some appropriation for improving his possibly get some appropriation for improving his rapids and sloughs.

The bill was then read a second time, and the committal, after some discussion, was fixed for

Tuesday.

The House then adjourned.

GOLD EXPORT DUTY BILL. House in Committee on the Bill, Hon. Mr. Ball an of Committee. The Bill was taken

clause by clause.
Clause 1—Definition of "Gold." It shall mean natural gold, whether mixed with other sub-stances or not, gold dust, and all other gold,

wrought or unwrought, except coined money, plate or jewelry. Passed as read.

Clause II—Levying a duty of two shillings upon every ounce Troy weight of gold, previous to its being exported from British Columbia or its

dependencies.

Hon. G. A. Walkem opposed the rate mentioned.

He held that miners' rights should be as much respected as other persons, and that they should have fair play. The tax in Australia was only is and is. 3d., and why should it be more here. have fair play. The tax in Australia was only lead and ls. 3d., and why should it be more here. There was a deficit to make up, large sums were required, but it was exceedingly unfair to take it all out of the miners' pocket. Why should they in addition to the hardships they have to undergo, be mulcted in a tax equal to 3 per cent. on what they have realized. The miners were the stay of the country. If they were withdrawn from the country, the merchants must leave too. He thought it was like taking advantage of the absence of the only men concerned, to take, and take all they could. It had been proposed to try a high rate of the first year, and if it did not answer, to lower it. That is to say, after the mean had suffered who were here, they would put a lighter tax on those who came fresh to the country next year. It looked to him something like sentencing a man to death and commuting his sentence to imprisonment for life after he was hanged! He moved in amendment that the tax be reduced to 1s. 6d.

There was a deficit, to make up, large sums were required, but it was exceedingly unfair to take it all out of the miners' pocket. Why should they in the Sheriff as Superintendent and gevernor of the gaol at a salary of \$1,000 a year.

Mr. Franklin opposed the motion, thinking that the office of Sheriff should be kept distinct.

Dr. Diokson strongly favored the appointment of the Sheriff should be kept distinct.

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Dr. be reduced to 1s. 6d.

The amendment not being seconded, fell to the ground. The clause passed as read.

Clause III. No gold liable for which certificate from Assay Office or Customs Office can be produced. The sum of 1s. 6d. per oz. to be paid on accessed gold.

assayed gold.

Hon. Mr. Walkem in amendment moved that the rate be reduced to 1s.

The amendment was lost for want of a

Clause IV. Providing that the proceeds of the tax form a separate fund to be expended upon the improvement of the mining districts gene-

Hon. Mr. Moberly moved, and hon, Mr. Holbrook seconded, that it be amended to read that the moneys levied form part of the general Hon. Mr. Cornwall moved in amendment and

hon. Mr. Haynes seconded that the clause be ex-Hon. Mr. Walkem opposed its excision.

Motiou put and lost. Amendment put and lost. Clause passed as read. Clause V. Passed as read.

The Committee rose and reported progress, and asked leave to sit again. Wednesday at 1 o'clock fixed for adjourned committee.
On motion the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, Feb. 3. House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present— Messrs. Franklin, Tolmie, Dickson, Burnaby, Cochrane, Bayley, Denmes.

TAX ON UNIMPROVED LANDS. Dr. Dickson gave notice that on Monday he would ask leave to introduce a bill to levy a tax of five per cent on all unimproved lands in the

Mr. Southgate asked if the hon. gentleman would apply the same measure to city property.

Dr. Dickson said he would not.

THE RESIGNATIONS.

The Speaker stated that he had received the resignations of Amor DeCosmos and Charles Bedford Young of their seats in the House.

Dr. Dickson moved that a new writ do issue. Mr. Dennes seconded and the motion was car-

THE ESTIMATES.

The House went into Committee on Supply, Mr. Franklin in the Chair.

REGISTRAR GENERAL. Registrar General, \$2425. Passed.

JUDICIAL. Chief Justice, \$5820, voted; Registrar, \$1500, voted; Clerk of Writs, \$1000, voted; Messenger and Office Keeper, \$600.—

Dr. Dickson said this was a new office and he thought it could be done without this year as

well as last. He moved that it be struck out. Mr. Dennes thought it was quite necessary. The salary was struck out:

Attorney General, \$2910.

Dr. Dickson moved that this appointment be made provisional and temporary. He could not see why it should be larger than last year. Dr- Tolmie thought it would be well to limit the

expenses of this establishment to the same as at Mr. Southgate would vote for the sum asked for if no Crown Solicitor were appointed.

Mr. Cechrane advocated the same sum as last year, with liberty to do a private practice. It was very necessry to curtail our expenditure, and the late Attorney General had done very well with

the old salary and his private practice.

Mr. Burnaby said in justice to the present official it should be put on record that he should have his fees and power to practice, the appointment to be provisional and temporary.

The salary was cut down to \$1455 with the above provision.

above provision.
Clerk to do, \$1000, voted; Crown Solicitor, \$1500, struck out; Sheriff, \$1000, voted; Stipendiary Magistrate, Victoria, \$2250, voted; Clerk Stipendiary Magistrate at Company voted; Clerk to do, \$485.—

Mr. Bayley pressed this appointment owing to the multiplicity of offices filled by the Stipendiary

The salary was voted.
Stipendiary Magistrate at Sooke, \$1700.
Dr. Dickson moved that the amount be structure.
The appointment was quite unnecessary.

Mr. Burnaby moved that the words " and Gold Commissioner" be added, Dr. Tolmie said we derived no direct benefit these mines, and he thought the salary should be charged to the Crown Lands, Dr. Helmcken said the hon. gentlemen were

not quite correct; this was for a Magistrate not Gold Commissioner. True, there had been only one case tried—a man imprisoned for 12 months for selling a bottle of grog, (laughter).

Mr. Bayley advocated the appointment.

Dr. Powell here entered the House.

Dr, Dickson would withdraw his motion and nove that the House suggest that the appoint ment shall be of gold commissioner, who shall be justice of the peace and be paid from the Crown Lands revenue. Mr. Franklin advocated the ap-pointment of a magistrate besides gold commissioner. He might also be magistrate for Cowich

Dr. Tolmie thought the duties of magistrate and gold commissioner might advantageously be com-bined, as in British Columbia. Mr. Southgate looked at the possibility of 1500

or 2000 men being there next year, when a magistrate would be very necessary.

Dr. Dickson's motion was carried, and the sal-

Clerk to do, \$485, struck out; Stipendiary Mag strate at Comox \$1700.
Dr. Dickson said in Canada all magistrates rural districts were paid by fees, (hear, hear), and it might be done here. The item was struck out.

Magistrate at Cowichan, \$1700. struck out; occasional assistance to Sheriff, \$250, voted. ods Many Emol/POLICE, and Bas ... 00

Superintendent of Police, \$1940. Dr. Dickson moved that it be struck out, [hear

Mr. Cochrane said we formerly had a Superintendent who acted as inspector also, and setting aside the late proceedings in court, with which we had nothing to do, the police had been very well Dr. Helmcken said the salary of the Stipen-

diary Magistrate was solely for that position; the Superintendent was now both commissioner of police and governor of the gaol.

Dr, Telmie thought there was no need for both officers, (hear, hear), and he was in favor of keep-

ing on the inspector, who was the working man.
Dr. Powell suggested that the Inspector be Dr. Dickson had made every inquiry and found that the Superintendent actually did nothing. He even had a policeman detailed to be his Secretary.

He really was not worth \$25 a year. The Inspector was a good officer, and did all the work.

Mr. Southgate advocated the appointment of the Superintendent, the officer being necessary.

The salary was struck out, only Mr. Southgate voting for it.

Dr. Telmie moved that a recommendation be

made to His Excellency for the appointment of the Sheriff as Superintendent and governor of the

made \$2500 a year, (no, no).

eered civil and religious liberty. Nabuleon

Several of the members said the motion was not | The investment of capital causes labor, labor | THE AUTHORS OF THE FREE PORT order, Mr. Cochrane thoroughly agreed with the moproportion to the demand for labor. tion just made. Import duties are of two classes, viz., those

Dr. Dickson said the motion would only have the effect of adding to the salary of the party now occupying the office.

Mr. Burnaby rose and indignantly called the hon gentleman to order. These salaries were voted solely as a public matter, and the House had no neped the House would sustain him in that view,

Dr. Dickson maintained that he was perfectly in order, and that it was impossible and not to be expected members should pay no attention to the fitness or otherwise of individual officials.

Dr. Helmeken, who had been absent a few minutes, said he found that while he was out the salary of the Superintendent had been struck out [no, ne]. Well he must urge the necessity of a Superintendent; whether the House would prefer the old system of the Superintendent reporting to the Magistrate was another matter. He must say that he himself was decidedly opposed to the police being governed by the Executive. [Hear, hear.]

Mr. Cochrane moved in amendment that the Superintendent be paid a salary of \$500, the duties to be performed by the Magistrate [hear hear.]

Dr. Helmcken said the Magistrate never had been Superintendent.

Dr. Tolmie said the Inspector would be Super

intendent. He would remind honorable gentle-men that we now had a probability of union, and we should not multiply offices.

Dr. Helmcken said the Magistrate would by the new Justice of the Peace bill have additional duties placed on him. He would move that the du-ties of Superintendent and Inspector be com-

bined at \$1,500 a year. Carried.

Four sergeants at \$2 per day each.

Mr. Cochrane said the pay of the men was decidedly too small in proportion to the salaries of

The item was voted. Six constables at \$1 75 per day—voted; 6 at \$1 50 per day—voted; 2 mounted constables at \$1 75 per day—struck out; medical officer \$250—voted; armorer, \$1.50 per day; it was explained by the Chairman that this officer was necessary to clean the small arms belonging to the colony.

Dr. Powell said the Volunteers kept their own

arms in order. The item was voted. Extra constables \$750struck out: expenses of cleaning and repairing small arms, \$50. Tetal, \$26,600.

GOALS.

Gealer, \$.1000—voted; superintendent of convicts, \$800—voted; medical officer, \$500—voted; advantages derived from their introduction, namely, investment of capital and stimulous to labor. Our neighbors, the Americans, are \$1 50 per day—voted; cook \$1 50 per day—voted; petty expenses, \$100—voted. VOLUNTEERS \$2540.

Dr. Powell said the sum asked for was really more than the Corps required. So far all the expenses of the Corps had been borne by the members themselves, and he conceived the colon owed a debt of gratitude to the Corps for their e forts. He would move that the sum of \$1,000 be voted for the Corps, to be left to the distribution of the Captain. Motion carried. The committee here rose and reported progress

The Speaker read a communication from the Legislative Council. enclosing a bill to amend the Telegraph Act, by repealing the exclusive privi-leges granted to the California State Telegraph Company. Bill read a first time. POWDER MAGAZINE.

Mr. Burnaby gave notice that he would on Monday move a resolution for an address to His Excellency for the erection of a powder magazine. House adjourned.

THE GREAT MEETING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST: Sin,-I believe there is no man, however indifferent about the interests of this colony, who does not feel that the present depressing it has arisen from a neglect of all other interests in favor of a free port or not, justifies extreme anxiety over apprehension and calls for the exercise of the greatest energy and activity on the part of our Legislative repre-

sentatives. The meeting held on Thursday evening hardly answered the purpose for which it was called, namely, the consideration of tariff duties. It illustrated, however, one fact, that there are many intelligent and hard working men amongst us, who are fully convinced that ample means exist within our reach to make this a selfaproducing colony. That we have the resources within ourselves, not only to supply the necessaries of life but shortly afterwards picked up by a passing many luxuries, cannot be doubted, nor is it to be denied that we possess numerous advantages for the purposes of manufacturing, at present wholly neglected. It is to be regretted then that after the existence of this colony for so long a period we look in vain for those evidences of wealth which untimely decease. To the great astonishment we ought reasonably to expect to find in it. of his friends, however, the drowned man its consumption but its production. The mere acting as a storehouse for goods in tranmere acting as a storehouse for goods in trans shore in safety, and made his way, although situ cannot add anything to the prosperity of with much difficulty, several miles through the colony. The colonists do not derive any benefit therefrom, with the exception of the few who act as commission agents; on the contrary they have hitherto paid to provide the requisite protection for such goods, viz.; Government, police, harbor, pilots, dredging machines, &c., &c., &c., out of their own pockets without any adequate return Now it is evident in all new colonies where a great amount of outlay is required in the products and where they have to contend with the productions and manufactures of a profit; therefore in order to attract capital these investments should be put upon a basis sufficiently substantial to give investors a reasonable prospect of security for the return of their capital with a remunerative interest. Anyone fairly considering the question will at once admit that Vancouver island in its present condition, is not a safe investment upon which a capitalist would advance, nor any sensible and thinking man bestow his time and labor which to him are capital.

The remedies which I may say have been adopted by different nations and I may almost add every nation and every colony, are two-Bounties and Import duties, and these have been always found to work with success, however much they may be reviled by the free porters of this our day. As regards the first—bounties—I do not think that the colony is in a position to adopt this course, nor do I think that they would be a sufficient and safe guarantee for the capitalist. Let us

calls for immigration, and wages uniform in

for the support of Government and those for protection of certain branches of trade. As regards the first I cannot see any just reason why the goods and merchandise of which right to take individuals in to consideration. He our port is made the repository, should not pay their due measure of taxation. They enjoy all the advantages of our Government and harbor particularly, and there cannot be any reason why they should not bear their share of the expense of that Government and that harbor. Don't be afraid of the restraint you are laying on foreign trade for the benefit of yourselves. The advantages they derive from your commerce, and the wealth they obtain thereby, fully enables them to pay a share of the taxes requistie for keeping up your colonial institutions, and you may rest assured no taxation put upon any branches of imports in this colony would be of sufficient importance to: stop a profitable trade. But I consider the second kind of import duties, namely, those for the protection of certain branches of trade as of much more importance to us in our present condition than those for themaintenance of government. Vancouver Island has to contend with the productive labor of a country in close proximity to her, which completely surfeits her market with its produce and manufactures, and in these days of steam navigation the difficulties of transit are so much reduced that it bebecomes necessary, in order to advance the cultivation of our lands and the progress of manufactures, to protect them by tariff duties. Friends of the free port urge upon us that the imposing of import duties will have the effect of increasing the expense of the necessaries of life. This is not fairly urged, as the increase will barely be felt by the consumer, for however much the store-keeper is taxed, whether by direct or land taxation, it adds to his expences, and so ultimately reaches the small arms, \$50.' Tetal, \$26,600.

Dr. Helmeken said before passing the item finally he would move that the salary of the Superintendent be altered from \$1,500 to \$2,000. He had ascertained that that officer was not provided with rations, &c. The amendment of \$2,000 was upon those in easy circumstances, besides the advantages derived from their introduction, the great portion of our ready money centres in that country, and we keep her a very nice little ready money market for them.

Let us then keep our market to ourselves, and at once set at work and industriously manufacture what we can for our own use. Keep agriculture and manufacture going and let us see that in their infancy they are not trespassed upon by foreign competition. Thus our settlers and the community generally will the benefitted, and we shall have plenty of money to meet the expenses of colopial government as well as for the advance. ment and improvement of the colony.

J. P.

ASSAULT BY AN INDIAN-A STRANGE STORY. -A resident of Nanaimo named Diggs was assaulted by an Indian a few days ago, while travelling in a cance a short distance from the town, and narrowly escaped with his life. The circumstances of the case, which are rather singular, are as follows: Diggs was seated in the bow of the cance, the Indian being in the stern, when the latter suddenly struck him a violent blow on the head with his paddle, partially stunning him, and at the same time shouting that he would " memaloose him, because he had on some previous occasion caused him to be put in the skokumhouse," Diggs, partially recovering from the blow, and fearing a repetition of the assault, at once plunged into the water, upsetting the canoe in the act. His assailant managed to clamber up on the bottom of the canoe, and called to Diggs to follow him, promising not to molest him; the latter, however, distrusted the rascal, and made his way toward the shore. The Indian, with the canoe, was vessel and brought into Nanaimo, where he stated that the canoe had been accidentally upset and that Diggs had been drowned. His story caused much excitement in the town, where the missing man was well known, and sincere were the lamentations for his unexpectedly made his appearance at e'clock the next morning, having reached the the bush to Nanaimo. The rascally Siwash was immediately arrested and placed in gaol, where he will await his trial.

STEAM TO SAN FRANCISCO- The British Columbian of a late date published a statement that negotiations were pending between Governor Seymour and Captain Nicol, of the Vancouver Coal Company, for placing the steamer Thames on the route between San neighboring country, that it is impossible to Francisco and New Westminster direct. We carry on agriculture or manufactures with a learn that these negociations are still going on, and that there is a probability of their being completed at an early day. The Thames is an excellent sea boat, and when fitted up for the trade will be able to carry 80 passengers and between 200 and 300 tons of freight. Should the proposed arrangement be effected we may expect to see the anticipated rush of travel to Kootenay as well as to Cariboo and other parts of British Columbia be carried past our doors; and this is only the beginning of the danger. Let every elector in the city ponder on this startling fact, and vote for union of the colonies, and the preservation of Victoria as the commercial and trading centre of the union.

TRADE WITH PORTLAND - The steamer Ges. S. Wright is being fitted with a hurricane deck, and otherwise made ready for ocean traffic, and will shortly be placed on then see what would be the results if import the line between Portland and these colonies. duties were levied of a character to make the As our trade with Portland consists wholly cultivation of the soil and the process of of produce for the Cariboo market, and as manufacture remunerative. They would be the Wright being a light draft steamer, can these :- capital, which it is so essential for a easily enter Fraser River, it is not improbable young colony to obtain, would flow in, having found a safe and remunerative investment. minster direct, carrying with her the expected day. It has been a safe and remunerative investment. minster direct, carrying with her the expected day. It has been a safe and remunerative investment. Good security for capital causes competition. emigration from Boise to Kootenay. Your, Jan. 23-In addition to the Tucops me scircit engaged in recommitting the

BLUNDER DISCOVERED AND THE HISTORY OF IT TRACED.

To THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST-SIR :- Since in your columns it has been recently shown that in our free port experiment, as those terms have been here hitherto understood, we are without a precedent, and stand alone in the world; that although England is a country of mature age and free trade is her policy, the travellers' boxes are nevertheless scrutinized before the gates of the London or Liverpool docks can close behind him, and that with every nation, not excepting those ruled by the potentates of Africa, duties are the mainstay of Revenue. It may bye-and-bye become interesting as a matter of antiquarian research, or to the editor of Notes and Queries, to know who was the man so bold as to be the first to propose an experiment so novel as to build up a colony wholly free from indirect taxation, and at the same time so plausible as to induce colonists year after year to meet their annual expenditure solely out of the capital with which they embarked in business—which is the plain reading of the Real Estate Act of 1860.

Curiosity is the more stimulated in this matter by the fact that among the earliest appointments of the first Government were a Collector of Customs and clerks; and we know that if the machinery so appointed had then been set in motion, and a ten per cent. tariff imposed, the advent of 35,000 visitors would in the year 1858 alone have given us the handsome sum of £35,000 to commence business with.

But what if our present false position has arisen from a misinterpretation of the earliest litera scripta of the Home Government and Hudson Bay Company, an error subsequently accepted and studiously propagated by an ex-Premier, under whose vast legislation we are now smarting; an ex-bank manager, and the member for Metchosin; and that such was the industry and address with which these gentlemen disseminated their views that their opinions soon became fashionable in the town, and would, I believe, continue to be generally echoed if the press, so ably seconded by the senior member for the city and House of Assembly had not by a combined enslaught dragged the fatal error into day-

But to the question, how did the blunder first arise? and here is the answer.

By the license of exclusive trade west of the Rocky Mountains, granted to the Huds son's Bay Company in 1821, renewed in 1838, and afterwards repealed by the grant to them of Vancouver Island in 1849, it was unders stood as in the case of the charter of 1670, to include " The sole trade and commerce of all the seas, straits, bays, rivers, lakes, creeks and sounds, &c., together with the fishing of all sorts of fish, whales, sturgeons, and all other Royal fishes," and "all mines Royal,"

Vancouver Island was excepted from the terms of this license by the grant of 1849, and the Hudson Bay Company at that early date, in proposing to colonise the Island, issued a prospectus, now out of print, in which it was stated, "That the right of fishing having been relinquished by the Hudson's Bay Company, every freeholder will enjoy the right of fishing all sorte of fish in the seas, bays and inlets of or surrounding the said Island, and that all the ports and harbors shall be open and Free to them and to all pations either trading or seaking shall be nations, either trading or seeking shelter

A free port was thus proclaimed, in contradistinction to a port in which any vessel attempting to trade, or even to seek shelter, would have been liable to immediate seizure, to say nothing of what would have happened had the crew or captain attempted to entrap

a "Royal fish." Free port, therefore, was in 1849, proclaimed by the Hudson's Bay Company in one sense, and we have retained it in another. Still it is gratifying to notice that the Chief Agent of that Company here holds views so enlightened on the subject, and is not among the number of those who would hold us to the blunder we have inadvertently com-

mitted,
I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, A ROYAL FISH.

OBITUARY.—We deeply regret to announce the death of Mrs. Helmcken, wife of the Honorable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The deceased lady suffered for some days from a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs, and expired on Saturday afternoon last. She was the eldest daughter of Sir James Douglas, and leaves a large circle of relatives and friends in both colonies by whom her loss will be severely felt. The sincere sympathy of the entire community is with the bereaved husband and family who have thus suddenly been deprived of their dearest friend.

Possible.-It has been asserted that the Hon. H. Holbrook has visited Victoria for the purpose of making a bargain for our dredger, with a view to placing her on the Harrison river slough. Holbrook is a clearsighted observing man, who looks a long way ahead. He has arrived, no doubt, at the conclusion, that in the event of union with British Columbia not taking place we should be unable to pay for this expensive luxury, and he would, therefore, submit the first offer to take it off our hands. All right, Mr. H., you shall have the privilege of the first bid.

GUTTA PERCHA PENS .- We are indebted to Messrs. M. W. Waitt & Co. for a box of Thompson's patent gutta percha pens. They are decidedly an improvement on the common steel pen, as they are more easily guided over the paper, and are not so liable to scratch or penetrate it. Bookkeepers, and in fact all business men should give them a terday in the Sunceme Court, and on

BROTCHIE'S LEDGE.—The pilots are about o place a conspicuous beacon or buoy for the Government on this dangerous rock. It consists of a long staff painted white, which is to be fixed in a hole bored in a large block of stone resting on top of the ledge. We

were put to hun.

The Weel Tuesday, I

MASS MEETIN

The Theatre w capacity Thursday zens, brought toge inserted in the da meeting on the qui a tariff. A large cupied seats on t

every class and int Mr. Robert Bi pursuance of the a this meeting was c pediency of raisin by tariff. He ca propose a chairman Mr. Trounce pro mendous hissing,

Mr. Elford secon Mr. Fell moved be called to the ch Mr. W. S. S. G. plause.) Mr. Bishop put when a forest of Bishop then calle Mr. Pidwell, on w

number were raise Mr. Sproat said purpose of the m the Mayor shoul meeting, howeve taking the chair. Mr. Layzell me that Mr. A. T. E Mr. Sproat the calling him to audience on su He had nothing up the meeting benefit-night it (shouss of laugh

and support of vor to maintain give every spea to give every o wished to speak sion of the at every speaker say one quarter must discontin to do so by He liked good s was anything might rely on their pleasure the speakers v the chair as the intelligent asse of the purpose plain the matt come out!"
made amid ge Mr. Pidwe

the interruption sens who he s and disturb (confusion). keep him fro pressing his uproar). H sadvantage der through port. He should suffer porters, who market wit were taxed Whenever t be advocat oh!) He ha in his opini verbally an were well k at the prese he wished o was called. state the

meeting ha terruptions. The chai move the effect that owing to u in the poli The res continued Direct considera

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Legislat are tol out of gauntle discuss benefit (cheers) lumbia we trie uproar. months