

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

## And Victoria Chronicle.

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VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1869.

NO. 12.

### WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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**DAVID W. HIGGINS.**  
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Chas. & Dickson.....New Westminster  
Barrett's Express.....Quebec, B. C.  
do.....Lyon  
do.....Yanfield  
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do.....Cameron River  
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F. Allyn.....11 Chancery Lane, London  
G. Street.....30 Cornhill, London

**THE COUNCIL** on Wednesday got well started in the consideration of the Estimates and passed about one-half of the items, to which little or no opposition was offered by the honorable members, for two reasons; first, because for the first time in the history of the Colony there will be no deficit; and, second, because of the utter hopelessness of any opposition, however well directed or advised, in accomplishing good. While we do not recognize the validity of these reasons (we have always believed a good cause to be worth fighting for even with fearful odds against us) we can sympathize with the despairing circumstances by which a majority of the popular members are surrounded. The people look for a considerable reduction in the expenses of Government instead of an increase; and the famous Yale Convention in its manifesto pointed out economies that might be effected in the government of the country amounting to something like \$60,000—yet, strange to say, no sooner have certain members of that Convention returned to the Legislative Council than they actually introduced resolutions to increase the sum asked for by the Government! Here is economy with

any rate, of authorizing the Municipality to do so. Should the Council adjourn before any scheme has been matured, a twelvemonth must elapse ere another opportunity will occur; and in the meantime there is another summer—perhaps a sickly one—to tide over. Too much time has already been allowed to slip away unimproved, and as the Council may discontinue its sittings in a fortnight, those having the matter in hand should be up and doing.

Friday Jan 22

**THE MECHANICS' LITERARY INSTITUTE**—The entertainment given upon the occasion of the opening of the new rooms of the Mechanics' Literary Institute on Wednesday evening, proved highly successful—both from an artistic and pecuniary point of view, the proceeds being \$71, and the performance of an excellent character. The spacious hall was crowded with a large and intelligent audience, among whom we were glad to observe many of our officials with their families, Officers of the Fleet and prominent citizens. Mr. Lumley Franklin, President of the Institute, called on Chief Justice Needham to declare the rooms formally opened, and dedicated to the purposes indicated by the title of the Society. His Lordship, who was cordially received, performed the task assigned him in a few pleasant remarks, during the course of which he sought to impress upon the minds of the audience the importance of advancing the institution by every means in their power, especially by contributions to the library. The orchestra, which was composed of Messrs Palmer, Hayes, Bushell and others, having played an overture in excellent time and taste; Hon A T Busby, came forward, and in a rich, full tenor voice gave the delightful serenade of "Soft sleep be thine, love," in a manner that drew forth rapturous applause—Mr Busby subsequently sang with great effect a judgment "Banks of Allan-water," which was enthusiastically received. Miss Palmer next gave, "Come into the garden, Maund," and when it is remembered that the piece is a most difficult one, and tenorized to the range and character of "The Foraker" in an exquisitely choice and beautiful style, the most profound silence prevailed during the rendition of the song; and when the young lady's voice had died away the audience insisted upon an encore, when she came forward and sang "Who the Swallows Homeward Fly" with exquisite taste and sweetness. Mr White sang "Summer Dew," in a sweet tenor voice, which drew forth an encore, when he gave the rousing ballad of "Tom Bowling" in an unexceptionable manner. During the evening two quartettes were given by Messrs Busby, Franklin, Emery and Harriet. The proceedings terminated with the National Anthem—Miss Palmer and Messrs Busby and Franklin singing the solos. Too warm praise cannot be awarded the ladies and gentlemen who kindly volunteered their services upon this occasion. They possess not only the thanks of the members of the Institute but of the public as well.

**CARRYING THE JOKE TOO FAR**—Yesterday two young men, who conduct business on Yates street, were arrested by Sergeant Bowden and officer McMillan upon a charge of stealing a number of hats, the property of members and guests of the Tiger Company on the occasion of the first trial of the steam fire-engine, on the 23d of December last. It appears the hats were abstracted from Alhambra Hall while the Company with their friends were partaking of a collation. The police found five hats under the bed of one of the prisoners, who says that they took them by way of a practical joke, and intended to return them—a statement we do not doubt; but, then, by keeping the headpieces a whole month they have put themselves in the position of the man who carried off a chair belonging to another. He pleaded guilty, and said he took it by way of a joke.

**How far did you carry the chair?** queried the magistrate.

"About a mile, your honor."

"Ah!" said the magistrate, "that was carrying the joke a little too far."

In the present case we believe that justice will deal leniently with the young men; but may we not indulge in the hope that we have heard the last of these foolish, pointless, practical jokes which put the sufferers to a deal of inconvenience and sometimes bring the perpetrators to grief?

**APPOINTMENT**—We have reason to congratulate Captain W. H. Franklin of this city upon the fact that he has received from Her Majesty's Government the appointment of Civil Commissioner at the Seychelles Islands, dependencies of Mauritius, lying some 900 miles north of that colony. The salary attached to the office is £800 and a residence. The incumbent is virtually the Governor of the group. The residence of the Commissioner will be on the island of Mahe. Captain Franklin and family, we learn, will sail by the first ship for the scene of his future labors, which he expects to reach via Sydney, Australia.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**—The Council yesterday passed two items of the Estimates after several Notices of Motion were given. The principal debate occurred on the item "Roads, Streets and Bridges," in which hon members brought forward a great number of recommendations in relation to roads in the various districts, in want of repair. The most important of the discussions in this respect was on the motion of hon Helmecken, recommending that the Eagle Pass road be proceeded with as soon as the season will permit, which was carried. The House then proceeded to consider the resolution of the hon Mr Drake touching the Supreme Courts, with closed doors.

**DEPARTURE OF AN HONORABLE MEMBER**—The Enterprise sailed at 9 yesterday morning for New Westminster. Among the passengers was Hon Mr Holbrook who, it is understood, goes up to consult the "hewers of wood"—no, the drawers of wood and the hewers of water and the "seers" upon the advantage of preventing the further beautification of Victoria by removing the capital to the Mainland, i.e., New Westminster. Refreshed with advice like a young giant with old wine, the honorable gentlemen will return to the charge with a file of the Columbian and demolish his opponents.

**PRAISE CAESAR DIAGONA**—Mr Thomas Emery, of Cariboo, who is now in this city, has received a letter from Mr George Weaver, who has a claim in the new diggings at Kootenay. Weaver says the diggings are neither rich nor extensive, but that they will pay fair wages to a law. He would advise no person to come; but should there be a "rush," he hopes it will not take place until

the selection that the Government has made between Kootenay and Columbia rivers, where good diggings may be struck next season.

**YESTERDAY**, being the anniversary of the Prince Consort's death, a special service was performed before Her Majesty and the Royal Family in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore—Times, 19th ult.

**WE read in the Messenger de Tahiti** that H. M. S. Scout, 20 guns, M. A. Price, commander, had reached Tahiti on the 10th of November after a passage of 25 days from Honolulu.

**Tax steamship Ajax** sailed at 6 1/2 o'clock yesterday morning. She carried some thirty passengers from this place, most of whom will return.

#### Legislative Council.

Wednesday, Jan 20, 1869.

**Present**—Hons. Walkem, Hamley, O'Reilly, Sanders, Robson, Grease, Helmecken, Havelock, Alston, Davis, Ball, Busby, Trutch, Ring, Wood, Drake, Holbrook, Young (presiding.)

**Hon Helmecken** presented a petition recommending alterations in the New Mining Act.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**—Hon Helmecken gave notice that he would move for returns in relation to the steamer Douglas, Assay Office, approximate amount of gold taken out last year, and the cost of keeping of the prisoners in goals of Victoria and New Westminster.

**Hon Helmecken** gave notice that he would move for the returns of Customs Duties received in 1867 and 1868.

Hon Helmecken gave notice that he would move in Committee on Supply, that the present salaries of officials are too high; that the Governor's salary should be £2500; Colonial Secretary, £600; Chief Commissioner, £600; Collector of Customs, £600; Attorney General, £350 with practice, and that there was no necessity for a Chief Commissioner of Police.

**Hon Helmecken**, before going into Committee on Supply, would avail himself of the time-honored custom of giving expression to any complaints or stating any grievances, from which the people suffered, and which might be remedied

by government. He conceived that in keeping up the usage, he was securing to all future ages a right of expression at that point of the proceedings, and he was at the same time enlightening the newly elected members on the subject of Parliamentary usage. The first complaint he had to make was in relation to the Eagle Pass, he did not observe any item in the Estimates which referred to it, and concluded from that, that government did not intend to do anything towards the construction this year. If that was the case he could only say that the government was about to inflict serious injury on the country. That good mining ground exists there, there could be no doubt, and it might be of a very extensive character. If the Eagle Pass Road was not made the supplies would all go by way of the American Territory. It was the duty of the Government to foster our own trade, and when the country began to improve it was proper that everything should be done to hasten and encourage that improvement. The cost of forming the road would be trifling and the advantage great; it would open up a vast country beyond, and under any circumstances the road must be made, so that if there was any doubt as to the possible richness of the Kootenay mines the outlay would not be lost; but on the contrary, he believed if the road was made early in the spring the road tolls gained by its construction would be more than sufficient to cover the cost. If the road was not opened it would prevent a great many people coming this way, and would be a great loss to the country. He did not see anything about an express to that country on the Estimates, the dispatch of letters to and from that country was absolutely necessary. He would also call the attention of the government to the very great evil inflicted on the inhabitants of Metochosin and neighborhood from the absence of mail service. The cost would be of a very trifling character and would confer a great benefit on those people. If the government would pay more attention to these small matters they would increase their popularity considerably. He had also to refer to the tariff which required alteration, there were a number of the duties that would bear very great reduction by which means the revenue would not suffer and commerce would be augmented.

**Hon Havelock** gave notice that if there was any purpose, he intended to ask the government to appropriate a sum of money for school purposes at Yale and Lytton.

**Hon Alston** would point out the necessity of adopting the American and Canadian system of compelling Insurance Companies established here to deposit a sum of money as a guarantee of their solvency, such sum would be invested in government securities at a low rate of interest, and would be of advantage to the country.

**The Council** then went into consideration of the Estimates in Committee of the Whole.

Some discussion took place on the number of clerks in the Treasury and Auditor's Departments which arose from the very complex system of accounts adopted from the Imperial requirements.

**On the motion** of hon Walkem an address to His Excellency the Governor was agreed, upon to express the views of the Council to that effect, and pointing out the sending of accounts to England for audit, as unnecessary.

**In relation to the Supreme Court** hon Drake pointed out the great inconvenience from the existence of two Supreme Courts.

**Hon Young** explained that they unfortunately existed we had better make the best of them until some provision had been made for the disposal of one of them.

**Hon Helmecken** strongly impressed upon the Council, the degrading and demoralizing effect upon prisoners in the chain gang consequent upon their being forced to work in the public street, also the cruelty inflicted upon poor lunatics in being sent to the goal. He did not doubt that these poor creatures received all the attention possible, under such circumstances, but the public feeling was against it. He also pointed out the great fallacy of prosecutions under the Indian Liquor Law, which he insisted was a dead letter, and instead of being an advantage was an absolute loss to the country; it filled the prisons without in the least preventing the sale of liquor to Indians it only forced the latter to buy bad liquor made in a neighboring country.

**Hon Davie** related how an Indian in a canoe had called to a man he saw on the beach that he was prepared to sell him any quantity of whiskey, and held up a five gallon tin. The Indians obtained all the liquor they wanted, so that the law in that regard had no effect whatever, except to aggravate the evil.

**Hon Davie** moved that the Sergeant of

Police, on account of special services extending over a period of about three months [viz, from the middle of August to the middle of October, of the present year] in relation to the then prevailing pestilence of small pox, during which both he and his family were especially exposed to contagion, be awarded a gratuity of one hundred and fifty dollars. The hon member described in glowing terms the value of the services of Sergeant Bowden during the prevalence of small pox in this city. It was ultimately decided to leave the matter in the hands of the hon Colonial Secretary, who would lay the matter before His Excellency the Governor.

**Hon Ring**, on the subject of Customs' expenditure, suggested that by bringing in a Bill to abolish a large amount of duties and reducing others to a minimum.

**Hon Walkem** offered a resolution recommending that the Clerk and Chief Constable at Cariboo be reinstated in their former emoluments, as the proposed reduction in the salaries of these gentlemen was unfair, and the proposed sum quite insufficient as remuneration. The resolution was carried.

**Hon Sanders** carried a resolution recommending an increase of \$150 in the salary of the Constable and Toll Collector at Clifton.

In reply to a question, the hon Colonial Secretary thought the distribution of the sum set down for Hospitals would be as follows—\$3000 for Victoria, \$3000 for New Westminster, \$3000 for Cariboo, and \$1000 to come and go upon.

A resolution was agreed upon recommending the Governor to pay off the indebtedness of the Victoria and New Westminster Hospitals.

The Committee on Motion, rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The Estimates will be again considered tomorrow.

The Mining Bill was postponed till Friday, and the Fence Bill till Monday next.

**Hon Ring** moved—that His Excellency the Governor be requested to furnish a return of estates of intestates in Vancouver Island, and the amount now lying to the credit of intestate fund, with a view to the amendment of the law of Probate Court. Hon members must know that there is not only a large reduction of the estate of deceased persons, effected by the retaining process of court fees, but there is an absolute power in the Judge to decide, not only upon the law, but also on the fact, and this latter by the aid or rather the obstructions of endless affidavits. Hon members must know that this court as it now stands is the sickly offspring of ecclesiastical decrees, and healthy legal reform, which after all is but a rickety building, in a Colonial point of view. He would not insinuate that any of the estates is now applied *pro salute animarum* as of old, but he would affirm that the costs of the present court are not *pro salute animarum* of those entitled to the estate. He would call attention to the fact that all contentious business of the court is carried on by the camber

and fact left to the Judge alone, with an appeal to the sovereign in council at the distance from us of the earth's diameter. With these hints he trusted that hon members would support his motion.

**On division** the motion was lost, the members being 9 to 2, the hon mover and the hon Drake being the only votes in the affirmative.

**Hon Robson** withdrew his motion relative to the mouth of the Fraser river.

**Hon Alston's** motion to bring in a bill for the registration of births, deaths and marriages was ultimately agreed to.

**Hon Grease** obtained leave to bring in a bill for removing the registered office of the Queen Charlotte Coal Company. Read a first-time second reading for Monday.

**Hon Holbrook**, on standing orders being suspended, gave notice that he would bring in a motion recommending that members from the mainland be paid their expenses while attending the Council.

The Council adjourned till 1 p.m. tomorrow.

**TO A WARNING TO FASHIONABLE DRINKERS**—The Evening Mail of December 28th says: Having stirred up a genuine sensation among the retail grocers of the city, by its exposures of light weights and adulterations, the world has now attacked a far more obnoxious and vulnerable class of dealers—the vendors of liquors by the glass. To make its exposures more effective, samples of the most expensive whiskey and brandy were bought some time since by the World's commissioners, at several of the most fashionable beer-rooms in the city, and subjected to chemical analysis by Prof. John C. Draper. The results obtained will astonish and horrify the gentlemen who have been in the habit of taking their "toddy" at these places under the delusion that high prices insured a pure and unadulterated article. At but one bar in the list was the brandy obtained pure, and in this instance it was greatly diluted. The whiskey was better, but generally contained more or less of the poisonous fuel oil and of tannin, and was invariably diluted. The generalization from the facts obtained is that in our day there is barely one gallon in a hundred thousand manufactured that is not adulterated or badly refined. This may be a rather broad statement, but it is substantially justified by the facts. At all events it is undoubtedly true that even those who can afford to pay the highest prices for liquors, at the most reputable bars, will in a majority of cases, drink an adulterated and poisonous article. It is this fact that accounts for the fearful ravages of disease among the fashionable drinkers of the day. The adulterated liquors derange the system, cause a morbid condition which demands a continuance of the poison, erode the brain, and make premature drunkards. This fearful and incontrovertible fact should be burned into the mind of every young man in the country.

**FRED PAYNE** has removed his Cheap Shaving Shop to the opposite side of Johnson street, just above the Miner's Saloon.

#### Council.

Thursday, Jan 14th.

At the secret session on the United States a late hour. On the session, Mr Ring on the amendment of justice in the Colony, being anticipated on Attorney General members.

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