

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, June 14, 1864.

THE CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE.

This body is determined to make a deep niche for itself in the history of Vancouver Island. Its age itself, for a Parliamentary Committee, is sufficient to invest it with that peculiar interest which surrounds Egyptian pyramids and Irish round towers. Coming into existence in September, 1863, it has dragged its slow length along till June, 1864 and seems, in its last stage to be more vigorous than even when it was in its maturity. It works like a Hercules, delves into quarries of evidence with all the indefatigable qualities of jound youth, draws up reports that would fill a comfortably sized library, and then, when the serious business is over—when other committees would be exhausted, and would follow the care-worn chairman to the House, with a desperate desire that their wearied limbs should be laid on the table with the report—our Committee, as if it had discovered the life-renewing elixir, jumps on the bench with the activity of the "Bounding Brothers," while its stick in true Donnybrook fashion over its head, and with something that sounds suspiciously like an Indian war-whoop, darts any one to tread on the tails of its coat." There is something truly refreshing about this vivacity—something akin to the delight we experience when we see the ball with eyes flashing, lead bent, and tail erect, the sole tenant of the china shop. We know we shall hear the crash, we are prepared to see the magnificent vase become a hundred irregular fragments; but the sight is grand, and the destruction only so much "potter's clay." Men who have no soul for the beautiful—who are as debased as the frightfully material American, who could only see in the Falls of Niagara a scandalous waste of water power—will, no doubt, object to these graceful antics of the Committee. They will merely look at the matter as they always do in a purely practical light, and condemn the members for what they would call the veriest child's games. They will persist that, between the unseemly stools of personal vanity and personal interest, the public welfare is likely to come to the ground. Dr. Trimble, they will say, was over-anxious to carry his point at all hazards. Messrs. Tolmie and DeCosmos, afflicted with injured personal dignity, and Dr. Powell with indifference, when the vote came on in the Committee. They will object to these private frolics of rushing from the room instead of voting, and they will surely set their face against a Chairman's coup d'etat. For our part, in the present stagnant condition of affairs, we are willing to accept the "scene" in yesterday's House with thankfulness and even gratitude. If we might be allowed to make a suggestion it would be that the tables should be hereafter reversed and the members allowed more physical scope. There is something exceedingly uncomfortable in being jammed between two pieces of furniture, when you wish to break that fellow's skull who is sitting opposite. We like these ebullitions of juvenile spirit. We admire the playful gambols that threaten to destroy the structure which has been raised with so much labor. We adore the self-sacrifice which aims at making everything bear tribute to itself.

On the principle, doubtless, that the closer a thing is confined the greater is the report, the wisdom of the Committee decided that their report, by the exclusion of reporters, should be one that would awaken echoes on Holborn Hill as well as on Mount Tolmie. They have found, however, that there is a safeguard in publicity—that had the newspaper reporters been present throughout the recent Committee meetings, the members would not have so far forgot themselves. They "have done the State some service," let no further exhibitions of weakness mar the important work which they have undertaken to perform, and let one and all consider that the question is not between one member and another, but between the public of Vancouver Island and the Imperial authorities.

The TELEGRAPH.—We understand from our correspondent at Olympia, W. T., that the direction of the telegraph line from that place to this city may be considered to have been definitely decided upon as follows: From Olympia to Steilacoom and Seattle; from Sandy Point, six miles below Seattle, five miles of submarine cable to Appleton Cove; thence to Port Gamble, and three miles of submarine to Whisky Spit; thence via Port Ludow, Port Discovery and the mouth of the E-ba River; thence about ten miles of submarine to Beechy Head, and thence to Victoria; Port Madison, Port Townsend and other places are thus passed by, but they may probably have branches.

A NEW LITERARY PAPER.—The "California" is the name of a new, first-class literary journal, about to make its appearance in San Francisco. C. H. Webb, one of the most sagacious, graceful and accomplished writers in this state, is announced as the editor and proprietor. Mr. Webb is well known to California, from his former connection with the Bulletin, of which paper he was the popular "local" for a year or so.

DEPARTURE OF THE EXPLORERS.

The Exploring Expedition sailed on the 6th of June at 12 o'clock, for Cowichan, their starting point for the interior. A large number of persons collected on the wharf to witness their departure and wish the voyagers "God speed." Just previous to the embarkation His Excellency the Governor came down, and addressed them a few words, saying that they were setting out on an arduous undertaking, and the eyes of the whole community were upon them. He urged on them the absolute necessity of implicit obedience to their commander, with out which they could not expect to succeed, and reminded them that they were picked out from a large population, and therefore a great deal would be expected from them. He concluded by wishing them every success. Dr. Brown in a few words thanked His Excellency for his good advice and kind wishes, and hoped the expedition would fulfill all the expectations which had been laid on it. The expedition then stepped on board the gunboat, which moved off amid the cheers of the assembled crowd. The following are the names of the parties comprising the expedition:

Robert Brown, B. A., Commander and agent for the Government; Y. P. Leach, late corporal of the Royal Engineers, second in command; F. W. Whymper, artist; and John Butte, late R. E.; John Meade, do; Ronald McDonald; J. M. Foley; A. Barnston, and Henry F. Lewis. A half-breed hunter was engaged at Cowichan. Dr. Brown will send back from Cowichan by the Grappler the plan of his first march, and indicate the points to which supplies are to be sent in the course of a month from now.

Stout Indians to be Extirminated.—The St. Louis correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette writes that the largest Indian expedition ever fitted out on the continent is now moving toward Idaho, having for its object the subjugation and extermination of the Sioux Indians. The entire organizing equipment and completing this mammoth enterprise has been conducted under the direction of General Sully—headquarters in St. Louis. The expedition will number three thousand cavalry and mounted infantry, with eight or ten pieces of cannon, and such a force of friendly Indians, consisting of Mandanias, Beas, Crow, Delawares and Shawnees as General Sully can secure. The object is to visit the entire territory west of the Missouri river of the hostile savage, and leave it free from danger from the occupation of the thousands of emigrants flocking to the districts where gold and silver abound.

Gen. Sully will establish an infantry post from Idaho to the Missouri river, and across to Minnesota, and the fully intends to make no half work of the undertaking. It is quite significant that the government takes unusual interest in this Indian expedition, the secret of which, if not found in the rich mines of Idaho, will hardly be found elsewhere. It is to protect the interests of the government to protect the migration of miners to Idaho, and this can only be done by an enterprise as large and powerful as that committed to the experience of Gen. Sully. The General suggested to the War Department the idea of sending a number of the rebel prisoners now in our hands as soldiers in this expedition, but no communication was received in return, and the presumption is the idea was not approved.

Gen. Sully's opinion that there is good fighting material among the rebel prisoners, many of whom are not only willing, but anxious to take the oath of allegiance, is probably correct, also that the use thus made of them would serve to break them into a practical allegiance to the old Government; again, the War Department probably concluded that the resources of the War are not sufficient to achieve all the purposes of the Government, and that its history will present a clearer page by not making any use whatsoever of those who have taken up arms to destroy it. Gen. Sully will leave for active duties in the field in the course of the next ten days.

Death of a Notable Rebel General.—Richmond papers report the death of the rebel Maj Gen J. E. Stuart who was shot in some late battle or skirmish. Probably he received his death wound during the engagement with Sheridan's Cavalry last week whose amazing raid he attempted to check. Stuart was a Virginian and scarcely 30 years old at the time of his death. He graduated at West Point ten years ago, married the daughter of the Union Gen. Philip Sheridan, and was charged with all the Confederate cavalry at the first battle of Bull Run. Young as he was "Jeb Stuart" for the abundance of his initials gave him an easy popularity in the ranks of the Rebels. When he first went to exploring in that line people began to ask why he had no cavalry, no dashing dardevil break-neck riders; the want was very soon supplied, but not till Stuart had made his reputation. His first grand raid was in June, 1862, when he rode through the right wing of McClellan's Potomac army, saw all that was to be seen between the Potomac and Chickahominy, captured some prisoners, did some mischief, astonished our people with his impudence, rode entirely around our army and back to Richmond, where Lee in a general order glorified him immensely. In the midst of a thunderstorm of August of the same year he came down like a flash of lightning upon Pope's headquarters at Carters Station, and captured Pope's papers. In October, 1862, he made his famous raid into Pennsylvania, surrounding in the course of the ride the entire Army of the Potomac. When Lee was arranging for his second visit to "my Maryland," Stuart gathered his cavalry, 12,000 in number, at Culpepper; but by this time some other folks had learned to ride, and Stoneman, under orders of Hooker, dashed down upon Stuart, spoiled the programme and caused a postponement of the contemplated invasion of the North. That Stuart was brave and very daring may be a great score testified, but he lost much of his prestige by the cultivation of the cavalry arm of the service in an army, and the development of several raiders who equalled his exploits, and have generally made their effect as well as brilliant. He was formerly reported as very much given to profanity, but

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, June 7. The House met yesterday at 3:15 p. m. Present, Messrs. Trimble, Tolmie, Franklin, Powell, Street, Duncan, Denness, and DeCosmos.

Mr. Denness seconded. Dr. Powell, as a member of the committee, rose to ask the House if the report had been adopted by the committee, when the majority did not vote.

Dr. Trimble said it had been adopted. If the hon. gentleman did not think it worth his while to vote, that was his own affair. Dr. Powell wished to rise to a point of order, and also to give his reasons for declining to vote. In doing so he was not going to find fault with the report. The proceedings of the Crown Lands Committee on this report were entirely private. The reporters of the press were excluded; yet it was publicly stated that he had declined to vote on the report, and reasons, which were untrue, were assigned for his action. Now, he declined to vote simply because he considered the conduct of the Chairman on the occasion unfair. Two honorable gentlemen having retired, the Chairman persisted in putting the motion; but one member voted, and the Chairman asked him (Dr. Powell) if he had voted, when he told him that he assuredly had not.

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ENGLISH ITEMS.

THE QUEEN.—The Spectator, speaking of her Majesty, says:—On Wednesday the Queen visited the Horticultural Gardens, where about 30 000 visitors were collected; on the 6th of April a reception will be given to all the diplomatic body, and on the 13th a Court will be held for a limited number of distinguished persons. There has been a great deal of recrimination in the papers as to the propriety of mentioning the irritation of the Londoners at the absence of their Sovereign, but it seems a little absurd. It is certainly no ill compliment to tell the Queen that her people wish to see her among them; the insult would lie in affirming just the reverse. There is a disposition among the press just now to affect a worship of the Court, which will before long produce a dangerous reaction. The penny press in particular indulges in language which must be as sickening to the Palace as it is to all people who remember that England remains still, in theory at least, a constitutional monarchy. The nation respects itself in respecting its present Sovereign, but there is a line between respect and adulation, and it is oversteered when her Majesty is told that a tree will grow the faster because planted by Royal hands.

THE LONDON VOLUNTEERS.—The review of the London Volunteers, which took place every Easter Monday, was held this year upon Farley Heath. Sixteen thousand men were transported by two railways without difficulty to the spot, and the main avenues were only impeded by the want of sufficient space. The firing was remarked as particularly quick and heavy, and only two serious accidents occurred—one to a volunteer who broke his leg, and another to a clergyman, who was pierced by a rainrod through the groin, and has since died. The "march past," which usually closes the review, was this year rendered impossible by want of space and the pressure of the crowd.

GARIBOLDI IN ENGLAND.—The entry of Garibaldi in London has been fixed for Monday—it was Saturday, but the court selected accidentally the same hour for a grand reception—and the committee have chosen a very curious route. Instead of coming to the Waterloo station, the General is to leave the railway at Nine Elms, then proceed through one of the most damp of the Irish quarters by Westminster Bridge to Stafford House. If the committee wished for a riot they could not have chosen a better route, and we trust Cardinal Wiseman has received a hint as to his responsibility. There is not a Minister in the House against whom it would be easy to carry a vote of censure as Sir George Grey. The Corporation of London are, we perceive, done itself the honor to vote Garibaldi the freedom of the City; and most of the large towns are voting him a diploma. Even the German refugees, who are all for suppressing Denmark, intend to present him with an address in honor of his success in doing that which they condemn the Danes for attempting to do. Independence and unity is a grand cry, but it sounds as well in Danish as in Italian.

THE POPE.—On Easter Sunday the poor old Pope was just able to give his benediction "Urbi et orbi" in St. Peter's. The appearance, it is said, greatly disheartened his great "faction" on Christmas Day. The Church was filled with French soldiers, and when after a long delay the "silver trumpet" which the Times correspondent tells are only brass bands—sounded from the high balcony, when it would be easy to slide the altar in his chair, from which he never moved. His voice, usually clear and sonorous, was scarcely heard in the responses to the Mass; and when he came to pronounce his benediction inside the church—for the day was too thoroughly wet for the open air—his voice was so much overcome with emotion that he paused and covered his eyes; then, at length commanding his voice, he completed the far-aiming if not far-reaching benediction which the caissons took up and proclaimed to the city at least so much of the surrounding "orb" as the waves of sound could reach. There are few sadder spectacles than the melancholy which sometimes falls on the enthusiast, when towards the close of a long career of eagerly nursed faith God seems to disinherit his hasty drafts on the "degrees of Providence." No doubt the poor old Pope repeats bitterly in his heart "Where is the promise of His coming?" when he sees his own life flickering in the socket, feels that even what he has left is due to the French mercenaries, and looks at the rapidly vanishing temporal dominion which he had alone transmitted to his successor.

THE MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—Speaking of the recent Ministerial changes, the Spectator says:—Four changes in the Ministry have been announced this week—His Grace the Duke of Newcastle is too seriously ill to retain office, and the Cabinet loses the advice of an experienced and able, though somewhat impulsive man. The Secretaryship of the Colonies this year has been filled by Mr. Cardwell, a statesman who adds, if nothing else, at least ballast to the good ship, and Lord Clarendon has accepted the good ship, and the French Court, baited by the Tories and the French Court, still his connection with the Government had become a source of weakness, has generously resigned, and it is rumored that he will be succeeded by Mr. Chichester Fortescue, with a Privy Councilship as compensation. That gentleman is Under Secretary for the Colonies, but as his new chief is a commander the office can be more conveniently held by a Peer.

TRADE AND REVENUE.—The Trade and Revenue Returns for the year have been published, and are really extraordinary. The total amount after all remissions of taxation is £70,208,963, against £70,603,561, last year, and as Mr. Gladstone demanded only about £67,200,000, he has a surplus of nearly two millions and a half. This result has been produced in spite of a remission of the income-tax to the amount of £1,453,000, and of the great reduction on tea, by the increase in every other branch of the revenue.

REMARKABLY QUICK TRIP.—The Stockton Independent states that the passengers who left San Francisco April 23rd, on the Opposition Line for New York, reached their destination in the short period of twenty-two days.

MOWER.

CONFIDENCE, offer machine for this region to any Mower's sale reputation it has made in surpassing any other.

Such Stronger and more than; Cut much closer than; and no side draught; better to say the BUCKING any Mower to cut the against it.

as a Reaper. The machine which belong to the either as a Mower or Platform and Reel; the of them, we have to, to supply the demand; to the wants of California; "Combined Machine for self to every surface of and deliver its grain over the axle of the on the Platform, where light.

SOLE AGENTS: Maryville for the

nois" Header. In which, during the past and given satisfaction; been tried have proved full-drawn from the Market

MAN'S Thrasher. assortment of

WILEY & CO., and Battery streets, San Francisco.

IMPLEMENTS! and Battery streets, San Francisco.

WILEY & CO., and Battery streets, San Francisco.