

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, delve 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 Doinybroke fashion over its head, and with something that sounds suspiciously like an Indian war-whoop, dars any one to tread on the tails of its coat."

DEPARTURE OF THE EXPLORERS.

The Exploring Expedition sailed on the G. Apple on Tuesday 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 in 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 fulfil 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; F. P. Leach, lieutenant of the Royal Engineers, second in command; F. W. Whymper, artist; and John Buttle, 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 point to which supplies are to be sent in the course of a month from now.

St. Louis 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 General Sully—headquarters in St. Louis. The expedition will number three thousand men, consisting of regulars, mounted infantry, and cavalry, and a large force of friendly Indians, consisting of Mandan, Apsa, Crow, Delaware, and Shawnee. General Sully can secure no assistance as scouts, spies or warriors. 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.

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. General Lee had charge of 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 popular name, was the father of rustlers. When first set to exploding in that line people began to ask why he had no cavalry, no dashing dark-devil 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 his 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 folk 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.

WAIT FOR VICTORIA.

Mr. Trimble moved for the issue of the writ for Victoria to fill up the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Young. Mr. DeCosmos seconded, and the motion was put and carried.

CROWN LANDS REPORT.

Dr. Trimble rose and said he had the honor to lay before the House the report of the Crown Lands Committee, and moved its adoption. Mr. Denness seconded. Mr. 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 would not insist on the report, 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 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.

Mr. DeCosmos said, as Dr. Powell had brought the circumstance up, he could substantiate the gentleman's statements. He himself must confess that the Chairman's conduct on the occasion was exceedingly arbitrary and unworthy the Chairman of any Committee appointed by that House.

The Chairman rose to protest against such language being used. It was laying it on too strong, and he would not permit such impertinence. So far as his conduct in the committee was concerned, it was characterized by honesty, probity and fairness. Dr. Trimble asked him if he had voted. Mr. DeCosmos said notwithstanding the interruption of the hon. gentleman, he would characterize his conduct as unworthy the Chairman of any Committee.

Dr. Trimble wished to ask protection from that House. I will not sit here and listen to his impertinence and insulting statements. I will not allow any man to make them.

Mr. DeCosmos—I throw the threats of the hon. gentleman, back in his teeth. If the hon. gentleman, as Chairman of a Committee, had acted properly and on the merits of the case alone, he (Dr. Trimble) would have scorned his present action. I throw the hon. gentleman aside (oh and laughter), and will speak to the incidents, as they occurred.

When I rose to speak on the motion that was about to be put by the Committee, the Chairman stopped me and would not allow me to proceed, in consequence of which I left the room. My colleague, for the same reason, would not vote, and for it arbitrary conduct on the part of the Chairman I hold that the report has not been adopted.

Dr. Trimble wished to explain away the charges that had been made about arbitrary conduct. There were three motions laid before the Committee, one by Dr. Tolmie, one by Mr. DeCosmos, and one by Mr. Denness. The latter motion in his opinion being the only proper motion it was put.

Mr. Denness voted in his favor. Dr. Powell was in his chair when he (Dr. Trimble) put the question.

Dr. Powell—the hon. gentlemen asked him (Dr. Powell) if he had voted, when he was leaving for the door. He was sorry to hear that some hon. gentleman had made statements with regard to his action in the Committee that had led to misstatements, being made outside.

Dr. Trimble—The matter was made public in that House.

Dr. Powell—It was not brought up at all at the time to which I allude.

Dr. Tolmie wished to state the truth, which he hoped would not be offensive. He must say that the Chairman's conduct in the Committee on the occasion in question in his extreme.

Mr. DeCosmos—Would he allow me to speak?

Dr. Tolmie—No; and he (Dr. Tolmie) must allude to another occasion—a night meeting when the action of the Chairman was equally improper.

Dr. Powell wished to know if the report was in order, when it was acknowledged that but one member of the Committee had voted.

Dr. Trimble (to Dr. Powell)—Did I not put the eyes and nose? Why didn't you vote?

Mr. Denness believed the proceedings of the Committee perfectly regular. It wasn't his fault if the other gentlemen left the room, all he could say was that the report was unanimously adopted before he (Mr. Denness) left, and before Dr. Powell left.

Dr. Powell moved that the report be re-committed.

Dr. Tolmie seconded.

The Speaker said the minutes ought to be sufficient to decide whether or not the report is informal. He found by reading them that there was but one vote recorded—the affirmative one, and nothing recorded of the report was therefore not in order.

After remarks from Messrs. Trimble, Franklin and Street, the Speaker put his own decision to the House when it was carried by majority of five to three, the ayes being Messrs. Tolmie, Franklin, Street, Powell and DeCosmos, and the noes, Messrs. Trimble, Duncan, and Denness.

The Speaker said the report must go back to the Committee, and the question must again be brought up whether the report be adopted. There was one thing which he would show out to the Committee as a hint, which was this: whether the Committee had

power to make any report of their opinions.

at all. He did not give this as a decision, but simply for the consideration of the Committee.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, June 7, '64.

Council met at 2 30 p. m. Present: The Hon. President, Treasurer, Attorney General, Surveyor General and D. Fraser.

This bill was introduced into the Council, and referred to the Committee on Standing Orders.

CONCERNING THE REPORTS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. This bill was also referred to the Standing Orders Committee.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BILL. This bill came up in committee, the hon. President in the chair. The bill provided for Clauses 1 and 2 of the bill passed. On clause 3, Hon. D. Fraser said the property of the Fire Department belonged to the colony, and all the firemen wished was to have the use and care of it. The President said the phrase "deemed the property of the Fire Department for the purposes of this Act," was simply to enable them to prosecute any parties injuring the property.

Hon. D. Fraser moved that the clause be read and after the passing of this act, the whole of the apparatus, &c. &c. shall be deemed to be the property of the Fire Department, for the purposes of this Act, stand as a part of the bill. Seconded by hon. Surveyor General, and carried.

Hon. D. Fraser moved that the clause as read stand as part of the bill, but that the words "that the exemption from jury duty should only extend to 55 members of each of the three fire companies," be struck out.

Hon. Mr. Watson moved that the whole of the 4th clause in the original bill relating to jury duty be struck out.

The hon. President said this bill had been carefully considered in a previous committee, and Clauses 5 and 6 struck out. The exemption of the Fire Department would have taken 200 jurors from the small jury list, and thrown a heavy burden on the rest. It was for this reason that the former bill had been thrown out. The hon. gentleman said that if this exemption were granted to the firemen, the best thing would be an application from the Volunteers Rifle Company also wishing to be exempt, and at that rate we would soon have no jury list at all. For these reasons he must agree with the hon. Treasurer in striking out the whole clause.

Hon. D. Fraser quite agreed with the principle of what the hon. President had stated, but he believed that a good deal of misapprehension existed as to the number of jurors that would be taken from the list by the exemption of the firemen. The total jury list of last year was 661. This year it would be larger; this did not include those in the remote districts, who would raise the number to 1055. Deduct a third from this for contingencies, which would leave 710 for Victoria, Esquimaux and District, and the exemption of the firemen would leave only 470, which was a mistake to say that the full number of jurors would be withdrawn from jury duty.

The object of asking the exemption was to fill up the fire company with active volunteers, and everywhere that volunteer fire companies existed, they looked out as a right that they should be exempt from jury duty. A very great number of the firemen were already exempt from jury duty, having only 85 new subject to that duty; of this 85, only 35, according to the Sheriff's returns, had served last year. The Sheriff said candidly that he thought the firemen had nothing to complain of but he added that he could now easily procure a sufficient number of jurors by calling on the fire department. The hon. Speaker said 1861 had expended a very large sum from their private funds, besides the amount received from the authorities; they had also spent a great deal of time over their duties. A full brigade of 100 could be prepared to lay before the House, and he had no reason to suppose that it would be more efficient than a volunteer one. His opinion was strongly in favor of the present mode. The hon. speaker alluded to the fire department being composed of both American and British subjects, which he thought had been of great benefit in removing asperities of national feeling.

The hon. Surveyor General fully concurred with what had just fallen from the hon. gentleman.

The hon. President said he was not aware that the Fire Companies had expended so much of their private means. He could readily see that this might have been necessary in early times, but now when there were so many parties, Insurance Companies, &c., so many parties being protected from fire, he thought they should not be obliged to put their hands in their pockets.

The President here put Mr. Watson's amendment, to strike out the clause, which was lost, Mr. Watson for Mr. Fraser and the Surveyor General against. The President said he concurred with Mr. Watson, and the votes were therefore equal.

The hon. Surveyor General said he thought the President had only a casting vote. The President said he stood in a different position from the Speaker of the House of Assembly; he had a vote as President, and also as Chairman of Committee. He would, however, withdraw his vote and allow the majority to be decided.

The Council were now reading and reporting progress, and the Council adjourned till Thursday next at 2 p. m.

ENGLISH ITEMS.

THE QUEEN.—The Spectator, speaking of her Majesty, says:—On Wednesday the Queen visited the Horticultural Gardens, where about 30 0 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 result 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 overstepped 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 at 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 fringe 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 ramrod 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.

GENERAL WATSON IN ENGLAND.—The entry of General Watson into 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, and 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, (Hamboldi the freedom of the City, and most of the large towns are voting him a dose. 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 "Ubi et ubi" in St. Peter's. The appearance, it is said, greatly diminished since his last great "faucion" 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 right balcony, when the Pope drove towards 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 chancel—for the day was too thoroughly wet for the open air—there were so many people weeping 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 "urb" as the waves of sound could reach. There are few sadder spectacles than the melancholy which sometimes falls on a enthusiast, when towards the close of a long career of eagerly nursed faith God seems to disavour his hasty drafts on "the decrees 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, foels that even what he has left is due to the French mercenaries, and looks at the rapidly vaulting temporal dominion which he had alone transmit 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 a valuable and 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 that he shall represent England at the approaching Conference. Mr. Stanley, till 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 £70,503,561, 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.

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