

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 5. NO. 2. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1864. NO. 10.

**THE BRITISH COLONIST**  
PUBLISHED  
EVERY MORNING.  
(Sundays Excepted.)  
AT VICTORIA, V. I.  
TERMS:  
For Annun. in advance, by Mail, ..... \$10 00  
For Six Months, ..... 6 00  
For One Year, ..... 12 00  
Single Copies, ..... 10  
Advertisements inserted on the most reasonable terms.

**THE WEEKLY COLONIST.**  
Published to Subscribers for \$2 a year, \$4 for six months, in advance, payable at the office.

**NOTICE.**  
L. P. FISHER is our only authorized Agent for the collecting of advertisements, etc., in San Francisco.

**AGENTS.**  
John Mackin, .. New Westminster.  
Mr. Clarkson, .. New Westminster.  
Kimball & Gladwin, .. York & Queen's B. C.  
Bernard's Express, .. Comox.  
W. H. Burdette, .. Douglas.  
J. M. Daly, .. San Francisco.  
L. P. Fisher, .. Clement's Lane, London.  
F. Algar, .. 30 Cornhill, London.  
G. Street, .. 30 Cornhill, London.

**THE RIGHT MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE.**

Socrates, speaking of public men and matters affecting the public welfare of nations, said, and with considerable truth, that "the happiest mortals were those whose own affairs kept them fully occupied, and who could get through life without being called upon to intermeddle in affairs of state, but that those only who took upon themselves the burden of legislation or some other public work, deserved well of their fellow-citizens." We are not prepared to go quite so far as the Grecian philosopher, for in these modern times it seems to be not impossible for men, who would not come within the above category, to be worthy of the esteem and praise of their neighbors. In colonies, however, it must be acknowledged that those who voluntarily take a part in building up the general prosperity of their country and lead their side to frame laws for the maintenance of order and the preservation of good government in the land, are the men whose names in future history will be connected with the colony in which they live, and the

proper persons to undertake the direction of public affairs. Great orators do not always make great statesmen, and in colonial parliaments practical men of business, who can express their views clearly and unhesitatingly, are of more use in carrying on the business of the country than men of brilliant talent. We require in our legislators much plodding industry and a quick perception of ideas, rather than ambitious political views. At present, with only a small number of public men proportionate to our population, we are happily not divided into any great sectional divisions of parties. There can be no doubt that those who represent the people in the House of Assembly are all united by the endeavor to do that which is best for the best for the public good. It is, nevertheless, very important that the public should take care that, so far as it is possible for them to arrange it, the best men shall make their laws. We have three gentlemen at present before us, the electors of Victoria study well their addresses, and their antecedents; two of them are tried public servants, judging them by the popular standard we will not presume to say that either of them deserve otherwise than well of their fellow-citizens. In the present House of Assembly the presence of a Liberal member of decided and known opinions, and who boldly expresses his views is much to be desired—no vacillation on main questions can be tolerated. The Liberal party have a good candidate before them, and we doubt not that the electors will show him their appreciation of his views, and of his conduct as a member of the first municipal Council when the polling day arrives.

**ORCHARDING.**

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir:—If one may judge by the large quantity of fruit that is brought into this market from Washington Territory, California, and other places, and the ready sale it meets with at fair prices, orcharding offers one of the best and most certain investments that can engage the attention of either the landholder or farmer of this or the neighboring colony. Our soil and climate are the native home of many of the choicest fruits. The apple, pear, plum and cherry, flourish most luxuriantly, both here and in the sister colony, and under a judicious system of planting there can be no doubt as good returns can be obtained from orchards in this island and British Columbia as from any part of the neighboring States, where they are known to bring a high price.

**JAMES BAY NURSERY.**

**THE CANDIDATES AND THE ALIEN QUESTION.**

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir:—I am very sorry it has happened that we are obliged to go through all the excitement of another election, but as we have no choice in the matter, we had as well roll up our sleeves and pitch in. We have three candidates in the field. Mr. Franklin is quite sound on the subject of our free port; he will also support liberal mining laws; he is strongly in favor of upholding the Mayor and Council; the next good thing he intends to do for us is to support a very liberal school system; listen I hope he does not intend to support it in the way he did during the term in which he speaks of having served us faithfully. Mr. Seaby undertakes to do a great many good things for us if we will return him. I have no doubt but that Mr. Seaby would make a good worker if he should be returned. Mr. Welch, the active wiry Mr. Welch, who moves about like a man of business—he too will do as much as the next, or any other man, if returned. Now, Mr. Editor, it would be thought, after so much has been said with regard to aliens within the last six weeks, both in Parliament and through the newspapers, that these gentlemen would have said something (if for no other purpose than a bid for votes) about us poor devils who have been so unfortunate as to be born in a foreign land, for which cause our rights are to be limited. Now let me ask, do these gentlemen, under the circumstances, think it would be dearly in us to support them? Let them declare themselves openly on this subject.  
AN ALIEN.  
Victoria, January 16th.

**OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN.**—The aspirants to the vacant seat for the city, determined not to let the grass grow under their feet in the race for the prize. Mr. Selim Franklin, as will be seen in another part of our columns, fires the first shot, and so far has the advantage, being the first in the field. Mr. Franklin alludes to his three years previous services in the House, as to the nature of which he refers the electors, not to the reports of the day, but to the records of the House (rather difficult of access to the majority of the electors). He pledges himself to address the continuance of the Free Port, liberal mining laws, a new Incorporation Act, a liberal school system, and last, but not least, the encouragement of female immigration—a point on which the advocacy of it would certainly have more weight, did he enforce his views by practical example. He concludes by taking an independent stand, irrespective of party. Mr. Seaby also announces his intention of offering himself, and has sent us in his address for publication, but unfortunately, too late for this day's issue; it will appear to-morrow morning. Several other gentlemen are spoken of as likely to stand, but have not as yet publicly declared their intentions. Mr. W. J. McDonald has been solicited by his friends to come forward, but declines. Mr. Yates, who has also been spoken of, is not likely to offer himself. Mr. Tronco's name has likewise appeared as a probable candidate, but we understand he has no intention of running. There will probably be four or five in the field, and the election is consequently likely to be rather an exciting one.

**REVISION OF THE VOTERS' LIST.**

VICTORIA, V. I., JANUARY 18th, 1864.  
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir:—From remarks in to-day's issue of both our leading journals it would seem that there is considerable doubt as to whether or not electors who have this year for the first time registered their claims to vote, will be allowed to exercise their franchise at the coming election. In a country like this, where there is little if any such thing as party feeling, and where, it is to be hoped, corruption has not as yet been introduced or is likely to be, to secure the return of members to the Legislature of the colony, there is no temptation to register bogus voters. But even if a few parties may have done so, would it be at all just to forbid a large number of properly qualified voters the exercise of their privileges on that account? In countries much older than this and whose population is much greater, it is not considered necessary that those who have a bona fide claim to the franchise should be excluded from the polls or their names struck out of the returns on the production of conclusive evidence of their disqualification. Cannot the same be done here? It is not, I think, known, Mr. Editor, that you are an advocate for liberal measures, I take the liberty of requesting that you will find a corner for this in your valuable paper.  
A VOTER.

**WAR BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.**

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir:—Some people seem to think that, if war should ever occur, Jonathan would try to annex Victoria to his dominions. Let us investigate the matter, and see whether there is any probability of his doing any such thing. Jonathan has a very peculiar hobby of his own for making money, and we don't often find him engaged in any speculation unless he can make something out of it. He doesn't often cut his own nose off to spite his face; besides, he has now all the best land there is on this coast, and why should he want "the fog end" as it is called? Why he would be deemed a real hog for his pains, and the parties who did it would be shunned by all true Americans as a disgrace to their country. Then again—Jonathan raises more produce on the neighboring coast than he wants; and here he has a ready market for the surplus. But let him join Victoria to the States and away would go our free port, our commerce would dwindle to a mere trifle, and we would want none of his produce; that he would have to keep to look at; for he would have no other market to go to, because he would have killed the goose which laid him the golden eggs. Hence it seems to my mind a very unprofitable speculation for him, and it appears very unlikely to take place.

**THE ALIEN QUESTION.**—It is a noticeable fact that the three gentlemen who have solicited the suffrages of the voters at the coming election, have carefully abstained in their addresses from any allusion to the alien question. Why, may we enquire, this reticence on a subject of such importance, and which will so materially affect the position of the candidates at the poll? We regard this as a test-question which will, in great measure, govern the election, and it would have saved much trouble and exhibited a greater degree of ingenuity, had the aspirants to legislative honors, while expounding their views on some of the leading questions of the day, stated fairly and candidly their convictions on this head instead of allowing doubts to arise and their opinions to be publicly challenged. We know nothing of the sentiments entertained by the other two gentlemen, but of Mr. Seaby we believe we are warranted in stating that he is undoubtedly in favor of the principle of all aliens after a certain term of residence being admitted, upon taking the oath of allegiance, to equal rights and privileges with British-born subjects. Of the period of residence which should qualify foreign residents, we must leave Mr. Seaby himself to speak.

**COMMITTEE ON CROWN LANDS.**  
FRIDAY, JAN. 16th.  
Committee met at 11:30, a. m. Members present—The Chairman and Messrs. DeCosmos and Duncan.

George McKenna, farmer, Esquimalt district, examined:—By Mr. Duncan—Had this land fifteen years; had applied for land at the Land Office five years ago; got Mr. Homfray to survey 100 acres of land for me; applied at the Land Office for the land; Mr. Pemberton told me to wait till the land was cheaper; I went several times for this land with the money to pay for it; at last he told me I could not get it as it was sold; the land was not sold when I first applied; when I went the third time, he told me it was sold; he told me he would pick out a corner piece somewhere else for me when I could pay for it; I had a large family; I don't know Mr. Pemberton's object in thus putting me off; I did not see the map on which this land was laid down; the land I wanted is sold now; I do not know the owner; I am positive Mr. Pemberton told me the land was not sold when I first applied; it is a good piece of land; I felt disappointed at not getting the land; I have no idea who is the purchaser of the land; I have not made any other similar application.

By Mr. DeCosmos—Mr. Homfray surveyed the land for me about five years ago—in '58 or '59.

By the Chair—I saw the map in the Land Office when I first applied for the land; the word "sold" was not marked on the map on the land I wanted; Mr. Homfray was down surveying in Esquimalt district at the time, and living at the mills with me; Mr. Homfray surveyed the section; I did not pay him; I came to Mr. Pemberton for a copy of the map, and pointing to the section I wanted on the map, asked him if it were sold; he told me it was not; I asked him why I could not get the land; he told me I had better wait; I offered to pay the full price of the land, down, at £1 per acre, and also offered to pay it by regular instalments, but he would not receive either; I applied three or four different times; the last time, he told me the land was sold; I have no idea who bought the land; I then took the piece of land I now occupy; it is about a mile from the land I first wanted; I do not know the number of the section I first asked for; I had it at the time, and showed it on the map to Mr. Pemberton; I think it was part of the land of which Mr. Dallas afterwards became the purchaser; I do not know of any person having purchased lots adjoining the one I wanted.

Committee adjourned till Monday next.

**SUPREME COURT.**  
BROOKS CASES (JAMES DUNN).  
Bentley & Co. v. Wood.—This was for defendant.

The plaintiff with particulars of the alleged fraud he had pleaded to plaintiff's motion, and a petition of the physical impossibility pleaded by him in bar to the plaintiff's action. The case was one of considerable importance, involving \$2,500, and was argued by Mr. McCright, instructed by Bishop for plaintiff, and Mr. Wood by Green for defendant. A list of authorities were cited, and the learned judge reserved his judgment on the present application. The case is set down for trial at the February Assizes.

**THE ESTIMATES.**

The Estimates for the service of the year ending the 31st December, 1864 were yesterday transmitted to the House of Assembly, and we are enabled to lay them before our readers this morning. The monthly abstracts of receipts and expenditure have not yet been prepared, but the detailed estimates now given to the House will give the reader a tolerably correct idea of what will be required to meet the civil list of the ensuing year. The estimates have of course been framed from the experience of past years, and there is no great novelty in the list to which we call attention. Under the heads of the Secretaries of the Treasury, and the Land Office, we find the heaviest items in the civil departments, but we cannot see that any retrenchment could be fairly expected with a due regard to the efficiency of the public service. We do not find that the estimates for the judicial department is based on the suggestion given by the Duke of Newcastle for the Colonial Civil List, are we to suppose from this that there is to be no change in the judicial establishment? The estimate for the officers of the Supreme Court is not in our opinion high enough; \$2,500 will not provide a sufficient staff to carry on the work without causing great delay and consequent inconvenience to the public, and when we see that items seven and eight in the abstract of heads of revenue, and which consist of fines, forfeitures and fees of office, amount to \$13,000, it gives rise to the idea that the officials in the judicial department of the public service where the fees amount to more than in any other separate department, might be fairly remunerated more in proportion to the fees collected in their office. A large item occurs under the head of administration of justice, for the expense of prosecutions, which are set down at \$1,250; this fully bears out the presentment of the Grand Jury with reference to the expense entailed upon the colony by reason of numerous cases being sent up for trial by the stipendiary magistrates which might be decided by him. The revenue is in a decidedly satisfactory state, and as compared with previous years, the increase is steady although moderate.

**MESSAGE WITH THE ESTIMATES.**

Below we give the message of His Excellency to the House of Assembly, sending down the estimates for 1864:—  
To the Honble. the Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—  
GENTLEMEN,  
I have the honor to lay before you, here

with, the Estimates for the service of the year ending the 31st of December, 1864.  
2. The usual abstracts of the accounts of the receipts and expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1863, are now in active preparation and will be submitted to you in the course of a few days, but as I am called away for a short period to the neighboring colony of British Columbia, I now forward the detailed estimates of receipts and expenditure alone, and I have instructed the Colonial Secretary to present such abstracts to the House so soon as they may be completed, which arrangement I trust will be satisfactory to the House, and serve to avoid any unnecessary delay in the consideration of the proposed services for the current year.  
I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
JAMES DOUGLAS.

**THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE BANK NOTE QUESTION.**

The following petition (although it is hardly drawn up in that form) was read in the House of Assembly yesterday by Mr. Burnaby, President of the Chamber:—  
To the Honorable the Members of the Legislature of the Colony of Vancouver Island:—  
The humble petition of the undersigned, members of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce sheweth:—  
That your petitioners regarding the question now before your honorable House relating to the proper regulation and restriction of the issue of paper money by houses purporting to be banking establishments, and of vital importance to the welfare of the colony, would beg respectfully to submit the following for the consideration of your honorable body:—  
That their opinion it must be inexpedient in the present state of this colony to make a statute definitely managing the banking business.  
That it should be compulsory upon all persons or companies desirous of issuing bank notes or paper money in this colony, to first obtain a charter from the Imperial or Colonial Legislature granting such privilege, upon such terms and conditions and under such guards and restrictions as the Legislature may from time to time prescribe.  
That in order to protect the public against any illegal or dangerous issue of bank notes or paper money by unauthorized persons or companies, your honorable body is respectfully requested to pass immediately a bill forbidding under heavy penalties such issue, except by banks having such privilege under an Imperial or colonial charter.  
And your petitioners will ever pray,  
ROBERT BRUNSBY, Pres. C. C., and 24 others.

The Director's Report was read and being considered satisfactory was adopted. The following recommendations were also agreed to be carried out, viz.: That Robert Brunsbay, Esq., M. P., have full power granted him to treat with any English Company for carrying on the work with British capital, and it was further resolved to present a petition to a fuller development, Robert Brunsbay was re-elected President, and the same Directors with Frs. H. Kingston were installed in office. Robert George, the assistant and energetic Secretary, was also re-elected, and P. M. Backus having resigned the office of treasurer, it was agreed that the Bank of British Columbia be requested to undertake those duties. We look forward with confidence to the result of Mr. Burnaby's visit to England and doubt not that he will be successful in enlisting the aid and co-operation of English capitalists. The shareholders of the Queen Charlotte Company certainly deserve the thanks of the community for what they have already done. They not only took the initiative in copper mining in these colonies but through good report and evil report have successfully prosecuted their searches for the lead, which in the opinion of all practical miners exists in the neighborhood and must eventually be struck. About two-thirds of the company's capital (\$21,000), have been paid up and the expanded, and although there is a simple faith in the ultimate success of their labor, we warrant further outlay in the development of the mine, yet the available funds cannot last beyond a certain limit and it will be by the introduction of foreign capital alone that any great results can be accomplished.

The British Government has just published a "Blue Book" with the title "Statistical Tables relating to Foreign Countries," from which some interesting figures may be gleaned. It appears that Belgium has the densest population, 383 persons to the square mile; England, without Wales, has 377; Wurtemberg, 373; Holland, 280; Russia has but 100 persons to the square mile, and stands at the bottom of the list. If we follow the list up, we find that Norway has 12 persons to the square mile; Sweden, 22; Greece, 56; Spain, 89; Poland, 91; Moldavia, 100; Portugal, 104; Denmark, 119; Switzerland, 161; Prussia, 165; France, 176; and Brunswick, 194.  
In Prussia the marriages in a year are 1 in every 108 of the population, and the births 1 in 24. In Russia the marriages are 1 in 111, and the births 1 in 25. In Austria the marriages are 1 in 117, and the births 1 in 24. In France the marriages are 1 in 122, and the births only 1 in 28. In England the proportion of marriages is 1 in 123, and of births 1 in 28—greatly different from France. In Norway the proportion of marriages is 1 in 124; in Hanover, 1 in 128; in Holland and Denmark, 1 in 129; in Sweden, 1 in 135; in Spain, 1 in 141; in Bavaria, 1 in 160; and in Greece, only 1 in 174.  
The Poles appear to be the most prolific people in Europe, the births there being 1 to every 23 of the population. In Wurtemberg the births are as 1 in 26; 1 in 29 in Spain and Bavaria; 1 in 30 in Belgium, Holland and Norway; 1 in 32 in Sweden; 1 in 33 in Hanover, the Hesse Towns and Denmark; 1 in 34 in Greece.