

The Weekly British Colonist. Wednesday March 9, 1870.

Free Port.

Absolute unanimity upon any subject would be incompatible with human nature. The best of schemes will find objectors. The greatest good will meet with carping fault-finders. But we must confess surprise that a greater degree of unanimity upon the subject of a free port does not exist in this community. So obvious and transcendent are the advantages which must accrue to Victoria under such an arrangement that one would naturally expect the greatest enthusiasm to exist in regard thereto. Nor would the advantage of a free port on the seaboard be merely local. It should be kept in view that a free port here under Confederation would be a very different affair from a former free port of a former isolated and comparatively insignificant colony. When this shall have become the great seaport of the Dominion on the Pacific, attracting trade and population for a whole, it will be the interest of the whole that the ports of the world to enter free as the wind that fills their canvas. Commerce should not be met on the very threshold with either tax or red tape. Upon a subject which has already occupied so much space in our columns we cannot do better than give an extract from a leading article in the Ottawa Times, the principal organ of the Dominion Government, and therefor entitled to great attention:

The free port system has been tried at one time or another in almost every part of the world. It has been abandoned after a few years' experience. It may be considered, perhaps, for this reason, that Canada has convinced itself that the free port system is a failure, and would not feel disposed to recommend it to a sister colony. But the circumstances are entirely different—the objects aimed at in the case of Victoria being totally different from those sought at Gaspé and Sault Ste. Marie. With the latter, the object was to promote local settlement, and the remission of Customs duties was offered as an equivalent for certain disadvantages under which the settlers within the limits of these free ports were presumed to labor, as compared with the rest of the community. The experiment did not succeed, because the extent of the business transacted within the limits of these ports did not provide a compensation among dealers, sufficient to give the consumer the benefit when the Government extended the duties upon him. The few traders pocketed the profit, smuggling was encouraged to a considerable extent, and, altogether, the system was nearly abandoned. With regard to the position of Victoria, the case is entirely different. The primary object to be held in view with reference to this port—not only as regards the interests of the little island of Vancouver, but as it affects the whole Empire of British America, and even the commerce of the Empire—is, that its geographical position and natural advantages point it out as the future centre of the trade of the North Pacific. Victoria is destined, under ordinary prudent management, to become the rival of San Francisco. The foremost minds in Britain have been accustomed to regard it as in the inevitable future, that England's trade with India and China must be carried on through British North America, and the port of Victoria stands undisputed as the point of concentration on the Pacific coast, for that immense trade which is yet open to a degree of development that no one would be foolhardy enough to estimate. Through this country, doubtless by the valley of our own noble Ottawa, joining with the St. Lawrence and Atlantic—all yet to be found the true North-West passage for British trade to and from the Pacific; and nothing would appear to be more advantageous as a Colonial policy on the part of Vancouver Island, as well as in the general interest of British America, than the maintenance and permanent establishment of a free port at Victoria. The whole policy of the country, shaped with especial regard to its own interests, is not to be anticipated that any very great results would follow from it except as it might affect the settlement of the island, nor can its full advantages be reaped until through communication is established from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast, upon British territory; but already Vancouver has one attraction for the commerce of the world, to wit, its ability to furnish ship-building timber as a return cargo. This question, in its local influence, is one with which I might readily be assumed that Canada had comparatively little concern. But, while we believe in local advantages to be added, we recognize in general its influence on the future trade of Britain and the British American Colonies, to a degree that interests us with peculiar interest, for as at the present time, while Great Britain has been for years breaking down the barriers that exclude foreign goods, she has given no adequate signs of a disposition to fulfil her duty, for example, we see our powerful neighbors to the South of us keeping their relations after restriction upon our terms of intercourse with them, and carrying out a policy of commercial exclusiveness which compels us, in self defence, to seek for other channels of trade. Any effort, in relation to the Pacific, to have opened to trade at the British American ports on the Pacific, cannot but be of the very greatest advantage to us, as tending to hasten the establishment of communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans—through British America, and providing thereby the chief thing wanting to promote the colonization of the great North-West

territory, in the settlement of which Canada and the Atlantic Colonies have an interest no less great than have the New England States and the City of New York in the prosperity of the Western States of the Republic. This assertion needs no argument to sustain it.

In writing upon this subject during the past twelve months we have ever maintained that, so far from being met in a spirit of jealousy, Canada would at once see in the scheme general advantage. It will at once be seen from the extract which we have given that we did not miscalculate the intelligence of the Canadian mind in regard to this subject. Now, the question is, What is to be done about this matter? British Columbia is called upon just now to state the terms upon which it is willing to enter the Dominion. Shall power to the local Legislature establish a free port be one of them? There is no reason whatever for supposing that the Dominion Government would demur to such a condition. Our own Governor does not believe in free ports; but, with every respect to his opinions, we may be permitted to think the commercial men of the Colony the best judges. His Excellency may be perfectly correct in his disbelief in the general principle; yet we may be equally correct in regarding this as an exceptional case. It will have been seen from the above extract that Canada has seen failure in two attempts of the kind in her own territory; and yet she recognizes the elements of success in our case. After all it is not so much what His Excellency's personal opinions, formed under circumstances essentially dissimilar, may be; but what the people want. If the people only speak out with sufficient distinctness and unanimity in favor of a free port, the Governor will not permit his own opinions to interpose. It is the seeming indifference and want of unanimity that is in the way of obtaining what would indeed make Victoria the San Francisco of the British American Empire. Let our people be wise; and let them be wise in time. We shall take occasion in a future article to explain how we think a free port can be maintained without injury to the agricultural and industrial interests.

Legislative Council.

Monday, Feb 28th.

DEBATE ON THE RETIREMENT RESOLUTIONS. Mr. Barnard said that so far he had given a hearty and liberal support to the estimates, indeed he had voted for them pretty nearly as they came from the hands of the Executive and he had less hesitation in doing so from the fact that two of the popular members had been elected to that body one of whom in particular had for long years been a consistent advocate of retrenchment. As to amalgamation of offices he contended that that could be done better by the Executive, who must have a thorough knowledge of the interior working of the departments, than by this House. He had three reasons for supporting the estimates as they stand. 1st, The recent arrival of the Governor in the Colony, the time consumed by his trip to and from the continent, and the accident we all so deeply deplore, had, he believed, prevented His Excellency from making himself sufficiently acquainted with the departments to propose any number of changes with a view to retrenchment. 2nd, The near approach of great changes in connection with Confederation in all probability was a reason why some reductions were not made. 3rd, The country and his constituency had looked for a government that would take up and deal fairly with the great question of Confederation, and that government we now have. To such a government he would yield a hearty and liberal support. Yet while doing so, could not be a slight of the fact that the country called loudly for such a system as would lessen taxation, and he should be recreant to his trust if he did not represent to the Council that the people called loudly for a reduction of the heads of departments. He therefore moved the following resolution: 1st, That though the expense of conducting the government of the colony is out of all proportion to the number, need, and ability of the people, this Council is powerless to effect any material reduction, although estimated in detail, without more or less disturbing the harmony and impairing the efficiency of the whole. 2nd, That a large reduction in the expense of conducting the government is imperatively demanded by the people. 3rd, That such reduction can only be attained by a repeal of the Crown Salaries Act, by a change in the present cumbersome and expensive system of keeping accounts and by a further amalgamation of offices. 4th, That as the measures can only be attained by the Executive Government taking the initial step, the Council, therefore, respectfully but most earnestly recommends His Excellency the Governor as follows: 5th, To send down to the Legislative Council during the present session a bill repealing the Crown Salaries Ordinance in order that the following reductions may be made—Governor to \$10,000, Colonial Secretary \$3000, Attorney General 3000, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works \$3000, Collector of Customs \$3000. That the office of Treasurer be abolished. That the office of Chief Inspector of Police be abolished. 6th, To report without delay to Her Majesty's Government the unwillingness and inability of the people to meet the expense entailed upon the colony by the present system and to urge the right of a colony compelled to provide for every item of expenditure to adopt a more simple and economical system. 7th, Notwithstanding that the Estimates have undergone no change since coming from the hands of the Executive, owing to the inability of the Council effectively to deal with them, His Excellency the Governor is earnestly recommended to make such reductions as may be compatible with the safety and interests of the public, by further amalgamation of offices or otherwise.

Mr. Robson said he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution moved with so much ability by the hon. member for Yale. Now that the portion of the Estimates relating to salaries had been disposed of it appeared to be a fitting time for himself and those who had acted with him to define their position, more, however, with a view to guarding against any misconception on the part of the Government than for the purpose of placing themselves right before the public. He had taken occasion, in Committee of Supply, to state that the Estimates were out of all proportion to the wants and capacity of the Colony; and it might be open to state more fully the reason which had caused him to be found less frequently voting against specific items than some other hon. members and why he now supported the resolution before the House. He was one of those who did not believe in attempting retrenchment by lopping off a few petty clerks and messengers, and leaving the great work untouched. The Crown Salaries were carefully kept out of the reach of the House; and the course suggested by the resolution was the only one by which they could be touched. In so far as the retirement of subordinates were concerned, the House had been assured by the heads of departments that no reduction could be made so long as the public accounts had to be kept according to the present intricate system, which entailed nearly triple work. He was disposed to believe this statement, to some extent at least; and the resolution proposed to remove the difficulty by obtaining relief from the Imperial Government. It was most unjust that the Home Government should require a young Colony like this to be self-supporting, and at the same time compel it to bear a burden altogether beyond its strength. The hon. member for Victoria District, although approving of the principle, thought that the resolution on the ground that it was too specific and couched in too strong language. He (Mr. Robson) believed the time had come when the country and the House should demand relief, and that in terms both strong and explicit. For the Council to effect any considerable measure of retrenchment in the estimates prepared in the Executive and sent down to the House printed in detail, without deranging the whole, was most difficult; and he felt that the course proposed by the resolution was the only effective way of attaining any large reduction. By that course the expense of conducting the Government could be reduced to one-half of what it is at present. The country demanded the reduction, and he called upon every official member to unite in urging it upon the Government.

The Surveyor General would not say how far the resolution was in order, but as to the question itself it was merely the standing question which was served up annually, and to him it was not unexpected. That the salaries of the government officials can be reduced is certainly true, but that the work can be done for one-half the amount now paid he did not believe. As to the power of the Council to express an opinion in the matter he did not for a moment question. The Crown Salaries Act is a matter of bargain and counter-bargain with the Imperial Government, and it is in the power of the Council to suggest any alterations in the Act, but it was for His Excellency to consider as to the advisability of adopting those suggestions. He (the Surveyor General) did not think the salaries any higher in proportion to the colony than they now are in other colonies. Mr. Humphreys said he was not surprised at the hon. member and seconder of the resolution at taking the course they have taken, but he was not prepared for such lofty tumbling. They have performed themselves and find they cannot act as defects public opinion, and he was gratified to find that public opinion had compelled the hon. members to do right. The Attorney General said he did not intend to cut a vote on a matter that personally concerned himself. He would say, however, that no alteration could be made in the salaries except by the home government. His Excellency has taken the wind out of the sails of the hon. gentlemen who are pushing the matter in his opening address. If the gentlemen repeal the Crown Salaries Act they must be prepared to have the whole question opened up in the matter of Crown Lands and Civil List and gone over again de novo. Mr. Ring said he could not vote the details but he would support the principle. He thought the salaries too high. Dr. Carrall said he thought the question premature. The great question of Confederation overhadowed all other questions, and to hamper the local Government at the present session was not at all fair. The circumstances and condition of the colony, owing to the scattered population spread over so vast a country, made it most expensive to govern than if they were compactly whole. His Excellency had promised a revision of the Constitution, and the Council will have the purest privilege to their own hands. He did not feel constrained by his position in the Executive in the expression of his opinion. He would say the expenses were too high, but he commended the ability of the colony to pay. He thought the Governor had done wonders, according to his age, his months on the seat of his office, and he had only to say for the first time that he had since his appointment would move the following amendment: That the Council respectfully recommends His Excellency to take the question of amalgamation of offices, and economy in the administration of the government in every department into his consideration during the approaching recess, with a view to the preparation of the Estimates for 1871 in accordance with the requirements of the colony.

Mr. Dewdney said he thought the conduct of the mover and seconder of the resolution inconsistent. He had voted for the Estimate right and for the resolution, but he thought the resolution a piece of clapnet. Mr. Alston said—Had not so much time been occupied in the discussion he should consider the whole thing a joke. He thought it too late to take such a stand now—it was shutting the stable door after the horse was gone. It was asking us to stultify ourselves. We have already voted on the salaries. Mr. Robson said he thought the hon. member who had just spoken must have been asleep when the resolution was read. The Crown salaries had not been voted upon. They were hanging high above our reach. Mr. Holbrook had intended to vote for the resolution, but he would now vote for the amendment, which he thought would meet the case. He thought the mover and seconder honest in their intentions. In his opinion, the hon. member who had just spoken had a right to do so in this colony. The Estimates were good. The parties who had framed them had some regard for their own pockets. [Great laughter.] They thought too much of the colony in which all the interests were centered to work so injure it. He supported the Estimates—they were not too low. [Cheers and laughter.] They would enable us to make a better bargain with Canada. Members talked of 'oppressive taxation.' Why! Men had become independent in three or four years under this 'oppressive' taxation. The hon. gentleman concluded by denouncing the attack which, he said, were being put forth to deceive the people. Mr. Drake said that in rising to oppose the amendment, he could not help smiling at the logical remark of the gentleman who had preceded him—that the bigger we could make our expenses the better bargain we should make with Canada. He regretted that the Estimates were not lower, as they will not be; and as for the intricate system of keeping the accounts, the Governor could easily get authority to simplify it. Voting supplies in this House each year was a dreary labor, for he had always observed that the official majority were ever willing to increase the vote but never ready to decrease it. He should vote cordially for the resolution. Mr. Wood said it was a mistaken idea to let these Estimates pass by default because Confederation was near, but the original resolution embodied a more extreme view than he was willing to entertain. Dissatisfaction with the Constitution of the colony was universal; but he would bear with it until the population was larger and we were better prepared for full representative government. Why should the colonies be allowed to overrule the Crown Salaries Act? Why shouldn't they have the right to fix the salaries of officials? When we came to consider the cost of the necessities of life and the high salaries, this was the heaviest taxed of any of the colonies; but he would vote against the resolution and the amendment, because neither of them suited his ideas, although he was certainly in favor of overhauling the Crown Salaries Act. Mr. Tress said that there was one point which none of the gentlemen had brought forward. The bargain was all on the side of the people who got the Crown lands on payment of the small salaries. Mr. DeCosmos, while approving of the principle of the resolution, wished to strike the word 'all' from the third line, which declared the salaries to be 'out of all proportion.' Again, the resolution said that the Council is powerless to effect any material reduction in the Estimates. The Council had the power, but the representative members had not. He would, therefore, move to have it read that 'representative members had no power.' The hon. gentleman proposed one or two other verbal alterations. Mr. Helmeton said it was quite true that last year he had entered a protest on the books of the House against the high salaries paid—but he was not supported and the opportunity had been lost. Should he now vote for this resolution it would be a reflection upon the body to which he belonged. Hon. members were assured that the Crown Salaries had been considered in Executive Council and that the expenses had been reduced. The Governor received less, because he paid duties on all he consumed, out of the Assistant Secretary and the expense of keeping horses, &c, which no Governor before him had done. £2000 was a salary too low for a Governor of a British colony to receive. Mr. Robson—The Governor of Ontario receives \$8000. Mr. Helmeton—And the Governor of Ontario is grumbling because his salary is too small. Mr. Robson—They all do that. Dr. Helmeton continued—All the reduction in the popular members had proposed was \$30,000. Now, sir, if the government is to be oppressive and extravagant as it is said to be by the popular members? \$20,000! The gigantic figure that is driving people away from the colony—about one-third of a cent per day on each inhabitant, \$20,000! The sum devoured by these bloated corporations—these corporations—these Patishans, No, not Patishans; but, indeed, odious creatures who want out sucking the life-blood from the veins of the people, especially that of tender children in their cradles. (The hon. gentleman here pointed to allow the laughter which had been provoked by his remarks to subside.) Oh, he could talk about 'our countrymen.' He had practiced it in times gone by, he was ashamed to say. To say that the expenditure of \$20,000 was retarding the country was absurd. It was the objections which were raised from those people that was injuring the country. In going through the Estimates the Executive Council had found that they had a country larger than Ontario, larger than Great Britain, but poorer. Attempts to cut off the Liberty of Yale, Regina, and see what a storm you would raise. Mr. Barnard—Under this blessed system, of course, a Magistrate is necessary. Dr. Helmeton—If I go to Ontario or New Westminster, the answer is the same. Some of the popular members want to get every thing for their own districts and allow no one else anything. Mr. Drake—Is that what they say in the Executive Council? Dr. Helmeton—Oh, I'm not going to tell you what they say in the Executive Council. The Governor and his Council are anxious

to reduce the expenses of Government and a proof of that anxiety will be found in the Estimates which I hold in my hand. The Executive Councilors here withdrew to the lobby.

The vote on Dr. Carrall's amendment was taken and lost, as follows: Ayes—Dewdney, Carrall, Alston, Holbrook, Babbie, Nis, Wood, Barnard, DeCosmos, Drake, Humphreys, Robson, Ball, Sanders, Pemberton, O'Reilly. Mr. DeCosmos' verbal alterations were next taken up. Mr. Robson said the alterations of the hon. member for District No 2 were frivolous. If the hon. member had no other object in view to raise he had better not have raised these. Mr. DeCosmos—I'll take the responsibility, anyhow! The alterations were lost—DeCosmos and Humphreys only in the affirmative. When the vote of the original resolution was called Mr. DeCosmos rose to a question of privilege. He had moved the alterations to harmonize with the resolution. As they had been lost he should vote against the resolution because it was illegal. Mr. Humphreys also rose to a question of privilege. He, too, should vote against the resolution because it was illegal. The vote upon the resolution was then taken. It was lost by the following vote:

Table with 2 columns: Ayes, Nays. Ayes: Barnard, Drake, Robson, Wood, Holbrook, Dewdney, Ball, Sanders, O'Reilly, Pemberton. Nays: DeCosmos, Humphreys, Alston.

Mr. DeCosmos here gave notice that he should place a protest upon the books of the Council tomorrow. He had voted against the resolution because it was opposed to common sense. Mr. Robson—You being the judge of course. Mr. Holbrook could not see the reason why so much should be paid as a subsidy for a steamer between Victoria and San Francisco, running so seldom as the dock. He thought she would come just as often without any subsidy. He would support the motion which was coming before the Council for a subsidy for a line of British steamers. He approved of something being done for the steamer on the Sound, but he considered \$12,000 voted in the way proposed in the Estimates as thrown away. Mr. Humphreys inquired into the nature of the contract with the California steamer. The Postmaster General said the agreement was to pay \$1000 per month, \$6000 was paid by the Imperial Government and \$6000 by the Colonial Government, annually. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Mr. Drake said he understood a line of steamers were about to be put on the route between Panama and New Zealand and it would be a good opportunity to send a line to this colony, and he would now move the following resolution: That a committee be appointed to enquire into and report upon the subject of steamship communication, and more especially the desirability of subsidizing a British line of steamers between Victoria and San Francisco or Panama. Mr. Barnard seconded the resolution and said that he understood the Governor were about to take a contract from the British Government to carry mails on the Pacific, and it would be a proper time for us to try and secure a line to this colony. The resolution was carried.

MAIL CONTRACT TO MR. BARNARD—\$16,000. Mr. Humphreys asked how long this contract had run. The Hon. Colonial Secretary replied until March, 1871, and that he intended to advertise in a short time for tenders to carry the mail at the expiration of the present contract.

Mr. DeCosmos asked if there was any stipulation in the present contract binding the contractor to run a certain kind of conveyance. The Hon. Postmaster General said there was no such condition in the contract.

Mr. DeCosmos asked if it was not the intention when the tenders were advertised for the contract that there should be conveyance for passengers. The Hon. Surveyor General said he knew nothing about the contract, it was made between Mr. Barnard and the late Colonial Secretary, Mr. Young, but when the tenders were advertised for the next contract it would be specified how the mail should be carried and tenders would be received for carrying it with or without passenger conveyance. He thought the mail should be carried by a four horse stage.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that a sum of money be appropriated to convey the mails between Victoria and Metoholo, and also Victoria and Sooke. Carried.

Mr. Tress said he had registered his name to form a company to go to Peace River, via the Coast Route. Too early, gentlemen, to try that road. [Laughter.]

ARRIVED.—The Bates Legitimate Dramatic Troupe, thirteen in number, arrived by the California last night, and is giving a performance to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock.

Every body who has seen the Bates troupe will be glad to hear that they are about to leave for the West. The Bates troupe is a good troupe, and they are about to leave for the West. The Bates troupe is a good troupe, and they are about to leave for the West. The Bates troupe is a good troupe, and they are about to leave for the West.

to reduce the expenses of Government and a proof of that anxiety will be found in the Estimates which I hold in my hand. The Executive Councilors here withdrew to the lobby.

The vote on Dr. Carrall's amendment was taken and lost, as follows: Ayes—Dewdney, Carrall, Alston, Holbrook, Babbie, Nis, Wood, Barnard, DeCosmos, Drake, Humphreys, Robson, Ball, Sanders, Pemberton, O'Reilly. Mr. DeCosmos' verbal alterations were next taken up. Mr. Robson said the alterations of the hon. member for District No 2 were frivolous. If the hon. member had no other object in view to raise he had better not have raised these. Mr. DeCosmos—I'll take the responsibility, anyhow! The alterations were lost—DeCosmos and Humphreys only in the affirmative. When the vote of the original resolution was called Mr. DeCosmos rose to a question of privilege. He had moved the alterations to harmonize with the resolution. As they had been lost he should vote against the resolution because it was illegal. Mr. Humphreys also rose to a question of privilege. He, too, should vote against the resolution because it was illegal. The vote upon the resolution was then taken. It was lost by the following vote:

Table with 2 columns: Ayes, Nays. Ayes: Barnard, Drake, Robson, Wood, Holbrook, Dewdney, Ball, Sanders, O'Reilly, Pemberton. Nays: DeCosmos, Humphreys, Alston.

Mr. DeCosmos here gave notice that he should place a protest upon the books of the Council tomorrow. He had voted against the resolution because it was opposed to common sense. Mr. Robson—You being the judge of course. Mr. Holbrook could not see the reason why so much should be paid as a subsidy for a steamer between Victoria and San Francisco, running so seldom as the dock. He thought she would come just as often without any subsidy. He would support the motion which was coming before the Council for a subsidy for a line of British steamers. He approved of something being done for the steamer on the Sound, but he considered \$12,000 voted in the way proposed in the Estimates as thrown away. Mr. Humphreys inquired into the nature of the contract with the California steamer. The Postmaster General said the agreement was to pay \$1000 per month, \$6000 was paid by the Imperial Government and \$6000 by the Colonial Government, annually. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Mr. Drake said he understood a line of steamers were about to be put on the route between Panama and New Zealand and it would be a good opportunity to send a line to this colony, and he would now move the following resolution: That a committee be appointed to enquire into and report upon the subject of steamship communication, and more especially the desirability of subsidizing a British line of steamers between Victoria and San Francisco or Panama. Mr. Barnard seconded the resolution and said that he understood the Governor were about to take a contract from the British Government to carry mails on the Pacific, and it would be a proper time for us to try and secure a line to this colony. The resolution was carried.

MAIL CONTRACT TO MR. BARNARD—\$16,000. Mr. Humphreys asked how long this contract had run. The Hon. Colonial Secretary replied until March, 1871, and that he intended to advertise in a short time for tenders to carry the mail at the expiration of the present contract.

Mr. DeCosmos asked if there was any stipulation in the present contract binding the contractor to run a certain kind of conveyance. The Hon. Postmaster General said there was no such condition in the contract.

Mr. DeCosmos asked if it was not the intention when the tenders were advertised for the contract that there should be conveyance for passengers. The Hon. Surveyor General said he knew nothing about the contract, it was made between Mr. Barnard and the late Colonial Secretary, Mr. Young, but when the tenders were advertised for the next contract it would be specified how the mail should be carried and tenders would be received for carrying it with or without passenger conveyance. He thought the mail should be carried by a four horse stage.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that a sum of money be appropriated to convey the mails between Victoria and Metoholo, and also Victoria and Sooke. Carried.

Mr. Tress said he had registered his name to form a company to go to Peace River, via the Coast Route. Too early, gentlemen, to try that road. [Laughter.]

ARRIVED.—The Bates Legitimate Dramatic Troupe, thirteen in number, arrived by the California last night, and is giving a performance to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock.

Every body who has seen the Bates troupe will be glad to hear that they are about to leave for the West. The Bates troupe is a good troupe, and they are about to leave for the West. The Bates troupe is a good troupe, and they are about to leave for the West. The Bates troupe is a good troupe, and they are about to leave for the West.

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST

Europe. London, Feb 26—In accordance with resolutions passed by the Convention of the Chamber of Commerce a bill will be brought before Parliament legalizing the sale of all cereals by weight. The Duke of Richmond has accepted Tory leadership of the House of Lords. Paris, Feb 26—There was a demonstration on the part of conscripts at Lyons Thursday, but the troops were without incident. Archbishop Darbois of Lyons is dead. Two more editors were arrested for publishing false news. Paris, Feb 27—The Emperor officially and politically that perfect motto exists between himself and the nation, and he believes that the sympathy of every honest Frenchman has made a new attempt to the International Council from acting her interests.

Hamburg, Feb 27—Borsenthal has a project on foot for the establishment of a discount bank in this city, by capitalizing Berlin, Frankfurt and London, Feb 27—Oxford and Cambridge are making preparations for the anniversary race. Madrid, Feb 26—The struggle between Onuch and revolutionary parties is getting more intense. Desires on the part of the Archbishop Santiago for treason threaten to end the session of the Convocation.

Eastern States. Boston, Feb 26—Cable dispatch that Minister Cartain takes charge of the reins of Minister Burlingame in his relations with members of the Chinese Empire. The body is to be embalmed and lie at the American Legation and finally to be interred in the United States. The body is to be embalmed and lie at the American Legation and finally to be interred in the United States. The body is to be embalmed and lie at the American Legation and finally to be interred in the United States.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.

Washington, Feb 26—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1870, a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Interior will be held at Washington on the 1st of March. The passage in the steamer cost to exceed \$15. Mr. DeCosmos asked if the Government contemplated doing anything with any other line in relation to carrying the mails. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he was not aware of any.