

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE

Tuesday, November 6, 1866.

The Tariff.

The public mind is somewhat disturbed by a diversity of opinions respecting the operation of the Tariff under Union of the Colonies, and a glance at the true nature of our position may therefore serve to calm the apprehensions of many to whom the question is one of serious moment. The most visionary of the suppositions started in commercial circles is that Governor Seymour, in order to reach those who may have imported goods prior to the Union taking effect, and to make them contribute to the revenue, will levy an impost on the stocks of Victoria merchants and dealers. It is hardly necessary, however, to combat such a hypothesis as this. The terms of the Union Bill certainly vest extraordinary powers in Governor Seymour; but there is nothing in that bill expressed or implied to warrant his interfering in any manner with goods once legally entered at the customs and stored; or permitting him to act in anywise unconstitutional. Taxation direct or indirect must emanate from and be regulated by the Legislature. Already has one colonial Governor suffered the pains of dismissal for attempting to enforce duties sanctioned by one branch of the Legislature without the other. It is then argued that stockholders in British Columbia will be placed at such a manifest disadvantage, and the general revenue will so materially suffer by the Victoria goods that have escaped duties finding their way up Fraser River, that Governor Seymour will feel himself called upon to make some provision for remedying the evil. Here, no doubt, a difficulty will present itself to our future ruler, but we cannot see how the loss of the revenue is to be averted, while the injustice of the matter can have no bearing on the question, the supposed injustice in any case eventually falling on the Victoria importer, as recent events have too plainly shown. It matters not to him that the Hudson Bay Company may have saved over fifteen thousand dollars by the timely arrival of a cargo from England, or that A. B. C. have imported largely in view of the anticipated Tariff; Governor Seymour will have to do one of two things, either to proclaim Union immediately on his arrival, or to conduct the separate Government of British Columbia until the Legislative Council of that Colony shall have met and paved the way for the approaching change. We incline to the belief that the Union Bill will be promulgated directly the Governor arrives, as we can discover more evil than good to result from delay; Vancouver Island and British Columbia will thereupon become one Colony, and Victoria and New Westminster will bear the same relation to each other as London and Liverpool, with the established Custom Tariff obtaining at both ports of entry. The bill distinctly provides that the laws in force in the separate colonies at the time of Union taking effect "shall, until otherwise provided by lawful authority, remain in force, as if this Act had not been passed or proclaimed; save only the laws relative to the Revenue of Customs in force in British Columbia at the time of the Union taking effect shall, until it is otherwise provided, by lawful authority, extend and apply to Vancouver Island." This admits of no equivocation; whatever Customs Revenue law may be in force in British Columbia at the time of Union being proclaimed will, ipso facto extend and apply equally to Vancouver Island; the ports of entry on the Island and mainland will be placed upon the same footing; and as duties, differential or otherwise, cannot be levied on goods transmitted, shipped, or carried from one port to another port in the same Colony, it stands to reason that no act of Governor Seymour can affect the fiscal relations of the combined Colonies. The only matter over which the Governor will have unlimited and irresponsible control, will be the regulation of the warehousing ports and bonding stores. The Union

Bill, section 3, says: "and until it is otherwise provided by lawful authority, the Governor of British Columbia shall have, in relation to the territory for the time being under his government, all the powers and authorities for the time being vested, in relation to the United Kingdom in the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or in the Commissioners of Customs with respect to the appointments of warehousing ports, and the approval and appointment of warehouses or places of security in such ports, and everything consequent thereon or relative thereto." Clause X. of the Imperial Customs Amendment Act, 16 and 17 Vic., empowers the Commissioners of the Treasury under their warrant from time to time to appoint the Ports in the United Kingdom which shall be warehousing ports for the purposes of the Act, and also to appoint Bonding Warehouses, setting forth the nature of the security to be given by the proprietors of such warehouses. In this respect it is possible to make some invidious distinctions in favor of the Sister Colony, but we do not anticipate anything of the kind; Mr Seymour has sense enough to perceive that Victoria is and must continue to be the chief commercial depot of the North Pacific, and is more likely to do all in his power to promote its material growth, than to do anything calculated to injure its commercial progress. All things considered, the holders of goods in Victoria have more reason to feel assured than to entertain any misgivings at what the next few weeks may bring forth.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

A MARKED BATTERY.—A few days since Mr Kellogg and Mr Shorey, while working out on the hill near town, found an unexploded shell, thrown there from a gun of the United States war steamer Massachusetts some years ago, during the Indian war in this section. They put the shell into a hollow stump, set fire to the stump, and retired some distance to await the result. After waiting some time, the shell not exploding as they anticipated, they came to the conclusion that it would not go off, and they went away. Shortly after their leaving Mr Horton came along and stopped within a few feet of the burning stump, with his back to the fire. He had stood but a few minutes in that position when the shell exploded, fortunately, however, none of the pieces striking him, though the concussion produced by the explosion, knocked him some ten or fifteen feet, while his hat took a journey on its own hook in another direction. Mr H. gathered himself and hat up, somewhat astonished and demoralized, and left the vicinity without standing upon the order of his going, not knowing where another battery might be located, or what outlandish kind of an infernal machine would open upon him with shell next. We do not know whether the gentlemen who engineered the machine are fully satisfied with their first performance or not, but Mr Horton, doubtless, can testify that the performance created quite a sensation in the audience—most emphatically bringing it down.—Puget Sound Weekly.

A PROJECT FOR SHIPPING COAL TO SAN FRANCISCO.—The security of shipping at San Francisco renders it a difficult matter to procure vessels to carry our Nanaimo coal to that port. Nearly all the ships, so soon as they arrive, are chartered to carry grain (of which there is an abundant crop in California) to Australia and the East. About 15,000 tons of coal have accumulated at the pier's mouth at Nanaimo. Nanaimo coals are acknowledged to be the best received in California; and a higher price is paid for it than for any other coal. But it might almost as well be in the moon as at Nanaimo, for all the chance there is of its finding a market. Lately, a project has been set on foot to charter the steam propeller Ajax and run her regularly between San Francisco and Nanaimo, calling at Victoria both ways with passengers and freight. The expense of running the Ajax would be great; but then the Coal Company would have the advantage of supplying their own fuel, which would be a considerable saving. It is thought that the Ajax can make three trips every seven weeks and carry 1500 tons per trip. The owners of the vessel, we learn, have been conferred with on the subject, and it is said that the only question in dispute is the time to which the charter shall extend—the Coal Company desiring to charter the propeller for a few months, while the owners wish the charter to extend to a year.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, it will be seen on reference to our telegraphic intelligence, is believed to be dying.

STEKIN EXPLORATIONS.—One party of the Collins Telegraph Explorers started from Victoria on the 15th of March last and ascended the Stekin river with a view to explore a route for the extension of the wires from Naas river to Stekin. The river was frozen until May 1st, and the party walked 160 miles on the ice; at the mouth of the big cañon, above Buck's Bar, they left the river and struck off in a south-easterly direction. A great deal of snow was encountered as late as the 20th June. They travelled 180 miles in the direction of the Naas. The country was very mountainous, and travelling being difficult, provisions gave out, and the party were four days without food, when they fortunately met with a camp of Stick Indians, who fed the explorers and guided them back to Bucks Bar. Subsequently a portion of the party started again, and after undergoing many hardships reached the Naas on the 1st of October. The country is described as a most difficult one and offering many obstacles to the traveller. Two other parties have been sent out to explore the same section of country.

WHISKY SELLING.—A man named John Walker, well known to the Police, pleaded guilty yesterday in the Police Court to supplying a bottle of wine to an Indian. Walker said he had been at work at Cowichan and was on his way to the other side. The Magistrate remanded him for three days to enable the prisoner to see whether he could make arrangements for paying a small fine and leaving the country. Inspector Welch stated that there were already 41 prisoners in gaol and the cells were in bad order after the rain.

THE SALT SPRING ISLAND MURDER.—We have received the particulars of this affair. The victim was a Kanaka, engaged in illicit whisky vending, and the murderer was a young man employed at the wharfishing station on Salt Spring. The two quarrelled on Saturday about a boat, and the Kanaka had a long knife driven to his hilt into his side. He fell to the ground and died in a few minutes. The murderer, with another man, then embarked in a whaleboat, and rowed towards the American side. They are supposed to have made good their escape.

OPEN TO-NIGHT.—Mr W. N. Horton will open an oyster stand this evening, in the Adelphi Saloon, corner of Yates and Government streets, where the public will be supplied at all hours with the celebrated Olympia bivalves fresh "out of bed," at fifty per cent below the present rates, viz: stewed, 25 cents, and raw, "one bit;" per sack, \$3.—Horton is sutting his charges to the times, and deserves the patronage of the b'hoys. J. B. Buell will manage the business.

STEALING BLANKETS.—Jim, a Hydash Indian, was charged yesterday with stealing a number of blankets. The prisoner pleaded guilty of the theft, but said the blankets belonged to another Indian. Mr Bishop appeared and claimed them on behalf of a trader named Osanburg. The Magistrate remanded the prisoner for three days in order that the ownership of the property might be established.

GOVERNOR SEYMOUR.—The telegraph still leaves us in the dark as to whether Governor Seymour had reached San Francisco or not. We incline to the belief that he could not have yet arrived, or the fact would be known; and as the Scout was ordered South, the statement that she is on her way up here, was probably made in ignorance.

INTERCOLONIAL RIFLE MATCH.—The New Westminster Ten will arrive, per Enterprise, this evening, and will be received at the wharf by the Volunteers, who will parade at 4 p. m., at the Drill Hall. The match will take place to-morrow. Firing will commence at 9 a. m.

FROM THE SOUND.—The steamers Eliza Anderson and Josie McNear arrived outside from Puget Sound at an early hour yesterday morning, but, owing to the dense fog, were unable to enter the harbor until long after daylight. Both steamers came well filled with passengers and freight.

COUNTERFEIT COIN.—Spurious half dollar and two-and-a-half pieces (American coin) are in circulation at the Dalles, Oregon where two men have been arrested on suspicion of passing them.

SUGAR MARKET.—The bi-monthly public sales of the San Francisco and Pacific Sugar Refinery are discontinued for the present, in view of the peculiar condition of the market.

CANDIDATES.—It is reported that Mayor Franklin will be a candidate for re-election; also, that C. B. Young will offer himself for the same position.

HUDSON BAY COMPANY.—We direct the attention of our readers to the advertisement of New Goods received ex Prince of Wales by the Hudson Bay Company.

TO DISCHARGE.—The Prince of Wales was brought alongside the Hudson Bay Company's wharf yesterday, and will commence discharging to-day.

GOVERNOR KENNEDY.—A review was held by General McDowell, at the Presidio on Monday, in honor of Governor Kennedy.

The Past and the Present.

Messrs Editors.—It is the duty of every man in the present deplorable state of our commercial and social affairs, to endeavor to trace the causes that have operated towards this result, and to direct public attention, not only to these causes, but to the remedy, should he conceive any to exist, by which these evils may be removed. In this conviction, I pen the following remarks, which I may follow up from time to time with others, bearing on this subject: No wise and efficient measures have yet been adopted for the permanent settlement of this colony. This is a matter of primary importance, nevertheless it is one which, to a great extent, has been lost sight of. The ravenous appetite for gold, and haste to be rich, has shut out of view the more humble, but far more certain, although slower process of Colonial prosperity and comfort;—I mean the settlement and cultivation of the soil, and development of other sources of Colonial wealth.

Had the wisdom of our rulers pointed the attention and energies of the people in this direction, giving all possible facility for occupation and settlement, the foundation of our future prosperity would have been laid, and to-day, to some considerable extent, advanced. Instead of this, our part commercial prosperity (if that can be called prosperity, which, as regards the great body of our traders has finally resulted in embarrassment bankruptcy and ruin), has been built upon expectations and hopes, fostered by a spirit of speculation, which now threatens to overwhelm our Colonial interests in irretrievable ruin.

Gold! gold! gold! give us gold! has been the cry throughout the length and breadth of the two Colonies, and founded, in not a few instances, on mere rumours towns have been built. Shops and warehouses have been stored with goods, exported from England, America and other lands, in superabundant quantities, to be bartered for gold, which has never yet been produced in quantities sufficient to pay the expense of working. Those who have come to these Colonies, influenced by these reports, have, in most cases, been miserably disappointed; and after expending their all, have been compelled to enter upon a course of credit, in the hope, that perseverance would ultimately crown their patient efforts with success. Consequently, a system of credit has been inaugurated, and extended, in our commercial relations with these gold mining districts, the ruinous results of which, we are now beginning to realize in their full force.

The land grabbing and real estate mania, has had its origin in the same unnatural and corrupt source—an inordinate thirst for gold and haste to be rich. The grabbing of land, and the best portions of land, for the purposes of speculation, and the holding of these lands in the anticipation of being able to sell at enormous advances instead of enriching has impoverished the owners thereof, and has sadly retarded the prosperity of the Colonies. Of what value to-day, in the present retrograde state of matters, without either people or money, are their lands; in many instances, if not in most, not worth the taxes levied upon them. And yet, it is certain that under another and more natural order of things, these lands, now locked up and still lying waste, might ere now, have proved a source of wealth and strength to our Colonists. Politicians may cry out about expensive Government, the evils of our Free Port system, disunion of the Colonies, heavy taxes, &c., as being the causes to which the present commercial and social distress is to be attributed. Yet no cause, sir, I believe, has militated so much to evolve the present disastrous state of matters, as the unwarrantable confidence and expectations placed by the people at large, on the produce of mining localities removed from us some hundreds of miles, and this, to the neglect of the natural sources of wealth lying at our doors—humble and common place it may be—but sure in their results, and without due attention to which, the prosperity of no people has ever been established upon a permanent basis. If we would recover ourselves and do something to place our Colonial interests upon a stable basis, let our attention and the attention of our future rulers, be directed to our home resources and to the occupation and efficient cultivation of the soil.

Miscellany.

At the type-founders, feast, held at the Crystal Palace on the 11th, Mr Caslon mentioned the curious fact that matrices from punchones originally cut by William Caslon in 1726 were now taken down for daily use, after having been laid aside since 1772 as obsolete—nearly 50 years after their first invention.—Mr H. Caslon, "with the returning taste for the beautiful in form, a necessary consequence of the greater popularization of art in our times, the old faced type had come to be regarded as the most elegant letters within the range of typography."

We hear from Paris of a new musical instrument of striking power and sweetness, and at the same time extremely simple construction. It resembles a piano with upright strings, except that the latter are replaced by tuning-forks which to strengthen the sound are arranged between two small tubes, one above and the other below them. The tuning-forks are sounded by hammers, and are brought to silence at the proper time by means of dampers. The sounds thus produced, which somewhat resemble those of the harmonium, are extremely pure and penetrating. They are very persistent, yet instantly arrested by the use of the dampers. The invention has elicited great admiration.

The Paris correspondent of The Star gives the following amusing account of the mode in which the census is now being taken in France: "Two solemn gentlemen in black, each armed with huge registers, ink-bottles and pens, arrive and demand the age, profession, &c., &c., of every individual inhabitant. The intelligence with which the printed forms are filled up is remarkable, especially in country parts. The census lately taken at Evermum, near Dieppe, contains the following insertion: 'Louis Derris, aged three months; no profession; bachelor. A little further on: 'Marie Jouret, aged eight days, idem, spinster.'"

PAYMASTER'S TREASURY BOX FOUND.—The Idaho Statesman says that the treasury box of Major Glenn was found yesterday morning by an Indian, on the flat east of the garrison, toward the Indian camp. The Indian who found it, came to town and apprized George Rundell of the fact, and he went out and brought it in. It had been opened by taking out the screws that fastened the hinges. The duplicate vouchers or pay-rolls remained unmoistened, also a large amount of postal currency; but the \$50,000 in legal tenders was missing. No further clue to the robbery is yet obtained, so far as we can learn.—Oregon Herald.

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PEPSINE. THIS INVARIABLE MEDICINE for weak and impaired digestion, may be had in the form of POWDER, PEPSEIN GLOBULES, IN BOTTLES, or in order, WINE, and LOZENGES. THE POWDER IS PURE, THE WINE UNALTERABLE, and the LOZENGES A NEW, AGREEABLE, and convenient manner of taking the medicine. Manufactured by

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And every kind of Scrophulous eruptions, of the skin. It is a safe and reliable remedy for all Salt Rheum, Ring Worm, Tetter, Scald Head, Scabby White Swellings, and Nervous Affections, Nervous and General Debility of the System, Loss of Appetite, Labour, Distresses, and all Ailments arising from the Blood.

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