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THE BRITISH COLONIST

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THE ESTIMATES.

The main principle involved in the estimates as proposed for the consideration of the House, and upon which we may look for some discussion this day, is whether or not this colony is prepared to pay a separate staff of officers together with a sole Governor whose jurisdiction shall extend to the limits of this Island and its dependencies only. The civil list, as proposed by the Duke of Newcastle, looks exceedingly liberal and magnificent upon paper, and doubtless we should get good men to fill all governmental posts under such a scale of salaries. There is no doubt that until the result of the vote on the first item is known in London, we shall not hear of the new Governor for this colony taking his departure from the old country, and it behoves our House of Representatives to take into their consideration what would be the result of their voting a salary of £3,000 for a Governor of this colony. Votes for all different officers must follow, which will secure their being independent of the sister colony altogether.

We do not mean to assert that the Governor would be overpaid by such a salary, but we do most unhesitatingly affirm that the colony cannot afford the outlay that must follow the passing of that one vote. Upon this ground we should immediately be committed to a separate establishment, and before deciding upon such a course, two inquiries must be made. Firstly, does the colony receive a sufficient remuneration in the acquisition of the Crown Lands for such a heavy civil list. And secondly—will the services of a Governor and a staff of officials paid on the basis of the Duke of Newcastle's tariff, be in any way proportionate to the expense that the payment of their salaries would entail upon the Colony? There is no doubt whatever that many of us would enjoy the luxury of a carriage and pair and a drive home to our country residences after the fatigues of the day. But it by no means follows that, because we should only pay a moderate and reasonable price for the enjoyment, we can afford it. Those who are decidedly averse to union may (and probably do) hold the opinion that the individual interests of the two colonies would be more consulted by having a resident Governor in each colony with a separate staff of heads of departments, but they must also consider the cost. If the House refuse to vote more than one-half or one-third of the sum proposed for a Governor, it will necessitate some fresh arrangements by the Home Government. It is utterly impossible that any man who is fitted for the post, can be found willing to undertake the office of Governor of our Colony for a salary upon which he could barely live as a private gentleman. Consequently, if the vote is cut down the present system of a joint Governor for the two colonies must be continued; and if one Governor will suffice where is the necessity for separate officers?

The communication between the two capitals is not so difficult as to prevent the administration of all public departments of this Colony being satisfactorily carried on during the temporary residence of the Governor in British Columbia, nor on the other hand would the interests of that Colony suffer materially by the residence of the Governor in this colony for a portion of the year. So long as this city is the main port through which all the foreign communication of the two colonies is carried on, there can be no doubt that the Government of British Columbia can in many respects be as well administered here as at New Westminster. For all matters connected with the internal policy of the colony no doubt, the presence of a Governor is highly desirable; but we question whether either colony would suffer in any way from the absence of both Governor and Colonial Secretary during one-half of the

year, if they were during that time within the limits of the sister colony. On the discussion of the estimates if it be entered upon as a question of colonial policy, will the battle of the union be fought afresh. Those who wish to close it forever must undoubtedly be prepared to vote \$14,550 for the Governor, and the rest of the list in proportion. Those on the other hand who doubt the expediency of saddling the colony with such a heavy expenditure, will doubtless be inclined to revert so far as the Governor and the heads of administrative departments are concerned, to the scale adopted in the vote of 1863. With a vote of \$3,880 for the Governor and \$2,425 for the Colonial Secretary it is quite possible that the interests of the colony may be preserved. It is true that such salaries preclude all possibility of separate departments for the two colonies; but was very much mistake the opinion of the present House of Assembly, if they are inclined to regard that as an insuperable objection to economy in expenditure.

MINING PROSPECTS.

The influence which the success of mining operations during the present year will have on the two colonies, will beyond doubt be very considerable, so far as the rapid rise and progress of the country is concerned, but very fortunately for Victoria we have got beyond that critical period at which it depends upon a mere freak of fortune whether the colony shall rise or fall, our position at the present moment is widely different to what it has been previous to the commencement of the two last mining seasons. In former years every individual was looking for and expecting great events in the mining world which should make or mar his fortune, prospectors were vague and uncertain, big strikes and large fortunes were anticipated, every one was consequently unsettled, disatisfied with his lot, eager for excitement, and desirous of some change. Now things are different, some no doubt there are who expect great results from the coming season, but the greater number of miners and traders in the mining districts have moderated their expectations. The year will be one of labor and as such will, in all reasonable probability be better for the steady advancement of the country than any that have gone before. We have seen our city gradually and steadily progressing, and there is every ground to expect that for the future every ear witness more mines and rapid progress. The formation of joint-stock mining companies which until lately have been practically unknown in these colonies, will bring to bear upon the gold field's more capital than individual energy was likely to devote to what has heretofore been wisely regarded as a somewhat hazardous speculation. Enough is now known of the gold fields of British Columbia to warrant the expenditure of capital in implements and machinery for the more effectual working of the mines. And when capitalists in England and America see that the practical and experienced miners, who know what Cariboo is, are investing their earnings in operations which must of necessity require much expenditure of toil, energy, and capital, to be brought to maturity, they will be much more ready to lend their aid in assisting to develop the resources of this country, by providing the sines of war in the shape of capital, to carry out the plans projected by those whose skill and intimate knowledge of mining matters, makes them the best judges of what is necessary for the effectual working of the mines. And when capitalists in England and America see that the practical and experienced miners, who know what Cariboo is, are investing their earnings in operations which must of necessity require much expenditure of toil, energy, and capital, to be brought to maturity, they will be much more ready to lend their aid in assisting to develop the resources of this country, by providing the sines of war in the shape of capital, to carry out the plans projected by those whose skill and intimate knowledge of mining matters, makes them the best judges of what is necessary for the effectual working of the mines.

We should be glad instead of seeing a new judge appointed for the small debts court, to see our present worthy Chief Justice granted the leave, to which he will so soon be entitled—with a liberal allowance during his absence—with an active lawyer at his disposal, to act for him during the year or two for which he would take leave, and at the end of that time we should be able to judge whether the appointment of a second judge were really necessary.

PURE FRENCH.—Not many months ago we were taken to task by our contemporary for a French expression which, in the simplicity of his mind, the saucy editor (or rather the old ironclad on Wharf street, to whom he was indebted for the correction) little knew was perfectly orthodox. We have since had occasion to smile at the attempts made to quote (or mis-quote) that polite language by the journal which sets itself up as an authority. For instance, on describing the state of the weather on New Year's day, we were told that it was "passé overhead." Listen ye of the soft and gentle sex whose charms were held in thraldom the conquered hearts of countless swains. All flesh is grass. Your beauty must fade and then, you will become—"what?"—"passé overhead"—and good-bye to the host of admirers who are overhead and ears in love with you. On two or three other occasions we are gravely informed when some settled fact has been ascertained not requiring the usual contradictory notice next day of "no, see, this is not *faid accoutre*," but the last effort of the "overhead" perhaps the best. In speaking of the probable advent of the Bianchi troupe (of which by the way we acquainted the public a week ago), that individual announces that they will give all the representations in the "repertoires" of the troupe! Poor fellow! fancy a reporter with 18 operas in his inside. What a crochety creature he would be! You are improving, neighbor; better go back to your old tutor; he will employ his time better in giving you a few lessons in French than by writing wittless doggerel verses for your columns.

THE LAWS' DELAYS.

The first Assizes for the year will open this day in the new Court House. It is to be regretted that the administration of the civil jurisdiction of this colony should have been allowed to become so notorious for its delays that traders who cannot recover their just dues without having recourse to the law, will often times prefer losing their money altogether to putting up with the annoyances

Gossiping Letter about the Royal House of Denmark—The Princess of Wales, etc.

[From the Lady Correspondent of the S. E. Alta.]

QUEEN VICTORIA'S ATTACHMENT.

From the first moment when the Queen set eyes on her predestined daughter-in-law, and straightway adopted the charming girl into the warmest place in her motherly heart, "Alex" has been a privileged person saying and doing just what she pleases, and taking affectionate liberties with her royal mother-in-law, quite uncontemplated by the spirit of etiquette.

Accordingly, on receiving this compliment to her pretty bonnet, (which she had trimmed herself,) the Princess, at her sole reply, kissed the Queen's cheek with the caressing tenderness of her constant manner towards the young sovereign, gently untwisting the strings of the Queen's bonnet, and lifting off her head, in less time than it takes to speak of the audacious deed. "Alex" holding the royal bonnet intently, and

visitor about the watch, the ladies of Coventry, and various kindred topics, she carried her off to lunch with her, an honor which will, no doubt, be treasured up in the young envoy for the rest of her natural life. The Mayor's daughter, it is said, has been incessantly occupied, since that memorable morning, in replying to the questions of the curious world of Coventry, respecting the details of her reception by the Princess.

PRINCESS DAGMAR.

Prince Christian's younger daughter, Princess Dagmar, is a mite of a creature, small as a fairy, with a beautiful complexion, a skin white as a lily and a brilliant color, with a pair of sparkling black eyes full of fire and wit, masses of intensely black hair, and a lovely little mouth. Why then, is her little Highness not the finished beauty that she has been declared to be? Because, dear, distant reader, the otherwise bewitching little maiden has a little, insignificant, turned up nose!

But for which vexatious freak of Dame Nature,

the unmarred Princess in Europe. As she is excessively pretty, in spite of her nose, and wins all hearts by her life, wit, brilliancy, and joyous doings. She is said to be full of delight in the new, large brilliant life in which she now finds herself; that her exuberant happiness overflows on all and everything around her. She is always imagining some merry sally, some mirthful trick, and keeps all about her in movement with her lively doings. Add to this that she is perfectly amiable, full of talent, and with plenty of character, and it will not be wondered that she is reported as betrothed to half a dozen scions of royalty. She has been set down as engaged to the Prince of Orange, Prince Umberto and others; but the young heir of all the Russias seems to be the "happy man" whom the northern fairies are to dress with her beautiful little hand. Her lively little Highness having been rendered so joyous merely by the change made in her married and daily horizon by her sister's marriage, no wonder what will be the limit of her ambition now that she will find herself the daughter of a reigning monarch, and surrounded by the delights of a court of which she will be the centre of attraction.

THE YOUNG KING OF THE GREEKS.

Though he generally showed a grave and quiet face in public while here, it is said by those who saw most of him during his stay, to be both lively and witty. He enjoyed his stay in this brilliant capital, the galleries and hospitality which he found at the Tuilleries just as a young fellow whose childhood has passed so quietly, and in such narrow groves, as his might naturally be expected to do. He is modest, good-hearted, and unaffected, and fully appreciates the advantages and responsibilities of his new position, but is in no way puffed up by the acquisition of a crown; converses well, and seems to have impressed those who were brought into contact with him, with the belief that Greece will have every reason to be rejoiced in her new sovereign.

An Explanation of the Schleswig-Holstein Question.

[FROM THE LONDON DAILY NEWS.]

Yesterday, the treaty so often referred to as regulating the succession to the Danish crown was issued as a parliamentary paper, together with copies of the acts of accession of the several Courts of Germany and Europe. The contracting parties to the treaty were Queen Victoria, the Emperor of Austria, the Prince President of the French Republic, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Russia, and the King of Sweden on the one part, and the King of Denmark on the other part. In the preamble of the treaty it was declared that the five first mentioned Powers, together with the King of Sweden:

Taking into consideration that the maintenance of the integrity of the Dutch monarchy, as connected with the general interests of the balance of power in Europe, is of high importance to the preservation of peace, and that an arrangement by which the succession to the whole of the dominions now united under the sceptre of His Majesty, the King of Denmark should devolve upon the male line to the exclusion of females, would be the best means of securing the integrity of that monarchy, have resolved, at the instance of His Danish Majesty, to conclude a treaty, in order to give to the arrangements relating to such order of succession an additional pledge of stability, by an act of European acknowledgement.

The first clause fixes the order of succession. It designates the present King of Denmark as heir in the event of the failure of issue male in a direct line from Frederick III. The second gives the King of Denmark leave to address the Powers further on the same subject should the extinction of issue male in the direct line from Prince Christian (the present King of Denmark) become imminent. The third relates reciprocal rights and obligations of the King of Denmark and the Germanic Confederation concerning Holstein and Lauenburg—rights and obligations, it is added, "established by the Federal Act of 1815, and by the existing Federal right."

The Powers which acceded to this treaty were Hanover, Hesse-Cassel, the Netherlands, Oldenburg, Portugal, Spain, Saxony, Wurtemberg, Sardinia, Naples, Belgium and Tuscany. Oldenburg and Saxony, in signing, reserved certain rights contained in ancient treaties. Bavaria, Ducal Hesse, Saxe-Weimar, Baden, and the two Mecklenburgs refused to sign.

The celebrated Yelverton case will have a hearing in the House of Lords in February next.

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