

Tuesday, January 24, 1865.

HOME PRODUCTION.

Our evening contemporary, the *Times*, again makes most vigorous exertions to prove that we have used Mr. Mill rather unfairly in his essay on "protection." With a strange obliviousness, however, to the general tenor of our articles, he can see no other industry that we insisted on protecting than farming. "We have foundries, wagon factories, window-sash factories, breweries, tanneries and other industries that have started into being through the energy of our inhabitants, but the strain has been too great upon them at the outset, and, with a few exceptions, one by one has languished or is languishing, and in a little time the town will see them no more." Such was the language we used on Wednesday, and it was to such industries that we more especially applied Mill's arguments for protection. Our contemporary, however, with a consciousness of the weakness of his position, selects out of the number of occupations the one which he fancies is least applicable to the case; but, as will be readily perceived, only makes matters worse. He endeavors to prove in rather an original manner that farming is not an "industry," and that least of all, if it exists in a foreign country to the almost total suppression of agriculture in our own, can it be called a "foreign industry"—all of which brings to light rather a new specimen of definitions and places before the public a startling novelty in ratiocination. But farming, it appears, is not only not a foreign industry, but an industry destitute of acquired skill. This must be exceedingly refreshing to men who have been under the belief that few occupations were more intimately connected with science than the pursuit of agriculture—who have seen not only chemistry exhaust itself on that grand test of usefulness, of making two blades of grass grow where but one grew before, but have witnessed the genius of invention spend its powers on appliances for agricultural use. We are afraid our contemporary, with many of our present settlers, has underrated the occupation of tilling the soil. If there is skill required in any branch of employment it is decidedly in this; and it is by no means difficult to understand that, where two communities have settled down in countries contiguous to each other, the one that has had the advantage of a number of years of priority of settlement will, *ceteris paribus*, be able to beat the new comer out of the field. There are certain things which, with all our free trade capacity, we cannot import. We cannot have consignments of Vancouver Island farming experience from Europe or even California. We cannot by living in England, acquire a practical knowledge of our climate or our soil, or an intuitive perception of what the earth will produce with the greatest profit to the cultivator. There are, in fact, numbers of essentials that we can only acquire by patient and laborious industry. But the very difficulties in the way make the party, when once over them, an antagonist against whom it would be fruitless to contend.

In all new colonies the natural obstacles that interpose between the settler and the fruits of the soil are quite sufficient in themselves to deter many from cultivating the land; but when, in addition to these natural drawbacks, we add that of ruinous competition, we take the most effectual method of sealing up a country and making its fate hang on no more substantial substance than a spider's web. There is not a person on the Island—whether he be in favor of free port or customs' duties—but must acknowledge that our present position is just about as precarious as this; and yet we have men sufficiently obstructive and non-progressive as to cling to the "unsubstantial pageant faded," and set their faces with a superstitious obstinacy against a change. Instead of appealing to reason they rush into spurious declamation and imaginary figures. They talk with all the gusto of inflated bunium of "working men who have hitherto eaten untaxed bread," and of some privileged class that are going to carry off slices of children's loaves. Like all the rest of the free port dogmas, these assertions have no better foundation than rhetorical flourishes. The first result of taxing produce will be, providing a proper disposition is made of those lands at present held uncultivated by speculators, to induce at once a large number of our population to settle earnestly on the public lands. Then follows a demand for the ordinary industries of a new country—the wagon maker, the blacksmith, the carpenter and so on, each of these vocations creating in its turn a demand for others. Now we shall grant that the change at the commencement will increase the prices of those articles protected; but by the lapse of two years we feel convinced we shall be able to compete with our American neighbors, and to relinquish the protective tariff. A means of employment will be also afforded to the immigrant population in addition to mining, and the poorest man will be better able to pay for his loaf, however high may be the price, than he possibly can now. Throwing aside all extraneous issues, we come to the one great question—shall home production flourish? It has not flourished heretofore, does not now, nor will it without the application of that remark of Mr. Rae, supported by Mr. Mill, "that nothing has a greater tendency to promote improvements in any branch of production than its trial under a new set of conditions." Let us postpone this change for a few years, or until our mines, like those of Australia and California, have begun rapidly to decline, and we shall carry out that prediction made in the early part of our career, and leave our brick buildings as legacies or bones of contention to the rival tribes of the Songiah and the Flathead.

UNION WITH A TARIFF.

There are always two classes of motion required to produce reforms. The first is that of agitation, which shakes the firmly-seated prejudice, unsettles the fallacious conviction, and ends by bringing into the arena sufficient disturbing causes to overthrow a system. The second is that of construction, which educes order from chaos, collects material for a fresh fabric, and ends by replacing the injurious policy with one more in consonance with the age. We are now in the transition state from the first to the second motion—from agitation to construction. Let us not prolong the interval by needless controversy, but proceed at once to bring matters to a practical issue. Our free port policy has been disrupted; let the public lose no time in finding a more profitable substitute, so that we may enter upon our new career without further loss. Everything favors immediate action. The Legislature is in session, the Estimates are about to be discussed, and the mining season has not yet opened. If a full public opinion can be obtained on a question so vital as that which at present agitates the country, it can be obtained now; if legislative action is wanting to give effect to that opinion, it can be obtained now; and if the influence of the Executive is required, we feel assured it could not be given at a more opportune period. At present there are petitions framing in the agricultural districts, societies forming in the towns, and motions ready to be made by members of the Legislature, for the purpose of effecting a change in the policy of the country. All it requires to make these efforts speedily effective is united and concerted action.

In the question of import duties, which has come up almost summarily to the surface of affairs, there enters as we have repeatedly shown, the larger one of union. The matter, indeed, as it at present stands, is customs with separation or customs with British Columbia. To anyone who has at all studied the subject, it will appear evident that the latter course is the one most suited to our present wants, and which recommends itself most readily to the merchant as well as the farmer. Customs with separation will increase the expenses of Government and drive the two colonies farther than ever apart, while customs with union will effect a considerable saving even in our present expenditure and give harmony where there is just now nothing but discord. The principal difficulty which has heretofore stood in the way of a union with British Columbia would, by the abolition of the free port, be removed, and the people of the neighboring colony, deprived of all valid objections against the proposition most recognize its desirability at once. That they are on the one side of the Gulf of Georgia, and we on the other, cannot affect their reasoning faculties or blind them to the very palpable advantages which much accrue from having one common Government with greater money power, and with less official demands upon it. Instead of a few deserted villages on the banks of the Fraser they would have thriving towns; instead of a migratory, ever shifting population, they would have stable and settled communities; for the united colony having ceased to exist as two helpless, uninfused, floundering creatures of circumstance, could concentrate its resources as well as energies in carrying out a scheme of immigration suitable to the peculiar wants of the country; and last, not least, instead of being a little Piddington in politics, British Columbia would enter at once into all the privileges and responsibilities of representative government. To us the union would bring similar strength and advantages. Our domestic trade—the great back-bone of Vancouver Island commerce—would be no longer subject to the danger of disruption; our mechanical and agricultural interests would no longer languish, and with our increased colonial and political power, the influence of the country would rise both on this coast and in the mother country, and reciprocity with our American neighbors, like a ripe apple, would be ready to fall into our lap. We shall have, however, to bestir ourselves. Let public meetings be held, and the people of British Columbia approached on the question of Union in a liberal spirit. On a matter in which all classes are vitally concerned we cannot afford to have divided, much less conflicting, action; it is, therefore, to be hoped the mercantile class, which is on this question really the most deeply interested of any on the Island, will take that prominent part in the movement which circumstances warrant. Looking at our present condition and that of British Columbia in the most hopeful light, we see no remedy but in union; not a Federal makeshift or expedient, but a *bona fide* Legislative union—one and complete. Let us have this and our temporary stagnation will scarcely be worth a regret. Our Kootenay prospects will be more than ever bright, and our hopes of the country's future more than ever sanguine.

EARLY CLOSING.—We are glad to learn that a movement is on foot among the drapers of the city to close their establishments at an early hour on Saturday afternoons. It is contemplated, we believe, to close at one o'clock, and to begin the practice on the 1st of February next. We hope this sensible example will be followed in other branches of business in the city. All that movements of this kind require to render them successful is co-operation among the dealers themselves, and a little thoughtfulness on the part of the public, in endeavoring to transact their business before the hour fixed for closing.

LICENSED VICTUALLERS.—This body met last night and formally dissolved, the funds of the society, which amounted to several hundred dollars, being ordered to be divided among the members. We understand that a large minority were in favor of presenting the accumulated funds to the charitable institutions of the city, but more selfish feeling prevailed.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19.
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Young, Dickson, Duncan, Bayley.

SCHOOL BILL.
The House went into Committee on this bill. Dr. Dickson in the chair.
The penal clauses of the bill were passed as previously amended and the bill reported complete.

FRIDAY'S BUSINESS.
The business of the day will be, that a Supply be granted, second reading of the Justice of the Peace Bill, the Governor's Message on the Municipal Debentures, Message relating to the Governor's Instructions, Committee on Weights and Measures, Bill to amend Road Act.
House adjourned at half-past three o'clock.

FRIDAY, JAN. 20.
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, Young, Tolmie, Trimble, Dickson, Cochrane, Carswell, Duncan, Bayley, Dennes.

CONDITION OF THE COLONY.
Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Monday next he would move that the House fix a day to go into committee on the condition of the colony.

SUPPLIES FOR THE YEAR.
The House agreed to a motion that Supplies for the year be granted. The consideration of the Estimates will be commenced on Monday next.

SCHOOL BILL.
This bill was read a third time and passed.

JUSTICE OF PEACE BILL.
This bill was read a second time.

MUNICIPAL DEBTS.
The House went into committee on the communication from His Excellency in regard to the Municipal Debentures, Mr. Bayley in the chair.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that this House having in consideration the Message of His Excellency relating to the Municipal Debentures recommend His Excellency to pay the same out of the general revenue, and that this House pledges itself to make good the same.

Mr. Franklin said his hon. colleague had anticipated him in a similar resolution.
Mr. Helmcken said he would support the motion, but when the debt was repaid he would insist that it should be paid by local tax on the city and the money paid into the Colonial Treasury.
The resolution was passed *non con.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
The Committee took up His Excellency's despatch in regard to the Constitution of the Legislative Council, and referring to his Commission and Royal Instructions, but Dr. Dickson, the mover in the matter, not being prepared, the subject was postponed.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.
The bill to provide a standard of Weights and Measures for the colony came up in committee. The bill, which legalizes the British Standard, was adopted without discussion, Mr. DeCosmos explaining that he himself would much prefer a decimal system (hear, hear), but owing to the urgent need of some regulation as to Weights and Measures in the colony at present he had introduced the English system.

Mr. Franklin said he had brought in a motion some time ago, which had been passed, authorizing the Governor to send for a set of standard English Weights and Measures, and he had intended to have introduced a bill on their arrival. He had, however, been anticipated by his hon. colleague.

Dr. Helmcken said he was strongly in favor of the decimal system. When a tariff was introduced the American gallon would be much more profitable to the Government than the English gallon, as one dollar on it would produce much more revenue than the same amount on the English gallon. He did not allude to the probability or possibility of a tariff as an argument on this bill, as the question of a tariff was well worthy in itself of the most serious consideration of the House.

After some further conversation the bill was reported.

ROAD ACT.
Mr. Young introduced his bill to amend the Road Act, 1860. He briefly explained the provisions of the bill.

Dr. Helmcken said he could not agree with the bill in doing away with the six days' Statute labor. This labor had been regarded as a species of poll-tax, and he could not think it so unfair as the hon. mover of the amendment seemed to think. He thought it would be better to postpone the bill to a future day.

Mr. Franklin said he had long been satisfied that the Road tax required adjusting; he would not however oppose the postponement of the bill. The committee reported progress on the bill, and the House adjourned till Monday, when the Estimates will come up in detail.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—Mr. Finlay, of the firm of Henderson & Burnaby, met with a very serious accident late on Wednesday night. While sitting in his office on the second story, the gas was turned off below, and he stepped hastily to the open hatchway to order it to be turned on again, when he accidentally tripped over a box on the floor and was precipitated headlong to the ground floor, a distance of 12 or 14 feet, fracturing his lower jaw, and receiving some severe bruises. Had it not been that his fall was broken by a large case, the unfortunate gentleman would almost inevitably have been killed. Dr. Dickson was soon in attendance and under his care we are pleased to learn the patient is doing very well.

UNDER ANOTHER FLAG.—The Gen. Wyndham, from London, spoke on the 17th Sep., about 7 deg. north of the line the American ship Romance, from Rangoon, laden with sugar and rice bound to Liverpool. She had experienced very heavy weather off the Cape of Good Hope; had lost a good deal of canvas, and had run short of water and tobacco. She was sailing under the British flag to avoid privateers. Capt. Jane sent a boat on board and gave the master the welcome intelligence of the capture of the Alabama by the Kearsarge.

ARRIVAL FROM ENGLAND.—The clipper ship Gen. Wyndham, 864 tons register, Capt. S. E. Jane, arrived yesterday afternoon in Esquimalt Harbor from London, August 23rd, having made a fine passage of 149 days. She brings 30 passengers, including children, and a large and valuable general cargo of 1300 tons consigned to Messrs. Henderson & Burnaby. The passengers report having had a most agreeable voyage, and are loud in their praises both of the captain and the treatment they experienced on board. No sickness or any accident occurred. The Gen. Wyndham proved herself a good, tight, seaworthy ship and a fast sailer.

THE DEERTERS.—The men who deserted from the U. S. troops who were brought up by the Pacific yesterday are still in town, the Anderson being obliged to sail yesterday without them. The fellows knew their advantage, and laughed at any efforts made to induce their return.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

SUPREME COURT.—*Attorney General vs. Hudson Bay Company.*—The court was yesterday occupied in hearing a motion by the Attorney General instructed by Messrs. Fearkes and Green, on behalf of the Crown to dismiss the information in this case without costs. The suit, it will be remembered, was commenced in 1861 by the Crown against the H. B. Company to set aside certain sales of property made by them, some of which are alleged to be encroachments on public reserves. Mr. Ring, with whom was Mr. McCreight, instructed by Mr. Drake, opposed the application, so far as the costs were concerned contending that the Crown had by its conduct impliedly undertaken to indemnify Mr. Pemberton the relator against the costs, and that in any case the relator was liable to pay them. His Honor reserved his judgment.

VICTORIA LODGE, F. & A. M., No. 783.—The installation ceremonies were conducted yesterday by Past Master Thomas Harris and Wm. Jeffray. The following are the officers for the ensuing year:—Robt. Barnaby, W. M.; James Curtis, S. W.; Lumley Franklin, J. W.; M. Spurborg, Treasurer; Wm. Leigh, Secretary; John Hill, S. D.; John Malowanski, J. D.; Henry Nathan, I. G.; George Creighton, Tyler.

DISCHARGED.—The man John Tait, who was ordered into confinement some time since as of unsound mind, was brought before Mr. Pemberton yesterday, and as he appeared to be sufficiently rational to be quite responsible for his actions he was released.

REPAIRED.—The Coal Company's shute at Nanaimo, which was crushed down on the deck of the *Fideliter* by some loaded trucks a week or two ago, is now nearly repaired, and in a week will be ready to receive the largest ships that visit the port.

THE IDAHO ROBBERS.—U. S. Consul Francis received a telegram yesterday dated Portland 16th, 4 p. m., from the Chief of Police in that city requesting him to procure the watch and chain from Frank Yager in this city, as it was an important link in the evidence against Brookie Jack. Yager, however, having gone to San Francisco last steamer, the Consul will forward the despatch to Chief of Police Burke of that city.

THE ARTESIAN GOLD MINING COMPANY LIMITED.—At the general meeting of this Company, held yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce, a report of the Company was read, also a financial report from which we learn that while prospecting the Artesian ground this past season, gold to the value of \$1,274 16c. was washed up. Messrs. Otis Parsons, Frank Tarbell and T. F. Barnard were elected in place of retiring Directors.

THEATRICAL.—Mr. Thos. Ward arrived last evening from Portland, bringing with him our old and special theatrical friends Mrs. Julia Dean Hayne and Mr. J. S. Potter. They are accompanied by Mrs. McDonald and her daughter. The theatre, we understand, will be opened for the spring engagement to-morrow evening with Sheridan Knowles' play of the Hunchback, to be followed by new pieces every evening.

ARSON.—A malicious attempt was made yesterday morning shortly after 2 o'clock, to set fire to the residence of Mr. Newbury, on Johnson street. Messrs. Siffen Bros., agents for the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co., have offered \$100 reward, and Messrs. Newberry and Cowper \$200 reward, for information which may lead to the detection of the incendiary.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—A meeting of this Council was held yesterday. The Declaration of Titles Bill passed the final reading. The House went into Committee on the Land Registry Act and passed a few clauses. The Telegraph Bill came up for the consideration of certain proposed amendments, and the Council adjourned.

CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT.—The charge preferred by Fawcette against Martin for embezzling 13 bales of hay occupied some time yesterday in the Police Court, and was finally adjourned for further testimony. The evidence adduced apparently resolved itself into a question of debt.

REAL ESTATE STATISTICS.—From the *Extra Government Gazette*, published in this office, containing the Real Estate Assessment Roll for 1864-5, we gather the following interesting figures: Number of persons assessed, 845; assessed value of real estate in the city, \$2,605,713; value of improvements on ditto, \$699,330; Total value, \$3,305,043. Total tax levied on real estate, \$43,519 98.

NANAIMO.—Business is quiet at present at Nanaimo, the difficulties between the miners and the Company not having been yet adjusted, and the men being still on the strike. The *Fideliter* has been beached, in order to have her bottom cleaned.

WHISKY CASE.—Joseph Gouean was yesterday convicted in the Police Court of selling spirits to Indians and sentenced to pay a fine of fifty dollars or serve three months at road making.

FEMALE INFIRMARY.—The proceeds of the Amateur performance in aid of the building fund of the above institution will amount to near \$200. A statement will be published in the course of a day or two.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT.—The contract for the supply of coal to the Harbor tug and Dredger during the year 1865, has been awarded to the Vancouver Coal Company.

GONE HOME.—Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Fellows and Mrs. McCreight sailed for England on the Pacific yesterday morning.

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

Our files of the *Panama Star* and *Herald* are to December 22d, with dates from Valparaiso to the 2nd and Callao to the 13th December.

CHILE.—General business is kept dull at once by the unsettled state of political matters on the coast, by the unsatisfactory state of our relations with Spain, and by the influence of the stringent state of the money market in England, as advised by recent mails. This country is kept waiting in a state of the most unsatisfactory suspense for some action on the part of Peru in the Spanish question. Sympathizing with Peru, Government some time ago passed a measure declaring coal contraband of war, and now by this time we have the vessels of the Spanish reinforcement in Chile waters, with every probability that they will demand and enforce their right to have coal at some of our southern ports. The solution of the Spanish-Peruvian question is most anxiously waited for, that it may be known how the country stands—whether we are to have a war, or which will be most humiliating, an unsatisfactory peace, into which Peru will be forced.

The new customs regulations which came into operation on the 19th November, do not give general satisfaction, and the merchants of Valparaiso are preparing a protest against the new import duties.

A new Government bill has been approved by the Chambers for raising in this country within two years a loan of \$3,000,000. This amount is required in addition to the loan presently attempted to be raised in Europe. Peru.—Another fortnight has passed, and not one step has been advanced nearer to a solution of the Spanish-Peruvian question. After all the fuss being made when the last mail left; although the Spanish squadron had lost the Admiral's ship by fire; although it was known for certain that if Peru was not for ever after to be laughed at for her idle threats and want of action, now was the time to execute such threats as she had been making for some time past, before the Spanish reinforcements should arrive, yet to this hour nothing has been done or even attempted to be done. It is now said that the South American Congress have interfered to prevent war until they have tried what they can do by further negotiations, and here the matter rests.

By a small steamer, the *Huanay*, from Valparaiso, chartered by the Peruvian Consul there and sent direct to Callao with news of the Spanish squadron, we learn that the first of the frigates—the *Berenguela*, of 20 guns—had arrived at Valparaiso, and that the other ships of the reinforcement squadron were already in Chile waters. The *Berenguela* sailed from Monte Video on 6th November and made the passage in 28 days, having been under sail nearly the whole way; she parted company with the other ships a day before she entered the Straits. She ordered in Valparaiso some fresh provisions, but the stores were not allowed to be embarked. On anchoring at Valparaiso she fired salute, a want of courtesy which was particularly noticed.

The Peru leaves Callao with 1,871 bales of cotton on board. One of her passengers is the celebrated Admiral Pinzon, now relieved by Admiral Pareja. Doubtless H. C. Majesty will have some special honor to bestow on her zealous Admiral, who more than any other man in Spain has made Spanish influence felt in South America.

The Chile frigate *Esmeralda* sailed for Valparaiso on December 9th, and the only foreign vessel of war in Callao bay at present is H. B. M. ship *Leander*, Commodore Harvey.

BRAZIL.

By the arrival of the bark *Mirago*, Capt. Merrill, we have advices from Rio Janeiro to Oct. 13. The ship Alexander, Capt. J. Brown, arrived the night previous from Cardiff, and while off the port, Capt. Brown was washed overboard by a sea and was drowned. A most violent tornado visited that place on the 10th instant, at 6 p.m., accompanied by tremendous large hail stones and torrents of rain. The city, for about one quarter of a mile in width, suffered severely, many houses being blown down, and others completely riddled by the hail. The tornado lasted about fifteen minutes. The shipping has sustained a great deal of damage. The bark *Leighton*, Capt. Blatchford, was capsized, and the captain's son, a boy of 10 years, drowned. His wife was saved almost exhausted. The bark *Lapwing* was considerably damaged about the stern. The Brazilian brig *Manuel* was capsized, also several other foreign vessels capsized, and a number of lives lost. A boat from the English line of battle ship *Bombay*, while going ashore during the tornado, was upset, and all the crew with several officers lost.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

NAVAL.—H. M. S. *Tribune*, Captain Lord Viscount Gifford, will sail from Esquimalt, we understand, on the 1st of February for Mazatlan. H. M. S. *Leander*, Commodore Harvey, was in Callao Bay on the 13th ult. H. M. S. *Columbine* arrived at Taboga, Dec. 13th, from the Mexican coast, touching at San Jose de Guatemala. She relieved the *Cameleon* which left for this station on the fifteenth.

HOME MANUFACTURE.—It is pleasing to notice the inauguration of any branch of home industry. Hitherto the boot and shoe maker in this city has, for the most part, been supplied by English, French, and America imports. Mr. Maurice Carey has, however, opened an establishment on Yates street, where he engages to supply gentlemen's, ladies', and children's boots and shoes manufactured, to a great extent, out of Island leather, equal if not superior to most of the imported articles. Mr. Carey consumes a large quantity of leather prepared in tallow tanneries, which he pronounces to be of excellent quality.

DESERTION.—It was reported last night that seventeen of the U. S. troops who came up on the Pacific, stepped on shore when the steamer touched the wharf, and refused to return to their duty. The *Bliza* Anderson was in waiting when the Pacific came in, and took the remainder of the force on board en route for Sitka.

Tuesday.

British.

Arrival of the steamer.—The steamer *ing* from New York and Barnegat, dated from New York, She brought a...

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OPENING.

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