WEEKLY THE BRITISH COLONIST

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They invigorate the Stomach and stimulate the tor-dliver and bowels, which render them of unequalled ficacy in cleansing the blood of all impurities, and sparting new life and vigor to the whole system. FOR SKIN DISEASES, Eruptions, Tetter, Salt m, Blotches, Spots, Pimples, Pustules, Bolls, Car-les, Ring-Worms, Scald-Head, Sore Eyes, Erysipmores, thing votes the skin, Humors at Itch, Scurfs, Discolorations of the Skin, Humors d Discases of the Skin, of whatever name or nature, a literally dug up and carried out of the system in a t time by the use of these Bitters. One bottle in ch cases will convince the most incredulous of their Cleanse the Vitiated Blood whenever you find its

arities bursting through the skin in Pimples, Erup-s or Sores cleanse it when you find it obstructed l singgish in the veins; cleanse it when it is foul l your feelings will tell you when. Keep the blood and the health of the system will follow. PIN, TAPE and other WORMS, lurking in the satem of so many thousands, are effectually destroyed and removed. For full directions, read carefully granlar around each bottle, prin ages-English, German, French and Spanish.

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Che Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday, February 22nd 1871

The Key to the Western Door of the Dominion.

Speech of Hon, Dr. Helmcken before the Legislative Council of British Columbia.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 1871

MR SPEAKER -It is well known to the members of this Council that a Joint Commission has been appointed on the part of Great Britain and of the United States, to settle all outstanding difficulties, which prevent a perfect state of amicability between the two nations. I congratulate the world that its two greatest nations have taken this method of settling their differences instead of having recourse to quarrels and war. 1 congratulate Ganada upon the envieble position she occupies, in that at least one of her greatest state-men has been appointed on that Commission 1 congratulate British Columbia for the like reasons, because it shows that the Mother Country will not not only trust the interests of Canada to her own people, but will also entrust her own interests of perhaps greater moment to the peace of the world to the same arbiters,—an epoch in the history of the colonies. Sir, it is a proud day for Canada, and we, like them, must feel that as they have now more power so they have greater responsibilities Canada to day has union, we rise with her. It is not my intention to trace this question from its commencement, I anall not go back to the history of the British Colony that settled upon the west coast of this Island just about one hundred years ago, and which was subsequently destroyed by the Spainards I shall not trouble you with the subject of war with Spain that was nearly occasioned by this attack upon this, now our country, but agreed not to molest each other. Spain gave up her pretensions to exclusive right Spain and Great Britain hold as Scotland, occupying a wonderful geogra-equal rights. Spain could not have phical position as well for commerce as war, given that what did not belong to her, viz, the rights of Great Britain. I shall, then, commence with the Treaty of 1818, which agreed to the joint occupation of this country or Oregon by both British and American G vernments Oregon was then an undefined country, not the Oregon of to-day; indeed, within our own recollection, Washington Territory has been cut off from the modern one. The treaty of 1818 was for ten years, at the end of which it was continued by another treaty for an Indefinite sire to surrender it. About 1841 a resolution was proposed in the American mind at the time I agreed Britain it was rejected. In 1844 Mr U States, proposed to treat about the the subject was unfortunately killed at the trial of a gun- which burst. Thus were negotiations suspended for a time : and then there came on a Presidential election, at which "54° 10" or fight" was the political cry of the day. Mr Polk was elected President. He was the great supporter of that wicked fulmination and in his inaugural address he asserted the undoubted right of the United States to 54.50, that Oregon should extend to the line of the Russian Poss. essions. When this address reached England it created great excitement and it was then that Sir Robert Peel in the House of Commons made use of the well known and patriotic sentence England has her rights and dares maintain them.' This captivated the Commons and elicited rounds of applause, which, when heard in the United States, produced an intense commotion and every one looked upon war as inevitable, and expected every day to bear of its having been declared. Mr Bachanan soon found it advisable to adfreas a note to Mr Packenham asking im to resume negotiations, and now proposed the old line of 49° to the Pacific Ocean which Packenham refused and demanded the line of the Commbia River. It now leaked out that the President wanted to accept 49° rather than fight, and in the Senate he was denonneed as vile and infamous. At this time a Bill was brought in relating to the Territorial Government of Oregon giving 640 acres to any one who would settle there. Mr Benton wanted to know why no boundaries were put to Oregon and he answered it himself by saying that it had none, for 54,40 was no line at all, but only a mark upon a rock, that Russia had no claims in the interior of the country, and that the United States had no claims beyond 49°

-but based that claim upon the treaty

of Utrecht, which indeed is more than

coubtful, and the Spainish claims as I

or fight," so Mr Benton was employed to sound the Senate upon accepting 49°. He tound he could earry that point with the requisite majority. The President then employed a stratagem. Instead of backing down from the "54 40," he sent a projet of a Treaty to the S nate; in it was the 49° degree boundary, but he asked the Sanate either to agree or alter it to suit themselves. Of course the whole thing had been arranged beforehand by Benton; and so after frgihtfully stormy debate, the project of the Treaty was agreed to. Four days after this the Treaty which binds us now was agreed to. You will see that it was a hurried production, each party thereto wishing to put an end to the intense exc tement and also wishing to avoid war. But there is umbia was given up. In 1844 H M Ship America arrived in these parts. She lay in Port D scovery. Two of her officers were sent to the Columbia to report upon that country. Captain Gordon determined to report the Washngton Territory (uow) portion himself. Capt Gordon was brother to the then Prime Minister and it is stated that being disgusted with the country because the salmon would not jump at the fly, he reported to his brother the Prime Minister of England that the country was "not worth a d-n," and advised

him to give it up. This is the way Canada lost the boundary of the Colum. bia River. It was given up but not at the demand of the United States, Here is the first section of the Treaty, the only one of any importance in this matter : This treaty brings me to a point of great interest, and one upon which this Council had something to say a few days age—I mean the resolution relating to the initial point of the railway upon the Pacific. The terms of union of Canada with this colony and the resolution say that a railway shall be built from the Pacific toward the Rocky Mountains. Now what is f the Pacific?' and remember, the I will remark that out of this accurred a terms of Union must be read as they are. The Treaty with Spain, by which each Power | Americans demanded that the boundary line allowed settlements to be formed and should run along the 49th parallel of north latitude to the Pacific, but it could not get to the Pacific without crossing Vancouver Island which, being a most important Island, as large and being the key and frontier of the whole of the British Possessions, Mr Pakenham would not give up; so the line had to find its way to the Pacific in another way-that is through the Straits of de Fuca. It is clear that the Gulf of Georgia and narrow waters were not considered the Pacific. In fact the distinction is drawn by Mr Benton that these inland waters are domestic waters under the sole control of H M Government. The Pacific Ocean is a public sea open to all. That point the line had to reach by going through the Straits of de Fuca to the Pacific. Remember too that the treaty provides a right of traverse to the contracting parties and no one else, thus proving the waters to have been considerperiod until either of the two powers ed private. It is clear from this that the Gulf should give notice to the other of a dc- of Georgia is not the Pacific. Our railway must, therefore, commence upon the Pacific. and this is the meaning I also had in my Congress that that desire should be ex- at Ottawa. The same opinion is supported to that resolution | Harney. pressed; but as it was thought a ruse by the sayings and doings of the Commission-to involve the country in war with Great ers who were subsequently appointed to lay down the boundary line; they speak in the Britain it was rejected. In 1844 Mr same way. They succeeded in defining and putting the line upon land but could not come to any conclusion as to the channel by water. boundary line of Oregon, but Mr Up. So you see the treaty is not so plain after all.

But I only want to show the meaning to be attached to the word Pacific. Now, sir, when that treaty was negotiated the great men of the United States thought that every cause of quarrel had been removed and that nothing remained to disturb the peace. Yet, Mr. Speaker, what do we find ? That on July 27th 1859 a company of United States soldiers landed upon San Juan Island and Capt Pickett, who commanded them, makes an order " This being United States Territory, no laws other than those of the United States, nor courts except such as are held by virtue of such laws, will be allowed or recognized on this Island." I need not say that this raised an intense excitement at Victoria, and the British settlers were loud in their demands to tarn those foreign soldiers off British Territory. H. M. S. Satellite, Plumper, Tribune, Pylades and Forward with some others were sent to what was termed the seat of war, and we were listening for the booming of guns to sound across to Victoria, for you know we can see San Juan to the north from the top of this Council Chamber. The Sappers and and fresh troops were brought from Oregon under the command of General Casey, and landed at San Juan. War vessels ran to and fro from Victoria to San Juan, and great busiwho was at that timeGovernor of BritishColum bia and Vice Admiral, issued a proclamation declaring that the sovereignty of the Island of San Juan and of the whole of the Haro Archipelago had always been undeviatingly claimed to be in the Crown of Great Britain. The Assembly of Vancouver Island passed warlike resolutions. The excitement spread to Puget Sound and California. They threatto burn down Victoria if the troops on the Island were touched-and certainly at that time there were more Americans in British Oolumbia than British subjects, for remember the Fraser River gold excitement existed at that time, but they would have resisted any such attempt upon our and their property. Yet, we knew enough of "fillbustering thing seemed to be prepared. The battle was the islands. Now, Sir, bear the first clause imminent, for there is no doubt but what Sir of this James Douglas intended driving the American forces off San Juan at all risks and hazards, and there were ships and guns enough to have

blown them to atoms and certainly to have

warranted no fight on the part of the Ameri-

cans, when, fortunately or unfortunately, on August 9th Admiral Baynes arrived in H.M.S.

said before being worthless. In 1846 fleet and declared that not an ounce of blood minth parallel of north latitude to the middle miles in length, but that is a mere speck the abrogation of joint occupation was asked for and carried by resolution; this put the President into an awkward predictament after his declaration of "54 40"

Best and declared that and and the subject was left to the consideration of beth governments. Had and thence southerly through the middle of the said channel and of Funa Straits to the Pacific Ocean. Provided, however, that the navigation of the said channel and of Funa Straits to the Pacific Ocean. Provided, however, that the navigation of the said channel and of Funa Straits to the Pacific Ocean. Francisco with dispatches, but fell in with the gation of the whole of the said channel and Juan would command the entrance to British Ganges at Cape Flattery, the question of the channel would have been settled and I should not have been bothering this Council with it, neither would the Canadians have had their present honor. The cause of the action of General Harney is best shown by extracts from the letters. I believe there was some dispute about a pig, so the whole of excitement, and nearly a war, was brought about by a hog. GENERAL HARNEY'S LETTER TO GOVERNOR

"I placed a military command upon San Straits to the Pacific Ocean. Now, Sir, Juan Island to protect the American citizens on paper the description or direction given is from the insults and indignities which the apparently easy enough to follow. A ship British authorities of Vancouver Island and the establishment of the H B Co have recently offered them, by sending a British ship of war Oce would imagine from the treaty that the frem Vancouver Island to convey a chief factor of the HBCo to SanJuan for the purpose of seizing an American citizen and forcibly transporting him to Vancouver. Island to be tried by British laws. In the meantime I have the honor to inform

another reason why the line of the Col- your Excellency I shall not permit a repetition of that insult and shall retain command on San Juan Island to protect its citizens in the name of the United States. August 6th, 1859."

SIR JAMES' ANSWER.

"Glad to find you did so under general instructions from the military commander of Oregen and not from Washington.

I will explain that none of Her Majesty's Ships have ever been sent to convey the Chief basin of water opposite Esquimalt, extend-Factor or any other officer of the HBCo for ing to the Straits of de Fuca—come thirty purpose of seizing an American citizen, nor has any attempt ever been made to seize an American citizen and to transpert him forcibly to Vancouver Island for trial as represented

views of the United States Government as ex-pressed in Marcy's dispatch of 17th of July 855, which I enclose for your information, as presume the document cannot be in your ossession.

I deeply regret that you did not communicate to me your greviance as you would then have found out how unfounded the charge

I also deeply regret that when I had the pleasure of seeing you last menth at Victoria you did not mention the matter to me.

I ask you now, if not as a matter of legality, as a matter of justice to remove your troops. The end of the whole was that the war fever and bubble cellapsed here, but the irritation remains. The British Government and the American Government decided to have a joint military occupation of the Island until the question should be finally settled. England thought (we did not) her honor sufficiently preserved and served by such an agreement without first demanding the withdrawal of the American forces. That is why you now see a British military post and an American military post upon San Juan! I hope the two nations

free from care as their representatives on the Joan and indeed of the Haro Islands was Island are. the fact that at the very time of its occur, made to them by others-more recent exrence a Joint Commission, composed of of plorations having shown the Haro channel to ficers belonging to H M shipe then here, and be a practicable one, though possessing many officers appointed by the Government of the disadvantages, such as fewer anchorages and Untted States, was actually sitting to define much deeper water than the Rosario onethe boundary line according to the treaty! things of no small consequence in these in fact to lay down that line upon a map, narrow and intricate channels. There was a which the pegotiators of the treaty had map, too, at that time, published by or in failed to do-probably because they had no the Woited States, upon which the boundary map and made the treaty in a desperate burry. line was marked through the centre of this The Commissioners, although they exercised very Resarie channel I cannot come, then, their good effices for peace, were powerless to any other conclusion than that the Roageinst the military authority of General sario channel must have been the one inthat although it defined the boundary line of any channel at all other than the supupon land, which has since been out through posed one of the Gulf of Georgia being a and marked, yet it failed to come to any continuous sheet of water; unbroken by Isagreement as to the line upon the water, the lands. The Commissioners appointed Americans demanding that the line should 1858 to lay down the boundary line accordrun through that channel knewn now as the ing to the treaty, slibeugh they had no Haro Strait; the British, that the Rosario trouble is making it out upon the land, Channel was the correct and proper one, no found it impossible to define it upon the compremise even was effected. You will water. The American Commissioners insee, then, that this boundary question is not sisted upon the Hare channel being the one without great difficulty; but I hope the meant, the British Commissioners being at Commission at Washington may be able to come to some decision not derogatory to the dignity of either Government-for if left as to the ownership of the Haro Islands and ansettled the case will be worse than before the meaning of the said channel' remains -will always be a cause of irritation, a unsettled. There must be some difficulty theme for brawling politicians and an incites about the interpretation and settlement of ment to war a sondition that certainly can-

not be intended or desired. Before passing to the treaty I would have you remember the condition of this country these two lie San Jean and the Haro Group. previous fo 1846. It was virtually an unknown and unused country, occupied only I will, if you please, start from Victoria to by the Hudson Bay Company. About 1849 the Gulf of Georgia, because British Colum-the gold excitement of California broke out. bia lies north of the 49th parallel, there bewhich entired its shousands there and sent a ing only a most important part of this Island few up here, more for the purpose of cutting south of it. Here, then, is Reserio Strait, spara, piles and lumber upon Puget Sound the eastern channel It runs along the Amerthan anything else. Previous to that the ican portion of the continent, having the iscountry was known only to the H B Co's lands of Lopes and Blakely upon its western servants and to some of H M ships which side. It is a good and wide ship channel, Miners were brought from New Westminster visited it occasionally. The various channels through the Haro Islands were unknown. indeed it is only recently that many of these channels have been opened out-the very names show that. The H B Co had to send ness seemed to be going on. Sir James Douglas ships at that time from Victoria to Fort Langley upon Fracer River. They and they! main up to the 49th degree, a portion of very alone navigated these waters. Ask any of the captains in the H B Co's service how they got there and they wil tell you at once said, our domestic water, and the 49 h their that they went by the Rosario Strait-they knew of no other-did not want any other, because that channel was a good one with plenty of anchorage, so valuable where the currents run se sharply and logs so often prevail. This channel was likewise the one traversed by Vancouver and marked in his coart—the only one then extant. It is like-wise the channel through which the Spanish ships went during their explorations-in fact it was the only ship channel known and none other was required. It does lie south-

TREATY. From the point on the forty-nieth parallel of north latitude where the boundary laid down in existing treaties and tenventions between the United States and Great Bris tain terminates, the line of boundary be-Ganges, certainly but little expected. Of tween the territories of the United States course the Admiral assumed command of the and those of Her Britannie Majesty shall be continued westward along the said forty.

parties. The line is to run on the forty-ninth pa-

rallel to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver Island '-that channel is the Gulf of Georgia which at this point is about twenty miles in width-and 'thence southerly through the middle of the said channel and of Fuca must go 'southerly' to reach the Strai's de Fuce, so that term amounts to nothing. Gulf with varying speed must and do flow. After running through these various chanmiles from the point of coalition. Now waste can the said channel' be said to run o accord with the treaty ? There is not one channel, but several. Now it so through the islands are two larger, longer and wider than the rest-the one on the eastern side being called the Rosario Channel, the one on the western, the Haro Channel. nite from ignorance, accident or design, but let us suppose the negotiators to have had some channel in view, which is the probable or, indeed, possible one? The Rosario nel used by ships in those days -the one traversed by Vancouver and traced upod his imperfect chart, the only chart then publish ed or used-the channel used by the Spanmay always be as happy, contented and as Rosario channel, and the ownership of San What makes that outrage more glaring is only since that time that the claim has been The end of the Commission was tended by the treaty-if the negotiators knew least equally positive that it was not. No compromise was effected and so the question the question on both sides if any one particular channel be insisted upon, but fortn-

nately there are two channels and between Let us look, sir, at these two channels and with plenty of anchorages and runs into the Galf of Georgia. This was the only channel used previous to 1846. The Americans do not require and ought not to desire any other. because it runs along their portion of the continent and communicates with their dosmall consequence. They have no lands beyond the Guil of Georgia being, as before northern boundary. This channel leads naturally, too, along their whole continent to

Here is the Haro Strait, the western channel. It runs along Vancouver Island into the Gulf of Georgia also, where British Columbis really commences. It is the channel of communication, of entrance from Vice toria and the Pacific to British Columbia and her hundreds of miles of more magnifi cent inland waters than are possessed by term not now much used—to like it. Every—erly from the Gulf of Georgia, but so do all any country in this world. On its eastern side and at its commencement is the Island of San Juan. New, San Juan commands the Haro channel and Lopez commands the Rosario channel. Whoever holds San Juan holds and can close the gate to the waters of British Columbia. It must be perfectly plear that the Resario is the channel for the Americans, Haro for the British. Between these two channels lie the Haro Islands. Now, these islands are worthless as far as the absorbing interest in the United States as land is cencerned. San Juan may be twenty well as in Great Britain or Canada,

when compared with the extent either of the United States or British Columbia. The only value of these islands arises from their position. If the boundary line ran through the Haro channel, then the Island of San straits, south of the forty ninth parallel of Columbia in much the same way as the forts north latitude, remain tree and open to both of Gallipoli command the entrance to the Black Sea or Gibraltar to the Mediterranean. If, on the other band, the Rosario channel were the one through which the boundary line ran, then the British would possess the Haro Islands and command the channels. In either case it is rather awkward in a national point of view, although of comparatively small importance to the Americans, because the islands are at the termi-Straits to the Pacific Ocean. Now, Sir, nation of their pessessions—but at the beapparently easy enough to follow. A ship gioning of ours. They have little to guard; we our whole country.

Now, sir, you will see why the possession of San Juan is of so much importance to Some would imagine from the freaty that the of San Juan is of so much importance to said channel or the Gulf of Georgia, which is at the point of deflection of the line at British Columbia, a portion of Vancouver Island only being south of the 49th parallel. least twenty mide in width, continued unitationally being south of the asin parallel.

terruptedly the same to the Straits de Any ship going te the Gulf of Georgia from the Pacific or Victoria and Esquimalt must pass this Island and that too within easy about half way to the Straits de Faca is a range of modern gune! We hope to see the cluster of irregularly-placed islands-viz, day when the ships of all sations will visit the Haro Islands—which extend from one our waters, and we hope to see British Coside of the Gulf to the other and occupy a lumbia ere leng a thickly inhabited and prosside of the Gulf to the other and occupy a length of more than twenty miles, and it is perous country, with a railway running through the various intricate channels through its midst from Halifax to Esquimalt. Can Great Britain allow the very entrance to that country to be commanded by a foreign Power? No! San Juan must not, cannot nels they coalesce again and form a large be given away en any account. Remember, we want this island-which is ours by right -for domestie and peaceful service. It is of no use whatever to the United States save and except for aggressive and oppressive purposes. I think this a sufficient reason why this Council should sall the attention of happens that among the numerous channels H M Government and the Canadian Government to the subject-our Delegates did so so when they were at Ottawa. I think it our duty to de so, seeing that we are about to become an integral portion of national Canas I have shown you that the treaty was hur-riedly made and may have been left indefi-doubted rights and one integral portion of national Canas doubted rights and one integral portion of national Canas doubted rights and our interests. Soon there will be an American Railway opposite to this city of Victoria. Soon our country will require a terminus equally good for the Canadiso Railway, and that terminus can only channel must have been the one, because it be at Esquimalt. True it is that San Juan was the only channel known—the enly chan- commands the water channel, but it is also true that Vancouver Island is separated at its middle by only two separate half miles of water from the continent, is the true land channel to Ociawa and Halifax. The splendid and isrds upon their voyage, and in addition it easily accessible harbors in Vancouver Island may be said to be the best one on account of being situated either upon the Pacific Ocean its numerous ancharages and indeed it aport, like Esquimalt, south of the Haro group pears to be the natural one—the one the of islands and the disputed and intricate waters would naturally take. On the other channel to the Gulf of Georgia, are easily hand, the Haro Strait was unknown-most approachable, whether during peace or assuredly not used by any one. When I ar- war, Nevertheless, we must have our rived in this colony in 1850 so one had a water channel, it being of the utmost impordoubt about the 'said channel' being the tance in a national point of view, for disadvantageous as the Gulf of Georgia is for the Joan and indeed of the Haro Islands was cial purposes, it would be utterly worthless were the gates to its entrance in the heads of a foreign Power. It is desirable, then, for all parties that this vexations question should be settled at once and forever; both have too much at stake now in these waters to allow it longer to be an incitement to

anger or perhaps to war-a war that would be preferable to surrender. However much we may complain of the line of the 49th-for assuredly the Amerierns had so shadow of right to what is now Washington Territory, as every name of every headland on Puget Sound testifies, the spanish and French titles, too, ing admitted to be simply untenable, still 49 is the boundary. As it is of great importance that the line to the Pacific should be fixed and determined, let it be admitted for the purpose of a compromise, that the treaty has either no meaning, or that, if it has, it is incomprehensible. There is, then, an easy was of settling the matter, for it fortunately happens that there is a third channel, which lies between and separates Lopez and San Juan Islands. Let the line be made to run through this channel to Rosario Strait. If done it will give Rosario shannel and its key. Lopez Island, to the Americans, and Haro Strait, With its key, San Juan Island, to ourselves. The compromise channel can be navigated by steamboats, but for other purposes it is of little use save the one of being he blessed means of disposing of this troublesome, but to us all important, question for ever.

Now, air, this is the subject we wish to give information to the Commission about. I ave no doubt, if the Commissioners have a real desire to settle the matter with fairness te all parties, that it can very readily be done, but it cannot be if either party claims and stands by the exclusive possession of the Hare Islands. But, sir, both Governments declare themselves inclined to settle this matter-the people of both countries wish all causes of irritation removed. God send that that it may be so, and that so food be left of this kind for farare Baltimore Conventions. I, for one, have always cherished the idea that Eogland and America, related as they are, ought to be allies-nay, more, that an intimate union should take place. I likewise feel certain that if our country needed sistance that would readily be given by the Americans.

But, sir, there is really no reason why the United States should be jealous or envious of Canada. Nay, there is every reason why they should be fast friends-for what is the mission of both but to people these unused wilds, extend the blessing of true freedom and civilization over the whole land, and belp to make the English-speaking race powerful for good all over the world; so that, when old countries pass away these their children may be left to tell the tale of their neble ancestors the glorious objects for which they existed and which they accomplished ere their Creator determined their departure.

WFEKLY COLONIST .- A large extra edition of the Weekly Colonist will be worked on Friday next to meet the demand for Dr Helmeken's great speech on the San Juan Island questien, which will be read with