LA MODE IN POLAND.—One Count S—— arrived; he and hardly seated when another nounced. They seemed all to dly terms. In the evening, tlemen played at cards with and a third, who was staying When he arrived, Countess "Is it not curious to see my er playing cards with his

ves!" I exclaimed; "surely she answered. "Nothing is ere. He now regrets having the first; he liked her best; o married again. They are and agreeable to one an- ses S—— continued: "You a person in the country who arried more than once. The ach us on our facility for di- arry for life; we, for as long t is better than living togeth-

very startling to me; but it is I was convinced from person One bitterly cold day, when ors was enough to make one ess S——, Fraulein Meller, king artificial flowers; Anna, ow not how many degrees of on a sledging excursion with we were seated by the win- sledge drawn by six horses vance. We were wondering eous visitor could be, when ountess Z——, a near neigh- nced. he said to Countess S——, "I ent to stay, and have some- ortant to say: my husband in- for your daughter; he is an o I beg of you not to let any ment on my account be an union. I have already ob- ce, and am on the eve of con- d marriage. I leave for Var- g. Adieu, dear friend." So peared as quickly as she had

a thunderbolt had fallen at d not have been more sur- n Muller and I who had stood room, had not time to gain e communication was made. begged of us to remain, and, riend left, observed without t amazed at what she heard —— was "too old for Anna. e has a very large fortune; "we have almost given our er person." She evidently cked at the strange announce-

Count A—— did come next a formal demand, and was re- pinion coinciding with that of *Chambers's Journal.*

ow that Dr. Livingstone is no known to have been wounded between the Manganja and the Englishmen ta ing the ner against the Ajawas, who rs. From the effects of his want of proper medicines, ment, this great missionary, it succumbed. No more, of ow be heard of the Central- n. The collision with the uch to be deplored, and we a mistaken policy to back up the expense of another—the Mission very soon discovered they had befriended, and for ght, were no better in principle than their neighbors.—*Cor.*

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# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 5. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1864. NO. 28.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

PUBLISHED

EVERY MORNING,

(Sundays Excepted,

AT VICTORIA, V. I.

TERMS:

| | |
|---|---|
| For Annum, in advance | $10 00 |
| For Six Months | 6 00 |
| Per Week, payable to the Carrier | 25 |
| Single Copies | 10 |

Advertisements inserted on the most reasonable terms.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST

is furnished to Subscribers for $6 a year; $4 for six months; $2 50 for three months, payable in advance

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## THE DREDGING SCHEME.

The debate on the Governor's communication in reference to the improvement of Victoria harbor came on in the House yesterday. So far as the discussion itself was concerned, it was one of the few interesting debates of the Session. Mr. DeCosmos' statement was clear and minute even to a fault. Major Foster was more than usually logical, and brought out some points well worthy of attention. Mr. Franklin entered into a slight explanation of the fact that although the vote was only thirteen odd thousand, £18,000 had been set apart in the Loan Act for harbor improvement. Dr. Helmcken, as usual, came in at the last, and in this instance made the most sensible and consequently the most practical remarks of the four speakers. Mr. DeCosmos' financial statement had the misfortune of being based on purely hypothetical grounds. If the necessary improvements to Victoria harbor could be accomplished in three years, his scheme of providing the ways and means would be unquestionable. His estimate of the current expenses, allowing a proper margin for contingencies, comes up to about the figure contained in our last—a little over [illegible]

[illegible] to be rather unreliable—there is no [illegible] statement that reduces the term required below that computed by the Commissioners. Mr. DeCosmos says that Mr. Pemberton has had his understanding enlightened a little about the powers of dredging by his recent visit to England, and as a consequence thinks that the estimate of his colleagues on the Harbor Commission is totally erroneous. We have no objection whatever to Mr. Pemberton going to England to learn the capacity of a steam dredge, provided the public money is not to be invested in this questionable venture, but we think modesty should have kept this gentleman in the first instance out of a commission whose duties he now acknowledges were totally beyond his comprehension. The basis, therefore, which Mr. DeCosmos takes for his calculations is by no means proved to be a sound one. The Commission guard against the expectations that any permanent results can be looked for under a *series of years*, and state the improbability of the dredging work being completed, *under favorable circumstances*, within a period of six or seven years. To what superior authority in Victoria can Mr. DeCosmos look than this Board of Commissioners? Surely Mr. Pemberton's statements on this occasion, supposing he was perfectly worthy of attention, are at the best [illegible] [illegible] It is the policy now to put the worst face on matters and pretend that the expense of improving our harbor is a very trivial affair indeed.

Taking, therefore, the most favorable data to which the Harbor Commissioners can refer the work, and accepting Mr. DeCosmos' estimate of the working expenses, we have in round numbers an expenditure of £[illegible]000 during the ensuing seven years. As [illegible] is intended to be provided for by [illegible] along with the [illegible] about implicated in the purchase of the machinery, &c., the interest of [illegible] to pay, which at 6 per cent. would give us the comfortable addition to our taxes of £4,200 a year. Now is there a [illegible] of sixth sense man in the community who would say that Victoria or the colony generally can afford to pay the amount or which must be at the best a very imperfect improvement. Major Foster was right in pointing to the absence of encouraging data to enter extensively in the dredging work at all. He might, indeed, have gone further and shown that none of the best engineering talent had pronounced against the expenditure of either much time or money on any such undertaking. He might have quoted Captain Richards' report and pointed out the difficulties that beset the project, and have further shown that the bar which seems so terrible a bugbear to Mr. Pemberton and his "nautical" friends generally, and against which they are eager and impatient to set their "Confederate" dredging ram, is actually the safeguard of the harbor. It is well known to the few scientific men, as well as the skilful sea captains among us, that but for this protective barrier our harbor would be filled with sand every time the south or south-westerly winds rippled the surface of the Fuca Strait. Here, then, is one great natural shield to our little harbor which in consideration rather would spend the public money in attempting to remove. We do not for a moment anticipate that, as Major Foster hinted, any hidden quicksands, as soon as he or it of the bottom were taken up, would rush impetuously to embrace the rather questionably pure waters of our harbor, and continue like an evil spirit in eternal restlessness; because the physical surroundings are against the hypothesis, but we do believe that there are both dangers and difficulties in the undertaking which have never for a moment entered into the addled heads of the ambitious projectors.

Mr. Franklin attempted to check the discussion of the merits of the scheme, on the ground, forsooth, that a former and certainly, as events have proved, half-witted House had consented to vote money for an object of the ultimate expense of which they had about as much as a child in arms. Now, however, this fact, and the general principle of local improvements being made by local taxes, he would call the attention of the House to the fact that Victoria had a harbor—the proper Victoria harbor—which presented every requirement and facility for our commerce. The hon. gentleman very eulogized, at length some on the great merits of Esquimalt harbor, which would centralize all the commerce likely to come here for many years, while Victoria harbor was hardly large enough for the coasting trade alone. As to dredging out the silter, or the crust of thick mud on the bottom were once broken, the harbor might be filled with a perpetually moving quicksand. As to taxing he was at a loss to know why the city property should not bear a portion of the city improvements it was asked that the city generally, he would therefore move "that this House respectfully urges upon the Executive the propriety of suspending any further operations for the [illegible] sum of money wanted. There was however a great deal of misapprehension abroad in regard to it, which would necessitate a rather lengthened explanation. The House would remember that he (Mr. DeC) had called for the appointment of a committee of the subject, which committee, however owing to various causes had not met, and the information now afforded rendered the report of that committee less necessary. The hon. gentleman here read at length from a portion of the report prepared by the committee in regard to the difficulties to be overcome in improving the harbor. He also entered into the particulars of the visit of the Surveyor General to England to bring the dredging machine, stating that the machinery had been supplied by the lowest of eleven parties tendering. It had been said that the original agent had exceeded the amount voted by this House, but he (Mr. DeC) did not look at it in that light, as the amount in 1863 was exceeded by only $646, which he thought was near enough. The question now arose, as the money voted was found insufficient, what shall we do? shall we go on, or shall we bring with the machinery, and leave the harbor as it is? He believed we should go on; he did not think the original current expenses would be more than $22,000, and adding 50 per cent for contingencies, the total annual expenditure would not exceed $35,000. He believed Gibraltar had paid in [illegible] for $50,000 for working expenses, and the Surveyor General $25,000. He believed his estimate would be found sufficiently approximate when with the others. As to the time, he (Mr. DeC) believed that the work might be done in three years, though Mr. Pemberton thought it might be done in 1½ years. Allowing three years, it would cost $105,000 to complete the works.

[illegible] with the chairman, was appointed to confer with the commander, examine the credentials of the various applicants for subordinate positions and report to the general committee.

The finance committee were urged to lose no time in soliciting subscriptions, as the party would now be organized forthwith. There will be only one expedition despatched.

## THE QUEEN AND THE PUBLIC

The following article appeared in the *Times* of Wednesday, April 6th. Its peculiar phraseology, and the prominence given to it by the leading paper, stamp it with authority:

An erroneous idea seems generally to prevail, and has latterly found frequent expression in the newspapers, that the Queen is about to resume the place in society which she occupied before her great affliction; that is, that she is about again to hold levees and drawing-rooms in person, and to appear at Court balls, concerts, etc. This idea cannot be too explicitly contradicted.

The Queen heartily appreciates the desire of her subjects to see her, and whatever she can do to satisfy them in this loyal and affectionate wish she *will* do. Whenever any real object is to be attained by her appearing on public occasions, any national interest to be promoted, or anything to be encouraged which is for the good of her people, Her Majesty will not shrink, as she has not shrunk, from any personal sacrifice or exertion, however painful.

But there are other and higher duties than those of mere representation which are now thrown upon the Queen, alone and unassisted—duties which she cannot neglect without injury to the public service, which weigh unceasingly upon her, overwhelming her with work and anxiety.

The Queen has labored conscientiously to discharge these duties (till her health and strength, already shaken, by the utter and overwhelming devotion which has taken the place of her former happiness, have been so [illegible]

To add [illegible] to her labors, in addition, the fatigue of duties which, however onerous, others can be equally well performed by other members of her family, is to ask her to run the risk of entirely disabling herself for the discharge of those other duties which cannot be neglected without serious injury to the public interests.

The Queen will, however, do what she can—in the manner least trying to her health, strength, and spirits—to meet the loyal wishes of her subjects, to afford that support and countenance to society, and to give that encouragement to trade which is desired of her.

More the Queen *cannot* do; and more the kindness and good feeling of her people will surely not exact from her.

CRIME IN NEW YORK.—The *Sacramento Union* gives a list of forty-six homicides committed in New York city from the 1st January to the 9th April.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, May 20th.

House met at 3:15. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, Powell, Pemberton, Jackson, Trimble, Foster, Demmes.

CORPORATION AID BILL.

This bill was read a third time, and passed.

REAL ESTATE TAX BILL.

This bill levying one half of one per cent on real estate in Victoria for civic purposes, also passed its third reading.

HARBWOOD RAILWAY CO.

This bill was read a second time, and sent to committee.

CONSOLIDATION BILL.

This bill was also read a second time, and committed.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The House went into Committee on the Governor's Message to respect to the harbor, [illegible] proposal that the government be authorized to borrow £24,000 for the purpose, payable in twenty years, at six per cent, with a sinking fund of four per cent. The government might be empowered to issue debentures as the money was wanted. Suppose the colony borrowed £8000 the first year, the interest and sinking fund would amount to $4000; the second year it would be $7640, and the third year $11,546. At the beginning of the fourth year there would be annual charge of $11,546. He would propose, to meet those charges, to levy a tax on all the water front property, of one half of the whole charge. The other half he would propose to make a charge on the general revenue. From the assessment roll, he found that the water front property from Point Ellice to the harbor mouth was valued at $860,000, in which this tax might be levied. It might be said that it was wrong to levy such a charge on the general revenue; this might be correct on general principles, but not in this case. The city paid actually 9-10ths of the whole revenue and therefore the charge on the general revenue was, he thought, perfectly just. As to the charge on the water front property, it was equally so. It might be said that we had a fine harbor at Esquimalt, and a railroad to this city would answer all purposes. He thought it our duty, however, now that the city had been built here, to do all our [illegible] to improve the present site. He would therefore move:

"1. That a bill be brought in authorising the Governor to borrow £24,000 at 6 per cent. interest, with a sinking fund of 4 per cent. per annum, the debentures not to be in amount more than £100, and redeemable in twenty years; the loan to be expended in the improvement of Victoria harbor, and to be a charge on the general revenue.

"2. That a tax be levied annually on all real estate commonly known as water-front, to the from the mouth of Victoria harbor on both sides up to Point Ellis bridge, the total annual proceeds of the said tax to equal half of the annual interest and sinking fund on the loan of £24,000."

Major Foster said the hon. gentleman had brought forward quite enough to prove that the Harbor improvement scheme was a very large undertaking—a very bad case indeed. The hon. gentleman argued against the principle of the general revenue being charged with local improvements, instancing cases in various ports in England, where the harbor expenses were raised wholly by themselves. If Victoria Harbor was worth anything at all, it was worth taxing the inhabitants of Victoria for its improvement. The hon gentleman after commending ironically the labor of the hon member for Victoria (Mr. DeCosmos) in furnishing so many facts and statistics in reference to the nature of the bottom of the harbor, and the comparative cheapness of excavating the proposed works, said that the wealthiest nations of Europe had shrunk from undertaking such works as submarine blasting and dredging, but it was reserved to Vancouver Island to take up such difficulties. [illegible] however, this fact, and the general principle of local improvements being made by local taxes, he would call the attention of the House to the fact that Victoria had a harbor—the proper Victoria harbor—which presented every requirement and facility for our commerce. The hon. gentleman very eulogized, at length some on the great merits of Esquimalt harbor, which would centralize all the commerce likely to come here for many years, while Victoria harbor was hardly large enough for the coasting trade alone. As to dredging out the silter, or the crust of thick mud on the bottom were once broken, the harbor might be filled with a perpetually moving quicksand. As to taxing he was at a loss to know why the city property should not bear a portion of the city improvements it was asked that the city generally, he would therefore move "that this House respectfully urges upon the Executive the propriety of suspending any further operations for the [illegible] dangerous quicksands." He would also move that the House is not prepared to sanction the outlay in excess of the vote sanctioned by this House.

Mr. Franklin said they were not now met to ask whether the harbor of Victoria was to be dredged or not (hear, hear.) That question had been argued during the last four years, and a deliberate vote had been taken on it, and we were bound in honor and good faith to the people who had settled here, to carry out the proposed improvements. He would admit that as a general principle, local improvements should be made by local funds; but by the act of the Legislature, in 1860, the harbor dues are expressly reserved for the improvement of Victoria and Esquimalt harbors. It was just unwise now, when every effort was being made to build up a royal city in the neighboring colony, to throw an obstacle in the way of the growth and prosperity of Victoria. He heartily agreed with his hon. colleague in his policy of borrowing a sum of money for the improvement of the harbor. It was a public work, and could most properly be effected by a loan.

Dr. Helmcken said he would not now make a speech on the question, but he thought the committee were about voting out of the record; it was not a question of the improvement of Victoria harbor, but that there had not been enough money voted for carrying on the harbor works for this year.

Mr. DeCosmos called the hon. Speaker's attention to the word "completion" in His Excellency's message.

Dr. Helmcken said it would be remembered by the House that he had opposed the harbor improvement measure when it was first brought up, and he might say that he opposed it now, and did not believe that it would ever [illegible] the question was put, the supply motion in turn on the work now? It was said that the money votes had been exceeded, but the £44,000 loan had not been exceeded, and the balance of that loan was quite sufficient to complete the dredger and all the other machinery. As to the future expenses of carrying on the works, that was a question for other sessions to take up.

Mr. DeCosmos—No! no!

Dr. Helmcken maintained that it was. As to suspending the works, that could not be done; the contracts must be fulfilled, and the machinery can not be abandoned, nor sacrificed. He would not go into the question of cleansing the harbor, but as so much had been said lately about contracts, why not let the harbor improvements out by contract? (Hear, hear.) His own opinion as to harbor improvements was, that the city could not afford to improve the harbor, but we must now go on and complete the machinery, and leave the carrying out of the work to another House. As to the storehouses and workshops &c. &c., he believed that the hull of the dredge was purposely made large enough to contain all necessary appliances for repairs, &c. There were plenty of means for all these things now in existence, although the government might easily throw a thousand trifling obstacles in the way.

Mr. DeCosmos expressed himself strongly opposed to postponing the matter of raising funds for carrying on the harbor improvements. The machinery and engineers would soon be here, the dredge would be ready in 5 months, and in order to keep things moving it was absolutely necessary to provide the means. The unanimous wish of the people of Victoria was to have the harbor improved at once. If it is postponed, a heavy blow is struck at the value of real estate, and the prosperity of the country. He believed it our duty to carry on the harbor works at once.

Dr. Helmcken did not believe the dredge would be ready before the end of the year.

The Committee here rose and reported progress.

PETITION FROM ESQUIMALT.

Major Foster presented a petition from the property holders of Esquimalt, viewing with alarm the expenditure in Victoria harbor, and praying that further operations be suspended till further consideration.

The House adjourned till Thursday next.

BREACH OF PROMISE.—Occasionally there are instances occurring in our midst that act as land-marks in our progress towards civilization. The latest indication of our advancement is an action of breach of promise of marriage. It is rarely that so young a community as our own can indulge in luxuries known only to the highest state of cultivation and refinement, and we, therefore, welcome this new species of litigation as an acceptable innovation on the monotony of matter-of-fact courtships. As yet we abstain from mentioning either the lady's or the gentleman's name, simply informing our readers that both the plaintiff (who of course is the lady) and the defendant are well known members of our community. We understand Mr. Ring is retained for the lady.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, May 20.

Present:—The Hons. Chief Justice, Attorney General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, and the Hon. Donald Fraser.

THE GOVERNOR'S INSTRUCTIONS.

A message was received from the Governor enclosing copy of his instructions as Governor of the Colony.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPLY BILL.

And

UNENCLOSED WELLS BILL.

These bills were both received from the Lower House, and on motion of the Hon. D. Fraser, seconded by Hon. A. Watson standing orders were suspended, and they passed the second reading.

BANKING BILL.

This bill having been engrossed was brought up, and on motion of Hon. Watson, [illegible] A. Watson, that the consideration of the bill be postponed until another sitting. Carried.

TELEGRAPH REGULATION BILL.

The President remarked respecting this bill, that it made provision for things unknown to the law of the land, and that if any injury was sustained by the company it was quite competent for them to seek protection under existing laws, without cramming up the statute book with unnecessary laws. He therefore viewed this bill as superfluous.

The Attorney General was of opinion that the bill was necessary.

Consideration of the bill deferred.

Council adjourned to Monday, at 2:30 p.m.

Monday, May 23.

Council met at 2:30 p.m. Present the Hons. President, Treasurer and Fraser.

REAL ESTATE TAX.

Hon. D. Fraser introduced a bill to levy a tax of one-half of one per cent on all real estate in the city of Victoria.

Bill read a first time.

VICTORIA AID BILL.

Hon. D. Fraser also introduced for a first reading a bill to enable the Executive to pay the Corporation $6,000 for civic purposes.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPLY.

The bill granting the supplemental supplies for 1863, was read a third time.

DANGEROUS WELLS.

The bill providing for the closing of dangerous wells was laid over on account of a quotation.

THE AID BILL AGAIN.

The President said the $6,000 seemed to be a present, not a loan.

Hon. D. Fraser said it seemed so, but he understood the intention was that the city should repay it.

The President said he understood that the $6,000 was to be paid from the half per cent tax.

The Hon. D. Fraser really did not know; he had not seen anything said about that in the House of Assembly; the bill had been prepared at the recommendation of the Governor, to whom the civic authorities had applied for assistance, he presumed of a temporary nature. It was not really of much consequence whether the city expenses were paid from general or local revenues, as the city was virtually the colony; the country only paid one-ninth of the taxes.

The bill was read a first time.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Hon. D. Fraser said he would move at next meeting for an address to His Excellency for copies of all papers in His Excellency's possession in relation to the subject of the improvement of Victoria harbor.

The President proposed that the Council adjourn till Thursday or Friday.

Hon D. Fraser asked if there were not some legal bills before the House?

The President said it was too late in the session to carry the bills through; he was sure the House of Assembly would not take them up.

Council adjourned till Friday at 2 p. m.

## SUMMARY COURT.

(BEFORE HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

MONDAY, 23d May.

*Scott vs. Taylor*—This was a suit to recover his commission on sale of a lot, belonging to defendant which plaintiff alleged was sold by him on commission. Mr. Copland appeared for plaintiff, defendant in person. Both parties were examined, also Mr. Culverwell, and His Honor considering that the plaintiff had failed to make out a case, non-suited him.

*Dickson & Smith vs. Rowland.*—Suit for balance of contract for clearing land. Verdict plaintiff for $50.

"PRIVATE EXPLORERS."—Our morning contemporary has a sensational item under the above heading, about some mysterious or imaginary individuals who intend to follow the Colonial Exploring Expedition, like vultures in the wake of a victorious army, and gobble up the various resources of the country which may be discovered. A small private expedition *has*, we believe, been organized, but they intend to confine their operations to a small portion of the north end of the island, principally with a view to prospect for copper or other mines, and will not interfere in the slightest degree with Dr. Brown's expedition. We cannot believe that any party would have the impudence to follow the public expedition, and, while contributing none of the means, nor bearing any of the anxiety or labor, attempt to appropriate any of the honor or advantage.