The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday December 29. 1869.

Anti-Confederate Peversity.

In a communication published yesterday 'H' seeks to create unnecessary prejudice and alarm in the minds of a certain class of this community. Instead of inviting the reader to follow 'H' through the labyrinthian maze of distorted fact and idle fiction of which his communication is for the most part composed, we will content ourselves with stating that excise taxes, export dues, and license rates fortunately fall amongst that class of taxation not necessarily uniform the Dominion over. Unlike the customs import tariff, there exists no insuperable constitutional or practical reason why these should not be dealt with under a system possessing sufficient elasticity to adapt itself to exceptional local conditions. Practical proof of this will be found in the manner of dealing with Nova Scotia coal interests; and if further evidence of the disposition of the Dominion Government in this regard be wanting, it may be found in the basis of union agreed upon between the Canadian Cabinet and the Newfoundland Commissioners. The 15th section runs as follows: 'The provisions in the aforesaid British American Act, 1867, shall—except those parts thereof which are in terms made, or by reasonable intendment may be held to be specially applicable to, and only affect, one and not the whole of the Provinces now composing the Dominion, and except as far as the same may be varied by the resolutions—be applicable to Newfoundland, in the same way, and to the like extent, as they apply to the other Provinces of the Dominion, and as if the colony of Newfoundland had been one of the Provinces originally united by the said Act.' And, then, as if to preclude the possibility of doubt as to whether or not the matter of imposing export dues forms a question of open policy to be adjusted according to circumstances, and regulated by future legislation rather than fixed by any arbitrary constitutional rule—to show, in short, that it is a matter falling within the parenthetic class of exceptional subjects alluded to in the section just quoted, the following minute, marked 'a,' is added: 'With reference to the 7th resolution of the Legislature of Newfoundland, by which it is asked that 'No tax shall be imposed on the exports of this colony unless a similar tax be levied on all the staple products of the other Provinces of the Dominion;' it is understood that the general imposition of export duties on the staple products of any Province is contrary to the policy of the Government of Canada, *and a contingency not to be contemplated*; but it is agreed that taxation, in whatever form it may be found necessary hereafter to impose it, shall be so adjusted as to bear equally on all the Provinces, and that no scheme would be proposed which might in its effect operate with undue pressure on oil, fish, or any other staple exports of Newfoundland.' The brewers would appear to have a zealous friend in 'H', yet it is a noticeable circumstance that they are strenuous advocates of a free port, and by no means admirers of the tariff 'H' is so anxious to preserve to them. And, then, what about the price of beer? It is fair to assume that the consumers of Canada form a larger class than the manufacturers, who have some interest in this matter. Perhaps, after all, the most effective instrument with which to knock over the frail castle erected by 'H' is the simple fact that in Canada, notwithstanding all these terrible taxes and obstructions, beer is sold for 20 cts. a gallon; while in this city, notwithstanding all the helps and blessings enjoyed under our blessed system, beer is sold for 50 cents a gallon. There is nothing like practical facts. One of these will go for more than a great gross of hypothetical insuendoes. The price of beer to the consumer—that's the point. It appears to us that 'H' is unable to distinguish between an excise duty and an export duty; but if his letter possesses any value at all, it is in this, that it presents additional reasons why the people of British Columbia should confer together, and be agreed as to what will and what will not conduce to our interests under Confederation. After exhibiting in panoramic array a few evils which may come upon this people if they persistently refuse to make their wants known, largely mixed, however, with a motley array of hobgoblings, the offspring of disordered vision, 'H' asks, 'How are these evils to be remedied?' The answer is obvious. Desist from the unprofitable task of writing letters which can only tend to prejudice and mystify. Meet the colonists collectively and, by fair, free and honest discussion, let us endeavor to arrive at some definite and intelligent conclusion as to what we do desire under Confederation. This is the way to *avert*, not remedy, the evils complained about. If the few gentlemen who are still found in opposition to Confederation will adopt some such practical course of action they may yet acquire some claim to be regarded as patriots.

Education.

In the course of a rather remarkable article on the subject of a common school system, our evening contemporary has fallen into several inaccuracies, and has made some rather unwarrantable statements. He cannot understand how we can uphold the mixed system, and says he knows of no country in which, in principle, it is approved. If, by the mixed system is meant that under which the cost of common school education is paid in part from State revenues, and in part from local sources, we have only to say that the grounds upon which we uphold that system have been so often and so fully stated that we cannot think it necessary to recapitulate them here. Where education is wholly at the expense of the State, we conceive compulsory attendance at school, as in Prussia, to be necessary; and we must confess that we are not prepared to advocate the compulsory system in a colony representing such a variety of nationality and religious belief. Whatever may be said in favor of that principle as applied to some European countries, we would be disposed to regard its application to a community like this as an arbitrary and unjustifiable interference with the rights of the subject. If our contemporary is really honest—and we would be sorry to question his honesty—in asserting that he knows of no country where what he terms the mixed system is approved, we beg to refer him to Canada—his own native country, we believe—where, as we stated on Saturday, the principle permeates the whole system, and has been alluded to with pride by the head of that system, as one of its most worthy characteristics. Our contemporary declines to believe that the Canadian school system 'is the most perfect educational system in the world;' and, he seeks to fortify his position by referring to Dr. Ryerson's mission to Europe, and that gentleman's expressed opinion that the Prussian system of education was the most perfect. In this our contemporary tells the truth, but not the whole truth. Dr. Ryerson was commissioned by the Canadian Government to travel through Europe, and examine the best systems of education, with a view to constructing a better one from them all. On his return the Doctor did state it as his opinion that Prussia possessed the most perfect system; but he took occasion at the same time to point out the inadaptability of that system to a mixed community such as that found in Canada. He set himself to work, and, taking the best parts of all the systems, constructed one presumably superior to any. During some twenty years Dr. Ryerson continued to be the executive head of that system, and the well known ability and untiring assiduity with which he applied himself to its improvement in every possible way, we think fully warrants us in repeating the assertion that it is 'the most perfect educational system in the world;' and we feel all the more free to allude to it in these terms from the fact that a similar encomium was bestowed upon the Canadian system last year in the British Parliament, and that the British Government sent a Commissioner to study that system, with a view to utilizing it in the construction of a national system of education at Home. We have not the means of knowing whether our contemporary is sincere in suggesting the employment of Government officials as school teachers. It looks very like a joke; yet, as such it would be a grim one, offered upon a subject of such profound importance. Altogether, we are disposed to think that our evening contemporary has made a very unhappy attempt to deal with the great subject of popular education, and we feel assured that there will be very few persons in this colony disposed to think with him upon almost any one of the propositions he has laid down. We need not say how much we regret this apparent disagreement of the press upon a matter of such importance as that of common school education in this colony. In taking leave of this subject for the present, we may be permitted to suggest whether the circumstance of this colony being about to become a Province of the Dominion of Canada does not furnish an additional argument in favor of the gradual assimilation of our educational institutions to those of that country. At all events it will be our true wisdom to profit as far as we can by the long experience Canada has had in this matter. We are not likely to be able to command the twenty years' services of a Doctor Ryerson, in building up a system all our own. Let us avail ourselves, as far as we can, of a system carefully constructed with a view to meeting conditions of nationality and creed, as well as the natural circumstances incident to a new country, very similar to those presented in British Columbia.

The Olympia sailed for ports on Puget Sound at 11 o'clock yesterday.

Wednesday Dec 22

The Road Tax.—After the usual business at the Police Court yesterday, three summonses for road tax were heard before the Magistrate. The first, that of Mr Drake. The defendant proved that he did not now possess the property for which he was assessed. The next case called was that of Alex E B Davie, Solicitor, for $2. Everything was admitted in this case; but two points were raised which were common to the next case. They were over-ruled by the Magistrate; and judgment given for the amount with costs. The third case was that of Robert Weir of Metchosin District, summoned for $19 84, road tax due by him, a portion in Metchosin District and a portion $5 84 in Sooke District. Mr Green, as in the former cases, conducted the prosecution on behalf of Mr. E. Mallandaine, Collector under the Road Ordinance, and Mr. Bishop defended. After giving his evidence, Mallandaine was cross-examined at some length, and with considerable severity, as also a witness, J C Davis, Mr Bishop wishing to show that the proper formalities had not been complied with as prescribed by the Ordinance. The latter made nothing of it however; it was clearly proved for the plaintiff that the lists had been delivered in the districts, and due notice thereof given by advertisement in the *Government Gazette* and by hand-bills in the Road district. Demand was proved to have been made, and a correspondence put in between the defendant and the Collector as to accumulating or mitigating payment. The first point tried to be raised by Mr Bishop in defence was that no demand had been made for the tax in the Metchosin district, though Mr Mallandaine proved several demands in Victoria, personally. This, as a defence, was over-ruled by the Magistrate and pronounced puerile, or words to that effect. The next and the strongest objection for the defence was the introduction of the application of a clause in 11 and 12 Vic., c 43, s 11, to the effect that all complaints must be brought within 6 months of the time when the matter of such complaint arose. The complaint which drew forth the summons stated that the defendant made default on 1st of June; and, therefore, it was urged the 6 months had expired on the 1st Dec. This objection was over-ruled by the Magistrate who stated that s 19 and 22 both gave 30 days, the one in which to pay the tax, and the other after which to commence proceedings. Therefore the 6 months would not commence till after the expiration of 30 days on the 1st day of July. That was his opinion in both these cases and if he was wrong it would have to be decided in a higher court. With regard to the assessment lists, notices, &c., it appeared to him that the law had been complied with—and as to the general matter of the tax, defendant, from the correspondence, &c, must have been well acquainted with the whole of the circumstances. Judgment was given for $14, claimed in Metchosin district, and costs. Mr Bishop wished to bring evidence as to labor put out by Mr Weir on the trail leading to his Sooke claim. This was deemed inadmissable by the Magistrate. Mr Pemberton made some general remarks as to payment of road tax which he said it was to be hoped all persons would cheerfully pay, as all wish for good roads.

City Council.

Tuesday, Dec 21, 1869

Council met at 8 o'clock—His Worship the Mayor in the Chair, and Messrs Walker, Cary, Allsop, Gerow, Russell and McKay present.

Accounts of the C Lonist and *News* for printing. Referred to Finance Committee.

Councillor Russell reported that the sidewalk on Kane street had been properly laid, and recommended the payment of the bill. Carried.

Two accounts for cleaning the streets—$32—and account from E Phelps, for making a culvert on Douglas and View streets, $16, were referred to the Finance Committee.

Communication from the Acting Pound-keeper, asking for an advance of $25 on account of his fees. Referred.

The Street Committee reported that W Bond had completed the crossing at intersection of Douglas and Humboldt st ects. Account referred to Finance Committee.

Communication from Mr. W. G. Ward, of the Bank of British Columbia, calling attention to the defective manner in which Bastion street had been left by the contractors for the drain.

His Worship said the street should receive his earliest attention.

Councillor Carey moved for the appointment of Joseph Josephs as Messenger to the Council with a salary of $40 per month.

His Worship said that the appointment was not an annual one.

Councillor Cary believed that it was incumbent on the Council to confirm the appointment from year to year.

His Worship said that that arrangement would be too democratic a one.

Councillor Carey said he would waive the appointment for the present, and moved for an increase in the salary of $5 per month.

Councillor Russell seconded the motion.

Councillor Allsop would like to see the Messenger act as Collector as well and receive a percentage.

The matter was finally postponed for one week.

In reply to Councillor Carey, Councillor McKay said that the accounts were about to be audited.

A discussion here arose as to the manner in which the accounts should be audited, and the Mayor said the work would be performed at once.

Adjourned for one week.

The Standard.—We have very great pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the advertisement of the Standard Life Assurance Company. The claims to confidence and patronage with which this company comes before the public would appear to be too obvious to need one word from us. The stability of such institutions north of the Tweed has almost become proverbial; and when we look at the solidity of the monetary basis and the array of influential names associated with the directory and the test of 45 years' successful working we feel no hesitation in counting the 'Standard' among the most solid and reliable institutions of the kind.

The salt deposit lately discovered on the Canadian shore of Lake Huron extends 40 miles in a direction from north to south, while nothing is known of its breadth from east to west. It undoubtedly is to be found far beyond the extreme points of the present discoveries. Its area is far greater than that of the famous salt mines near Cracow, which are known to have been worked ever since the beginning of the 12th century, and extend over a space of about one mile and seven furlongs in length by six and a half furlongs in breadth. Practically the deposit is inexhaustible. The salt made from it is one of the whitest and best yet known in commerce. The ease with which the manufacture can be carried on and the facilities of shipment to the ports of the upper great lakes indicate that it can be sold in Chicago for about $1 a barrel in specie, or about half the ordinary price which the people are there compelled to pay for salt under the transparent deceptions of the 'protectionists.'

The Veruna Case.—In the suit of Bates' U. S. Registrar in Bankruptcy, *vs.* Colman and Spalding, alleged owners of the steamer Veruna, Chief Justice Needham yesterday gave his decision, which, practically, orders the steamer to be delivered up to the plaintiff—the bill of sale from Coleman to Spalding being declared void as against the plaintiff; the delivery of the steamer will be subject to certain suits in admiralty by hands of the vessel. The Veruna, it will be remembered, was forcibly taken out of the hands of the Registrar in Bankruptcy in Washington Territory and brought to this port under circumstances of a very peculiar character which were detailed in these columns at the time. Mr McCreight, instructed by Messrs Pearkes & Davie, for plaintiff. Mr Ring, Mr Wood, and Mr Robertson, instructed by Mr Bishop, for defendants.

The Most Powerful Gun in Europe.—Some interesting experiments have taken place at Perm with a 20 inch, gun cast in the foundry of that town. The trials made with this gun under the direction of Major General Pestitch, commandant of the Cronstadt artillery, are described in the official reports as having been very successful, and more satisfactory in their results than had been the case with American guns of the same calibre. The gun was fired 314 times; the projectile weighs 10 cwt., and the charge of powder required for each shot was 130lbs. The weight of the gun is 50 tons, the recoil 7 feet, the initial velocity of the projectile 1,120 feet per second, and the pressure on force, at the distance of 50 feet, about 10,000 tons. The official papers say this is 'the most powerful gun in Europe.'

Fiendish Attempt.—An attempt to blow up the Port Orchard, W T, lumber mills, by placing powder under the boilers, was made on Sunday night—'the better the day the better the deed,' we suppose. The explosion blew off a few bricks from the furnace and displaced the boilers, but no other damage was effected. The Port Orchard Mills were the property of Colman & Glidden, whose affairs are now in bankruptcy, and of whose estate the steamer Veruna forms a part.

Kootenay.—Mr. Johnson, mailcarrier and expressman, has arrived from Kootenay. He left 75 white and 150 China men at the diggings. The weather was cold and winter had fairly set in. The Deep Shaft Company have bottomed and struck large pay, and the miners are sanguine.

An English journal considers that there are only two persons in the United States who have not communicated their views on the Byron question to the newspapers, and they are citizens of Cape Cod who went off mackerel fishing ten weeks ago, and have not returned.

Krupp, the great manufacturer of cannons in Prussia, who employs over 17,000 hands, has acquired so much wealth that he intends putting up a family residence which is intended to surpass in magnificence any royal palace in Europe. The cost is estimated at seven millions of dollars.

A Freak of Nature.—The Salem *Statesman* says Mr James Pompelley, of Eole, has a pig which has the head, ears, body and tail of an elephant, with only the feet and legs of a pig. It has a veritable trunk and only one eye, which is located under the trunk.

Nocturnal Thieves.—Night before last the clothes lines of one of our citizens were completely stripped. Several instances of this class of thieving have come to our knowledge of late, and we believe the spring-gun dodge is being resorted to by several, so that the thieves had better look out.

In the midst of the holiday rejoicing, we trust the needy and the unfortunate will not be forgotten. The Royal Hospital and the Gaol contain many to whom Christmas cheer would be very welcome, and there are some without the portals of those institutions who are really in want.

Do you want a fine turkey, or goose, a brace of hens, or a sucking pig for your Christmas dinner? You do? Then send to Townsend's Pork and Game Depot, corner of Fort and Douglas Street.

The report that Lambert the lion-tamer has been killed at San Francisco by one of his lions, may be true; but we find no mention of it in either our delayed or special dispatches.

The Central School Examination yesterday, was a very successful affair, but a piece of business excludes a report.

Coming.—The Carter Dramatic Company will arrive by the next trip of the Gussie Telfair from Portland.

His Worship the Mayor presided at the Council meeting last evening.

A Rare Fossil.

Editor British Colonist.—It is not often that I see the *Guardian*, a paper published at New Westminster; but Saturday's issue of that paper accidentally fell in my way, and a rare treat it proved. It appears that the Hon. H. Holbrook was hocuspocused out of the Municipal Council. An election was held last week, to fill the vacant seat, and Mr. Holbrook was re-elected by acclamation, *because there was nobody to oppose him.*

It may be as well to explain that there are twelve seats, and there are only that number of inhabitants possessing the necessary property qualification, who can be prevailed upon to occupy these seats. No sooner is Mr. Holbrook elected, however, than he rushes into print with a 'card,' tendering his most sincere thanks for their kindness (cruelty, I should think)—in *again re*-placing him in the most honorable position etc., etc., and telling them that he accepts this generous act as an endorsement of his anti-Confederation views; but the joke is spoiled by a reference to another column of the paper, where it turns out that Mr. Holbrook's proposer and seconder are the strongest Confederationists in the place!

But the richest treat is not to be found in Mr. Holbrook's election thanksgiving card. It is to be found in a long-winded letter, in English peculiarly his own, published in the same paper. That letter I will not attempt to critisise. It is above, beyond, below all criticism. I can only recommend every one that can manage to procure a copy of the sheet which contains it to read the indescribably unique document.

The same paper announces that an extension of the local 'Museum' has been found necessary; and the thought just strikes me that the managers of that institution would only be doing their duty in securing a copy of the letter to which allusion has just been made, and also keeping in view, in any extension they may make a suitable niche in which to deposit the most remarkable specimin of fossilized humanity which has yet been discovered. Such an acquisition would add immensely to the value and attractiveness of the institution under their supervision, and might fairly be considered to give it a claim for Colonial support. Kanuck.

INFORMATION WANTED

OF JOHN HOLDEN LAWTON, AGED 25 years, a native of Manchester, England. The last heard of him he was in the Royal Hospital at Victoria, Vancouver Island, laid up of a fractured thigh, caused by assisting in getting an engine out of the ship RISING SUN. Any information of him will be thankfully received by his father, James M Lawton, 314 Locust street, St Louis, state of Missouri, America. d15 4t

Mineral Boring.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING HAD many years experience in boring for minerals, and enjoyed every facility for acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of the Coal strata of this Colony, begs to inform parties who are about to prospect for Coal that he is now open for an engagement and holds himself in readiness to conduct any operation of that nature which may be entrusted to him.

MR. J. DICK, Nanaimo.

References:—Mr J Bryden, Manager V I C; Mr Robt Dunsmuir, Manager Harewood Co. de14 3md&w*

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