

The Weekly Colonist. Tuesday, March 7, 1865. THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF.

To the Editor of the British Colonist. Sir—Your composition printed "60" instead of "10" in my last letter, and J. P. C. makes this small error the basis for nearly one half of another long communication. It cannot be possible that J. P. C. was so obtuse as not to see the error. It would do him great injustice to even make the insinuation. He saw the little error plainly; but being afflicted with cacothymia scribenda, it afforded him a fine opportunity for a momentary relief from the disease, and he availed himself of it. Unfortunately the effectual cure of J. P. C. would not alter or modify the unpleasant fact that the miner will have his grub increased in price in consequence of this tariff, not less than ten, and perhaps not more than fifty per cent. Nor will his figures, made out to suit himself, make any one more reconciled to the payment of this tax or fifty per cent. advance. These such an advance will be made, we have only to look over the prices current, of Williams Creek for a week after the passage of the tariff act reaches there or to consult any honest trader on that creek.

J. P. C.'s "snug" little illustration on teaming is funny—decidedly funny. Like the proposition of the mouse to "bell the cat" it would do well enough if the thing could be done. The seven yoke of oxen and two wagons can be readily had at Yale for \$2200; but after this, practice knocks J. P. C.'s "snug" theory into the regions of air castles at once. And why? 1st. Interest on the money is worth more than two per cent. in the country; 2d. Wear and tear of the wagon would be nearer twenty than ten per cent.; 3d. Shoeing oxen for the trip would cost not less than \$130; 4th. Hay and feed required from Yale to Williams Creek and back for seven yoke of oxen would cost about ten times the amount here given; 5th. The wages and grub of two men would be fully double what it is here put down; 6th. Incidentals for the trip would depend entirely upon the good fortune and management of the driver; 7th. The road toll alone is 2 1/2¢ per pound, and there are three crossings where the toll is 1/2¢ at each; 8th. No ox team that aver hauled a wagon will be able to make three trips to Williams Creek and back to Yale in one season; 9th. The cost of wintering a team will depend entirely upon the severity of the winter; 10th. No seven yoke of oxen will ever haul loads of ten thousand pounds each over that road—an average load will not exceed 7000 lbs. Then if our practical (I) friend J. P. C. will undertake to put into operation his snug little theory, he will do like many other unfortunate teamsters have done in that country, and be most fortunate if he escapes the custody of a bailiff in the fall. So much for J. P. C.'s theorizing. In your next suppose you show us, Mr. J. P. C., by your arithmetic, how snugly the trader can make 150 or 200 per cent on his goods in the mines with the tariff, tonnage dues, road toll and freight added in. On that subject you can speak from experience, perhaps, and when you get through we may be able to see how snugly the miner can pay all these snug little profits and not feel the weight of the increased tariff.

Now a categorical answer to your summing up, which is really the substance of all you have written, and I have done: 1. We are all interested in having goods carried to Cariboo at the lowest possible rates. 2. We do not believe the finishing of the "wagon road is above all things necessary." We believe retrenchment in the expenses of the colony—liberal encouragement to prospecting—rational efforts to develop the gold fields, and to make the burden of taxation bear more equally upon the various industries of the country, are matters of far more importance to the healthy progress of the colony than the extravagant outlays for roads. The roads are already far in advance of other public improvements there, and we have paid enough for the present. 3. The British Columbian Government is not justified in raising the duties on the necessities of life. The inhabitants of the colony are not in circumstances to justify such an act. The Gold export tax was enough. If more money must be had let it be raised by some other means than raising the cost of living in the mines. 4. The miner does not believe this increased tariff will raise the price of his grub for one year, and lower the cost of freight "from 10 to 20 cents per pound forever after." "He don't see it." The wild theories of all the visionaries in the country will never prove it. Sound, healthy competition in trade alone will do this. That competition cannot and will not be had unless the extent of the gold fields in Cariboo is made larger by new discoveries.

Adios, J. P. C.; "be virtuous and you will be happy." Yours truly B. P. A. March 1, 1865.

J. P. C. ON THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF.

Victoria, March 1st. To the Editor of the British Colonist. Sir—In reading some letters signed J. P. C., which appeared recently in your paper, purporting to defend the British Columbia Customs Amendment Act against the onslaught of the justly indignant miners of British Columbia, I notice the following class of statements rather prevalent, viz: "But they have no money—Governor Seymour in his address to the Council told them that he tried to borrow in England, but could not borrow; in this case what was the British Columbia Government to do?" but flee the miners for the benefit of New Westminster and a host of unnecessary and over paid officials, &c. And again: "My position then is this—inasmuch as the British Columbia Government could not borrow the money required they were justified in raising the duties, &c."

Now, sir, I cannot find in your report of Governor Seymour's address to the Council (21-1-65) a statement to the effect mentioned, and curious to state, I heard the agents general say in August, '63, when disposing of the Debentures issued under the British Columbia Loan Act of 1863, that as a matter of course they could raise in London any amount required for that colony at a low rate of interest, say not exceeding 5 or 6 per cent per annum, since there was an Imperial guarantee, but that it was singular that any amount was offered to meet the Vancouver Island £40,000 loan then being effected, without any such guarantee at similar low rates. The inference to be drawn is this—either Governor Seymour did not make any such statement and J. P. C.'s letter is undeserving of credit, or if Governor Seymour did so state and therefore snub is the fact, the Legislature of British Columbia must have played a very odd Harry with the credit of the country in a very short interval of time; there must be something rotten in the State and the sooner they retract their steps the better for the colony.

Facilis decensus avertis, &c. I quit obedient servant. X. Y. Z. ANOTHER LETTER FROM J. P. C. To the Editor of the British Colonist. Sir—My esteemed friend, Capt. Evans, must excuse me if I object to his attempt to make it appear that I underestimate the miners' judgment. Captain Evans will admit that there are two sides to most questions, and that many sensible men's opinions have been changed after hearing the other side. One side only was presented at the miners' meeting, and I have presented the other side. I hold the miners to have a clear judgment on questions that concern them, as any class of men I ever met. But no man can be expected to judge with discretion, upon a given question, if he has been misled as to the facts. Now it is alike the fault of the miners' meeting, and the letters of B. P. A. and Captain Evans, that they all try to make it appear that the cost of living to the miner is greatly increased in price by the new tariff. B. P. A. says the "miner's grub will be increased in price 50 or 60 per cent." Captain Evans says "the duty on flour is increased 160 per cent; on bacon, 50 per cent, &c." but neither of these gentlemen attempt to controvert the fact of my position that the increase of duties at New Westminster will not add more than two per cent to the cost of the necessities of life in Cariboo, and that to state otherwise is to misrepresent the facts and mislead the miners. I agree with Capt. Evans that the Government of British Columbia is excessively expensive for its limited population; and that there should be a "better supervision in the expenditure of money under the head of road making." I trust Governor Seymour will never again allow himself to make such a contract as to pay \$80,000 for 20 miles of road, which is practically useless, because of the 35 miles left unfinished between Alexandria and Quesselle, and which looks as if it had been left unmade for the particular benefit of the steamboat monopoly of the Upper Fraser. If any accident happened to that steamer, the cost of carrying to Williams Creek would be increased 10 to 20 cents per pound at once. So far I have pleasure in agreeing with my friend Capt. Evans; and were he and his co-workers to institute a serious agitation to reduce the expenses of Government, they would have my hearty co-operation, but Capt. Evans knows as well as anyone, how useless it would be to expect a reduction of such expenses, until after a most earnest agitation of several years. Meantime, the miners would have paid in high prices, the cost of finishing the road many times over. I cannot therefore agree with Capt. Evans in urging the miners to sign the address to Governor Seymour. If the miners regard their own true interests they will do nothing of the kind. J. P. C. FROM THE LONDON PRESS.

New York, Feb. 16.—Professor Goldwin Smith, in the London News, controverts the opinion of the Manchester papers, and says that, although a compromise with the slave oligarchy was impossible, it is possible that at no distant time, negotiations may happily commence with separate States, over which the oligarchy at Richmond is losing all its usurped powers. The Index, the Confederate organ in London, ridicules Blair. It does not altogether discredit the peace rumors, but asserts that the North is unmistakably tired of war, and that more rational counsels are beginning to prevail. It claims that the abandonment of the sea coast will add strength to Southern inland forces. The Index then points out how friendship may be restored between the North and South, and that so close an alliance may be formed as to practically make a new Union. Under such circumstances, a war with England or France, or both, would be a necessity. The Index contends that the United States Government is paving the way for such a war. It says: "The war has reached such a crisis that England and France must decide to become the friends of one of the belligerents, or fight them both. Events are occurring which may precipitate that decision—at least in the case of France. Meantime, the Index bids friends of the South to be of good cheer. It promises them shortly a series of agreeable surprises. It also gives a rumor, alleged to be current in political circles, of an intention on the part of the British Government, to sever its connection with the Canadian before the termination of the American war, so that the finest province of Great Britain may be seized without forcing England into war. The London Times editorially finds fault with the legal opinion given by Wm. M. Ewart in regard to the right of European creditors to recover debts in America on the specie basis. The Times observes: "It is true that Ewart arrives at the satisfactory conclusion that foreign transactions ought to be settled according to the real and not the nominal value of American currency; but the conclusion is expressed so doubtfully, and is fenced around with so many limitations, that those whose interest it is to maintain the opposite opinion, will have little to do."

PURCHASERS would do well to call and examine the stock of Roper & Co. before they buy elsewhere, as in consequence of the dissolution of partnership the whole of the stock must be sold. DANCING CLASS.—A Dancing Class for young ladies is held at Mrs. Hayward's Schoolroom, Fort street, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

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COMMERCIAL. PER STEAMER ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound.

Per steamer ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—S. A. Phillips, Farn, Martin, Bronson, A. Phinney, G. Lakely, J. White, Newmaster, M. Min, Cesar, Dean, Tallent, F. Sargent, Warren, Kennedy, Mekean.

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including flour, sugar, and other goods.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Business has been rather duller during the past week, the late cold snap having again closed the Fraser above New Westminster, and the trade with Puget Sound having also been very light. The imports for the week have been very small, consisting only of the usual small cargoes of stock and produce from Puget Sound, amounting to \$4553. The imports for the past month have been unusually large, amounting to \$491,862, of which \$343,914 was from England per Princess Royal and General Wyndham, and \$147,948 from San Francisco. The exports for the month to American ports have been smaller than for any similar period during the past year, amounting only to \$10,270. Of this the steamer Geo. S. Wright carried 94 tons, chiefly hardware, to Portland. The exports of Coal from Nanaimo have also been extremely light, the total being 960 tons, all for local consumption. This small shipment may be accounted for by the late miners' strike at Nanaimo. Sales of Flour and Grain have been chiefly limited to local trade. Flour has advanced a trifle and other articles are firm at former rates.

PORTLAND MARKET.

Portland, Feb. 17, 1865. There are but few transactions of note connected with the domestic produce market, in consequence of the unfavorable state of the weather. Vegetables are becoming scarce, and dealers are now buying many articles in San Francisco for this market. The demand for potatoes has somewhat diminished in consequence of the decline in San Francisco. There are no purchases for shipment. We quote to-day, \$1@15 as the general offers for butter. Apples are placed upon the market at the average rate of \$2@2 50 per box, and as there is hardly a difference between the wholesale and the retail rates, we have taken the former for our report, as those prices appear to cover the whole transactions. Apples of good quality are scarce. We have no large sales to note. Bacon appears to be going forward to the mining region in abundance. The cargo of the Rival to-day was principally gunnies of the article, transferred to boats for the Columbia immediately. There are large lots on storage awaiting advances. The ruling quotations are 18@20¢ with little discrimination between the jobber and the wholesale dealer. Choice lots of butter are very scarce, the prices, however, remain unchanged. Eggs are plenty and have a downward tendency, we quote offers to-day of 35¢@40¢ per doz. Hens are lower, 15¢@16¢ per lb being offered for loose, white-baled rates at \$13 per ton, with dull sale. The following are prices offered for domestic produce by the city dealers to-day: Flour—Imperial, \$10 per bbl; Standard Mills \$10, other brands \$9 50@10. Grain—Wheat \$1 50 per bu; Oats, 70¢; Barley 2 1/2@3¢ per bu. Apples—\$2@2 50 per box—none offered by the bushel. Butter—Best brands Fresh Oregon 60¢ per lb; ordinary, 50¢@55¢. Bacon—Sides 18¢ per lb; hams 18¢@20¢; sugar cured do 22¢ per lb. Lard—10 lb cans at 15¢; in bulk 16¢; choice leaf 18¢ per lb. Beans—Small white, 3¢; white pea, 4¢, red 3¢. Eggs—Fresh 35¢@40¢ per doz. Poultry and Game—Mallard ducks by the quantity, \$2 25@2 50 per doz; geese according to quality, \$3 50@4; chickens 35¢@60¢. Potatoes—Best quality choice, \$1 15 per bushel, other varieties \$1@1 10. Hay—Varies at \$16@18 per ton.

RECAPITULATION.

Table summarizing the recapitulation of various goods and their values.

EXPORTS.

Table listing the exports for the month ending February 28th, 1865.

IMPORTS.

Table listing the imports for the month ending February 28th, 1865.

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NANAIMO EXPORTS.

Table listing the exports of vessels departed from Nanaimo.

IMPORTS.

Table listing the imports of vessels arrived at Nanaimo.

PER STEAMER ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound.

Per steamer ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—S. A. Phillips, Farn, Martin, Bronson, A. Phinney, G. Lakely, J. White, Newmaster, M. Min, Cesar, Dean, Tallent, F. Sargent, Warren, Kennedy, Mekean.

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