

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, December 26, 1868

Opening of the Legislative Council.

The ceremony of opening the Legislative Council took place yesterday at the hour appointed. A guard of honor from the Volunteer Corps, under the command of Lieutenant Roscoe, met His Excellency at the door of the Council, the band playing 'God Save the Queen.' At a quarter past two, having taken the usual oath, were administered to the members present, when His Excellency read his address, which occupied fully half an hour in delivery. His Excellency looks much better in his late, though his voice was quite inaudible to most of the people present. Considerable interest was manifested by the public on the assembling of the Council for the first time at Victoria as Capital of the United Colonies. The Hon. Admiral Hastings and staff, the Chief Justice, the Bishop and other distinguished persons, with a large number of ladies, filled the portion allotted to visitors in the body of the house. The gallery was crowded with the fashionable classes. Upon the Governor retiring, the Acting Colonial Secretary assumed his position as President, and the business usual on the day of opening was proceeded with. The members present were: The Attorney General, the Collector of Customs, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Messrs Helmcken, Drake, Davis, Ring, Carrall, Wood, Walkem, Ball, Alliston, Pemberton and Busby.

The Attorney General moved, seconded by the Collector of Customs, that the Governor's Address be taken as read, to which Dr. Helmcken dissented, when the Secretary, Mr. Good, read the address to the Council again. The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works moved, seconded by Mr. Busby, that the Governor's Address be printed for the use of the members—carried without opposition.

By the Hon Attorney General, that at the next sitting of the Council he should ask permission to introduce: An Ordinance to provide for the Fencing of Lands in British Columbia. An Ordinance to establish Banks for Savings within the Colony of British Columbia. An Ordinance styled the Mining Ordinance. By Mr. Helmcken—to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution of the Legislative and Executive Councils, and Registration of voters.

By Mr. Drake—to introduce a Bill to allow Drawbacks upon exported goods. Mr. Ball moved, seconded by Mr. Carrall, that a select committee be appointed by the President to draft a reply to the Governor's Address; Messrs Ball, Carrall, Helmcken, Davis and Alliston were named as the Committee.

Moved by Mr. Walkem, seconded by Mr. Drake, that the House adjourn until one o'clock Monday—when Dr. Helmcken moved an amendment that the House adjourn until three on Friday, which, upon a division, was lost by a vote of 10 to 7. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until Monday next at one o'clock.

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The Judiciary Bill has not been allowed nor can it be so until Her Majesty's Government are in a position to provide for one of the two Chief Justices of the Colony. No exertion has been wanting on my part in the past, nor shall be in the future, to secure a solution of an embarrassing question.

To turn to the work before me, I shall lay before you a Bill to provide for the fencing of lands in British Columbia. The subject is one of very considerable difficulty, and I should have hesitated in moving it, but that I know that the measure will not pass through your hands without ample consideration.

It has been found that the system of Royal Titles and Inspection of Accounts on behalf of the Government now in use in the Mining Leases of the Crown, by no means gives satisfaction to the people, nor profits to the Treasury. Companies likewise object to the regulations, under the present leasing system, to ensure effectual working and to satisfy the Government as to the amount of capital paid up. I propose to you to abandon the principle of mining leases save as ancillary to the general system which I am about to submit.

Some amendments in the Vancouver Island Road Act shall be proposed to you. A bill in preparation, intended to confer very considerable powers upon a Board of Health to be appointed in case of need by the Governor.

The security of our Securities in the Market, and the high price which they command, show that confidence in the financial stability of the Colony is sufficiently restored to justify me in proposing to you the establishment of a Savings Bank. A bill for the purpose will be laid before you. I propose that a moderate rate of interest shall be allowed on deposits, above a certain amount, and that the depositor shall have the security of the General Revenue.

A bill to legalize the unforeseen Expenditure of the year 1867 is ready for your consideration. Let me assure you that it contains nothing unusual. There are certain amounts paid for compensation to Public Servants for loss of office, and others to cover the necessary expenses growing out of the no almost forgotten complications on Grange Creek.

The Estimates for the ensuing year shall be brought at once before you. It is therefore needless that I should enter into any lengthened consideration of their details. They are not unreasonably. The expectations for 1869 are founded upon the experience of 1868. The accounts have not yet been received from the outlying districts of this vast territory, but we are already in a position to state that the receipts will, within a few dollars, equal the Revenue estimated for the current year. I am not aware of any unusual expenditure for which to invoke your support.

The Public debt has been considerably reduced, yet large sums have been expended on works of public utility, such as keeping the main lines of communication with the gold mines and the logging stations in a good condition. Certain Bridges near Victoria have been repaired. A new one is in course of construction, and the channel within our harbor is now being cleared of mud. The buoy at the mouth of the Fraser has been put into repair again.

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own flag, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific; but the practical difficulties of effecting a Union with our far distant fellow colonists on the other Ocean are very great.

When transmitting formally the Resolution passed by the Legislative Council, I expressed myself, desiring of seeing the project carried out if it were practicable. To this, and to all my further communications to the Secretary of State on the subject, the reply has simply been that my despatches have been forwarded to the Governor of Canada.

It is not impossible that the natural desire of the people to take a larger share in the conduct of public affairs, and in the Government of the Colony, has led to the wish for union with a self-governing kindred State, regardless of the natural physical and administrative difficulties which present themselves.

One change appears to me perfectly simple and unquestionable, and that is, under our present restricted Constitution, to allow the people to elect their own representatives without having to obtain the concurrence of the Governor in their choice.

The more the population of the Colony increases, and the greater its prosperity, so much the easier will it be to introduce the principles of self-government.

For an increase of population and a return of prosperity, I confidently look. It is but natural that in a community which in its early days has been thrown upon its own resources, there should be violent oscillations between extreme confidence and equal despondency.

Friday, Dec 18. NANTICO COLI.—It has been supposed, and indeed asserted lately, that the yield of coal at Nanaimo was rapidly decreasing in size.

Several gentlemen connected with this Colony and with the Hudson Bay Company have in England, made efforts to procure the admission of British Columbia into any Treaty of Reciprocity which may be negotiated with the United States.

My attention has been more than once called to the desire of a large portion of the community that this Colony should enter into Confederation with the Dominion of Canada.

THE EARTHQUAKE AS SEEN IN THE SANTA CAROL MOUNTAINS.—A gentleman who was in the mountains near Presaderra, Wednesday morning, during the earthquake shock, describes the scene as fearfully grand.

ARRIVAL OF THE SIR JAMES DOUGLAS.—Very much to the relief of everybody—and to none more than her Captain and crew—the Government steamer Sir James Douglas arrived here yesterday afternoon from a trip to the East Coast which occupied ten days in making.

LECTURES.—A series of lectures will be commenced on Tuesday week at the Theatre Royal for the purpose of raising funds to pay for the Oxyhydrogen lantern, in order to retain it amongst us as an auxiliary to education.

SAN FRANCISCO ITEMS.—The Times of the 12th inst. contains an account of the falling of the Railroad House and adjoining buildings, which were wrecked by the great earthquake.

Small-Pox. Editor BRITISH COLONIST.—Your issue entitled 'small-pox' (in yesterday's issue), respecting Small-pox in San Francisco and the dreadful ravages it is still making there, notwithstanding that the most efficient sanitary measures are adopted, should be a warning to us here not to relax every humane effort to keep us from this most unwelcome visitor.

Mr. Drake, in the Council yesterday, gave notice of an intention to introduce an Ordinance to provide a drawback upon exported goods.

A scientific discovery is reported from Paris, where Professor Pasteur has found a way of killing animals by forcing air into their eyes, within the space of a few seconds, and it is thought, almost without causing them any pain.

THE U. S. REVENUE CUTLER WYNDS.—Capt White, arrived at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon having left San Francisco on the 12th inst. The news, which is unimportant, will be found in another paragraph.

ENCOURAGE COLONIAL INDUSTRIES.—Buy and try Glover's Colonial Manufactured Matches. They are better and cheaper than the imported article and the enterprise deserves encouragement.

The steamship Continental sailed from San Francisco for Victoria direct on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

CAPT FLOYD, late of the Active, is now in command of the steamship Idaho, running between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Washington, D.C. Sherman reported that the nation to allow twenty bonds till the form a similar duty coin, or making it that measures for the payments should be practicable.

Washington, D.C. The Supreme Court decided the Legal Tender Act. New York, Dec 16—The Senate passed a bill for the purchase of thirty acres of land in the State of New York.

HAVANA, Dec 16.—Tively engaged searchers, and many are in this city; reinforced with the first detachment from Spain, two transports to-morrow, with two London, Dec 15.—House of Commons and the House of Lords speech from the Queen.

LONDON, Dec 16.—The House of Lords has decided to recall Sir John Lawrence end of the year, at which time the Marquis will be appointed to the office of the Queen's representative in the Fenian provinces of the United Kingdom, and extensively signed Churches on Sunday.

London, Dec 16.—The Government regulations of laws and orders in London, Dec 15.—Mr G. an address to the electors which he explains the movement for the disestablishment of the Church.

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