

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, June 6, 1865.

THE WILD LAND DEBATE.

The great Land Question is at length decided, and monopolisers may breathe freely. The speculators and their myrmidons have carried the day, and the scheme for taxing uncultivated lands is garrotted. The public interest has been for the hundredth time sacrificed at the shrine of self-aggrandisement, ignorance and servility. The Hudson's Bay Company, with its Puget Sound agricultural acres, locked up in true dog-in-the-manger style, the bogging Barnaby, the canny Cochrane, the turnabout Trimble, and the bridled Bayley, have each and all performed their glorious part in straggling discussion and destroying action on the unfortunate condition of the settlement of the country. For Drs. Helmcken and Tolmie we can make some allowance—they are fighting for that principle which their instincts, their life experience, and their interest all combine to make sacred—the principle of monopoly. We could never, by the utmost stretch of the imagination fancy either of these gentlemen voting for anything of a compulsory nature on the owner of ten thousand acres. They might, possibly, present him with additional power or advantage on the principle that to him that shall be given; but to curtail him of a single one of his privileges, according to the feudal idea, would be in their eyes little short of forcible spoliation. For the other four members, however, there are no such mitigating circumstances. It is true, one of them is a merchant, whose ideas on free trade resemble very much Dr. Tolmie's on colonial settlement, in their jug-handle peculiarity of being all on one side; and it is also true that another is a gentleman who has a quasi-ownership in that sacred locality named Ogden Point; of the third it is equally correct to say that his interest is bound up in land agencies; but taking them altogether, they cannot shelter themselves under that antique mantle that covers the members of the Company. They are not part and parcel of a great overshadowing landed interest, but the presumed representatives of the people of Vancouver Island. It was in such position, doubtless, Mr. Barnaby, no later than February last, stated to the public in the Victoria theatre that he was in favour of a scheme for taxing uncultivated lands; it was in such position Dr. Trimble worked on the Crown Lands Committee in order that the public should not be the victims of Hudson's Bay Company aggrandisement; yet we find that the gentleman who was so bold and so liberal in the Theatre, instead of taxing uncultivated lands takes the first opportunity to give the scheme a malicious stab under the fifth rib; and we find the ponderously patriotic Doctor, who used to be in extreme mental agony lest the colony should be despoiled by the Hudson Bay Company—now going as quietly and as meekly as the lamb to the slaughter under the silken thread guidance of that much hated and much abused body corporate. As for the other free and independent members—the representatives for Saanich and Nanaimo—much was not expected of them in this respect and the people are not disappointed. With all the political infamy attached to the men who yesterday destroyed the most important scheme of this or any former session, their manner of throwing out the subject was even worse than the act itself. It was not, after listening to all that had been said pro or con, and then passing Dr. Tolmie's resolution—which would have accomplished all their purpose, for it really meant nothing—that the members deserve our censure, but it was throbbing the question before it could come to a division. This is the fact that leaves neither Barnaby, Trimble, Cochrane nor Bayley a leg to stand upon. Had these men let the various amendments with the resolution come up for a division, they might at least have escaped that worse than equivocal position of opposing a principle they had already conceded; but by killing the measure by a vote to rise, they simply showed that all their former sentiments were shams—that they never had the slightest desire to benefit the colony by encouraging the actual settler; and that, least of all, had they ever any intention of compelling the large landed proprietor to turn his land to its natural use. They showed, in fact, the cloven foot too perceptibly, and were as egregious in their blundering as they were false to their constituents. The matter is over for this session, and we can only regret, with the general public, that it has been so ruthlessly defeated. The proposition of Mr. DeCosmos to tax all uncultivated lands over one hundred and fifty acres, with certain stipulations with regard to land used for pasture would, with a little emendation, have answered all present purposes. The great evil of the colony—the holding of large tracts of land in an uncultivated state—would have been speedily removed; for the owners would of necessity have been obliged to cultivate the land themselves or have sold it to others who would have turned it to a productive use. The failure of the scheme is, however, but temporary. The motion will come on next session with an accumulated force that will

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

[Telegraphed to the Oregonian.]

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22.—The military commission assembled this morning to try Lieut. Hogg and others of the Confederate pirates captured at Panama. One of the members of the commission being absent at Sacramento, they adjourned until to-morrow. The bark Brontes, having on board about 500 emigrants for Mexico, together with 6,240 muskets for the Liberal Government, was about to sail for Mexico on Saturday night, when she was stopped by order of Collector James. It seems that while the military department have received notification of the rescinding of the order prohibiting the shipment of arms and munitions of war out of the United States, the Treasury Department have not been notified, consequently the officers of Customs must act under the prohibitory order until advised to the contrary. The Collector has telegraphed to Washington for instructions. The passengers represent that their destination is Arizona and that the muskets are intended for their own protection from the assaults of hostile Indians. The Subrick was sent around on Saturday night as a matter of form to have the Brontes under surveillance. SAN FRANCISCO, May 23.—At an early hour this morning vehicles innumerable commenced pouring out of town by the Ocean House and Cliff House roads, bound for the Ocean race track to see the great race between Norfolk and Lodi. The terms of the race were two mile heats, best two in three, for \$2,000 a side, with an inside stake of \$2,500, being in all \$4,500. High winds set in early in the morning, sending the dust in clouds, but no one was to be deterred by such an obstacle from seeing the great race. At a few minutes past three o'clock the riders were weighed. Gilpatrick, the most celebrated rider in America and the rider of Lodi, pulled down the weights at 110 pounds, including his saddle, spurs and whip. Young Dick A. Berry, 17 years of age, the rider of Norfolk, weighed 100 pounds, including accoutrements. At the top of the drum the horses were brought to the score and off at the word. They passed the score on the first mile, Norfolk a length ahead. They crossed the score at the end of the second mile neck and neck and it was adjudged a dead heat; time, 3:43 1-5. They got off well on the second heat, Norfolk a length ahead. Norfolk maintained the lead through the entire heat, although Lodi lapped him twice. They crossed the score Norfolk three lengths ahead; time, 3:43 3-5. On the third heat they made a false start. They got off well on the next start, Lodi a length in advance, but Norfolk soon lapped, and led him about two lengths, which advantage he maintained throughout the entire heat; time, 3:51 4-5. A high wind prevailed during the entire day. The decision of the judges was received with acclamations of delight by the assembled thousands. Arrived—Opposition steamer Moses Taylor. Morris Earl was arrested last night for using treasonable language. SAN FRANCISCO, May 25.—Chief Burke and Captain Lees obtained information at ten minutes to twelve last night that an attempt would be made to seize the Peruvian steamer Colon, now lying in the harbor, and run her out to sea. It was suspected that the attempt was to be made by some of the persons bound for Mexico on the bark Brontes. Chief Burke took thirty of his men on board the Brontes, and searched the vessel, and arrested 22 men out of 250 on board, whose names are suppressed for the present. The parties will be examined before the United States authorities. A new complaint has been entered before the United States Commissioners, charging the same parties who were before arraigned with an attempted violation of the neutrality laws of the United States. They are now under arrest. The military Commissioners convened this morning. Rear Admiral Pearson testified to the circumstances of the arrest of the prisoners. Captain Henry K. Davenport, commanding United States ship Lancaster, testified as to the circumstances of their arrest, and that when he went on board the Salvo he had orders to shoot anybody who dared raise a finger in opposition to his orders. A letter was read from Mallory, the rebel Secretary of Navy, dated Richmond, May 7th, 1864, in which Hogge was directed to go to Panama and seize the steamer Salvo or other steamers and prey upon American shipping, always exercising the spirit of humanity that has ever characterized the officers of the Confederate navy. Another paper was an oath taken by the prisoners to serve under Captain Hogg in the enterprise of seizing the steamer and pledging themselves to keep secrecy, dated Havana, September 27, 1864. Another paper indicated the shares that each man engaging was to receive out of the spoils of the piracy. Witness said that most of the prisoners had British passports. Another is a memorandum of expenses for passports, permits, outlaws, handcuffs, expenses of travel, board, etc., of the pirates. Several other papers were found in the prisoners' baggage, and were submitted, consisting of letters from different persons, giving directions how to proceed in connection with the enterprise relative to the purchase of powder, etc. All of the papers were objected to by the opposing counsel, but the objection was overruled. SAN FRANCISCO, May 24.—The court martial convened this morning. Andrew J. Marsh was sworn in as Judge Advocate. The prisoners objected to Capt. Todd, one of the members of the court, on the ground of

bias. The court ruled that the objection was not well taken. Captain Todd then requested to be excused, which was granted. R. M. Pixley, E. M. Gould and J. M. Daniels, appeared as counsel for the entire party. The counsel for the prisoners then asked ten minutes time to plead, which was granted, when they came into court and denied the jurisdiction of the military and refused to plead. The court decided that the objections of the prisoners should be entered on the records, and that the court proceed to trial as if the prisoners had pleaded not guilty. The Judge Advocate stated that Delos Lake, U. S. District Attorney, could be associated with him in the case. The court then adjourned until to-morrow. The bark Brontes has been released from surveillance and will sail for the south to-morrow, taking her passengers but none of the arms. The colored people of the city are making arrangements for holding a fair for the benefit of the Freedmen's Association commencing on Tuesday next, the 30th inst., and lasting one week. A sharp shock of an earthquake was felt in this city at 25 minutes past 3 o'clock this morning. The race to-day was for a post stake, two mile heats, \$200 entrance, half forfeit, with \$40 added by Club. It was won by Blue Dale; Time, 3:50 1/4. EUROPEAN. [FROM THE OREGONIAN.] NEW YORK, May 31.—The steamer Hansa, from Southampton May 10th, has arrived. In the House of Commons, on the 8th, the debate on the borough franchise bill was resumed. Gregory thought if it was passed it would lead directly to universal suffrage. Disraeli warned the House against sanctioning anything resembling democracy, calling on them to reject the bill by a large majority. The House divided on the previous question. Ayes, 214; Noes, 288. The Prince of Wales opened the Dublin International Exhibition on May 9th. Ten thousand persons present. The Times says it hopes President Johnson will treat the enemy at his mercy with great leniency, and asserts now that Lee has surrendered, Mobile fallen, and Johnson confessed himself exhausted, the North can afford to be magnanimous. We do not believe they will sully their victory with deeds of cruelty. NEW YORK, May 21.—The following is additional report from Hansa: The Times says Booth's fate was too good for such a miscreant. The most honest must feel in common with Americans that justice has been cheated of a victim. The Emperor of France presided at a State Council on the 6th, and afterward received the American ambassador, and addressed a private letter of sympathy to Mrs. Lincoln. The Emperor has issued a proclamation to the inhabitants of Algeria, urging them to become attached to the soil, treating Arabs as fellow countrymen. He said, "We must be masters because we are more civilized—victorious because we are stronger." The Emperor was received everywhere most enthusiastically. He issued a proclamation to the Arabs calling them to recognise the province, as two millions of Arabs cannot resist forty millions French. L'Italia says Italy will recognise the Pope as chief of Catholicism, will always treat him with respect upon religious matters, and acknowledge his temporal sovereignty. The municipality of Palermo has decided that one of the streets of that city should be named after President Lincoln. The Phare du Soir of Nantes, which appeared in mourning on publishing the news of Lincoln's murder, now suggests a penny subscription should be collected for the purpose of presenting Mrs. Lincoln with a gold medal having the following inscription: Liberty, equality and fraternity to Lincoln, twice elected President of the United States. The French democracy are grateful to Lincoln, for the honest man abolished slavery, re-established the Union, and saved the Republic without violating the statutes of liberty. He was assassinated on the 14th April, 1865. A confederate cruiser is reported to the European press off Manila. PHOTOGRAPHS.—Mr. Gentile, the photographer, who returned from New Westminster last evening, has shown us a number of excellent photographs of some of the Indians who assembled at the sister capital on the 24th of May. The pictures are of a very superior kind, and reflect much credit on the artist. One of the views is a group of seventy-two of the chiefs of the different tribes in various attitudes, and presenting a novel and interesting scene. We learn that some of the views will accompany a description of the New Westminster festivities to London, and will probably appear in the Illustrated News. OVERDONE.—Sooke river is overrun with Chinamen and many more have proceeded recently than are likely to find profitable employment until a larger area of payable diggings is discovered. Yesterday we observed about 50 of the late arrivals wending their way back, having been to the mines and found no opening for more hands at present. John carries a ponderous pack with him including his rocker and stock of provisions. CUMBERWELL'S ESTATE.—The offers submitted by the bankrupt from San Francisco to his creditors, have it appears fallen through and the Chief Justice yesterday appointed Messrs. J. G. Shepherd and Henry Nathan trust assignees in the bankrupt's estate. Messrs. Drake and Bishop are the Solicitors to this estate. SENT UP FOR TRIAL.—Joseph Hilliard was yesterday committed for trial on the charge of arson. RIFE STRAWBERRIES.—were gathered on Sunday last at Cooperville, on the Craigflower Road.

BENSON'S WATCHES & CLOCKS. WATER AND CLOCK MAKER, BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT, TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES. Opinion of the London Press upon Benson's Great Clock and Watches in the Exhibition, 1862. As a sample of English clock-work, the works of this are probably the finest that have ever been seen in the continent. Benson's Chronometer is not only perfect in its construction, but it is also perfect in its accuracy. It is a triumph of ingenuity. Benson's watches are not only perfect in their construction, but they are also perfect in their accuracy. Benson's watches are not only perfect in their construction, but they are also perfect in their accuracy. Benson's watches are not only perfect in their construction, but they are also perfect in their accuracy.

The Invalid's Friend. HOLLOWAY'S PILLS. Nervous Disorders. Mothers and Daughters. Disorders of the Kidneys. Debilited Constitutions. CAMOMILE PILLS. PURE DRUGS, CHEMICALS, & CO. BURGEOYNE & BURBIDGES. COLEMAN ST. LONDON. AMMUNITION. TARGET. ELEY'S AMMUNITION. ELEY'S AMMUNITION of every description for Sporting or Military Purposes. BALL CARTRIDGES. Notice. ALL PERSONS INDEBTED TO MR. A. BY Note or otherwise, are informed that if the amounts are not paid either to Mr. Richard Wright, or to Mr. J. G. Shepherd, on or before the 1st day of July next, the same will be handed to my Solicitors, Messrs. Peckers & Green, of Government Street, Victoria, for collection. AUGUST FULFORD, my Sd. W. G. Peckers & Green, Government Street, Victoria, V.I., 1st July, 1865.