

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE COLONIST AND CHRONICLE.

Europe.

Florence, 23d.—Victor Emanuel proclaims an amnesty to political exiles and prisoners.

Athens, 18th.—The Christian insurgents in the island of Candia, number 25,000, and hold important points against the Turkish soldiers who have commenced active hostilities against them.

London, 24th.—News that the treaty of peace has been signed at Prague, between Prussia, Austria, Italy and Bavaria, is hourly expected.

Prague, 24th.—The most perfect concord exists among the plenipotentiaries assembled here, and the treaty of peace, though not signed, may be regarded as accomplished.

Prague, 24th.—The Prussian troops are rapidly retiring from Bohemia. Six thousand remain at Prague as garrison until the treaty of peace about being signed, is carried into effect.

Eastern States.

New York, 25.—A Leavenworth despatch reports murders by Indians between Fort Reno and Laramie. A fearful bloody war expected. Mrs Coringling, wife of the Colonel commanding, is reported among the murdered. Also that the Blackfeet and Crows of the upper Missouri river, had commenced hostilities. The Crows are said to have torn their treaties up and murdered ten men.

Europe.

New York, Aug. 25.—On the eighth the extraordinary commissioners, accompanied by General Clay, American minister, had an interview at the Palace of Peterhoff with the Emperor, to whom they presented the following address. Sir:—The resolution we have the honor of presenting to your imperial majesty is the voice of the people whose millions of lips speak from single hearts. The many ties which have long bound the great Empire of the East to the great Republic of the West have been multiplied and strengthened by the unwavering fidelity of the Imperial Government. Throughout our recent period of convulsion words of sympathy and friendship, addressed to our Government by your Imperial Majesty fixed in hearts of all homage to that noble act of humanity which is especially referred to in the words of Congress. The peaceful fœd of an enlightened sovereign consummated the triumph over an inherited barbarism which our western Republic has only reached through long years of bloodshed. Therefore with profound emotion we offer your Majesty's emancipated subjects and to all people of this vast realm, our heartfelt congratulations on the providential escape from danger which led to the spontaneous expression of regard for the attempt and thankfulness for its merciful arrest. The storm of peril from which kind Providence delivered your Imperial Majesty brings with it the remembrance of mighty sorrow which recently filled every loyal heart in our own land at the sudden death of our Father. May the father of all nations and all rulers protect and prolong the lives which have thus been signally preserved in the voice of the people to which it belongs for the good of all mankind and for the glory of his name.

(Signed) G. V. FOX.

Assistant Secretary, Navy. Liverpool, Aug. 25.—Noon—Steamship Scotia sailed for New York to-day.

Berlin Aug. 22.—The address of the King embodying the principles of the moderate party passed the Lower House by a large majority, only 25 negative votes and these were of Poles and Catholics.

Manich, Aug. 24.—The districts which Bavaria cedes to Prussia are those of Graisfeld, Heller and Tharraz, in lower Franconia containing 40,000 inhabitants.

Paris, Aug. 23.—Empress of Mexico has gone to Mixamac.

Vienna, Aug. 25.—The Emperor Francis Joseph has determined to strengthen his Empire as well as his hold upon the affection and loyalty of his subjects by granting a new constitution and ministry to Hungary. The new ministry will soon be formed upon the basis of the constitution granted to the Magyars in 1848, the revocation of which was the cause of the Hungarian revolution that year.

London, Aug. 25.—Evening—Advices received from Point de Galle on the Island of Ceylon via the Persian Gulf and Mediterranean, state that civil war had broken out in Japan; money market firm. Consols closing 88 3/4 for money.

Turin, Aug. 26.—Empress of Mexico is here on her way to Miraflores.

Liverpool, Aug. 27.—Cotton steady, sale to-day 10,000 bales; uplands at 13 1/2c; Breadstuff dull and decline.

London, Aug. 27.—Consols 88 3/4 for money 5, 20's 72 1/2.

Leipzig, Aug. 26.—A large and influential meeting held here declared in favor of Union of Saxony with Prussia.

Birmingham, Aug. 27.—The reform de-

monstrations to-day was an immense success and passed off without disturbance of any kind. The platform adopted was in favor of residential manhood suffrage; an address was delivered this evening in support of the platform.

London, Aug. 27.—Evening—Consols closed 84, 5 20's 71. The money market is easier.

Berlin, Aug. 27.—The peace treaty signed at Prague will not be made public till ratified by the contracting powers. It is believed, however, that the general features are almost identical with the original preliminaries intimated at Nicolsberg on 26th of July.

Eastern States.

New York, Aug. 27.—Chilean agents are trying to purchase the ram Dunderberg—Price \$350,000.

Dean Richmond died last night.

California.

Petaluma, Aug. 27.—At eight this morning our city was startled by a terrific explosion at the depot of the Petaluma Railroad. On arriving at the depot the locomotive was found to have been blown up and the scene which presented itself beggars all description. The locomotive was sent into fragments and hurled in every direction; two hundred yards from the locomotive lay the engineer frightfully mangled, in the agonies of death, on top of the car lay young Thompson, his head blown from his body. On the platform of the depot lay Col. Lewis nearly cut in two, near him S. B. Dodge, agent of the depot, with his breast crushed in, Charles Yeoman, express messenger, was found badly injured, but he will recover.

San Francisco, Aug. 27.—Arrived ship David Crockett, 114 days from New York, bark Rainier 8 days from Tekeak, Sheet Anchor 9 days from Seabeck.

Sailed—26th.—bark Adelaide Cooper, Puget Sound. 27th.—Ship Nicholas Biddle Puget Sound.

Mexico.

A correspondent of the London Post says, I have information as to the object of the Empress Charlotte's visit to Paris, it is to obtain a release from the obligation of paying what is due to France out of the proceeds of the Mexican Custom House. Invasions of insurgent republican bands have greatly reduced the proceeds, which are now confined to Vera Cruz. The Mexican Government requires with strict economy \$500,000 monthly for indispensable expenses; for some time it has not been in receipt of more than two-fifths of that sum from Customs. The financial condition of the Mexican Government is thus reduced to the lowest ebb.

Europe.

Paris, 25th.—The Empress Charlotte will not return to Mexico, and it is conceded that the Empire of that country approaches its end. It is authoritatively announced that if additional French troops be sent to Mexico it will be only in sufficient numbers to protect the interests of French subjects during the fall of the Empire, and to secure the quiet evacuation of Mexico. They will not be used to sustain the dynasty of Maximilian.

Prague, 25th.—The cessation of Venetia to Italy was fully accomplished before the treaty of peace between Prussia, Austria, Italy and Bavaria was signed. Austria freely and unreservedly ceded Venetia to Victor Emanuel.

Cholera statistics of London show a decrease in the number of deaths. Official provincial correspondences praise the moderation of Napoleon, and credit him with the desire not to disturb friendly relations or to interfere in German politics; also asserts that hopes of a different character had arisen from the influence of opposition parties in France. The article adds that Prussia will take steps for the incorporation of the conquered North German States without delay.

The London Times editorially says:—Napoleon has disappointed the lovers of mischief, and proved staunch to his principles. Other London journals express satisfaction with his action.

The Prussian Government intended to announce to Parliament on August 15th the annexation of the conquered Northern States, but was prevented by the influence of illustrious persons at Court.

The Monitor contains intelligence from Tiflis to the effect that part to Russian Daghestan has risen in insurrection.

New York, 26th.—Special despatches by the Cable confirm the signing of the treaty of peace at Prague on Thursday 23d.

A Moscow despatch of the 24th mentions the arrival there of the American naval officers, who were treated with distinguished consideration.

A Dresden despatch of the 24th says: The King has ordered the Saxon Ministry to co-operate with the Prussian authorities. The Frankfurt Assembly has voted a loan of 12,000,000 florins. The Bank rate was reduced to four per cent.

Mayence, Aug. 25.—The siege was raised yesterday.

Cape of Good Hope.

Cape of Good Hope mails of July 20th report many shipping disasters on the east coast of southern Africa. No American vessels mentioned.

Eastern States.

A meeting of Army officers favorable to the President's policy was held at Willard's Hotel yesterday, Gen Steadman presiding. The meeting decided

to call a National Mass Convention of soldiers at Chicago, on the 7th of September, to ratify the proceedings of the Philadelphia Convention.

The President's programme for a visit to Chicago to attend the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the Douglas monument, is fully announced. He will leave Washington on the morning of the 28th of August, attended only by Seward and a select company, in the car of the Lincoln funeral train. He will stop at Philadelphia, New York, Albany, Auburn, Niagara Falls, and at Buffalo over Sunday; on Monday, Cleveland and Detroit, and arrive at Chicago on Wednesday evening, September 5th.

Central America.

Panama advices say the Columbian Congress adjourned after ratifying the hypothecation of the Panama Railroad bonds in London by President Mosquera for seven and a half million dollars.

The Republic of Costa Rica has refused to join the South American alliance.

Most of the Spanish fleet had arrived at Tabiti on route for Manila. Admiral Nunez was not expected to survive his wounds.

The United States frigate Lancaster had arrived at Panama, and would leave immediately for Callao.

Washington Aug. 20.—In accordance with the President's proclamation of the 19th, declaring null and void Maximilian's paper blockade of Matamoras and other Mexican ports south of the Rio Grande, the commander of the Pacific Squadron has received orders to send two ships to Mazatlan and Guaymas, to protect United States interests on the Pacific coast.

Europe.

Prague, August 28.—The treaty of peace between Prussia and Austria has been ratified by the King of Prussia, and is now on its way to this city for exchange.

Madrid, August 28.—One of the Spanish frigates succeeded in capturing the Chilean privateer Tornado off the coast of Spain.

New York, August 28.—The Paris Temps, received by mail, says the Pope is on the eve of ceding the States of the church to Napoleon, and assuming for himself the title of Viceroy.

London, August 28.—Evening—Consols closed at 89 1/4, for money.

Eastern States.

Washington, August 28.—The Presidential excursion party started at 7:30 this morning.

California.

San Francisco, August 28.—Arrived—27th.—Bark Coloma, 9 days from Seabeck.

Sailed—27th.—British bark Annie, Sharp, Swansea; French brig Pioneer, Sydney.

August 28th.—Ship Panama, Sydney.

Washington Territory.

Olympia, August 29.—The three soldiers who robbed Mr Locke's safe at Stellacoom last week were discovered yesterday afternoon about twenty miles south of this place on the stage road, by Mr Colvin, in his barn, where they had slept. They could give no satisfactory reason why they were there, and offered him three U. S. guns for something to eat. Suspecting they were robbers, he directed them to Mr Tilley's—distant about two miles. They started in that direction, and Mr Colvin saddled a horse and followed, hoping to get assistance and to capture them. Just before arriving at Tilley's Mr Colvin met two young men, named Turner and Martin, and made known to them the facts; the two young men kept the robbers in sight, and Colvin reached Tilley's in advance, and made preparations to receive them. Shortly after they all arrived, the robbers becoming alarmed, started off. Mr Colvin demanded them to stop, saying that they were prisoners. They being unarmed, having left their guns in Mr Colvin's barn, made a break, running in different directions. One of them was shot dead; another was wounded in the shoulder, and with the third was captured. Seven hundred dollars in coin of the stolen money were recovered. It is reported that there are two hundred and thirty dollars in the pockets of the dead man. The Coroner started to hold an inquest. The two surviving robbers arrived here this afternoon in charge of the party who captured them and are safely lodged in jail.

The Colony of Vancouver Island to be Abolished.

(From the San Francisco Bulletin.)

A few years ago, Vancouver Island, with its free port of Victoria, was our best market for California produce and for American manufactures. The British colonies were decidedly in the ascendancy; capital and population flocked to them, even to the detriment of San Francisco interests. The Fraser river mines and the rich yield of a small creek in Cariboo attracted thousands of people, some of whom remain, and by their ability and enterprise gave an impetus to the country which, if rightly directed and fostered by the British Government, might have made the Pacific colonies a useful appanage to the British Crown. Vancouver Island had a liberal Constitution founded on popular

representation, with a franchise sufficiently liberal to give every native born or naturalized citizen an interest in political affairs. In an evil hour Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, when Secretary to the Colonies, had given to British Columbia, on its release from the Hudson Bay Company's control, a separate and independent existence with an autocratic government, thus making two official organizations and two capitals where one would have been sufficient. The evil was, however, partially remedied by making Sir James Douglas, an able Hudson Bay factor, Her Majesty's representative for both Colonies; but in a weak moment the late Duke of Newcastle was persuaded to widen the separation by appointing a Colonial Governor for each, and led away by their apparently permanent prosperity, inflicted upon both an extravagant Civil List, based upon the scale which obtains in older and more prosperous Atlantic and Australian Colonies.

From that day the Colonies have declined rapidly, not only from their inability to support such cumbersome governments, but from other causes not unknown in mining communities. Victoria, which once supported four daily papers and several large English importing establishments; which was building up an export trade for British goods to San Francisco, Oregon, Mexico, the Sandwich Islands, Russian America—a business fostered by the freedom of their port from custom dues of any description—has fallen away through the reduction of its home trade and the preposterous weight or taxation for official salaries. The new Governor, while personally esteemed for his many good qualities, has been unable to conciliate a people who, under his rule, have been gradually declining from comparative wealth to a state in which bankruptcies are common and poverty universal. The House of Assembly and the Executive have never worked cordially together, and have often been at open feud on questions arising out of the exorbitant demands upon the public purse; and at last the Home Government, having blundered at every step—having done everything they ought not to have, and left undone everything they ought to have done—have determined upon getting out of the scrape by a coup d'etat.

Lord Russell's government, as one of their last acts, brought in a bill to expunge Vancouver Island from the roll of British Colonies, to extinguish all the rights of the electors, to sweep away the constitution, the free port, and everything that attracted capital and intelligence to that out-of-the-way island, and to give the people over, bound hand and foot, to the domination of the Governor of British Columbia and his paid magistrates.

The bill proposes first to abolish the constitution by which the people have elected their representatives in the Island Legislature for the last ten years, to annex the island, which contains all the assessed property, two-thirds of the fixed residences of the joint inhabitants, all the business and mining capital and every wholesale store, to British Columbia, a country which is merely the field of the summer occupations of pleasure-seekers. Victoria, one of the best built and pleasantest little cities on the Pacific coast—is no longer to be the metropolis; that honor is to be conferred on New Westminster—a rough and unrefined site for a town—rather than an existing city—a place laboring under all the disadvantages of being beyond the line fixed by the Admiralty survey as the safe limit of navigation by sea-going ships, and located on a river which is frozen upon an average nearly a month in every year. The system of Government is to be a Governor, chosen by the Queen, and Legislative Council of 23. The Secretary of the Colony—a nominee of the Crown—is to be ex officio President. Eight Magistrates from the mainland and three from the Island chosen arbitrarily, by the Governor, with seven non-official members chosen by the residents of the former, and four by the residents of the latter place, subject, however, to the approval of the Governor, are to form this unique legislative body. A system of apportionment which being evidently based on square miles rather than population or property, shows low little knowledge of or sympathy with the people he is dealing with, is possessed by the Queen's political Secretary who has the care of her forty and odd Colonies. The laws of the two Provinces will remain as they now stand, until changed by the new Council, but the tariff of British Columbia will take effect in the port of Victoria from the day the bill becomes law. The Governor, however, is empowered by the bill to institute such a system of warehousing as may be necessary—a provision which may save the unfortunate English consignees who have goods on their way round the Horn to the free port of Victoria from absolute and unexpected loss of their ventures.

At first sight it seems difficult to find a motive for the outrage of giving the richer to the poorer, the greater to the lesser, the majority to the rule of the minority; but there is a solution to be found. British Columbia is very heavily indebted in London, and though her bonds are quoted at a high rate there are no sales, for they are never offered in the market, while the indebtedness of Vancouver Island is but \$200,000 or so. As things have been going of late, British Columbian bonds are all but worthless in London, there not being any real property to speak of in the country; while in Vancouver Island there is a large amount of permanently improved real estate. The bondholders of British Columbia, therefore, will improve their security, and the real estate of Victoria will become liable for the principal and interest of money they did not borrow, and had nothing to do with the spending of, if the bill becomes law. Lord Russell's Government has been hoodwinked by the bondholders as its predecessor was hoodwinked by the Hudson Bay Company, when it allowed their possessory rights to the town site, and as all the Governments have been hoodwinked by interested parties at every step they have taken in regard to these Colonies or the Hudson Bay Company's interest. The effect on neither colony will be satisfactory. Victoria will lose its foreign trade and the advantage of being in direct communication with the Government, and New Westminster will lose the little separate trade it now has, and become a mere hamlet of official residences and a woodyard for passing steamers. Vancouver Island being a small, weak place,

cannot resist the tyranny which takes away her political rights and confiscates her property, but the inhabitants, already imbued with republican ideas, will cast longing eyes at the free self-government of their neighbors in Washington Territory.

Legislative Council.

TUESDAY, August 28, 1866.

The Council met at 2:30 p. m. Present—The Hon. the Chief Justice, Col. Secretary, Attorney General and H. Rhodes.

CATTLE TRESPASS.

The Attorney General obtained leave to introduce a Bill relative to the trespass of cattle on lands. It purports amongst other provisions, that no person shall be entitled to compensation for damage on account of trespass, except such lands trespassed on be fenced. It also provides to deal with the question of the fencing of lands so far as the Indians are concerned.

The Colonial Secretary regretted that the lateness of the session prevented them from fully discussing an important measure such as it is. The matter of the disagreement between the Indians at Cowichan and the white settlers was referred to. At a subsequent time, he thought it might do well to bring up a "fence" law or something of the sort.

The Chief Justice thought the Bill oppressive; at the same time an important one for good or for evil. He did not think it wise to legislate in a hasty way, but believed in a general fence law for the Colony. He was also opposed to it because it was proposed to create the establishment of new Courts, and did not think the Council would act wisely at this late period of the session to attempt to pass the Bill.

The Attorney General replied. He believed from enquiries made that the feeling of the public was in favor of it.

The Bill was read a first time opposed by the President.

BILLS OF SALE AMENDMENT BILL.

A Bill to amend the Bills of Sale Act, was introduced by the Attorney General and it passed a first reading.

ROAD ACT.

A Bill to amend the Road Act, was read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL.

The Colonial Secretary moved that a Bill to supply the sum of two hundred and forty-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty-three dollars and thirty-two cents, out of the general revenue of the Colony, for the service of the year 1866, be now read a third time. Carried unanimously.

PATENT BILL.

Council in Committee on a Bill to provide for the protection of Inventions, Mr Rhodes in the Chair.

The Committee reported a short and simple form of Bill, striking out a number of clauses of the Lower House one. It was then read a third time on motion of the Colonial Secretary and passed.

CITY INCORPORATION BILL.

Council went into Committee on the Bill to explain and amend the Victoria City Incorporation Act—Mr Rhodes in the chair.

The Colonial Secretary moved the following in lieu of clause 2, which had been suspended:—Prior to the 1st of January in each year, the Council may, subject to the provisions of the Victoria City Incorporation Act, 1862, by a by-law passed and confirmed in the manner prescribed by the said Act, determine what amount of funds may be required for Municipal purposes for the year ensuing, and the amount shall be raised by tax upon real estate situated within the city, provided the amount of such tax shall not exceed one-half of one per cent. upon the value of the property as assessed in the last Government assessment roll for the time being. Carried.

Section 24 of the old Bill was repealed. Clause 4 of the Lower House Bill was struck out and the following inserted:—

The tax as aforesaid shall be payable as shall be determined by the by-law under which it is levied, and if not paid at the expiration of 30 days, the same may be levied by distress of the goods of the parties occupying the property, or in default of a sufficient distress by distress of the goods and chattels of the owner of such property, wherever found, and if there be no occupier or owner of such property, then the tax shall be registered in the Land Registrar's office and the Registrar General of Titles is required to register the same as a first charge against the property in respect of which the tax is due, next after taxes due to the Crown, notwithstanding any charges already existing other than charges for taxes, as herein provided. Carried.

Clauses 5 and 6 were struck out. Clause 7, providing for the maintenance of the Fire Department out of the Municipal revenue, was passed—to provide for the maintenance of the Police Department out of the said revenue, was already struck out. The other clauses of the Bill were discussed on a former occasion and were passed. The Committee then reported the Bill complete and it was read a third time and passed.

HARBOR DUES ACT.

The Harbor Dues Amendment Act was read a second time.

The Council adjourned till Wednesday at 2 p. m.

DARING CLOTHES ROBBERY.

A family residing on the east side of Blanchard, near the top of Cormorant street, was robbed of a quantity of clothing and bed linen on Tuesday night. It appears that the good lady of the house, after an unusually big wash, had left the articles in soak in a boiler, which was covered over and placed in a covered shed attached to the back of the house, some few things being spread out to dry in the shed. The family retired to bed about 9 o'clock, and shortly afterwards a noise was heard in the back, which was believed to be cats, but in the morning they found to their dismay that some persons, supposed to be Indians, had removed almost their entire stock of linen. The rascals had coolly stopped to rinse the water out of the things.

Another Constitutional Out

For the past twelve months popular cry in this Colony has been Retrenchment. When this of the Legislature commenced majority of the members Lower House pledged themselves to effect the desired end, and did the best of their small abilities to carry out their professed views would be a useless task to me refer the reader to the doing session now nearly brought close. All are too familiar with the circumstances which have attended the proceedings of the House the unfortunate issue to which have been brought, by the manner in which the members at the Estimates prepared for by the Executive. After a seven months in the Lower House the Estimates have been sent to the Upper House, and, as will be reference to our report of the proceedings in that body on Monday, adopted as a whole, but not in that is to say: the Legislative Council is willing to sanction the sum voted, but it is not willing the Lower House shall have to say as to the manner in which be applied! This extraordinary assumption of power by the Upper will meet, we are sure, with same condemnation as the illegal position assumed by the House in February last, when endeavored to take the initiative money votes out of the hands Executive, and retain it themselves to introduce a system of job corruption that would enrich pensioners of the patronage and boon companions, while it impoverished the people. The Legislative Council, as a body, are interested to whatever poverty imagine themselves possessed tenacious and unyielding grasp the able but sophistical speech Colonial Secretary in support view of the case will awake misgivings on the part of the In dealing with the Estimates Young rightly says that the of the Lower House in attempt usurp Executive functions unconstitutional. But the gentleman forgets that while he the lower body for their illegality strikes an equally illegal the very foundation of Constitutional Government—he attacks the root of Representative Institution and that when he maintains "powers" of the "two bodies ordinate," he makes (to use term), a mistake that might be done in a gentleman who had been marked with less of less of liberality, and less of but cannot be lightly regarded springing from so respectable as the Colonial Secretary, who be remembered, has himself a seat in the Assembly, an career therein was eminent distinguished for the deference paid to Constitutional right, power of the Assembly to only a "lump sum" but the rule of the Estimates. In his Mr Young lays down the maintenance of the Constitution of the Country is our guide. But supports that "guide" breath, he stretches forth to violate it when he attacks the people, or their representatives, the power to say public money shall be spent who ever heard of the House usurping the rights of the Council and amending the items of a bill? Such a thing could be effected in the Mother Country at the risk of a long and imperil the very existence of Monarchy, as it has in this cost an English king his throne Young was supported in his by the Attorney General and the Justice, the highest legal authority in the Colony, and the motion passed. The position taken by Justice was in consonance with