

WEEKLY COLONIST-SUPPLEMENT

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NO. 18.

IMMIGRATION MASS MEETING.

In accordance with a requisition to the Mayor, signed by a large number of our most respectable citizens, a meeting was held in the Lyceum Hall on Saturday night, for the purpose of considering the best means of rendering the proposed visit of Mr. Macfie of the greatest benefit to the colony. The large hall was crowded by a numerous and attentive audience, representing all classes of the community, and including several members of the House of Assembly, clergymen, &c. In the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, James Duncan, Esq., M. P., was called to the chair, and proceeded to read a letter from Mayor Harris, apologizing for his enforced absence, owing to an attack of illness, and expressing his entire sympathy with the intention of the meeting, and his hearty approval of the appointment of the Rev. M. Macfie as an immigration lecturer in England. After alluding to the sum voted in aid of immigration by the Legislative Assembly, and to the urgent necessity of proper and reliable information in regard to this colony being disseminated in the mother country, which he believed Mr. Macfie well able to undertake, the chairman called on Mr. McMillan, who proposed the following resolution:

Resolved, That Mr. Macfie be requested to lay before this meeting his views on the resources of the Island, accompanied with an opinion upon the classes of people to whom this colony offers a desirable field for immigration. The mover said he was not there to say whether Mr. Macfie was the proper person to send home as a lecturer or not; he would be better able to tell that when he had heard him address the meeting. As to the importance of encouraging immigration to the colony, there could not be two opinions on the subject. The House of Assembly had set apart a sum of money for that purpose—far too small, no doubt, but still a gentleman had been found who was prepared to accept the limited amount offered, and he believed the greatest benefit might result from a proper dissemination of knowledge in regard to the various resources of the country.

Mr. Fell seconded the resolution. He was not there to make a speech, but he must say a few words as to the prospects and requirements of the colony. He had met with a great many croakers here.

A voice—You are not quite free from croaking yourself! [Laughter.] Mr. Fell—Well, if I have croaked it was caused by the faults of others, not my own. [Laughter.] He had been led here by false representations. [Applause.] but now he was here, he was determined to do his best to develop the resources of the country. This Island teemed with minerals, forests, its waters with fish—all we wanted was capital to open up its vast natural advantages, and we wanted some one to go home and lay proper information before the masses of the home population as to our country.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously. The chairman being obliged to leave, Mr. G. E. Deane, M. P., was called to the chair. Mr. Macfie on rising addressed the assembly, was received with much applause. He said he had the honor of explaining to the manner in which his name had been connected with this immigration movement. The question had been first brought up a year and a half ago, when several gentlemen, among whom were the members of the city and the present Mayor, then member for Esquimalt, had agitated the matter and had spoken to him (Mr. Macfie) about it. About six months ago it was again mooted by many who were impressed with the desirability of drawing immigration to the colony. These gentlemen did not propose to ask any pecuniary aid from the colonial government, intending to raise the required means through private liberality both here and in the old country. They waited, however, on the Governor to solicit his support and approbation, and he received them most favorably, and intimated his desire to have a conversation with me on the matter. On my having an interview with him, he expressed a wish that I should be sent home as an immigration agent, and this without the slightest solicitation on my part.

His Excellency estimated most emphatically that he would send down a message to the House requesting them to vote an amount for the purpose of aiding the scheme, and on my asking him if the House would offer any objection to the proposed arrangements, he said (I give his own words) "I do not see how they can have the hardihood to refuse." [Applause.] I did not then hear again about the matter for a little time, when I received a letter from the Colonial Secretary asking what amount I would require to undertake the proposed mission; to which I replied stating that I would be satisfied with £400, or \$2000, a sum which I considered would be required to meet the expenses of a year's operations. On the 20th of November I received the following letter from the honorable Colonial Secretary. I may state that in a previous note to His Excellency I had expressed a wish, if possible, to avoid having my name brought up in any discussion in the House on the subject.

20th November, 1863. DEAR SIR—I have had your application before the Governor and he will submit it to the House of Assembly for their assent as to the disbursement of the funds necessary for the service which you propose to undertake. Before doing so, however, His Excellency would be glad to know whether you contemplated that course, as from the tenor of your notes both to His Excellency and myself it would seem almost as if you were under the impression that the Governor would simply ask the Assembly for an appropriation of funds for the purpose of sending an agent home, without stating the name of the proposed agent, or the nature of the duties he was expected to undertake.

Believe me, dear sir,
Very faithfully yours,
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG.
The Rev. M. Macfie.

When the House met after the recess, two distinct propositions were laid before them. One was by Messrs. Anderson & Co., proposing, as the audience have already learned through the newspapers, to establish agencies throughout the United Kingdom, in connection with their ships in London, and their lines of ships to this colony. This proposal, the House, doubtless looking on it more in the light of a commercial monopoly to a particular commercial house, whose chief aim would probably be to fill their ships without considering the kind of immigrants required, was other proposition from myself, suggested by His Excellency, I am happy to say received the almost unanimous approbation of the House. On the estimates being finally passed, I called on His Excellency, knowing that he was soon to leave the colony, and being pleased to throw entirely overboard. The arrangements, when the my astonishment I was coldly received, and His Excellency stated that in consequence of the feeling exhibited in certain quarters—which quarters the audience well knows (loud cheers) he would rather not entertain the matter, but would prefer to leave it to his successor, He (Mr. Macfie) would appear to the meeting whether certain clerical influence should thus be allowed to control the Executive, and to defeat the scheme so unanimously approved of by the House of Assembly. [Applause.]

Mr. Macfie then proceeded to the great and important question before the meeting. He thought there could be but one opinion as to the desirability of sending a lecturer to the mother country. The scheme of establishing an intelligence office in the leading cities would not succeed; multitudes of the most desirable parties would never see the advertisements inserted in the papers. The appointment of a mercantile firm would also be a failure, as the interests of that firm would lead them to induce a promiscuous immigration solely for the purpose of cramming their vessels with passengers for the profit resulting therefrom, without caring whether the immigrants were suitable for the colony. The information now laid before the English public, through the medium of their friends who had come out here, and through occasional visitors was so conflicting in its nature as to leave them in a state of indecision as to the merits of the country. This was the only one which was not recognized in the old country; it was a difficult one to reach and therefore every facility and information should be laid before intending immigrants. Other colonies have agents, often highly paid, travelling through Europe urging the advantages of their respective countries, but British Columbia and Vancouver Island, concerning which the British public are so anxious to obtain information, were totally unrepresented. The efforts of the Rev. prelate now at home were doubtless very laudable, but his mission was entirely a religious one; and notwithstanding the mean and contemptible imputations made against him (Mr. Macfie) by his clerical brethren, he would say that should he go to England on this mission, not a single word should issue from his lips on the platform of a denominational cause [great applause]. It had been stated by some of the opponents of the scheme that he would be far from encouraging the coming to this country of such classes as prodigal sons, broken-down slaves, [laughter] well-meaning but unsuitable clerks and such like. A voice—Bully for you! [Great laughter.] It would be his aim to encourage the formation of associations whose field of operations would be in this country; to encourage respectable handicraftsmen and mechanics, not telling them, however, that they could make a rapid fortune—that they could pick up gold on the streets, or make \$10 per day as wages, but they should be told that by 7 or 8 years of steady labor the balance of their books would show a handsome profit in their favor. Another class—that of farm laborers—was very much needed in this country, and although we might not be able to obtain the assistance of the Imperial Government in sending them out, there were many benevolent persons in England, looking for a channel into which to direct their means, and by their aid many farm laborers might be sent out by means of "assisted passages." Last but not least, he would refer to a subject now rather hackneyed, both in the House and out of it—Female Immigration—[laughter.] He (the speaker) had talked with many families here, and he was sure that 500 respectable girls, brought out in small detachments, would be immediately absorbed. He would not lead these girls to believe that husbands were waiting for them on the wharves, and that proposals of marriage would be made to each of them in a few hours, but that they might all get respectable places at a high rate of wages. He knew of many well-to-do mechanics who were obliged to go to California to secure partners for life because they could not find them here. [Laughter.] He attached the utmost importance to talking about this subject, as had been done for the last two years, but to active and energetic movement in the matter.

It was said that many had been unfortunate in coming to this colony, but this was no tangible objection to the colony; we might as well think the same of England because the *Times* and *Dispatch* contain so many failures and alludes to papers being so numerous. All other colonies had their periods of hardship and distress; look at the first immigrants to Melbourne, who suffered hardships greater than had even been experienced here. The grand error committed in reference to this colony was that people came here with such exaggerated expectations from reading highly colored statements in the home papers, or hearing similar statements from interested individuals.

The next question to bring before this meeting was—was a minister unfitted for acting in the capacity of lecturer? [Loud cries of No, no! and a few of Yes, yes!] Well, [Mr. M.] would admit that in many cases their ideas were not remarkably enlarged, but well wear petitions as gowns. [Laughter.] As for himself, he would say that his motto as a student, and which he had not conscientiously departed from, was—never to sink the man in the minister. [Applause.]

He would proceed to glance briefly at the inducements we had to offer as a field for immigration. He took up the city of Victoria, in its commercial adaptability respecting its rapid growth from the Hudson Bay Company's Port in 1858, to its present advanced position, showing its great progress in commerce and exports of gold, and bringing up its bold advantages as a free port—a point to be forcibly brought before the notice of merchants in Liverpool and London.

The speaker urged the great advantages of making this port a depot of merchandise for all the Pacific coast, which it was so well fitted for, by reason of its free trade policy. He also urged the need of substantial merchandise—not common merchants who did not care how much goods came to the country, so long as they made their stores and commission. In regard to the timber resources of the country, he would show a few statistics. Suppose a large *bona fide* merchant should start a mill like Messrs. Anderson & Co.'s, or the mill on the Sound; let this firm have their own storehouse of goods, their own ships, (which, from the cheapness of lumber, can be built one-third cheaper here than at home) [applause] let them sell their own goods, ship their own lumber to China, bring back the return cargoes to England or this part, and see what an enormous trade they will have. The speaker then alluded to the vast commercial capacity and requirements of China. The demand for lumber alone was immense, and the trade of the most remunerative character. A large market for railway sleepers of which we have a boundless supply, would ultimately become a great interest in this country, being in great demand in India and on various parts of this coast. The speaker next alluded to the probability of Esquimalt being made the chief naval rendezvous and sanatorium for Her Majesty's fleet on the Pacific, and referred to the inter-oceanic railway both in the United States and in British possessions, as a highway to the great East. He also alluded to the coal on the Island. Coal and iron had built up England to the great empire she now is, and coal, iron, and copper, on this Island will ultimately make Vancouver Island the England of the Pacific. The Rev. gentleman next alluded to the copper on the Island; he had visited the great East-copper mine, and there have been at least 50 other veins opened up. He next adverted to Gold Stream, and asserted his conviction that the discovery of gold on that stream was now a reality. He referred to the assay of the Parimeter which was sent to San Francisco to be crushed, which had yielded \$4 to the ton, and said he should like much to take the bath of gold and silver, the result of that assay, with him. The fisheries he looked upon as a source of boundless wealth. The speaker particularized the different kinds of fish which were profitable to the colony, and could be made a means of profitable employment by drawing attention to the fisheries in other countries, and reasoned that the fisheries of Vancouver in themselves the elements of unlimited prosperity.

He also thought that this could be ultimately made the depot for the whaling fleet, particularly when we take into consideration the equaling, and he was happy to say that the pioneer one would shortly be constructed. Agriculture next occupied the speaker's attention, and he entered fully into this subject. His belief was that although we had not on this Island the prairies of Western America, yet what soil the Island did have, was good arable land. He instanced Dr. Thiel's wheat as a specimen of what can be done with the land around Victoria. The cultivation of timothy grass was exceedingly profitable, and eggs, butter, and other farm produce, together with the rearing of hogs and other stock, also afforded highly lucrative sources of employment. He concluded the topic by stating that Victoria should import \$33,137 of produce in twelve months, when there remained so much untilled land.

Cariboo was next touched upon, and the lecturer rehearsed what he considered to be the difficulties and drawbacks, as well as the advantages and attractions, which the gold regions of the interior presented. After a few general remarks, in which the position he had met with was again alluded to, the Rev. gentleman resumed his seat amid the loud and protracted cheers of his hearers.

Mr. W. H. Parsons then moved, That this meeting be heartily commended in the expressed opinion of the House of Assembly that a lecturer should be sent to England for the purpose of diffusing information regarding these colonies. Mr. Parsons said he was one of those unfortunate individuals who was allured—he might say with another gentleman, swindled—into the country in 1862. He had the advantage over Mr. Macfie in one respect, he had been to Cariboo, though he did not find himself any the better for it. Since hearing the reverend gentleman he found himself somewhat in the position of the man who was engaged in a law suit and having entered the Court while his counsel was pleading came out exclaiming that "he never before knew what an ill-used man he was." Before Mr. Macfie had addressed the meeting he had no idea that the country possessed so many resources. [Laughter and cheers.] He added that an influx of people into British Columbia was also beneficial to this colony inasmuch as every man who entered that colony increased the demand for goods which would be supplied by Victoria. Mr. Parsons spoke to the point and his remarks were well received.

Mr. J. P. Cranford seconded the resolution which was carried with acclamation. Mr. Piddall moved that, "In the opinion of the meeting the Rev. Mr. Macfie is highly qualified as a lecturer." He proceeded to say that he had changed his views since hearing the reverend speaker. He had been opposed

to sending any clergyman home to disseminate information respecting colonies as he thought they had not time or opportunity to make themselves sufficiently acquainted with the subject. He now fully approved of the selection and considered Mr. Macfie a fitting lecturer. It had been publicly stated that the meeting was solicited by Mr. Macfie's congregation, but he for one did not belong to his church; he condemned the idea of clerical or sectarian influence being brought to bear, and whether he entertained the same views on matters of religion or not he was equally prepared to support the nomination of Mr. Macfie as a lecturer well-qualified to make the requirements of the colonies known in England. He argued that this was a matter which should be left in the hands of the people. It was not the Government who furnished the \$3,000 to sending home a lecturer: it was the people—the tax payers—out of whose pockets the money came, (hear, hear,) and they therefore had a right to a voice in the matter, and he did not think His Excellency the Governor would oppose the voice of the people (hear, hear). The speaker further denounced the scheme proposed by Messrs. Anderson & Co., for opening an Emigration office, and concluded by calling upon the meeting to confirm the resolution.

Mr. Gillard seconded—remarking that he had come to the meeting opposed to the appointment of Mr. Macfie, but after the able lecture he had heard he changed his opinion and felt much pleasure in seconding the resolution. Resolution carried with acclamation. Mr. Councillor Wallace moved, "That this meeting pledges itself to use every exertion with the Executive to secure the appropriation of the vote of the Legislative Assembly intended it to be applied." Mr. Seary, in a few happy remarks, seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Seott moved, "That a committee be named by the chair to wait upon the Executive with a view to obtain the object sought by the meeting." Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion. Before the motion was put by the chair Mr. Macfie again stepped forward and said that this was the most important matter which the meeting had yet considered. He had a right to suppose from the frequent plaudits of the meeting that they were in favor of his appointment as a lecturer, but he would desire the meeting on this motion being put, to show clearly and distinctly his feelings on the subject, in order that His Excellency might be made aware of what the sentiments of the people were, and if in his favor it would suffice to counteract the reaction which he believed had been produced through the out-sider influence of a few.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously with loud applause. The Chairman nominated the following gentlemen—His Worship the Mayor Messrs. Bayley, M. P., Capt. Reid, Seary, Wallace, C. C. McKay, Bell, Piddall, and Mitchell, with power to add to their number. Mr. Macfie invited such of his friends who felt disposed to join the committee to meet at Mr. Seary's drug store on Monday morning at 11 o'clock.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting separated.

There must have been fully 200 persons in the Hall, every seat being occupied, and a number compelled to stand, and we must do the meeting the justice to say that we never saw any public proceedings conducted with more decorum and good will. The audience throughout were very attentive to the different speakers and the greatest unanimity of feeling appeared to pervade the entire assemblage. Not a single dissenting voice was heard to the exception of one weak-witted at the bank who having acquired a limited knowledge of Chinook, watched every opportunity for slipping in the negative *wake!*

PARTICULARS OF THE DEATH OF DONALD MUNRO.

[From the *Columbian*.] Having a short time ago received a letter from George Munro requesting further particulars concerning the death of his brother, and having invited parties acquainted with the circumstances to communicate with us, we have just received the following letter from Williams Creek—

RICHFIELD, CARIBOO, Feb. 23rd, 1864.
To the Editor of the *British Columbian*.
SIR—The following are the particulars in regard to the death of the late Donald Munro given to me by Sim Shively, who was one of the party who found his body, and who, reading the article in your paper, requested me to give you the particulars, which are as follows: In June last, while returning from a prospecting tour, they stopped to cook dinner, and Shively, while sauntering along the river discovered a flag hanging to a pole on the bank, and on inspecting it he found the body of the poor man under a tree, a short distance from the flag, and a short distance from him, his tin cup bottom upwards, with the following inscription scratched with a nail needle: "Donald Munro in the woods, lost June 1863, is from Inverness Town, Scotland, born June, 1825." Shively says from the appearance of the body he must have been dead about ten days. They rolled him up in his blankets and dug a grave and buried him, enclosing it with sticks around it, and put a cross to his head. They found no papers, only a shirt, new pants, sewing palm and needle; not an ounce of food. Near where he lay, the poor man had stripped the bark from a tree, as the last resort to sustain life. Shively says he thinks he must have been conscious to the last. His tin cup he placed on a small stick behind his head, close to the tree, and in a way to prevent the weather having any effect

on the cup. These are all the particulars regarding his death and burial. Trusting this information will lighten the sorrow of his afflicted relatives, I remain yours truly,
SIM SHIVELY,
Per JOHN COOK, Fashion Saloon.
P. S.—The river where he was found was Bear River, 160 miles from here.

SHOCK OF AN EARTHQUAKE.—We have received the following from a rural correspondent:—The shock of an earthquake was felt on Thorne's Creek, three miles east of Fort Langley, on Sunday the 28th of Feb. last at 7 1/2 in the evening. It was accompanied by a hoarse thundering rumble, and lasted for about thirty seconds. The sky was at the time clear and brilliant and the atmosphere calm and mild. So frightful was the commotion of its quick and awful rockings as to make it a moment of great suspense as to whether the Gibraltar would be buried with the log shanty, which cracked, rolled and tattered around him, in a conglomerated mass of heterogeneous ruin. Its course was across the Creek, from north to south.—16
(Query. Has Artemus Ward strayed up in the neighborhood of Thorne's Creek?—Ed.)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

This body met on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. Members present—The Hon. President, and Messrs. Attorney General Cary, Treasurer Watson and Assistant Surveyor General Pearce. The Telegraph bill was passed through a first, second and third reading, the Standing Orders of the Council being suspended to allow its passage. The Council then adjourned to present the address to His Excellency, which will be found in another part of our columns.

NEW WESTMINSTER "SCORPION."

A new publication under the appropriate title of the "Scorpion," made its appearance on Friday in New Westminster. Our little contemporary has made a good beginning, and we doubt not if carried on with the same ability, tempered with discretion, it will receive a large share of patronage and support. The "Scorpion" is published at the office of the *British Columbian*, but the editor of that sombre journal very imprudently inserts a public disclaimer against being associated with its authorship. 'Tis is too heavy a joke we should think to escape a probe from the "Scorpion." We take the following from the columns of our witty contemporary:

Lines from the *Album of Miss A.*
Coma maiden of the wilderness,
And linger by my side;
We'll fly away across the sea,
If you will be my bride.
I'll take you to my father's halls,
Beyond the snow-capped hills,
Where fragrances sweet from beauteous flowers,
The evening sephyr fills.
I'll pluck the lily and the rose,
And place them at your feet;
For well I know a heart like thine,
Could never know deceit.
Oh! open up those rosy lips!
Let those bright eyes of thine
Shine forth an answer to my prayer:
Oh, say thou wilt be mine.
The maiden raised her lovely head
With eyes meek as a lamb's;
She gazed into his manly face,
And softly whispered,—O—K—Clams.
Mr. Kennedy having been disappointed in his endeavor to obtain the office of Town Clerk in this city, has accepted the post of Governor of Vancouver Island.

We have received a note from Messrs. Gullitt and Left, from Whatcom, requesting that we forward them a copy of the *Scorpion* weekly, and charge the same to their creditors. Messrs. Sharkoon, Brownwig, Hobson and Grevious left by the Enterprise on Wednesday for Victoria. It is reported that they are going to make a tender for the stock of W. G. Gullitt preparatory to opening an establishment in this city, which will be conducted on strictly sectarian principles. We copy the following remarkable jokes from our contemporaries, giving credit to whom credit is due:—
Eggs is eggs.—*Evening Express*.
Does your mother know you're out?—*B. Columbian*.
Little boys should be seen, not heard.—*B. Columbian*.
Has your mother sold her mangle?—*F. Chronicle*.
He that sitteth down upon thistles will rise up quickly.—*B. Columbian*.
Let dogs delight to bark and bite.—*F. Chronicle*.
Mr. Foole has just arrived from above with the Barnyard Express, having made the trip in four days, two hours, five minutes and three seconds, which extraordinary time was accomplished owing to his having driven over the Big Slide in a buggy. He reports a company of Canadian having struck rich diggings in the bottom of Ground Hog Lake.

Dr. Bones of this city assures us that the *Columbian* has quite recovered from his bilious attack. He prescribed a dose of *Chloride* jokes, which are held in high esteem as gentle emetics. Thanks to Mr. Trandfield for a very fine salmon which he forgot to send us. This fish is, as usual, the finest of the season.—*Columbian* don't copy if you please. We have received a communication from the Right Rev. the Bishop of St. John's on the culture and growth of clams which we have to omit for want of space in this issue. In our next issue will appear an epic poem by the hon. Mr. Virgil of the Legislative Council. Subject, "Pillow Case on a benedict."