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## THE BRITISH COLONIST

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### RETIREMENT OF SIR JAMES DOUGLAS.

The Banquet of Thursday evening may be said to have been the close of Sir James Douglas's official connection with this colony, in as much as we shall not in all probability have another opportunity of meeting him in public as the Governor of this colony; although until the new Governor actually arrives Sir James nominally retains his position virtually he has retired from public life in this colony. For the last five years the Governor has exercised a great influence amongst us, an influence greater than any future Governor will be called upon to exert. We have now settled forms of government with which in 1858 we were not familiar except from our experience of their working at home, and consequently much was left for the personal direction of Her Majesty's Representative in this colony, which for the future will be regulated by the local legislature. It must be admitted by all impartial judges now that the whole of the administration of the present Governor can be reviewed that his way has not been successful. There was a time when Mr. Douglas was not so popular with the general public as he now is, but there are few Governors who have not during their terms of office experienced great changes in the popular view taken of their administration.

...how thoroughly the Governor performed his duty towards the Crown and the public of this colony when the interests of the Hudson Bay Company came in conflict with those of the colonists. Many held the opinion, previously to the publication of these despatches, that the Governor had leaned towards the Hudson Bay Company more than his position as Governor justified him in doing. Human nature is weak, and those who were so ready to accuse Sir James of unparliamentary conduct, in all probability judged him by their own standard of morality, and did not give him credit for that zeal for the interests of the country, which it has since been proved that he warmly exerted upon this most trying and important occasion. We are now able to judge of the past actions of the Governor, by the results, and in sincerity and truth are able to accord him that meed of praise which is so much more gratifying to offer, than are reflections upon shortcomings. His Excellency has lived amongst us long enough to gain the respect of all whose respect is worth having. Whilst Sir James Douglas has held the reins of Government we have at times differed from him in opinion as to what was expedient for the interests of the country, and have felt it our duty to oppose his administration of affairs; but whilst differing from him in politics, we have ever been ready to acknowledge and recognize his many good qualities; we give him full credit for honesty of purpose in all his actions, and are free to acknowledge in looking back upon his past career, that some of those public acts which at the time did not appear to us to have been conceived with a view to the interests of the people, and which at the time we opposed, now that we have a clue to the motives, and are able to judge them by their results, have turned out better than we anticipated. We do not intend to say that we look upon Sir James Douglas as a model Governor; such praise would be but fulsome flattery, which is by no means acceptable to a straight-forward English gentleman. We do, however, say that our retiring Governor will bear comparison with any Colonial Governor of the present day. So far as the press of Victoria is concerned, during his rule in Vancouver Island, as it has spoken out freely and boldly against him as occasion arose, so now on his ceasing to occupy the highest position in the colony we can honestly and faithfully say that our respect and best wishes will accompany Sir James Douglas in his retirement.

## ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

By the arrival, on Thursday, of the bark Architect, the statement previously made of a proposed armistice by England in the affairs of Schleswig-Holstein, has been confirmed. That proposition takes for its basis, the evacuation of Schleswig, except Olen, or more properly speaking Aalen, by the Danes, and is supported by France, Russia and Sweden. Austria, it is said, assents to the armistice, but Prussia refuses. In the meantime, the Germans, with large reinforcements, are preparing to attack the very island which England stipulates should be retained, during the armistice, by Denmark. Aalen lies within a mile or so of the main land, and stands at the entrance of the Little Belt. Should the Danes persist in their present determination to fight for it, their assailants will have something to do before they gain possession of this important point. With the evidence, which the late news gives us, of the determined spirit of aggression on the part of the Germanic powers, there is little ground to hope for a peaceful issue, and we may in all probability, through Prussia's folly, have a European war, as devastating in its effects as that which now rages on the American continent. The cause of the Schleswig-Holstein jargon will be speedily swallowed up by greater interests, and the conflagration which has been lighted by the vanity and ambition of a few petty princes, will in all likelihood assume such dimensions as have not been witnessed since the first Napoleonic period. It is by no means strange this should be so. Wrongs have been accumulating in almost every part of Europe, which, like that great outrage that cried for redress on the American continent, only need the opportunity of the noise and smoke of battle to right themselves by the *dernier ressort*.

It matters little on what pretence the torch is lighted. When Beauregard attacked Fort Sumter it was only the evacuation of a few unarmed Federal soldiers; but the far-seeing observed in this almost trivial incident, the death-blow of slavery on the American continent. The present war in the North of Europe has commenced on pretences just as wide from the real issue as those which first urged South Carolina to take the aggressive step, and will in all probability advance towards a grave result. In both cases good faith was broken by the aggressors. The treaty of London has been as grossly violated by Austria and Prussia as was the constitution of the United States by South Carolina.

...and which the principal European powers have guaranteed her, under certain conditions, by treaty. Whether the Danes have broken their stipulations, as the Germans allege, is a question for the Powers to consider; at all events Austria and Prussia have violated their engagements, and assisted the humbler of Prince Augustenburg in carrying out a forcible ejection. In the meantime affairs are not by any means in the best of order in other parts of Europe. When we look at the still active insurrection in Poland; at the aspect of Hungary, with Kossuth again in activity; at the unsatisfactory state of affairs at Rome; at Garibaldi on the *quai vive*, and the Italian question still an unfinished problem; who can say where war is likely to terminate, if once beyond the boundaries of the disputed Duchies?

Had England, as a free country, exerted herself more in the cause of the suffering and struggling nationalities, she would not today have been so nervously anxious at every indication of disturbance in Europe. We are sorry to say, however, through Court influence, dynasties, and not peoples, have benefited by our policy. Hungary and Poland might have been now greater conservers of peace and more effective preservers of the much-talked-of balance of power than that Germanic Kingdom, which we have always felt so deeply interested in having preserved intact. The advantages of our quasi-alliance with this race may be summed up in complications and pension lists—ending at length in our being placed in the present most awkward and serious dilemma. For if we allow Denmark to be overpowered by Germany we forfeit every claim to honor and courage, and become the quiescent spectator of an outrageous violation of good faith, in which the victim is our closest foreign relation. While on the other hand, if we take up arms in the cause of Denmark, we give to Louis Napoleon that most coveted opportunity of enlarging his territory at the expense of Germany. Looking at these alternatives, however grave the latter may be, what British subject does not rather wish to risk it than see these powerful bulwarks of the German Principalities—these men, who have, with their Prussian and Austrian confederates, submitted at home to political degradations that would not have been borne by the subjects of the Emperor of China—conquer a race that has preserved

its individual rights as determined by ourselves. We can have no sympathy with these Bismarcks and their slaves; and if the dream of German unity in the probable approaching general conflict, becomes forever dissipated, and the Rhine forms the boundary of ambitious France, German vanity and bad faith will have to charge themselves with the result. No doubt we have to thank Lord John Russell for this prospective general European war. It is his serious and blind policy that has encouraged the Austrian and Prussian to become suddenly so belligerent. Not content with turning our expensive Crimean war into the most prodigious account, not satisfied with assuring the Russians that no breach of treaty, no inhuman cruelty on their part to an oppressed race could induce England to declare war; this specimen of aristocratic statesmanship now as before attempts to bring the country into the greatest of humiliations. If, however, the Germans, as appearances indicate, and as we might expect from powers who have been so frequently beaten in war, are determined to push their temporary advantages against a weaker nation, no British Cabinet could hold together one week that would desert the Danish cause. The next news will, therefore, decide the matter. In the meantime Louis Napoleon has a quiet laugh at our predicament, biding his own good time to turn his neighbors' misfortunes to his own profit.

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

**THURSDAY, March 10, 1864.**  
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Franklin, Foster, Dennis.

**TELEGRAPH REGULATION BILL.**  
Mr. Young asked leave to introduce a bill for the regulation of Telegraph Lines in the colony. Granted.

The House went into committee on the TELEGRAPH BILL.

Mr. Dennis in the chair.  
Clause 8 provides that if the company shall fail for six months to keep the same or some other line in order, they shall forfeit their exclusive privilege.

Mr. Franklin moved an amendment striking out the words "six months" and inserting a provision against the effects of public war or any other unforeseen event. Amendment carried.

Clause 9 provides that the charge between this colony and the first cable for Washington Territory shall not exceed \$1 for each ten words, and that any other messages shall not be charged higher rates than the lowest uniform rates on any of the company's lines. Passed.

Clause 10 provides that the company may be dissolved by the same manner as demerit corporations was passed.

Clause 11 provides that if any person shall willfully injure or damage the line or anything connected with it, or obstruct or prevent the transmission of messages, said person shall be liable to a fine of \$500 and six months imprisonment, and also liable for fifty times the amount of damage done. Passed.

Clause 12 provides that every officer of the company in the colony who is entrusted with the collection or custody of tolls and charges shall enter into bonds in \$500 for the faithful execution of his duty. Passed.

Clause 13 provides that the company shall keep full accounts of receipts and expenditures, accounts to be balanced at least once a year. Passed.

Clause 14 provides for the auditing of these accounts at least once a year, and the appointment of an auditor by the Colonial Secretary. Passed.

Clause 15, providing for the production of these accounts, with all the books and vouchers, to the auditors, was passed.

Clause 16, providing for the payment of the auditors out of the funds levied under the bill, was passed.

Clause 17, providing for an annual abstract of receipts and expenditure, with statement of balance, to be transmitted to the Colonial Secretary before January 31st, in each year, under a penalty of \$250, was passed.

Clause 18, providing that the penalty for any breach of clauses 12, 13 and 15, shall not exceed \$250, to be accountable before any justice of the peace, was passed.

An amendment by Mr. Franklin to have the chief office of the colonial line in Victoria, was adopted; also an amendment providing for the precedence of government despatches over all other messages in and through the colony. An amendment to have posts of saw timber within the city, was rejected.

The bill, to be cited as "The First Telegraph Act, 1864," was then passed as amended, and was reported.

The standing orders were then suspended, and the bill was read a third time, and passed.

House adjourned till to-day (Friday).

### FRIDAY, March 11, 1864.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Tolmie, Trimble, Street, Bayley, Dennis.

**ADDRESS TO SIR JAMES DOUGLAS.**  
Dr. Trimble considered it a duty of this House, on the approaching departure of His Excellency, to testify our respect and esteem for him by presenting him with an Address from the Legislative Assembly. He would therefore move that such an address be presented.

Dr. Tolmie seconded.  
A committee of the major and seconder, was appointed to draw up the address.

**RECEPTION OF THE NEW GOVERNOR.**  
A communication from the Reception Com-

mittee was laid before the House, inviting the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly to take part in the reception of Governor Kennedy. The House took no action on the invitation.

**MOUNT DOUGLAS RESERVE.**  
The Speaker read a Message from His Excellency in reference to the above Reserve, stating that His Excellency had set aside the Mount Douglas Park expressly for the use of the citizens of Victoria, and had caused its boundaries to be distinctly marked on the official map, a copy of which he now sent down to be placed among the records of the House.

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.**  
The Speaker laid before the House the following communication, accompanying the Supplementary Estimates:

VICTORIA, 11th March, 1864.  
To the Honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

GENTLEMEN,  
I have the honor to forward to you herewith Supplementary Estimates of sum that will be required to carry out certain services on Roads, proposed to be undertaken during the present year; and also for certain miscellaneous services not included in the estimates already submitted to the House.

The further expenditure contemplated under the Head of Education is designed to provide for the construction of a new School House with play ground, &c., on the School Reserve in Victoria District and to make a small grant towards the establishment of a School at Cowichan.

An additional sum in aid of the Royal Hospital at Victoria has been placed upon the estimate at the earnest request of the Committee of Management, who represent that this valuable institution is still in debt to the amount stated.

In consequence of the want of Municipal Revenue the Fire Companies have ceased for some months to receive aid from the city. I would therefore submit to you the propriety of enabling the Executive to grant relief to the extent named in the estimates to meet the present requirements of that efficient organization, upon the understanding, if desirable, that the amount be repaid by the city as soon as sufficient revenue is collected.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
JAMES DOUGLAS.

### SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE.

To provide for Works, &c., proposed to be undertaken during the year 1864:

For Roads.....\$14,000  
TO BE APPLIED AS FOLLOWS:

Sanich Road.....\$5,000  
St. George's Road.....2,000  
Metochin Road.....3,000  
From Metochin to Albert Head.....1,000  
To open Wagon Road to Gold Street.....600  
McKenzie's to Naval Hospital.....1,000  
McKenzie's to John Burnside, crossing Columbia River in month 500  
Mount Tolmie Cross Road.....500  
General Reserve.....500

Total.....\$14,000  
Education.....85,000  
Royal Hospital.....2,500  
Fire Department.....2,000  
Mail Communication along the Coast.....2,000  
Miscellaneous services, refund of taxes overpaid, &c.....500  
Total.....\$26,000

### INCORPORATION ACT.

The House went into committee on the bill to regulate the incorporation act, Mr. Bayley in the chair.

The bill was taken up at the qualification section, 2nd clause, which enacts that the qualification shall be, having been rated on the municipal assessment roll for three months before election, in respect of real estate to the value of \$500, or leasehold of \$1,000.

Mr. DeCosmos said he thought the qualification too low; the object should be to secure men who had some stake in the country. Clause passed.

Mr. Dennis moved that the clause be expunged. He thought we were all well enough known here, and it did not require a property qualification to make a man a good councillor. The amendment was rejected, and the clause passed as read.

**DISQUALIFICATION.**—Being a minister of any religious denomination.  
Mr. DeCosmos was opposed to preventing any gentleman whom the citizens may please to appoint from being elected.

Mr. Street and Mr. Young were opposed to political persons. Clause passed.

Being a Sheriff or Sheriff's Officer. Passed.

Being a member of the Legislative Council or Assembly. Passed.

Being a bankrupt, insolvent, debtor, felon or outlaw. Passed.

Having taken an oath of allegiance to any foreign State, unless he shall have subsequently taken the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty six months before election. Passed.

Having directly or indirectly any contract with the Corporation. Passed.

Being a naval or military officer, or the Judge of any Civil or Criminal Court, or being in the receipt of any allowance from the Corporation.

On motion of Mr. Young the words "on full pay" were added after officer; and the clause was passed as amended.

Clause 19 was amended by the introduction of the clause from the old Act in reference to the election of Mayor.

Clause 11, limiting the number of councillors to two in each ward, was passed.

Clause 12, providing that the councillors in each ward receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. Passed.

Clause 13, fixing the qualification of voters was amended in consonance with the clause in the old Act, and passed.

**DURATION OF OFFICE.**—Clause 14, providing that the councillors go out by rotation was amended by the introduction of the similar clause from the old Act, and passed.

Clause 15, rendered unnecessary by the passage of the amendment, was erased.

Clause 16, providing that the present Mayor and Council shall hold office till November 9th, 1864, was amended by the words "subject to the provisions of this Act," and passed.

**TAX OF ELECTION.**—Clause fixing the day of nomination on the 8th of November, was passed.

**PLACE OF VOTING.**—The clause fixing the place of polling, was passed.

The clause providing that the outgoing council of the sheriff shall give seven days notice in the public journals of the days of nomination and polling, was passed.

The clause, from the old act, that the vote for mayor shall be taken in Yates street ward, and no other, was passed.

The clause for the appointment of returning officers was amended by the words, and shall give public notice thereof previous to the election, was passed.

The clause providing for the nomination in Yates street ward of the candidates for councillors, and passed.

The clause providing that any candidate or voter on his behalf may demand a poll, was passed.

The clause providing that in case of equality of votes the sheriff shall have the casting vote, was passed; also the clause providing that the candidates shall bear equal proportion the expenses of the election, said expenses in any ward not to exceed \$100. Passed.

**QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS.**—The qualification of being a male British subject, of full age, and having resided in the colony for three months before the election, was passed.

The committee here rose and reported progress.

### THE ADDRESS.

The committee laid before the House the following address to His Excellency, which they had prepared for the adoption of the House:

To His Excellency,  
Sir James Douglas, K.C.B.,  
Governor of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies, &c., &c.

We, the loyal and faithful subjects of Her Majesty, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies, in Parliament assembled, desire on the occasion of your Excellency's retirement from office, most respectfully to express our high appreciation of the great administrative qualities and the uniform urbanity shown by your Excellency during the many years you have filled the responsible position of Governor of the Colony.

We consider the great prosperity of this portion of Her Majesty's dominions during the past few years as mainly ascribable to the wise policy which your Excellency inaugurated, and we trust that the continued advancement of this colony may be equal to your Excellency's good wishes in its behalf. Whilst sincerely regretting your departure, we earnestly hope that your Excellency may be able to devote some of your leisure hours to the promotion of the welfare of the colony, and we trust that health, happiness, and prosperity may attend you for many years to come.

Address adopted unanimously, and the members to meet to-day (Saturday) at 2 o'clock, to present it to His Excellency. House adjourned till Monday.

**GOLDSTREAM.**—The news of the richness of the Parmiter Quartz vein has caused quite an excitement in the community, and sent out a large number of prospectors to Gold Stream, to locate new lodes, and to revive the claims to those formerly taken up, and neglected for a time. We have been shown by one of these prospectors, a large lump of fine-looking quartz, taken by him from a vein he discovered close to the Parmiter location. The vein is three feet wide at the top, and shows itself down the face of a bluff, widening as it descends; should it prove as rich as the Parmiter has done, it will be a most valuable location. There are 7 claims at work now at the mines. The Douglas Company have got their claims almost ready, and expect to go to work in a day or two. The Britannia Company have a new and comfortable house built, for men at work, and a large quantity of rock blasted out; they intend to begin erecting their barracks to-day. Our informant distinctly saw gold in the castings or walls of slate surrounding the quartz in this claim.

The Parmiter Company have two men in possession, awaiting the decision of the meeting of shareholders to-night, as to getting up a machine from San Francisco.

The Canadian Company were out in force yesterday to re-occupy their claim, which they had suffered to lie in abeyance for a while; they intended to go to work immediately and get out rock. Miller, the indefatigable prospector, has got the best horse on Gold Stream; he has got out a good deal of fine looking quartz, and has burnt a quantity of it; he has made several assays getting gold each time. His company, the Washoe, intend going to work vigorously.

The Muir Company are doing nothing at present. Several other companies are at work, the American and others, but our informant did not visit them. Smallbones is hard at work digging an immense ditch to turn the stream from its bed, and is confident that he can make \$5 to \$6 per day, if grub does not fail him before his task is completed. He complains bitterly that the people of Victoria do not support him in his efforts for the public weal. Mr. Thomas has substituted a good comfortable log house for his old seat.

The roads are frightful in some places, being flooded with water. The people at the diggings are full of hope and sanguine of great results.