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And Victoria Chronicle.

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The Legislative Council and Retrenchment.

The *Government Gazette* of Saturday contains a list (given elsewhere) of the names of the gentlemen who are to compose the Legislative Council for 1867-68. The body will be composed of twenty three members; of which number twelve are paid officials; two (Mayor Macdonald, and Mr. Nicol, of Nanaimo) unpaid magistrates; and nine popular members—four from the Island and five representing various districts on the mainland. The whole number of unpaid official and popular representatives from the Island is only six—two less than it was reasonably hoped, from the tenor of His Excellency's letter of January last, would be appointed. The selection of Mayor Macdonald is designed, we think, to reassure the public of the intention of His Excellency to only appoint men who will be acceptable to the people, and whom they themselves have placed in position. But we cannot see how Mr. Macdonald can accept the position of Councillor and at the same time fulfil the duties devolving upon him as Mayor. He cannot serve two masters—the Governor and the people at once—and the duty he owes to one or the other must be slurred over if not entirely neglected. Should the Mayor resign his civic office, he will be guilty of a breach of faith towards the citizens by whom he was almost unanimously elected as their head; and should he go to New Westminster without resigning he will abandon the interests of the city at a time when all the attention and ability at his command are required to place the Municipality in smooth running order. Mr. Macdonald's wisest course is to decline the proffered honor of a seat in the Council. Mr. Nicol, who will represent Nanaimo as an unpaid magistrate, is the manager of the Coal Company's there, and will consequently represent large landed and pecuniary interests in the Council. We know nothing of the gentleman's legislative ability; but believe that he will make a good member. Among the list of new official members we notice the name of Mr. Cornwall, who represented Yale and Lytton, as a popular member, in the last Council. He is a gentleman of considerable ability as an orator; but the aristocratic tone of his speeches on one occasion rendered him the object of much ridicule to a certain portion of the press. Mr. Cox, the popular magistrate at Cariboo East, and E. Howard Sanders, magistrate at Yale for the past eight years, are also members of the new Council. Hon. Alexander Watson and Hon. T. L. Wood, two of the most talented and valued officials of the late V. I. Government, will occupy seats in the new Council—the former as Treasurer, and the latter as Acting Solicitor General. The remainder of the official members were in the previous Council. Of the popular members not one has been rejected, and a contradiction is thus given to the emphatic assertion that His Excellency would accept only those who were not known to be antagonistic to his administration. Of the professions represented in the Council, the Press carries off the palm—there being two editors and one ex-editor in the Council. There are also two merchants, one millowner, one physician, one lawyer, and one farmer among the popular members. Of the twenty three members, Victoria can rely upon the vote of fifteen—including interior members—should the capital question be submitted to a vote of the Council.

The New Westminster *Examiner*—a newspaper generally correct on such topics and one that appears to enjoy "back stairs" facility for obtaining information on Governmental matters which is denied its cotemporary—contains an article on the subject of retrenchment, from which it appears that the salaries of many of the subordinate public officers have been materially reduced. The following is given as the list of reductions:

Chief Inspector of Police, £100 per annum; Registrar Supreme Court, £100 per annum; Chief Clerk, Custom House, £50; Chief Melter, Assay Department, £100 per annum; Col. Secretary's Office, two Clerks, £50 each, per annum; Clerk Audit Office, £50 per annum; Clerk Lands and Works Department, £50 per annum; Clerk Attorney General, £50 per annum; Supt. Printing Department, £50 per annum; 1st Clerk do, £30 per annum; 2d Clerk do, £25 per annum; Chief Constable, £40 per annum; Landing Waiter Customs Department, £50 per annum; Librarian, £24 per annum. The Custom House Messenger, Treasury Messenger, and Assistant Librarian discharged.

The *Examiner* goes on to lament the reductions that "have fallen upon those enjoying the smaller salaries," while "the officials who, in 1865, voted themselves large increases, have escaped the retrenchment blast." Our cotemporary is right. Fish should not be made of one class and flesh of another. The Civil List must, and we believe will be reduced to a figure within the ability of the Colony to stand; and the Governor, we hear, has commenced with his own salary, which, it is said, he has cut from £4000 down to £3000. Having given the "big fish" a well merited spearing, the *Examiner* next proceeds to question the good policy of reducing the salaries of subordinates at all, and urges that "they have in many instances a family and *establishment* (!) to support, and can ill afford the sudden loss of an amount to them of great moment, and which will be *so small and insignificant a saving to the revenue of the Colony.*" If one of the gentlemen whose salaries have been cut down had written the *Examiner* article he could not have offered up a more piteous appeal to "the woodman to spare that tree" than has been done in the lines above quoted. It is true that many of the gentlemen have families to support; but how many worthy families both on the Island and mainland are pinched for the barest necessaries of life, without even a "reduced salary" to fall back upon? How many clerks in mercantile establishments have either been discharged or have suffered material reductions in salary, and have borne the loss entailed without a whimper, because they had the good sense and honesty to see and acknowledge that their employers were but observing the first law of nature—self-preservation? The country is impoverished—bankrupt; and shall the public servants, who were really overpaid and underworked when the Colony was in a state of prosperity, enjoy an immunity from sharing the general loss in such hard times as these? None but a most unreasonable man would claim such an unfair advantage; and as for the "establishments" that this "small and insignificant saving to the revenue" will break up, they are not to be mentioned in the same breath with the many happy homes which, a year ago, were the abodes of persons in affluent circumstances, but are now deserted and their late occupiers penniless. Let the "reduced gentlemen" thank their stars that they are retained in their situations even at a less rate than formerly. Let them accept less pay and more work with becoming grace, and when the Colony shall have emerged from a state of gloom and bankruptcy into one of brightness and prosperity, they will enjoy the proud consciousness of having cheerfully contributed, in "a small and insignificant" way, to bring about the change for the better. If they will turn up their noses at the reduced pay, the best thing they can do is to resign and make room for equally competent and more public spirited men who will gladly do what they can to push the country along, and who will not grumble if the pay is so small that they cannot afford, for the next few years, to keep "an establishment." Governor Seymour has made a noble beginning, and we pray, "let the good work go on!" In every branch of the service where a "small and insignificant saving" can be made, let it take place; and let the most useless branches be lopped off entirely. It is a notorious fact the Government Assay office, besides being destructive to private enterprise, is and has been for years a losing concern; it is equally notorious that the Government Printing office costs the country at least fifty per cent. more than the same work could be done by private contract, and that a "Superintendent of Printing" and two or three "*Clerks*" (?) are salaried to execute work that one man and a boy employed by the "piece" might perform satisfactorily. While Retrenchment is on the carpet, let there be a clean sweep; and while messengers and assistant librarians are being discharged, let the superabundant "help" in every office, from the Governor's down to the Custom-house, receive a ticket-of-leave. In no other way can the Colony be again put on its legs,—in no other way can His Excellency effect the much needed Retrenchment or do his duty to his Sovereign.

LOCAL INTELIGENCE.

Monday Dec 31.

Legislative Council.

(From the Government Gazette.)

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE
28th December, 1866.

In obedience to Her Majesty's commands, the Governor has appointed the following Public Officers to be, during Her Majesty's pleasure, Members of the Legislative Council of British Columbia:

The Honourables

The Colonial Secretary for the said Colony,
The Attorney General for the said Colony,
The Treasurer for the said Colony,
The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for the said Colony,
The Collector of Customs for the said Colony.

The Governor has further been pleased to appoint the undermentioned gentlemen to be Members of the said Legislative Council, viz:

The Honourables
Thomas Lett Wood, acting during the Session as Solicitor General,
Henry Maynard Ball, as Magistrate, Cariboo West,
Chartres Brew, as Magistrate, New Westminster,
Clement Francis Cornwall, as Magistrate Thompson River District.
William George Cox, as Magistrate, Cariboo East,
William J. Macdonald, as Magistrate, Victoria,
Charles S. Nicol, as Magistrate, Nanaimo,
Peter O'Reilly, as Magistrate, Kootenay,
Edward Howard Sanders, as Magistrate, Yale and Lytton.

The following appointments to the Council have also been made by the Governor, in deference to the wishes of the people, as expressed in the districts mentioned after each Honourable Member's name:

The Honourables
Amor DeCosmos, Victoria,
John Sebastian Helmcken, Victoria,
Joseph Despard Pemberton, Victoria District,
John Robson, New Westminster,
Robert Thompson Smith, Columbia River and Kootenay,
Joseph J Southgate, Nanaimo,
Edward Stamp, Lillooet,
George Anthony Walkem, Cariboo,
George Wallace, Yale and Lytton.

Provided, always, that such appointments as last mentioned shall be provisional only as aforesaid and provided also that they shall continue in force unless previously determined, until the 30th day of June, A.D. 1868, and no longer.

By Command
ARTHUR N. BIRCH.

THE number of bar-room fights in Cariboo is increasing, groans the *Sentinel*. The "boys," it would appear are fond of the "*tap*."

THE remains of Blessing, the murdered Cariboolte, have been decently interred by the miners.

TOMORROW being New Year's Day, no paper will be issued from this office on Wednesday.

THE RECENT ATTEMPT ON THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA'S LIFE—Viennese papers contain the following communicated paragraph respecting the recent alleged attempt on the life of the Emperor of Austria:—As his Apostolic Majesty was leaving the Czech Theatre of Prague, about half-past eight on the night of the 27th Oct., and was proceeding to ascend his carriage, an English captain (Palmer), who was among the crowd of spectators, saw a man near him raise his right hand, in which he held a small pistol. Captain Palmer struck down his arm, and seized him by the collar. The man immediately slipped the pistol into the side pocket of his paletot. On inquiring it was found that he was A. B——, a journeyman tailor. When arrested he dropped a piece of black silk, in which were found powder, three caps, and two large pieces of lead. The pistol was loaded and cocked, but it had no cap on. This was, however, found opposite the principal entrance of the theatre by two young men, after the Emperor had left. A. B.—— is married, and the father of two children. He has been handed over to the proper authorities.

ON THE EIGHTH DAY OF DECEMBER, the Russian Telegraph line, built by Mr Edward Conway, was in working order to a point 100 miles south of Skeena river, on the mainland—a distance of 800 miles north of New Westminster. At that time there was no snow on the ground, and the cattle belonging to the company were grazing in the lowlands and "rolling fat," as the despatch stated. The mildness of our climate, when contrasted with that of California—where we hear of the telegraph lines being buried beneath twenty feet of snow—is truly wonderful. In Victoria, not a flake of snow has yet fallen. It would seem that the farther north one goes, the milder the climate becomes; and we should not be surprised to learn that the people at McKenzie's river—which is only one door this side of the North Pole—are perspiring beneath the melting rays of a polar sun, while the inhabitants of California, notwithstanding the temperate latitude of that country, are shivering from the effects of a hard winter.

FROM LILLOOET AND DOUGLAS.—Mr Carpenter, Dietz & Nelson's messenger, left Lillooet on Thursday week, arriving in this city on Thursday with an Express. There is no news of importance from that district. At Lillooet snow and ice lay on the flat to a depth of about two inches. On the Pemberton Portage there was about four inches of snow, and on the Douglas Portage, between two and three inches. The roads are in excellent condition, and sleighs are running over the Portages, connecting with the lake steamers, so that travelling was never better by that route than it is at the present moment; and as it is extremely improbable that the lake will be frozen over this winter, the Douglas-Lillooet route will most likely be open for early spring traffic. Two mining companies are still at work on the Douglas Portage.—*British Columbian.*

NEW WESTMINSTER ITEMS.—H.M.S. Sparrowhawk arrived from Victoria on Thursday evening with the Governor and suit on board ....Dunn, the escaped convict, was captured on Saturday morning and returned to jail. We understand he will be subjected to private flogging.....Mr Clarkson and others who memorialized the Governor for the use of the glen at Government House as a skating rink, received a favorable reply, and a list is now opened for the necessary funds to construct the rink....Messrs Cunningham Bros. vessel Ringleader arrived from Nanaimo on Tuesday with a cargo of goods for their New Westminster establishment. She left again for Nanaimo on Wednesday, taking a return cargo of shingles .....Reliance and Onward went into winter quarters on Saturday, so that all the river boats are now laid up for the winter.—*British Columbian.*

OFF AGAIN!—The editor of the *Columbian* having discussed his Christmas turkey indulges in another of his "flights of fancy" and states "We are in a position to state that arrangements have been made between our Government and the steamship Company at San Francisco, by which the Active will resume her trips to this port, so soon as the existing contract entered into with the late Island Government shall have expired, which will be in the course of six or eight weeks. Meanwhile the Government steamer Sir James Douglas will connect with the Active at Victoria. This little circumstance affords fresh evidence of the Governor's determination to extend to every section of the united Colony "a fair field and no favour."

THE WIRES worked through to Red Bluff, California, on Saturday; owing to the flood no communication was received south of that place.

MASONIC.—At the annual meeting of Union Lodge, No, 899, F. and A. M., New Westminster, B. C., held on St. John's Day the 27th instant, the following officers were installed for the ensuing Masonic year: H. W. Smith, W. M.; G. C. Keays, S. W.; J. S. Clute, J. W.; H. Holbrook, Treasurer; J. C. Hughes, Secretary; Geo. H Armstrong, S. D.; Oliver Hare, J. D.; R. Dickenson, I. G.; Philip Hick, Tyler.—*Columbian.*

THE UNION HOOK AND LADDER CO., with their fair friends, will dance the Old Year out and the New Year in at the St. Nicholas Hall, which has been handsomely decorated for the occasion. The greatest amount of genuine enjoyment may be looked for, the Union "boys" being noted for the successful and agreeable character of their re-unions.

BUTE INLET.—A party of Homathco Indians, who are taking care of Mr Waddington's property at Bute Inlet, came down here on Friday on a trading excursion. They report everything quiet there; none of the Chilcoatens had been seen, but the racks of four of them, who had evidently came down to know how things were going on, were met with on the borders of the river about a month ago and had been tracked some miles up the valley. None of the property belonging to Mr Waddington had been disturbed.

FENIANISM AT KOOTENAY.—We understand that during the mining season the Fenians were very rampant in the Kootenay mining camp. One Mr D...., especially, indulged in loud and seditious threats until he attempted to tamper with the Commissioner's constable, a loyal Irishman, who threatened to put D.... in limbo, and the "bould" patriot immediately sold out his property and sloped for Uncle Sam's domain.

NEW BAND.—We understand that Messrs Macguire and Harries have organized a new band out of the members who have recently left the Volunteers, and have generously tendered their gratuitous services at the Theatrical performance in aid of the Fire Department. The new band have purchased the instruments lately belonging to the Pioneer Corps.

THE ENTERPRISE returned from New Westminster, on Saturday evening. Among the passengers were: Judge Elliott, Mrs Harris, Mr and Mrs E. Dickenson, Mr Robt Burnaby, Mr Lamb, Mr F. J. Barnard: The river boats having laid up for the winter, there was no communication with up-country, except by canoe.

TRADE OF VICTORIA.—Up to the 18th of August the imports into the Colony of Victoria in 1866 amounted in value to £8,656,186 an increase of more than £750,000 over the corresponding period of 1865; and the exports reached £6,660,789 an increase of £148,000.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS for the week ending Dec. 24th, 1866; Duties $2200 16; harbor dues, $77 55; head-money, $51; tonnage dues, $396 22; unclaimed seizure, $448 76. Total, $3,171 69.—*Columbian.*

THE SHIP EVELYN WOOD, bound for Shanghae with lumber and spars, was towed down from Burrard Inlet, on Saturday, by the steamer Isabel, and sailed yesterday for Peru.

NAVAL.—We understand that H. M. S. Malocca will proceed South in a few days and H. M. S. Shearwater is now about due from the South Pacific. The Clio is expected to arrive from San Francisco.

EMANCIPATION SALUTE.—The colored citizens will fire a salute of 21 guns, at noon on New Year's Day from Beacon Hill, in honor of the emancipation of the American slaves by President Lincoln.

SHIP VORTIGERN.—Tenders for the discharging and reloading of this vessel will be received until Wednesday next by Mr C W. Wallace, agent, at his office, Wharf street.

SALE OF A WRECK.—Mr. Backus will sell the wreck of the Transport "as she now lies" at Clayoquot Sound, together with all the machinery, stores and cargo on Thursday.

A VERDICT OF WILFUL MURDER was rendered by the Coroner's jury against Wm. Taylor, who stands charged with the murder of a Bella Bella Indian by throwing him from a balcony.

MR. MCCREA will hold his last sale for this year to-day, commencing at *ten o'clock*, to close balances of goods on hand.

AN INDIAN was captured by Mr. P. M. Backus at his residence, on Cormorant street, while in the act of making off with a bundle of clothes, and taken to jail,

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