

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, March 20, 1869

The prorogation of the Legislative Council yesterday attracted little attention. The attendance of spectators was less than the average upon such occasions; and if regarded as an evidence of the interest the public take in legislative matters, shows that the apathy of the people towards everything appertaining to the government of the country is increasing rather than diminishing. There is a settled and growing conviction in the public mind that the worst backing a measure can have is a popular endorsement. For instance: In the Speech of yesterday His Excellency "has to thank" the honorable members for the "spirit of initiation" they have exhibited during the session; and then proceeds immediately to state his objections to several measures of public utility—the offering of this "spirit of initiation," for a display of which he has just thanked the Councilmen. It is true, that His Excellency does not "veto" these measures, and that he gives the members to "understand that none is finally disallowed," but he withholds his consent, which, in the opinion of a large majority of the public, is a polite way of saying that the measures are moribund. Among the bills held in abeyance are the Investment and Loan Societies' Bill, the Companies' Bill, and the Bill to Incorporate the Members of St. Andrew's Church—all beneficial measures based upon public necessity. The Savings and Loan Bill was especially demanded by the mechanic class, for whose advancement it was conceived. His Excellency regrets that he can "find no precedent for the principles enunciated" in it. It is a pity His Excellency's office is not provided with a copy of the Canadian statutes, wherein he would find an Act furnishing ample precedent, under the provisions of which several associations have been for years in successful operation. Any alteration this year in the Excise and Tariff is deprecated; but hope is held out that at the "next session" important changes may be expected. "Twas ever thus." The "next session" is the ignis fatuus we have been pursuing from year to year, and still appear as remote as ever from grasping its benefits. But notwithstanding the unfavorable tenor of the first part of the Speech, we still experience a slight sense of gratification at knowing that the Drawbacks Bill will be forwarded to the Colonial Office accompanied by His Excellency's "favorable recommendation." We had rather the bill had gone into operation immediately, but "half-a-loaf is better than no bread." Every day that our commercial relations with the adjoining country remain in their present unsatisfactory state, opportunities are being lost by our merchants, and indirectly by our people and Government. The first thing to be considered in any country is to put the people in a position to make money. If merchants cannot prosper from the Colonial trade, an avenue ought to be opened for their goods in another direction. Trade here languishes. The Drawbacks Bill proposes to revive it—to win back the prestige of our port acquired under Free Trade, yet without repeating any of the objectionable features of Free Trade. Is it wise to allow our merchants to leave the Colony? would it not be better to place them in a position to make money and thus increase trade instead of diminishing it? How there could be a moment's hesitation in signing the Drawbacks Bill is a puzzle; and, indeed, we shall "rest" if not "thankful" under the assurance of His Excellency that he "shall carefully consider how far his powers extend to remove any restrictions not absolutely required by law, which may appear to impede the operations of commerce." We think we observe one or two other evidences of a desire to atone in some degree for the errors of the past, cropping out through the Speech. The suggestions of the Council regarding Female Immigration and a Labor Exchange are adopted. The remonstrance as to the present position of the Supreme Courts will go home with a gubernatorial endorsement; the principle of paying the expenses of "elected" (selected) members of the Council is pronounced "a bad one;" the consolidation of the laws of the two sections of

the Colony "shall receive earnest consideration during the recess;" and last, but by no means least, the wolves and panthers that Dr. Davie moved against are to receive a quietus. In conclusion, Governor Seymour says—"It would be wrong for us to despond, where Nature is doing all for this country of unbounded resources and most charming climate." His Excellency is correct. "Nature is doing all," or nearly all, "for this country." We are extremely sorry to have it in our power to say that her efforts are not always seconded by the Government, which might, by paying a proper regard for the vox populi, improve the gifts which Heaven has bountifully spread around us, and start the country upon a career of prosperity and happiness instead of allowing it to sink into a condition of discontent and inactivity.

Tuesday, March 16.

THE GOLD HARBOR EXPEDITION.—As far back as 1858 the Hudson Bay Company knew of the existence of rich veins of gold-bearing quartz at Gold Harbor, Queen Charlotte Island. Specimens of the rock were brought to Victoria by the late Capt. Reid, then in command of one of the H. B. Co.'s ships, and subsequently three of the company's servants started for the harbor and located there. Powerful and hostile tribes of savages inhabited Queen Charlotte Island at the time, and the three men were seized and held in slavery until ransomed with blankets by the Company. Three or four expeditions were subsequently made to the spot, and in 1863 the writer was shown four pieces of beautiful milk white quartz through which ran delicate threads of gold. A limited joint-stock company was organized to work the vein; but in the general disaster that overtook our mining corporations in 1864, the company went under and has not since reappeared. The once hostile tribes have been reduced to a mere handful and are no longer feared. The expedition which started on Sunday is composed of experienced prospectors and quartz miners and we expect to receive a good account from them soon.

ARRIVAL OF THE GUSSE TELFAIR.—The propeller Gussie Telfair, Capt. Sholl, arrived at 9 1/2 o'clock last evening from Portland, having made the run in the remarkably short time of 49 1/2 hours. She left Portland at 7:40 o'clock on Saturday evening, and crossed the bar on Sunday at 1:20 p. m. The Telfair encountered very rough weather and head winds, but behaved herself gallantly. Her passengers number sixty. The names of Major Francis, C. A. Gillingham, C. T. Millard, L. Wolf, L. Oppenheimer, appear among the list. No English mail came. The freight amounted to 160 tons, part of which is for the Sound. Mr. Goodhue, the gentlemanly purser, has placed as under obligations for files of late papers.

A BOLD STRIKE FOR LIBERTY.—Yesterday morning, about 10 1/2 o'clock, Thomas Jenkins, one of several poor fellows confined as lunatics at the Barracks, scaled the highest part of the prison fence fronting on Langley street, and upon his hands and knees crawled along the spikes to the corner of Langley and Bastion streets, where he dropped to the sidewalk, a fall of fifteen feet, and kicking off his shoes, prepared for a run for liberty. His movements, however, had been observed by his keeper, and before he could get well underway, he was recaptured. The poor wretch struggled and fought desperately to free himself; but without avail and he was carried back to his cell.

SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS.—Yesterday morning Thomas Waterhouse and Wm. Williams were brought before the Police Magistrate charged with being suspicious characters or lunatics. The Magistrate, addressing Waterhouse, said that an opportunity occurred for sending him to Olympia.

Waterhouse—'I've been to Olympia; but I don't like the looks of the country thereabouts. I'd rather go to Portland.

Magistrate—Very well. Williams, the American Consul has promised to send you, on next Friday, to Portland.

Williams—Thank you, sir, much obliged. The prisoners were then remanded to await conveyance hence.

THE LOST BARK.—A man who assisted in loading the lost bark John Bright, at Port Gamble, in January last, is in town, and states that the vessel had on board, in addition to her crew, a woman and two children—supposed to be the Captain's family. There is not the slightest room for indulging the hope that any of her unfortunate people are alive. All have undoubtedly found either a watery grave, or have fallen by the hands of the West Coast savages.

PARDONED.—A dispatch has been received in Portland, which states that E. G. Randall, lately convicted of stealing gold dust from a letter while holding the position of Postmaster in that city, has been pardoned.

BRICKING WINDOWS.—On Sunday night a party of men cast great stones through the window of the John Bull Hotel, Government street, destroying the glass and breaking the sashes. Such acts of wanton blackguardism deserve the severest censure and exemplary punishment. A communication from a sufferer appears in another column; the grievance of which he complains demands redress.

THE "ALASKA TIMES."—Mr. T. G. Murphy, editor and proprietor of the Alaska Times, announces his intention of publishing the first number of his sheet in about fourteen days. Mr. Murphy is not unknown to fame as the writer of the "Barney O'Regan" letters in THE COLONIST, and as editor of the Alaska Times, every line of which was written in an elegant and clerly hand.

ARRIVAL OF THE WILSON G. HUNT.—The steamer Wilson G. Hunt arrived from Peget Sound at 9 1/2 o'clock last evening, bringing 60 passengers and considerable freight. She was announced to sail again for the Sound at 5 o'clock this morning. Capt. Myriok and Waitt have our thanks for the customary favors.

A new needle gun, invented by Herr Warden of Nurnberg, has just been tried at Pesh. The weight is but eight pounds and a half. The powder charge is a half gramme less than that of the Prussian guns. It was fired 20 times in a minute.

THE CONSTANTINE sailed at an early hour yesterday morning for Nainaimo, where she will coal. Messrs. Boscowitz, Kincaid, Murphy and other passengers go up on the Enterprise and will join the Constantine at Nainaimo to-day.

Legislative Council.

Friday, March 12, 1869.

Present, Hon. WALKER, CARROLL, WOOD, HAMELTON, RING, ALTON, TRUTCH, HELMCKEN, O'REILLY, BALL, DAVIS, ROBSON, PEMBERTON, CREASE, YOUNG, (presiding).

MESSAGE NO. 41.

The Governor informed the Council in relation to the conference on the subject of the Drawbacks Bill, that after due consideration he had determined not to assent to that Bill until he had received instructions from the Home Government, but he would take the earliest opportunity of despatching the documents for that purpose.

PETITION AGAINST THE WATER BILL.

Hon. Helmcken presented a petition against the Victoria Water Supply Bill, signed by resident freeholders and leaseholders. The scheme, at its inception, had not been properly understood by the signers to the former petition; they were in favor of a supply of water if the undertaking was left to private enterprise.

On motion of hon. Trutch the petition was laid on the table.

COUNTY COURTS AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

Hon. Alston moved the third reading of the County Courts Amendment Ordinance, 1867.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

Hon. Helmcken—He had been requested to lay before the House the complaints of certain owners of vessels in this port, that foreign steamers were allowed to bring coal from Nainaimo and land them on the wharf at Victoria. It appeared to him that this was an infraction of the law, and in such case, it was proper to call the attention of the House to the circumstances.

Hon. Young—It had been found advisable to grant the privilege of allowing the Portland steamers to land a portion of their coal on a wharf specially set apart for that purpose, the coal so landed, however, could only be used by the steamer landing it.

INDIAN RESERVES ORDINANCE.

Hon. Alston moved that the bill be read a second time.

Hon. Davis seconded the motion.

Hon. Trutch could not understand what was sought to be achieved by the bill; it might be useful where the Reserves were surveyed, but where no surveys had taken place it was likely to do more harm than good.

Hon. Humphreys was under a different impression, as there were many tribes for which there were no reserves at all, and these people should be protected in the possession of their patches of land, which are frequently taken from them. He knew a tribe of 150 Indians on the upper Fraser who had been driven away from their patches altogether.

Hon. Ball—The difficulty hitherto had arisen from the fact that Magistrates had not had power to force white men to relinquish the portions of reserves taken possession of by them; the object of this bill was to remedy that defect.

The bill was then read a second time, and then taken up in committee, hon. O'Reilly in the Chair.

Hon. O'Reilly considered that the provisions of the bill would fall in giving the power which it was the object of the bill to confer.

After some further discussion the bill passed through Committee and was reported complete.

Standing orders were suspended, the bill read a third time and passed.

MINERAL LANDS BILL.

The amendments to clauses postponed were considered and quantity and price of Mineral Lands, other than coal, fixed as follows:—For a single claim for one individual, three shillings in length by two chains in breadth; price one hundred dollars; for a company, of not less than ten persons, thirty chains in length by six chains wide—price two hundred and fifty dollars. The report was then adopted.

VICTORIA WATER SUPPLY BILL.

This bill was considered in Committee, Hon. Wood moved as amendment to the first clause, that two thirds in nominal value

of real estate, should decide as to the adoption of the measure.

Hon. Trutch did not see any necessity for the amendment, as the supposed burdens on real estate were more imaginary than otherwise, the surplus water rate will go to provide for interest and sinking fund; the plentiful supply of water would secure drainage and generally improve the lots which would be increased in value. On looking over the list of names appended to the last petition, he observed that there were eight or nine names of gentlemen who had signed the petition in favor of a water supply. He could not imagine what these gentlemen expected; probably they thought that Government was going to supply them with water for nothing; their ideas on the subject appeared to him as very extraordinary.

Hon. Wood did not think that outlying lots would be benefited in the slightest, and he would propose as an amendment that no lots should be taxed that were more than one hundred and fifty feet distant from the water supply pipes.

Hon. Ring—A person may invest \$20,000 in real estate, and another may invest a like sum in a large store; he conceived that the latter class were as much entitled to consideration as the former.

Hon. Helmcken insisted that the Government had no right to pass such a bill unless they were perfectly prepared with full information relating to the cost of construction, maintenance and management, none of which was at that moment before the House.

Hon. Trutch had already laid before them all the information necessary for the passing of the bill, and the bill itself had been so framed as to give the citizens entire control over its action. If gentlemen were determined to kill the bill he could only give way and throw the responsibility on their shoulders; he would therefore, move that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

The Committee rose accordingly, and on the hon. President putting the question, "when will the House take this bill in Committee again?" the reply was now, and on the vote being taken it was decided in the affirmative, the Committee therefore resumed its consideration of the bill.

Hon. Wood thought that it was only proper that some provision should be made for purchasing the interest of the Spring Ridge Water Company, because an undertaking like the present being the property of the city should be a monopoly, but if the Spring Ridge Company were allowed to run their pipes beside the new ones a great deal of injury must accrue to both parties, and therefore a sum should be appropriated to purchase the interest of that company.

Hon. Trutch had all along entertained the idea that the interests of the Spring Ridge Company should be protected, hence in deciding on \$125,000 as the sum required for the undertaking, it had been calculated to cover the expense of all the work and pay any reasonable amount of compensation to the Spring Ridge Company; they had, however, no legal right or holding whatsoever, but if the amount at which their shares are obtainable in the market was paid to them he thought they would be very fairly dealt with.

Hon. Helmcken—The Spring Ridge Company had done a great deal for the city, and virtually possessed a monopoly; he thought that having laid out their money in view of an increase of population, and never having anticipated competition from the Government, compensation should be regarded from the most favorable point of view; he did not know how such compensation would be fixed, but he presumed that everything would be done in perfect fairness.

Hon. Young—in making any estimate of the claims for compensation on the part of the Spring Ridge Company, they must be looked at as in the case of a private company entering the field when the company already existing were not in the possession of any exclusive privilege; he apprehended that under such circumstances the Spring Ridge Company would not be entitled to any compensation. Under any circumstances \$10,000 would cover all the interest involved and he believed \$5000 would have been gladly accepted a short time previously; he would ask what compensation did they think the Gas Company would be entitled to if another company was to start up again? he did not think anything would be paid to them, nor would they feel themselves entitled to make any claim.

Hon. Wood—the interests of existing companies were always carefully considered and the usual mode was for their successors to buy up all their interest and material; he would move that a sufficient sum be appropriated to pay the Spring Ridge Company any reasonable claims for compensation which may be adjudged due to them by the Supreme Court.

Hon. Crease would move as an amendment that the hon. Chief Commissioner be empowered to treat with the Company as to the amount of compensation to be paid.

On division the amendment of hon. Woods was carried.

Hon. Trutch thought that when the Committee had got through with the Bill they should change its title and make it "An Ordinance for the Benefit of the Spring Ridge Water Company."

After some further discussion it was moved that the Committee "do now rise," which was carried. This is equivalent to throwing out the Bill.

The Council then adjourned till 1 p. m. on Saturday.

SATURDAY, March 13th.

Eleven hon. members were present.

MESSAGE NO. 42.

The Governor informed the Council that he had assented to the Game Ordinance. It was stated that the Council would be prorogued on Monday next.

There being no business before the House it was at once adjourned till Monday at 3 p. m.

Monday, March 15th, 1869.

Present—Hons. Humphreys, Crease, Robson, Helmcken, Pemberton, Drake, Hamley, Havelock, Alston, Ball, Ring, Trutch, O'Reilly, Carrall, Davis, Young (presiding).

The Governor informed the Council by Message No. 43 that he had assented to the Fire Companies Ordinance. No. 44, recommending the substitution of a clause in place

of clause two, making the payment of all fees into the Treasury compulsory; no fees payable to any officer of the said court, any rule to the contrary notwithstanding. 45 assent to School Bill. 46 assent to the Mineral Lands Bill. 47 assent to Religious Institutions Bill. 48 assent to Indians Reserve Bill.

The House went into Committee on the Governor's Message No. 44, when the suggestions therein contained were duly complied with.

PETITIONS FROM KOOTENAY DISTRICT.

Hon. Carrall presented a petition from the inhabitants of Thompson River Valley, Okanagan and the vicinity, praying that a road might be constructed through that district in order that proper facilities might be afforded to settlers, and also that the fine agricultural country in that section may be thrown open to settlement. The proposed road extending from Savona Ferry to the Boundary line is estimated to cost about \$10,000. He also presented a petition from the same district praying that a Post Office may be established; there were persons in the different localities where post offices would be serviceable, who would gladly undertake the duties free of charge. On motion of hon. Carrall the petitions were transmitted to the Governor.

MESSAGE NO. 49.

The Governor assented to the County Court's Ordinance, 1867, Amendment Bill. His Excellency Governor Seymour then entered the Council Chamber, attended by his Private Secretary, and read the following PROLOGATION SPEECH.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.

It will be no less gratifying to you than it is to me to close, for a time, our Legislative labours. It would be ungrateful on my part did I not acknowledge the care and candour with which you have considered every measure that has come before you.

I have, likewise, to thank you for the spirit of initiation you have displayed, more conspicuously now than in any previous Session. The Government and people having vied to select the most eligible men to watch over the Public interests, I have felt it my duty to treat with the utmost respect all measures proposed by you.

It is unnecessary that I should mention all the Ordinances to which I have assented. As a rule the Bills received from you have become Law.

I have, however, hesitated, from a want of good feeling, over the Bill to incorporate the Members of St. Andrew's Church. I do not like the Companies' Bill. I have, in another Colony, found the placing the Crown and Subject on the same footing as regards Costs in Civil Actions very badly. There is no precedent for the principles enunciated in the Investment and Loan Societies Bill, that I am aware of.

Understand, that not one of these measures is finally disallowed. The Drawback Ordinance shall be forwarded with a favorable recommendation, by the earliest opportunity, to England, for instructions. Pending the receipt of them, I shall carefully consider how far my powers extend to remove any restrictions, not absolutely required by law, which may appear to impede the operations of Commerce.

I am unable to concur with you in the alterations proposed in the Tariff and Excise. It is better to be faithful to a code, even when suspected of error than to be constantly changing its details. I admit that our scale of taxation on Imports is not perfect, and I hope that I shall, before the next Session, be prepared to propose some amendments to it.

Turning to mere Executive matters, I will at once consider the question of paying the expenses of Elected Members of Council; though I say at the outset that the principle is a bad one.

I fully concur with you as to the propriety of appointing a Local Board for the furtherance of Female Immigration.

I think the question of a Law Library can be settled on a somewhat larger scale than contemplated.

The consolidation of the Laws of the two sections of the Colony shall receive earnest consideration during the recess.

The Magistrates are authorized, in their discretion, to pay suitable rewards for the destruction of Wolves and Panthers.

The support of the Government shall be given to the establishment of a Labor Exchange at New Westminster and Victoria. I shall communicate with Her Majesty's Consul at San Francisco respecting the expediency of instituting an emigration agency towards these shores, in that town.

Depend upon it that the interests of New Westminster and Burrard Inlet shall not be overlooked.

I shall gladly endeavor to secure a site for the deposition and continual exhibition of the natural and other productions of the Colony.

Your remonstrance as to the present position of the Supreme Courts shall not go home unsupported.

Spring, the emblem of hope, has nearly come upon us, and I trust will secure a long season at the gold mines and an early and rich crop on the farms. It would be wrong for us to despond when Nature is doing all for this country of unbounded resources and most charming climate.

It seems to me impossible to believe that the attractions of British Columbia, though the bars of the Fraser have lost their wealth, will fail to obtain the notice of the World. I have the settled conviction that a few years will see this Colony among the most flourishing of Her Majesty's many Possessions. Already individual well-being is universal.

With great satisfaction I proceed to relieve you from further attendance on your Legislative Duties. I now prorogue Your Honorable Council, and the same is hereby prorogued accordingly.

His Excellency was listened to throughout with the greatest attention; a large number of persons, amongst whom we observed several ladies, filled the gallery, a number of gentlemen occupying the lobby. Seymour and Mrs. Col. Foster, seats to the right of Governor, and officers from the Navy were present.

A. GILMORE, Tailor, wishes to inform his friends and the public that he is in the balance of his winter stock, and will make room for spring goods.

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THE Gladstone Ministry brooms is making strenuous efforts, and with these useful domestic purification a time-honored institutions a guards in a paroxysm of By our telegraphic despatch it will be seen that the Admiralty has determined the Naval Estimates sterling, with the object convincing the nation the perspicuity has enabled providence in the man predecessors, and thus draw upon himself the expense of a radical press. It is in catering to a morbid taste of the people, that flag which once floated in every clime, known now by its rarity, prestige of old England shines in order that the new flag Admiralty should be thorough economic science. Of course such measures of intermission the parings are generally part of the Government that can least bear the expense is very likely the during the last ten effect that some of war stationed at likely to be removed shadow of truth. In the mistaken, as the amount posed, is not large, and a expenditure on the channel create in the naval reserve this assiduous first Lord coveted feather for his accustomed to these ill-judged which usually result in an the nation of ten times the porarily saved. How striking the case at the Crimea, was forced to buy the had been criminally neglected Governments, from straining repeats. It may be the father to thought; but we shall not be affected by any connected with the Admiralty of Indian murders are of too frequent admit of our being left in position which would not be, if any of Her Majesty removed. As it is, the war vessels to the coast, and not a week passes letters from settlers who lives and property in from hostile savages, and plate the abandonment of in the absence of such abandonment of the withdrawal of the resolve, is surely too heavy a radical Lord of the Admiralty if the removal is absolute will be owing to entire our position here in re-aborigines. Another possibility—that a numerous misguided men calling Fenians were to take the departure of the navy visit with a view to plun-derance could be offered, ever, and the result would to think of. Why would it be to the untimely if twenty years' at the present rate) was in factious idea of punitive raiders, who would be the scene of their crime the power of inflicting punishment could reach might lead to more serious endeavoring to save thousands, drag the nation that would cost hundreds and oceans of blood. difficulty is not yet settled that the good sense of nations involve will come to a fair and am-ment of the difficulty, know what a day will the necessities of America produce in their struggle any. The imprudent this Colony without rection would invite would not otherwise be If we regard the departure with more or less dismay ward to the time when Admiral will bid us a deep felt sorrow. Admiralty taken such a de-anything that would