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THE BRITISH COLONIST

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BRITISH COLUMBIAN POLITICS.

Small as the interests seem to us which centre in the representative element in the Government of British Columbia, they are nevertheless interests which should not be entirely ignored by the people of Vancouver Island. For good or ill we are always, to some extent, affected by the action of our neighbors. Every vigorous effort made by the authorities at New Westminster to open up the agricultural, mineral or lumbering resources of the colony as the main land gives an increased vitality to our own progress, and every oversight, neglect or incompetency evinced by the same power reacts in its turn to our disadvantages. So much does this sympathetic law pervade the relations of both colonies, that even the political condition of British Columbia is a thing we cannot afford to treat with indifference. We cannot at least, as British subjects, and as men desiring the speedy inauguration of responsible Government in either a united or separate colony, allow the recent "elections" or "selections" of our neighbors to pass by unnoted. We cannot remain quiescent spectators of a political contest, in a British colony in which the principal electoral element was foreign. If it were determined to make the Legislative Council drink the dregs of humiliation to the uttermost—if it were designed to insult the Home Government, by turning its reputedly conferred boon of "one-third representative Government" into a really genuine burlesque, however much we might blame the inhabitants, we could not get over the fact that the action was but natural to men who had enjoyed all the political privileges of British subjects before they ever sighted the British Columbian shores, and who, therefore, felt themselves insulted, by a homine colli. But we believe, so far as the people were concerned, with the exception of New Westminster—which went through something like a formal British election—there was no peculiar determination, no deeply-drawn design. There appeared nothing, in fact, but an indiscriminate scramble among all nationalities. From Hope to Cariboo, the elections of representatives to the Legislative Council have been of a character never before witnessed in a British colony. Foreigners of all classes, men of all nations, exercised the electoral privilege of British subjects. A more significant commentary on the character of the political institutions of the country could not well be written. If the Legislative Council intended by its culpable neglect in not providing a franchise for the people, to injure the cause of representative Government in the eyes of the Home authorities, it will, no doubt, succeed; but it will at the same time reduce the Legislative body to a position of contempt that will preclude the possibility of any man of spirit or responsibility taking part in its discussions. The only remedy for this disgraceful state of things lies with the British portion of the population. If they are fit, in the slightest degree, for the privileges which they solicit—representative Government—they will have to show more spirit in public matters. At present it would appear that their public men are too much tickled with the ludicrous title of "honorable," to think of bestowing any attention on the political requirements of the country, and movements which were set on foot in the early part of the year to secure a popular description of Government, have been quietly buried by men pretending to political leadership. Better a thousand times that union, in its most repulsive form, should be accepted by the inhabitants of New Westminster than that public opinion should come down to an ebb that ceases

to control the action of would-be oligarchs. We are interested in obtaining union, but much as we wish for such a consummation, we desire political manliness in our neighbors still more. We wish to see them with all the vigor of a youthful and healthy colony, throw their energy into the development of the country's wealth—not the tame apron-rod colonialism of a Government, however paternal. *Quies non movet*—Disturb not what is quiet—is a celebrated maxim for a rotten cause, but it will scarcely serve the interests of the people of British Columbia. They have a cumbersome load of officialdom, with its exhausting demand on the public purse, to shake off—they have a political system to build up—they have to throw aside the mannikins that are enjoining quietude, and proceed like men to the never-ceasing work which is before them. Let them either rest on their laurels until they have obtained a Legislature in which it will at least be an honor to sit.

THE SAANICH ELECTION.

The return of Mr. Cochrane for Saanich is another victory for the Union party, and another blow to that unfortunate clique of politicians whose embrace to the aspiring candidate is political death. The anti-unionists have made the Saanich election the great test of their political creed—they were to stand or fall by the result—and they have fallen. We have no desire to rejoice over these unfortunate and misguided men. They have been weighed so often in the public balance and found wanting, that it would be charity to allow them to sink into political oblivion. Their vanity, however, urges them forward, and their short-sightedness precludes their discerning defeat until it has overwhelmed them. They have been laboring under some fanciful delusion all this while, that they have a monopoly of political influence, and that no candidate can hope for success unless brought out under their protectingegis. Defeat after defeat has only increased the monomania, and they are just as ready to-day to patronize ambitious youth and promise it success, as they were before their vagaries and incompetency first drew down upon them the well-earned ridicule of the people. They and their candidate are again defeated—the union cause has received an endorsement of public opinion, and Mr. Cochrane takes his seat as the exponent of the more enlightened political doctrines which are now established by the bulk of the inhabitants.

CITY COUNCIL.

MONDAY, October 31, 1864.
The Council met at 7:30 p.m. Present—His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors McDonald, Stronach, Wallace, Ewing and Bunting.
The following communication was received from the Treasurer:
VANCOUVER'S ISLAND.
Treasurer, 19th Oct. 1864.
Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 18th instant, requesting to be furnished with a statement of the amount received to date under the Victoria City Half-per Cent Tax Act, 1864, and also how the same has been disposed of together with the entire indebtedness of the City to the Colonial Government, &c.
In reply I beg to transmit herewith a statement of accounts, showing a balance of seven thousand two hundred and eighty-two dollars and seventy-nine cents due to the Government on the 15th instant, after crediting the City with the amount collected to date under the Victoria City Half-per Cent City Tax Act, 1864.
I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALEX. WATSON,
Treasurer.

His Worship the Mayor of Victoria.
The City of Victoria in account with the Government of Vancouver Island.
Dec. 31, 1863. Dr.
To Amount of Disbursements and Interest due thereon up to 31st Dec. 1863, paid under the authority of His Excellency the Governor, \$10,724 00
June 11, 1864. Cr.
To Amount of Advance under the authority of the Governor's Victoria City Aid Act, 1864, 6,000 00
\$16,724 00
Dec. 31, 1863. Cr.
By Amount paid into the Treasury on account, \$5,863 00
Oct. 18, 1864. Cr.
By Amount collected up to date under the Victoria City Half-per Cent Tax Act, 1864, 94,079 21
Oct. 18, 1864. Dr.
Balance due to the Colonial Government, \$16,724 00
\$117,862 21
(Signed) ALEX. WATSON,
Treasurer.
Mr. Wallace said he thought the \$6,000 was a gift to the city.
The Mayor said it was a loan to be repaid out of the first funds received.
On motion of Mr. Stronach, the letter was ordered to be repaid and placed on file.
A letter was received from Mr. Cary stating that his charge for preparing the bill to amend the Incorporation Act last spring by request of the Mayor was \$100.

The Mayor said that he had never authorized this charge. Mr. Cary had been consulted, he considered, in his official capacity of Government adviser.

The Clerk was directed to write to Mr. Cary to that effect, and the letter was ordered to be filed.
A letter was read from Mr. Surveor Green, stating that he prepared the city map and his charge therefor was \$100. After some discussion the amount was ordered to be paid.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

The report of Messrs. Thain and Mallandaine, the auditors appointed by the Council, was then read (a copy of which will be published in the Colonist in the course of the week) and adopted.

Mr. McDonald explained that the remuneration to the auditors, and other necessary charges, were inserted by the Finance Committee, but had not yet passed the Council. He, therefore, moved that they be paid.

Mr. Stronach said his only objection was that he thought the funds were already pledged to the Government, and it would, therefore, not be legal to pay with the balance remaining, except in discharge of the debentures. He would rather pay the money out of his pocket than do anything irregular.

Mr. Wallace considered that the loan had been made by the Government for any purpose required by the Corporation. He was of opinion, moreover, that the \$6,000 was a gift. He knew that members of the House were of that opinion.

Mr. McDonald said that the money was not actually due, and it was preposterous to suppose that if the Council had a balance of \$1300 in the bank, and the debentures had not all fallen due, for two or three years, that the money was to remain idle in the interim.

Mr. Stronach said they could not certainly part with any of the \$1,300 received on account of real estate.

Mr. Ewing considered with Mr. Stronach that none of the \$1,300 need be taken from real estate tax could be touched, but the \$6,000 had always regarded as a loan to discharge all liabilities of the Council, and the present payments were therefore in order.

Mr. Bunting said the committee had taken the balance of the \$6,000 into consideration on framing their report.

The Mayor thought the Council had a perfect right to use the funds in hand.
Mr. Stronach said he hoped this would be a lesson to the House of Assembly in voting money for special purposes, to use that they were not devoted to other purposes. It would be a violation of the Incorporation Act sufficient to take the act away from them.

Mr. McDonald said he for one was quite willing to take the responsibility of the payment. On the matter he was of the same opinion.
Mr. McDonald, Bunting and Wallace voted pro, and Messrs. Stronach and Ewing contra.

It was then agreed that the report should be reconsidered at a special meeting and subsequently printed.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Mr. Wallace drew attention to the coming election and the nomination of returning officers, and it was agreed that a notice of the election be inserted in the Colonist (see advertisement).

The naming of returning officers was postponed to the next sitting, on Wednesday next, and the Council adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MONDAY, Oct. 31.

The Council met at 3:10 p.m. Present—The hon. President, Col. Secretary, Attorney General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, and Henry Rhodes.

PROVISIONAL CORPORATION BILL.

On motion of the hon. Treasurer the Council went into committee on this bill, the hon. Attorney General in the chair.
Classes I, II and III passed with clerical amendments.

In lieu of clause IV making the list of voters at the municipal election correspond with the list of voters for the House of Assembly.
The hon. Treasurer moved the insertion of a clause limiting the list of voters to those only who had paid taxes under the Municipal By-Laws.

Some discussion ensued hereon. The hon. Attorney General thought it advisable to extend the number of voters who enjoyed the city franchise as much as possible, and to give all tax-payers a voice in the government of the city.
The hon. Chief Justice said this bill was only a provisional one. He agreed with the idea of all tax-payers having a vote, he did not think, however, that the present mode of raising taxes was contemplated when the original act was framed.

The hon. Treasurer said there was no doubt that if all paid up it would contribute several thousand dollars to the municipal revenue. He had still another amendment to introduce hereafter which would extend the privilege of the franchise in the city government to foreigners who paid taxes. He did not see that any danger could arise to the State from their admission to this privilege, and it would materially to the list of voters.

The hon. Attorney General was opposed to the amendment; he thought that it would give rise to endless disputes.
The hon. Chief Justice said if the voters were to be confined to those who had paid taxes it would diminish the list considerably.
The hon. Treasurer said it would increase it. After some discussion the amendment was put and lost, and the original clause carried with clerical amendments.

The hon. Treasurer moved that clause VII be expanded. He thought it desirable that foreign residents should have a voice and interest in our municipal affairs, concerning the taxes they had already manifested great indifference. Our community was so small that he did not consider it advantageous that foreigners who contributed to the municipal revenue should be disfranchised in civic elections. The amendment not being seconded fell through.

Classes VII and VIII were expanded and the following substituted for clause VII.
That each voter voting for a Mayor or Councillor or for a member of the Council may be called upon by any voter qualified to vote at such election to take an oath in the form or to the effect of the schedule thereunto annexed.
The remainder of the clauses and the preamble were passed with slight alterations, and the bill having been reported complete, the hon. President moved that the matter be of great importance, and he therefore moved that the standing rules of the House be suspended, and the bill read a second time.
The bill accordingly read a third time, and passed.

THE BARRISTER'S BILL.

Passed the third reading.

CHIEF JUSTICE SALARY BILL.
The House went into committee on this Bill, the hon. Colonial Secretary in the Chair.

The hon. Attorney General said he would not support the bill, and he could not lend his sanction to any language which he did not consider respectful to Her Majesty. The proposed bill evidently only implied a condition upon which the money would be voted, he thought it interfered with the Royal prerogative. The wishes of the colonists would doubtless be received with the greatest respect, but Her Majesty should be approached with a respectful request, and he should not consent to vote upon a bill which dictated what kind of Chief Justice was to be sent out. It was stated for instance that he must be a practicing Barrister in England. Why could not a competent Judge be found in India, for instance? There were highly competent Judges there, whose health could not stand the climate? If the Council would vote for the bill as it stood, he could not, and he had done his duty as an officer of the Crown in bringing objections forward.

The Chief Justice said there were good grounds for the remarks of the Attorney General. He thought it very bold in the Lower House to word the bill in such language, but still the Lower House claimed and exercised the same rights as the House of Commons in all money bills, and the right of the House of Lords to alter a money bill was questioned by an old case referred to in May.

Clause I passed.
The hon. Chief Justice stating that although he did not endorse the language used, he voted for the clause, because it provided for the appointment of a barrister properly conversant with the common law of England, which he believed indispensable.

Clause II was objected to by the Attorney General, as it contained absolute contradictions, using the words "permanent" and "temporary" in connection, and he thought it really too bad that the Lower House should lead them into such scrapes. If, however, the bill could not be altered, it must go with all its imperfections on its head.

The hon. Treasurer moved that the word "permanent" be struck out. He thought cases were on record where similar alterations had been made by the Council, which did not affect the principle of the bill, and had been accepted by the House below.

The amendment was carried.
The preamble was again objected to by the hon. Attorney General, but eventually passed, and bill reported complete.

The hon. Treasurer gave notice of motion for the recommittal of the bill at next meeting, as hon. members had not had the opportunity of examining the wording of the bill to judge whether it contained language disrespectful to Her Majesty or not, and Council adjourned to Wednesday at 8 p.m.

THE SAN JUAN GOLD FIELDS.

Mr. Foley and party returned from San Juan river, on the West Coast, on Saturday evening, after a month's absence. They ascended the river to its head waters, a distance of sixty miles, prospecting all the way up. The river is a series of bars up to its source, in all of which the prospectors found pay. None of them would yield less than \$3 per day, and numbers \$5, while a few would average \$8. Gold was found extended over a distance of twenty miles up the river. The gold was fine, requiring the use of quibblers, by which, however, larger pay than first stated could be taken out. The piece would require to be worked by sluicing, for which there is plenty of water in the small streams running in from both sides. On the soft bed-rock prospects of course gold were obtained. Indications of silver ore were found, the quartz along the stream showing more signs of silver ore than Mr. Foley has seen on the Island.

On the main fork of the river which heads into the backbone of the island, abundance of iron ore was found. A stream emptying into the north west corner of San Juan harbor, which Mr. Foley named Harris river, was ascended some 20 miles, and prospects of shot gold were obtained, becoming better and heavier as the party went up. From the appearance of the bed rock and gravel, and the country generally, Mr. Foley is of the opinion that Harris river will be the best paying stream in that region. A large stream which empties into San Juan river about 12 miles from the mouth, was named by Mr. Foley DeCombes Creek, and yielded prospects of 3 and 4 cent dirt on the bars. Another creek, about 20 miles from the mouth, was named Evans Creek, presenting similar prospects. None of the other tributaries containd any gold, the fall of the stream being so great that the bed rock was swept perfectly smooth and bare.

LUMBER.

The banks of the San Juan and Harris rivers are covered with fine spars, and the contrary presents excellent facilities for lumbering. The timber extends down to the edge of the harbor, and any quantity could be floated down the streams. On the eastern side of the harbor is a beautiful landlocked cove, where the largest vessels could lie and load sheltered from all directions.

From San Juan harbor running down to Cape Flattery and westward to Barclay sound, are found extensively good banks, awarding with fish equal in every respect to those caught at Newfoundland. The Indians were catching them in large quantities and of great size. There are also plenty of halibut, and dog-fish in great numbers. Excellent salmon could be made catching the last yield, and for the sake of the oil they yield, it is a good business to fish for them.

Hundreds of houses have been knocked down in Paris, in order to allow of a magnificent square being made round the Chapelle. The buildings on the spot where the remains of Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette were, in common with those of many other victims, thrown into a pit dug to receive the remains of a wretched wretch, Desoloeux, in 1795 by a devoted adherent of the Bourbons, search was made for the bodies of the king and queen, which were discovered, placed in coffins, and conveyed by torchlight to St. Denis in great pomp.

SAANICH ELECTION.

The polls were opened yesterday morning at 8 o'clock, but as there are only about 33 electors in the district the votes polled were like angels' visits "few and far between." At 12 o'clock Mr. Culverwell headed the poll with 5 votes. Mr. Piddwell and Mr. Cochrane being "nowhere." About 2 o'clock Mr. Cochrane registered 5 votes, and soon after the irrepressible Mr. Piddwell resigned, in a neat speech recommending the electors to vote for the man who, they thought, could best serve their interests.

At half-past two the poll stood 8 for Cochrane and 7 for Culverwell. At three o'clock the numbers were 15 for Cochrane, 10 for Culverwell, leaving only 4 to come in. At quarter past three Mr. Culverwell finding himself virtually beaten resigned in favor of Mr. Cochrane. In compliance with the law the returning officer announced that the polls would still remain open till 4 o'clock, at which hour he declared Mr. Cochrane duly elected.

On the poll being declared Mr. Cochrane proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Anderson, the returning officer, and made a short address, assuring the electors he should perform his duty faithfully and attend to the interests of Saanich particularly, whereupon three cheers were given for Mr. Cochrane and all hands adjourned to drink his health, shortly after which they went to their respective homes. The proceedings throughout the day were carried on with the utmost quietude, and the rejected candidate bearing his defeat manfully.

CRICKET MATCH.

The match of the season, between eleven Caribooites and eleven from the United Victoria Cricket Club came off yesterday on the Beacon Hill grounds, and resulted in an easy victory for the "hardy miners." The weather was splendid, and the ground in the condition, although never, at anytime a good cricket ground. The Victoria eleven, which was not by any means a strong team, was evidently overmatched from the first, the Caribooites having things all their own way. A large number of visitors were on the field, and took a warm interest in the progress of the game.

Below we give the score, showing the Caribooites the winners with eight wickets to go down:
U. V. C. FIRST INNINGS.
Clerke, c. Padden, b. Richardson, 1
Howard, b. Richardson, 6
Talbot, b. Richardson, 6
Donner, b. Richardson, 2
Burton, b. Richardson, 6
Levett, c. Danlow, b. Ballantyne, 6
Alport, b. Richardson, 6
Cope, run out, 1
Plummer, run out, 1
Thompson, b. Richardson, 6
Frost, c. Plummer, b. Richardson, 6
Byes, 6; wide, 2; leg byes, 3.

Total 51
First innings 51
U. V. C. SECOND INNINGS.
Levett, c. Barber, b. Richardson, 12
Cope, b. Ballantyne, 2
Howard, b. Richardson, 2
Plummer, c. Richardson, b. Ballantyne, 9
Burton, c. Danlow, b. Ballantyne, 6
Talbot, b. Richardson, 2
Donner, b. Richardson, 6
Clark, run out, b. Richardson, 3
Alport, c. Ballantyne, b. Richardson, 6
Thompson, not out, 6
Frost, b. Richardson, 6
Byes, 4; wide, 1; leg byes, 3.

Total 89
First innings 51
Total 90
U. V. C. THIRD INNINGS.
Barston, c. Burton, b. Howard, 2
Barber, run out, 47
Weaver, c. b. Howard, 32
Richardson, b. Burton, 9
Ballantyne, c. Donner, b. Howard, 6
Dewdney, c. Howard, b. Burton, 6
Black, b. Burton, 6
Barston, not out, 1
Davis, run out, 0
Fegdan, c. Levett, b. Howard, 6
Frost, b. Howard, 2
Byes, 3; wide 9.

Total 187
First innings 12
U. V. C. FOURTH INNINGS.
Ballantyne, c. Levett, b. Howard, 1
Dewdney, c. Plummer, b. Howard, 9
Custon, not out, 1
Total 11
First innings 97
Total 90

AN ERROR TAKEN BY COURT-MARTIAL.

The *British*, of Madrid, of the 27th of August, publishes in its first page, in large characters, the following notice: "Military Tribunal." The director and the editors of this journal announce to the inhabitants of Madrid, and to the whole nation, that, at half-past eight this morning, there will be held in the Barracks of the Montague-du-Prince-Pie, and under the presidency of the colonel of the regiment of Savoie, an ordinary military tribunal to try the journal. Our responsible editor, D. Innocente Ortiz y Casado, proprietor and proprietor, Deputy at Madrid, is about to be tried neither more nor less than a soldier would be who had committed a breach of discipline. The officers who compose the tribunal will have to take cognizance of offences which are not provided for by the military code. We request foreigners not to judge of us by these acts due exclusively to our bad governors, and whom our country has always rejected with dignity, and now does so with indignation. We protest, now and ever, against a proceeding which is as unparliamentary in the history of our own country, or in that of any other civilized nation. The notice is followed by the order convokeing the military tribunal, and prescribes to all the chiefs and officers not being on duty to be present. A telegraphic despatch announces the acquittal of the *British*.