

## The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday March 21, 1865

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, March 16.

House met at 3:15, p. m. Members present, Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, McClure, Southgate, Burnaby, Cochrane, Carwell, Dennes.

## BILLS OF SUPPLY.

Mr. Franklin, as chairman of the select committee appointed to draw up Bills of Supply, reported a bill to appropriate \$298,618 25 out of the general revenue of the colony for the service of the year 1865. The bill was read a first time.

## PILOT STATISTICS.

The Speaker read a communication from His Excellency, stating that no pilots had been licensed under the Act, which had hitherto proved inoperative; no returns had therefore been made.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

The House went into committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Franklin in the chair.

## TAX ON VEGETABLES, ROOTS, ETC.

Mr. McClure in bringing forward the motion for a tax on these articles had the same object which actuated him in advocating an impost on hay, viz. the protection and encouragement of the farmer. The imposition of 1/2 per cent. per pound on all vegetables could not possibly interfere in any way with the free port, as we could not expect to export any of these things. He did not want to see our farmers obliged to compete with people of another country in supplying our own markets. This protection, although small, would be believed to have a most beneficial effect on our farmers, and he hoped would build up an industrious and prosperous rural population among us. He was sorry to say that although we had ten country members in the House every measure for the benefit of the rural districts had hitherto been buried.

Mr. Franklin was sorry to see the junior city member coming forward to build up the country at the expense of the entire commercial interests of the city. He maintained that the effect of the tax would be to drive the trade to British Columbia. The country was not prepared to make this sacrifice for the benefit of a few idle negligent farmers. The protection advocated was not necessary, as farmers could do well enough without it. As an illustration, he would point to the hay question; he had been assured by a gentleman that from three acres of hay land he had netted the sum of \$120. If cultivating the land would return profits like that, he could not see the necessity of protection.

Mr. Burnaby would not support the motion, because it would produce such a paltry revenue. As to the country members not having done anything he could say that his constituents had always been up to the present time perfectly satisfied that all measures tending to the progress of Victoria were their best security.

Mr. Cochrane said it was evident that the country was going rapidly to ruin (laughter). One hon. member had said that we had ten country members who buried every thing brought up to benefit the country districts; another hon. member averred that the city members were striving to destroy the commercial interests of the city; while a third maintained that the farmers were an idle and negligent set (laughter). The country was evidently going to the dogs (laughter). He argued the necessity of the tax being imposed for the protection of the farmers.

Mr. Southgate would ask if any drawback were contemplated?

Mr. McClure said the colony suffered under too many drawbacks already (laughter).

Dr. Trimble represented a rural district, and deemed it his duty to advocate the interests of his constituents, although he did not wish to sacrifice the interests of the commercial. He was astonished to hear hon. members advocating a drawback on cabbage and turnips (laughter). He must express his surprise at the former foolish action of the House on the late question of a drawback on cattle.

Dr. Helmecken called the hon. member to order. He must cast no reflections on the House.

Dr. Trimble did not cast any reflections. The action of the House carried its own reflections (laughter). He would support the motion.

Dr. Helmecken could not support the motion as it stood. It would require a staff of officials and would not prevent vegetables being introduced into the country in small quantities, which was the thing to be avoided. The farmers did not want a protection but only to be put on an equality with others. The freights on produce from the other side were very high and to impose a tax equal to \$10 per ton was quite too high. He thought the best way to reach the matter was to provide that vegetables should not be imported in less quantities than two or three tons, and to levy a permit of \$2 or \$2 50. If any other means were adopted he looked on it as perfectly certain that a swarm of officials would be appointed and the measure would produce no revenue whatever. A similar system of licensing casual traders had been attempted but had failed, as from 1863 only 9 licenses had been taken out. While he did not believe that this would do any good to the revenue it would probably encourage the farmers to produce these crops, which they were really better able to do than crops of cereals. As to the motion being intended to encourage a few idle and negligent farmers, he repudiated it entirely. (Hear, hear.) There were such people both in the country and city, but these men would go to the wall in any case. The trouble with the majority of our farmers was want of means. He would therefore propose an amendment of \$2 per ton, the stuff not to be imported in less quantities than one ton. By the other means the revenue would suffer as we would be sure to have a large number of officials. He did not believe the local trade would suffer. As to the country interests the general opinion in the country was that the rise and progress of Victoria was the surest guarantee for the success of the country districts. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. McClure did not see why the amendment should be adopted, because it would not have any effect in encouraging the farmers. If it were carried it would certainly prevent the articles being taken over in small quantities, but that would be about all. The effect of his tax would be to encourage the farmers to sow and plant ten times as much, and instead of producing three or four tons of stuff they would be producing their hundreds, thus reducing the price of food instead of raising it as the hon. gentleman argued. The \$2 50 would be futile. It would produce no revenue, as the hon. mover admitted, and would not afford the slightest encouragement to the farmers.

Mr. Franklin would call earnestly on the hon. members to pause before driving all our trade from the place. (Laughter.) Hon. members might smile, but the effect of this policy would be to drive all our commerce from this place. The small craft would go to New Westminster to sell their produce and there they would buy their goods. (No, no.) Hon. members did not look into it, but he would ask them to pause before they adopted such a policy. He was interested in the country and in country lands himself, but he believed that the advantages already offered to farming in the country were unequalled on the coast. He had been assured that in the article of hogs alone a fortune could be made from 10 sows in five years. (Laughter.) This was a fact; one firm alone had imported as much bacon in one year as \$25,000 worth, while the price of bacon here was never less than 12 1/2 c, whereas in San Francisco it was only five cents. As to potatoes they could be raised here and shipped to San Francisco with advantage. Again there were certain vegetables which were sent here as luxuries which could not be produced here at the same period of the year, and it would be unfair to make the people pay extra for these.

Mr. DeCosmos did not agree entirely with either the motion or amendment. If one-half cent. a pound was put on vegetables it was equivalent to a prohibitory tariff as it was also the proposal of the hon. Speaker to make the minimum quantity one ton, because parties coming over in small boats brought small quantities of various kinds of produce, and would thus be prohibited from doing so. He would suggest that an additional permit might be levied on each lot of stuff imported. He believed that the articles of consumption we required should be produced on our own soil, and he supposed the intention of his hon. colleague's motion was to transfer the foreign produce to our own soil (hear, hear), but he feared that neither the motion nor amendment would meet that end.

Dr. Helmecken said the more this proposition of one half cent. per pound were examined the more difficult it would be found. The machinery required would be enormous. He did not expect any revenue to be produced in any case, and as for protection to farmers he did not agree with it in any form. As to putting special permits on separate articles it would involve the same difficulty of creating more officials. The great complaint of the farmers was that they could not sell their things when they brought them in, but were obliged to sell at ruinous prices or take them home again, and he could not see how this could be remedied except by putting the farmers on a more equal footing as to importations. The effect of the present system would be that our farmers would go about and sell their stuff from door to door, and take away the trades of the dealers. As to the argument of the hon. chairman about hogs, he remembered a man making a similar mathematical calculation as to the money he could make at the end of five years, but at the end of three years he found that, despite the mathematics, he had fewer hogs than he commenced with (laughter). This showed that mathematics had nothing to do with hogs. As to produce being re-exported from the free port to a country with a tariff it was out of the question, and if the neighboring colony with its tariff could not raise vegetables enough round its capital for its own use he could not see that the imposition of a tariff here would have any beneficial effect.

Dr. Dickson was in favor of imposing a duty on certain articles, but would advocate discrimination. He agreed with the statement that dealers here bought imported produce in preference to that grown here, because they had their arrangements made with producers on the other side. He would propose to put one cent per pound on cabbage, one-half cent on potatoes, three cents per bunch on celery, three-quarters of a cent on carrots. He was decidedly of opinion that a duty on these articles should be imposed for the protection of the farmers.

Mr. Southgate said all this would require a bonded warehouse.

Dr. Trimble moved that a permit of \$10 per ton be imposed, and that no quantities of less than a ton be admitted.

Mr. Burnaby said it would be far better to prohibit all imports of vegetables, &c. altogether and let us try for one year whether our boasted farming resources would supply the country.

Mr. Southgate agreed with the hon. member. He would move a duty of five cents per pound on all vegetables, roots, &c. without exception.

Dr. Powell here entered the House.

Mr. DeCosmos opposed any prohibitory motion whatever. Our policy was not to prohibit the farmers from the other side from coming here, but to put our farmers on an equality with them. Our course was merely to levy such a permit as would have this result (hear, hear). He opposed the amendment of a \$10 permit, especially the prohibition of less quantities than one ton, but would suggest that the permit be \$5 per ton on potatoes with a permit of \$1 on other articles.

Mr. Franklin said the importation of potatoes had been an advantage to the farmer, because a sufficient quantity had been brought in to enable cargoes to be shipped to San Francisco and thus had relieved the market and kept up the price.

Mr. McClure said the whole question lay in a nutshell: it was simply whether our customers lived here or on the other side. He had it on good authority that the farmers of Whidby Island and other parts of the Sound were living in a state of luxury unknown to the farming life, while our farmers here were out at elbows.

Dr. Helmecken said he was glad to hear that the farmers on the other side were able to revel in velvet carpets and marble wash-stand and all kinds of luxuries, all of

which they made out of Victoria, but it was rather singular that another hon. gentleman, also on good authority, should have stated that the Puget Sound farmers only sent over their surplus here, which they sold for whatever they could get. This was certainly a new principle in political economy. The hon. gentleman spoke for some time in a most humorous strain on potatoes, Irishmen, St. Patrick, &c., amid the continuous laughter of the House.

Mr. Cochrane proposed an amendment that \$5 per ton on potatoes and \$2 per load on other vegetables be charged, and no smaller quantities than one ton be admitted. The amendment was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. McClure withdrew his original motion in favor of Dr. Trimble's amendment.

Dr. Helmecken's motion, amended to the effect that \$5 as a landing permit on potatoes be levied was put against Dr. Trimble's amendment of \$10 per ton on potatoes with \$2 1/2 on loads of other produce, and was carried.

Ayes—Helmecken, Burnaby, DeCosmos, Powell, Cochrane, Southgate, (6).

Noes—Trimble, McClure, Dickson, Carwell, Dennes (5).

The motion for a permit of \$2 1/2 on carrots, turnips and cabbages, no two of these articles, including potatoes, to be included in one permit, was passed nem. con.

## TAX ON AUCTIONEERS.

Mr. Dennes gave notice of a motion for a tax on auctioneers of 2 1/2 per cent on all sales.

The committee here rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned till tomorrow (Friday) when Ways and Means will be resumed.

## COASTING TRADE.

Mr. DeCosmos, in the absence of the hon. member for Lake, moved for returns, in regard to the number of licenses issued to foreign vessels to engage in our coasting trade, &c. Motion agreed to.

House adjourned till tomorrow (Friday) when Ways and Means will be resumed.

## FRIDAY, March 17.

House met at 3:15, p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, McClure, Tolmie, Trimble, Dickson, Burnaby, Dennes.

## PILOT SERVICE.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Monday he would move that the House go into committee to consider the state of the Pilot Service.

## SUPPLY BILL.

The bill to appropriate \$297,618 25 from the general revenue for the year 1865, was read a second time.

## PERMIT ON VEGETABLES.

The report of the Committee on Ways and Means, levying a permit of \$5 per ton on potatoes and \$2 50 per load on other vegetables, was adopted by the House.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

The House went into committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Franklin in the chair.

## LIGHT DUES.

Dr. Trimble's motion for a charge of ten cents per ton on registered tonnage on all vessels entering the harbors of Vancouver Island, for light dues, &c., was taken up.

The hon. mover said his object in moving this was to raise revenue without interfering either with the free port or tariff party. There were 100,000 tons of sea-going vessels entering these ports a year, which would give a revenue of \$10,000. He proposed to exempt from the charge all coasters and traders to British Columbia. The cost of maintaining our light houses, &c., was \$3,000 to \$3,000 a year, so that this charge would be a gain to the revenue.

Mr. Burnaby said we should also except vessels coming here on ballast, "seeking." He would not oppose the motion.

Dr. Tolmie would have been pleased to have heard the hon. mover's statistics in detail (hear, hear). He knew for a fact that the number of vessels from California had decreased of late by more than half. He knew by vessels from California coming here and dropping a few tons perhaps, Victoria had been very much helped. This, in a great measure, had ceased. He looked on this motion as a direct and severe blow at the free port, which we were bound to maintain till we got union.

Mr. DeCosmos—We are going to get Union.

Dr. Tolmie was delighted to hear it, but time enough when we got it to impose tonnage dues. This was the worst of all times to impose such a tax.

Mr. DeCosmos—The hon. mover said 100,000 tons of shipping would give \$10,000, but the hon. gentleman should recollect that many vessels would have to pay this charge many times over during the year. The neighboring colony was reducing their charges on shipping in order to encourage direct trade, and it would be bad policy for us to impose fresh charges at the present time (hear, hear). He admitted that vessels were entitled to pay Light Dues, but thought the charge injudicious at present. When we had got Union, of which he never had the slightest doubt in his life, believing that we would get it in a year, we could levy Light Dues and any other charges we thought fit.

Mr. Franklin opposed levying any such charge at present on shipping; in the present state of the colonies it would be most injurious. The greater part of this tax of \$10,000 would be paid by the San Francisco steamers, and these were now being reduced from three to two; and he had been informed from good authority that even these two would not be continued were it not for obtaining supplies of coal. The tax would also interfere with our trade with the Sound.

Dr. Trimble said everything proposed to lighten the burdens of the people seemed to be opposed in this House. Certain parties seemed to narrow down every issue brought up to a question between tariff and free port. He was not disposed to take this view of the matter, and was determined to support the hands of the Executive in granting them money enough to carry on the Government.

Dr. Helmecken said on such a day as this when every body ought to be "harping" unanimously, he really felt some diffidence in opposing the hon. gentleman's motion (a laugh), but public duty demanded this sacrifice at his hands. He had always been opposed to Light Dues. It had been calculated that \$10,000 could be raised by this tax. He supposed it was intended to tax the registered tonnage, without reference to the

amount of goods carried. This was manifestly unjust, and would simply keep away all vessels which had only a small amount of freight, which would be a direct injury to the place. He did not think this House had always refused to lighten the burdens of the people, particularly as they had placed such a small duty on potatoes. He thought the most probable result of the tax would be to take out a considerable sum from the Treasury (hear, hear), as the mail steamers would probably charge us a larger sum for our mails. He thought there was no disposition to increase the burdens of the people, but on the contrary, save in the item of \$50,000 for the Governor's house, which was the cause of all this trouble. He thought at the present time it was better to let the question alone.

Mr. Burnaby, in supporting the motion, had understood that the steamers, as heretofore, would be exempted from all harbor and light dues. He did not think that the charge would interfere materially with our trade, or counterbalance the natural advantages of the place.

Dr. Trimble only meant that all vessels from abroad should pay. He did not propose to tax small vessels hailing from Puget Sound, or Oregon, which did not average more than 20 tons. Vessels would come here if they found it profitable, and would not be prevented by a charge of 10 cents, or even 20 cents, light dues. He saw no use in hon. members always "harping" on the same string. (A laugh.)

Dr. Tolmie said the tax would seriously interfere with the traders recently placed on from Astoria. The new vessel placed on to this port would have to pay \$10 per trip.

Mr. McClure understood that steamers were to be exempted; and if the small trading craft were also free, he considered that it would really make no difference to ocean-going craft at all. The charge was really paid by the consumer after all.

Mr. DeCosmos said British Columbia paid half of our lighthouse expenses; and if we put on light dues here we would be bound in justice to pay half of the revenue to British Columbia.

Mr. Cochrane said yesterday the committee was discussing the propriety of imposing a tax on carrots, and were requested to "pause" before we drove commerce from our shores. (Laughter.) We were also accused of imposing "prohibitory" duties; but he looked on this charge as of a far more prohibitory nature, and would oppose it.

The motion was lost.

## STAMP TAX.

Dr. Tolmie gave notice that, at an early day, he would propose a motion to impose a stamp on all writings and deeds. (Laughter.)

## TAX ON AUCTIONEERS.

Mr. Dennes' motion for a tax of 2 1/2 per cent on all sales of auctioneers came up.

Dr. Helmecken said this was a sort of "high festival," he thought we should not always be "harping on one string." (A laugh.) He would propose that the committee report progress.

After some opposition the motion was carried, "in honor of St. Patrick."

MERCANTILE LAW ACT.

This bill, as amended by the Legislative Council, came before the House.

The amendments were read a first time and ordered to be printed.

ELECTION COMMITTEE.

The select Election Committee on the contested seat of Mr. McClure, the junior member for the city, was ballotted for, and the following gentlemen elected: Messrs. Dennes (chairman), Franklin, Southgate, Duncan, Cochrane.

The Speaker said the committee would meet on Monday next, when all the members must be present.

The House then adjourned till Monday next.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, March 17, 1865.

The Council met yesterday at 3:30 p.m. Present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary (presiding), Attorney General, Treasurer, H. Rhodes.

MERCANTILE LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

This bill was read a third time and passed, and was ordered to be sent down to the House below.

SCHOOL BILL.

The Hon. Attorney General moved the second reading of this bill.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary presented the following report of the Select Committee of the Council on Education, which on motion of the Hon. H. Rhodes, seconded by the Hon. Attorney General, was adopted as the amendments of the Council to the Bill.

Standing orders were suspended and the bill was read a third time and passed as follows:

An Act Respecting Common Schools.

Whereas, it is expedient that provision should be made for the establishment, maintenance and management of common schools, in the Colony of Vancouver Island and its dependencies.

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor on Her Majesty's behalf, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Vancouver Island, as follows:

I. It shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time to appoint not less than five persons who shall constitute a General Board of Education, three of whom shall form a quorum.

II. It shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint a Superintendent of Education for the said colony, who shall ex officio, be Secretary of the said Board, and record the proceedings thereof.

The General Board of Education shall be a body corporate, with all the general powers by law affecting or relating to bodies corporate, and all school property shall be vested in such General Board. The General Board of Education shall meet at least once a month, and shall report to the Governor as to the state and condition of common schools, and other particulars relating thereto, at such times and in such manner, and form as the Governor shall from time to time in that behalf direct.

IV. It shall be lawful for the said Board from time to time, with the approval of the Governor, to establish as many school districts in the said colony as they shall deem expedient, and to prescribe such course of education and discipline, and to select and prescribe for use in each district school books as they may think best, and to authorize the purchase and distribution thereof.

V. It shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time to appoint such persons as he shall think fit, to be teachers in the Common Schools.

VI. It shall be lawful for the Governor, from time to time, to appoint a local Board of Education, of not less than three persons, in any school district, if he shall think it expedient so to do.

VII. Such last named Board shall have power and authority to visit and report on the state of the schools within its district, for the information and guidance of the General Board of Education.

VIII. The general mode of transacting business by such Local Board of Education, and the nature of the reports to be furnished, shall be subject to the order and direction of the General Board of Education.

IX. The duties of all Trustees of Common Schools shall be subject to the order and direction of the General Board of Education.

X. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Education to visit Common Schools and report thereon, by the order and according to the instructions of the General Board of Education.

XI. All schools established under the provisions of this Act shall be conducted strictly upon non-sectarian principles. Books inculcating the highest morality shall be selected for the use of such schools, and all books of a religious character, teaching denominational dogmas shall be strictly excluded therefrom.

XII. It shall be lawful for the clergy of every denomination at stated intervals, to be fixed by the General Board of Education, to visit such schools, and impart in a separate room religious instruction to the children of their respective persuasion.

XIII. Every Common School shall be open to the children of persons of all denominations, with power of expulsion in case of gross misconduct, at the discretion of the General Board of Education.

XIV. The General Board of Education shall have power to regulate the amount of School fees payable for Educational purposes in any Common School, so, however, that the same do not exceed fifty centimes per month for each scholar, and shall have power, if occasion require, to remit the payment of such fees in whole or in part. Provided always that such fees shall be applied by the said board to such school purposes as they may see fit.

XV. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the "Common School Act 1865."

MEDICAL BILL.

The Hon. Attorney General moved the second reading of this bill explaining his objections to some of the provisions of the bill which he thought too severe, although he approved of the general principles of the Bill, as set forth in the preamble.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Rhodes, the Council went into Select Committee.

CHESS IN CARIBOO.

Williams Creek, 18th Feb. 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.

Sir,—It may not be uninteresting to your readers, at least that portion of them who are chess players, to receive an account of a chess tournament which lately took place among the players on the creek.

A public notice was put up by some of the most enthusiastic players, that a meeting for the purpose of getting up a chess tournament would be held on the 19th ult.

At this meeting twelve gentlemen gave in their names as competitors for the championship. It was decided that the players should be divided into pairs by ballot, to play five games, and the first three games won by either of the contestants to decide between them; the winners of these first games to be again paired off to play a like number of games, and so continue to pair off until only one winner remained, who should be declared the champion of the tournament.

Accordingly the players in the first ballot were as follows:

J. A. Fraser vs. D. McNaughton, J. A. Fraser vs. B. Bollenburg, J. A. Fraser vs. W. Reynolds, J. A. Fraser vs. W. Dodd vs. B. Hodgins, J. A. Fraser vs. J. McLaren.

SECOND BALLOT.

J. A. Fraser vs. John Elliot, John Elliot vs. John Adair vs. James T. Steele, Edward Hodgins vs. J. S. Thompson.

THIRD BALLOT.

The players were now reduced to three, Messrs. Thompson, Fraser and Steele. On drawing for partners the lot fell upon Messrs. Thompson and Fraser to play together and Steele the winner to play Mr. Steele. In this match Mr. Fraser was again the winner.

This gentleman had now played three matches without losing a single game, and his friends felt confident that he would come out the victor in the next, but his opponent Mr. Steele proved a tough customer, and after playing five well contested games, they stood two each the fifth one having been drawn one, then came the deciding game of which I annex a copy, which was won in good style by Mr. Steele, who was accordingly declared the champion of the tournament.

I am, yours, &c.

A CHESS PLAYER.

The last and deciding game in the chess tournament, played at Williams Creek, Cariboo, B. C., 10th Feb. 1865, between Messrs. J. A. Fraser and James T. Steele:

White, Mr. Fraser. Black, Mr. Steele.

1 P to K4 1 P to K4 2 K to B3 2 K to B3 3 B to Q4 3 K to B3 4 Q to Q4 4 K to P4 5 P to K4 5 P to K4 6 Castles 6 P to Q4 7 B to K5 7 B to K5 8 B to K5 8 B to K5 9 Q to K5 9 Q to K5 10 Q to K5 10 Q to K5 11 Q to K5 11 Q to K5 12 K to K5 12 K to K5 13 Q to K5 13 Q to K5 14 B to K5 14 B to K5 15 Q to K5 15 Q to K5 16 K to K5 16 K to K5 17 Q to K5 17 Q to K5 18 B to K5 18 B to K5 19 P to K4 19 P to K4 20 K to K5 20 K to K5 21 B to K5 21 B to K5 22 Q to K5 22 Q to K5 23 K to K5 23 K to K5 24 K to K5 24 K to K5