

spectfully to present for the consideration of your honourable body the following resolutions passed by them at a meeting held this day:

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will take such action as will maintain the free port in all its present integrity.

RESOLVED,—

1. That, in the opinion of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, the maintenance of the Free Port system is of vital importance to the prosperity of Victoria and of Vancouver Island.
2. That commerce should not be subjected to any species of restraint, because freedom from restraint is calculated to give the utmost extension to foreign trade, and the best direction to the capital and industry of the country.
3. That the adoption of a protective tariff would be detrimental to the commercial interest of the Colony without benefit to the farmer or manufacturer.
4. That a tariff for revenue would necessitate such an outlay of expenditure for the collection of the duties that it would not answer the requirements of the Government, and would inflict a heavy loss on the commerce of Victoria.
5. That direct taxation is the only politic and equitable mode of raising a revenue.
6. That a general system of taxation by which all classes of the community would be made to contribute to the support of the Government is the most simple and economical.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

For the members of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

CHAS. W. WALLACE, President.

A. F. MAUN, Secretary.

Victoria, Vancouver Island, Jan. 26th, 1865.

State of the Colony Resolutions.

The Speaker read over the resolutions passed by the committee of the whole, on Wednesday last respecting the state of the Colony.

Mr. Young moved for a recommittal of the resolutions, and was proceeding to give his reasons, when

The Speaker said, that if any discussion arose on the resolutions they would have to be postponed until Monday next.

Messrs. Franklin and Burnaby had some further remarks to make.

Mr. De Cosmos called "question."

The Speaker—"That I do now leave the chair?"

Mr. De Cosmos—No!

On the suggestion of the Speaker, Mr. De Cosmos moved that the order of the day be discharged.

Mr. Franklin stated that the House had waited a long time for the estimates, and it was known that Government business took precedence of all other. He hoped that the House would go on with the business of the day.

Mr. Burnaby moved "that the Speaker do now leave the chair."

Mr. Young said that according to "May," Government business cannot be superseded.

Motion to leave the chair was lost by a vote of 8 to 5. The order of the day respecting the "state of the Colony" was carried.

Mr. Young then moved that the resolutions be recommitted, and called the attention of the House to the results of the meetings held in the city, and whether the almost unanimous opinion of the Chamber of Commerce is to go for nothing, when there was but one voice in 20 against the maintenance of the free port, and subsequently 7 others entered the room and acquiesced with the decision of that body. He was about to advert to the decision in regard to the question at the Mechanics' Debating Club, when he was called to order. Mr. Young stated that the question was not intended for the benefit of the Colony, but for the benefit of individuals. [Mr. De Cosmos—no! no!] It was not the case, as stated by the press, that 9 out of 10 were in favour of a tariff. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Young) quoted Washington territory to show that, with all its protection, the revenue derived from the custom house there only sufficed to pay one quarter of the expenses connected therewith. It used to produce 80,000 bushels of wheat, and now but 25,000 bushels, and all from the beautiful system of protection. He had his information from a reliable authority. He would ask the House, what would be more humiliating than for this Colony to go begging to British Columbia, asking to have its destiny hooked on with theirs. With regard to the cereal productions of this Colony, Mr. Y. quoted the phrase, "the woodman's axe had not rung in the primeval forest, &c.," which will be remembered was used by an honourable member in connexion with the Crown Lands' report of last session of the House, and it caused much merriment. The Hudson's Bay Company also came in for a share of the hon. gentleman's censure. Mr. Young went on to state that a paid Legislature would be brought about by the course proposed; he had often heard hon. gentlemen deprecate a paid Legislature, and he would not say that any hon. member ever thought of such a thing for their own benefit. No, no. (Laughter.) He was surprised that an hon. gentleman in the House, in the retail business, should favour a tariff of 20 per cent., and how could he delude his customers or make them believe that there would be no consequent advance in his goods? To talk of union, with dissent on both sides, seemed to him most paradoxical. If the resolutions were brought forward in a less humiliating manner to ourselves, we might arrive at something. He hoped that hon. gentlemen would look to the serious consequences which would arise from the passage of the resolutions, and he trusted that hon. members would not be deaf to the arguments used.

Dr. Tolmie said that they had heard nothing from Mr. Young approaching reason why the resolutions should be recommitted; as to the personalities, those he would leave out altogether. As regards the wheat raised in Washington territory, Mr. Tolmie stated that it arose from the poverty of the soil and was not reproductive. With respect to the Chamber of Commerce, that body only dealt with a portion of the question; union was not submitted at all. As to the dissent on both sides alluded to, the question was never put before British Columbians as it was now put, and in British Columbia there was a great deal of assent to union with this Colony.

Mr. Burnaby rose to make a last appeal, but from appearances he feared that he had but a small