The Capital Debate.

By the return of our Special Reporter from New Westminster, we are enabled to give the remaining portion of the speeches on the in lavor of the capital at New Westminster Capital Question, and also to report at greater length, the speeches of those gentlemen of which only a synopsis received by telegraph was given before:-

Hon DeCosmos said that he did not wish to dwell at any great length on the subject under discussion. He was prepared to vote at once without further debate. But as the Council seemed disposed to continue the debate, he would make some few allusions ro the subject. He had listened with much pleasure to the able speech of his colleague (Dr Helmcken) and to the eloquent speech of the Hon Solicitor General. He concurred with them both, in the main. They had ably stated the claims of Victoria, as the most suitable place for the seat of Government. He differed with them on some points. same thing a different way another day to He did not consider the Capital question as the most important that could engage the attention of the Council. There were other questions, of which he would mention two: He had charged Victorians with agitation The alteration of the present constitution of the Council and the great question of Con-federation. In either of these the public had a greater and more lasting interest. As the previous speeches in favor of Victoria being made the seat of Government were so full of arguments in support of such a measure, it was needless for him to delay the Council by going over the ground. He would, however, advert to some remarks of the hon gentleman from New Westminster. He (Hon Robson) had made a very able and eloquent speech in ravor of retaining the seat of Government at New Westminster. He considered that New Westminster had been well represented by him, and it was a matter of surprise that the people of that place had defied refutation. Treason and annexation had been charged against Victoria unjustifiposition when a candidate for the Council. The whole speech, however, of the hon member for New Westminster appeared destitute of sound arguments. There seemed to be only one thing in his speech, that was, that he rested his case with the Governor-left the whole question to the Governor to settle, irrespective of the wishes of the people on the

subject, till the constitution was changed. Hon Hobson objected. Hon De Cosmos continued-He might have misapprehended the hon gentleman; but the manner in which he had alluded to the concluding paragraph of the message confirmed him in his statement. The disposal of the seat of Government was a matter of prerogative. Now, whilst he was not disposed to trench on the prerogatives of the Crown, he would say, that Englishmen were everywhere accustomed to see the prerogative exercised in accordance with the well-understood wishes of the people, and not in an arbitrary and despotic manner. He consequently thought that the chief point in the speech of the hon gentleman resting the matter with the Governor, was a weak one, in the face of the petitions before the Council. The hon gentleman had also read some statistics to show the state of agriculture below the mouth of Harrison river. He had done this to show the desirability of keeping the seat of Government at New Westminster. In reply to these statistics, he would say, that a short time past when they were positively read in his presence, and that of others, a distinct denial of the figures was made by an honorable member of with the agriculture of the district. If he Robson) wished the name of that gentleman, he was prepared to give it. (Name not asked, Rep) Consequently, there was a balance in the evidence on this point, and until he produced additional witnesses, the statistics ought to be disregarded. But taking them at their face, the district of Cowichan alone had as large and as productive a farming population as the lower Fraser. Besides that there we e the extens ve properties and wealthy agricultural district extending from Victoria to North Saanich, or to Metchosin. This district was far more populous and wealthy than the lower Franer consequently the claims of New West minster fell to the ground on that score. If any arguments were adduced from the state of agriculture, the preponderance would be for Victoria. But he deemed neither to be a good argument on the face of the desire of the majority of the people to locate the seat of Government at Victoria. The hon gentle. man had also said that Victoria had been forced up by exceptional circumstances, implying that the late Governor had done something unlair to effect that end during his administration. Now, he denied this statement. He was as familiar with the history of the country as anyone since 1858, and he challenged any one to show that Sir James Douglas had done anything to loster the growth of Victoria at the expense of New Westminster since the hon Collector of Customs went there in June, 1859. Governor Douglas may have introduced measures objectionable to many, but none having the tendency suggested by the hon member for New Westminster. Victoria had grown up by virtue of the enterprise of her people by accidental circumstances; what destroyed the Lower Fraser as a business place was the removal of the t wn from Langley to Queensboro, or what is now Westminster. This had been done by Colonel Moody, who had been so well flattered today by the hon gentleman. The purchasers lots in Langley were disgusted with the change; had consequently no confidence in the government, none in the place, and preferred to remain with certainties in Victoria to uncertainties in New Westminster. These were the reasons why Victoria took and kept the start : it was not exceptional gubernatorial action. The hon gentlemin had alluded to the capital being fixed here by proclamation, but that was done when the whole population did not extend beyond Yale, except a few stragglers on the bars as high up as Lytton or Lillouet. The country had changed since then. It was then a separate colony. The circumstances were materially altered, and if the people want the cipital or seat of government elsewhere it ought to go where it will afford them the greatest convenience. Whilst he was on this topic, however, he would ailude to the manner to which the bop gentleman had complimented Sir James Douglas for locating the cap tal at New

Westminster, regard ess of h.s own large pri-

wate interests in Victoria.

Hon Robson-I didn't compliment him! Hon DeCosmos continued-The hon genleman had done so. There was no denying it; but be had done so to fortify his argument He would, however, remind the hon gentleman that his compliments sounded very strangely in his ears, and more particularly as he had assailed Sir James Douglas for fonr or five years with the bitterest invectives because he had property in Victoria. How inconsistent in the hon gentleman to complio the hon gentleman referring to such things.

the inconsistency of the hon gentleman to show how he could cite one thing one way one day to support his policy, and cite the suit his ends. The hon gentleman had also made a statement that Victoria had not earned an enviable reputation for loyalty abroad appexation and treason. He had done so to prove that New Westminster was the mos desirable place for the Governor to reside (DeCosmos) was well up in the history of Victoria; had been there since early in 1858. when there was scarcely 200 people in Vancouver Island and but a hundred or so on the banks of the Fraser. He had known Victoria thoroughly, through all her vicissitudes, and he were prepared to say that a more loyal, order-loving, law-abiding, intelligent, moral and enterprising people, when taken man for man, could not be found, in our widespread colonies or under the Crown of England. He challenged comparison and defied refutation. Treason and annexation ably; very few persons knew what treason was either here or elsewhere in the colony. He had read the law of treason and many State trials; believed he knew what treason was, and he was prepared to say that neither at the so-called annexation meeting nor at any other time while resident in Victoria had he ev r heard a word or known an act that could be construed even into sedition let alone treason.

Hon Robson-I only said that parties in Victoria had charged others with treason. Hon DeCosmos continued-An attempt has been made by the hon gentleman to bolster up his side of the capital question by charging Victoria with being a hotbed of agitation, that it consequently was not a fit place for the Governor to reside. He had also read remarks in the message and elsewhere deprecating agitation. Now he for one hoped that the sun would never rise on this colony when agitation did not exist. What had made Englishmen-what had placed the British race at the head of the world? What had enabled England to endow mankind with freedom and free discussion but agitation? It had continued for ages-was the work of generations. It there was one principle more than another that he admired in his race it was that unceasing activity of mind that resulted in national progression. There was a difference between legitimate agitation and faction. He did not believe that Victoria had ever been party and party has principles; but faction spending their money among them. a thousand miles from New Westminster. a conservative position. Had not a prize essay been written by a gentleman high in position in the colony which characterised the place as being controlled by a factious clique? Would the hon gentleman deny that? Nearly every one who passed through the place in those days had told him that they regarded it as a hotbed of political fanat. ics. It was a place where agitation was incessant-a place where faction was substituted for party, passion mistaken for reason, and prejudice for patriotism. And yet the hon gentleman would have us believe that New Westininster was a more fitting place for the residence of the Governor and the seat of Government than Victoria. The hon gentleman had also assailed the Victoria newspapers-had held Victorians responsible for what appeared in them. He (DeCosmes) did not agree with everything in tuem. The conductors of newspapers there had written whatever they pleased: sometimes in accordance with public sentiment, at other Victorians could no more times contrary. be held responsible for everything that appeared in the papers, than the people of New Westmisster for what appeared in the Colum-bian. In the main the Victorian papers have represented public sentiment, but not in all cases. But if exceptional newspaper matter was made a charge against Victoria with the

bian, controlled by the hon gentleman, without a parallel in this colony. Hon Robson objected to naming him in connection with the Columbian. Hon DeCosmos continued-A year ago is was said in a newspaper published not a Victoria ! !" Where was the parallel for this ? Could any such atterance be found the seat of government He would net have mentioned these things if the hon gentleman had not travelled out of the way in his zeal to retain the seat of government? Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones, The hon gentleman had talked of mobs in Victoria. He would tell him that during nine years, since 1858, since the town was settled, such a thing as a mob was unknown. No one, public or private, had ever been No public officer or court was ever interfered with in the least. The only resistance to a public officer in the discharge of his duty may be such as may be offered by a seat of government. There are no petitions is £30 per head.

object of retaining the seat of Government here, he could find utterances in the Colum-

the seat of government should be located? using the prerogative in accordance with the | Carnarvon said that the popular prejudise He hoped the hon gentleman would never clearly expressed opinion of the people. The against Downing street was passing away, and attempt to cast any slurs on Victorians, for hon gentleman concluded by supporting the that it was now known that it was the desire they were as noble minded and noble hearted motion of his colleague. to undervalue the petitions before the House favor of Victoria. The miners had been slan. Cariboo it had been charged against them that they could be bought for a glass of whiskey. Heretofore, the hon gentleman, the press of New Westminster, and those high in authorand Victoria the most objectionable. He ity, had misrepresented the opinions of the merchants, packers and miners long enough by denving that they were in favor of union, when the truth was that the only people on the mainland opposed to union were the inhabitants of New Westminster and the govern ment. The accempt was made now to slander ment where it was. He was prepared to-day He [Robson] might take a bottle of whiskey n one hand and a petition in the other; and he would defy him to get one signature for New Westminster, when he would get ten for Victoria. No more noble hearted, daring, enterprising body of men could be foud any. where than the miners of the interior, and yet the hon gentleman would have us infer that they were sots, purchaseable with a glass of

whiskey. Hon Robson angrily-I never said they were plied with whisky.
Hon Walkem-He did say so.

Hon Helmcken-He did. Hon DeCosmos said, in the notes of my hon

colleague are these words: 'These men were But we hear nothing as to the manner in plied with whisky, &c.;' in my own notes are the same words; so it is clearly established that hon gentleman did say so.

Hon Robson rising, again denied. Hon DeCosmos hoped that the hon gentleman would keep his temper if he did not his seat. The miners were an intelligent and sober people. They paid a large part of the taxes of the colony. They produced \$2,000,000 in gold; yet the hon gentleman would try to make out that the miners were nobodies; that the 1,000 miners of Cariboo were unimportant in comparison with a few people in New West. made by the hon Magistrate from Quesnelle (Ball.) He had said that if the seat of government was removed for New Westminster, the place would be ruined, and all the people would be driven away. The logical inference from this statement is that the whole of New Westminster is dependent on the government officials. That is, the people at large feed the swayed by mere faction. Agitation has a cials feed the people of New Westminster by to find faction he could find it without going tleman from New Westminster will not allow the miners who pay by taxes a great part of That place had only lately become quiet. the salaries of the officials to have any voice The hon gentleman had only lately taken up as to where those officials shall reside, and simply because New Westminster is fed and clothed by the officials, according to the satement of the hon members for Quesnelle. Hon Robson would interrupt and continue

to do so. Hon Young hoped that such interruptions would not be permitted. The hon member for New Westminster had been patiently listened to for two hours.

Hon President said that the hon junior words of the hon member for New Westminster. Hon DeCosmos said that the hon gentleman or New Westminster had said that the move-

Hon Robson-That is what I said.

Hon DeCosmos-The words "moveable population" meant miners and no one else. [Hear, hear,] Yet the hon member for New Westminster would wish the miners to do nothing or have no weight with the government contrary to the wishes of those who live here. If they had been in favor of New Westminster instead of Victoria as the seat of government, the seat of government.

a people as ever lived. The non gentleman then Mr. Young feared that at this late hour to conduce to the general welfare of the people the House was somewhat w ary with the long and in accordance with their wishes; although combe, and Colonel Moody recommending discussion that had been before it, and he New Westminster as a fit place for the would therefore, in what he had to say, encapital. If they had done so that is no deavor to be as brief as possible, but, coureason why it should be there if the people side ing the importance of the subject, it was did not wish it. He had also said that Vic- impossible that he could sit sill and give a other. The choice of a capital for a colony toria would be "snuffed out" if New West, silent vote upon the question, for he felt that minster remained as the seat of government. any man who did so and could not support ment Sir James Douglas to-day for the very He believed no such thing, Victoria would his vote by fact and argument would be a cised against the feelings of the masses. Vicholdthe supremacy, seat of government or no marked man for time to come. The argu-Hon Mr Robson (greatly excited)-I object seat of government. He had been told by the ments in respect of the relative merits and hon gentleman that New Westminster would relative claims of the two places, Victoria and He has no right to do so. It continued, dis- be the terminus of the Atlantic and Pacific New Westminster, had been nearly exhausted, graceful scenes may take place!! (Cries of railroad, and therefore ought to be the seat but he could not view the question in this had ever been since. Settle this question now of government. In reply he would say that respect. In his humble opinion we had not to and I firmly believe this state of things will Hon DeCosmos continued—There was nono one would be more gratified to see the consider the beauty of the site, what would again be brought about; confidence will be rething so bitter as fact! He had only cited steam horse rushing in and out of New be the top to one place, or the gain to the stored; the money that is now locked up in the be the top to one place, or the gain to the Westminster then himself but it was too other, or which people were the most moral remote to affect the present question. The or the handsomest or the ugliest? The mathon member for New Westminster in order ver had to be considered irrespective of local interest and advantage, and solely as to the had stated that Victoria agents had plied the bearing it would have upon the future pros- from New Westminster it will crumble away. miners with whisky to sign the petition in perity and stability of the entire colony. He would take up the arguments against the dered by the hon gentleman. From Yale to resolution. What were they? So far as he could understand them they rested solely upon one ground, viz., that New Westminster had are centered, and the more the stability and been established as the capital of British Columbia by Law, and having been so established it was a matter of good faith to keep it there. That the good faith of the Government was pledged to keep the capital at New Westi minster, and that it would be a breach of contract to remove it. Now upon what is this argument founded? A Proclamation dated February, 1859. But this Proclamation was them by saying that a glass of whisky would not a law. It merely declared and made induce a miner to sign a petition, and that known that the intensions of the Government He had virtually charged his Excellency with, with a view of retaining the seat of govern- were in respect of fixing the site of a town at the entrance of the Fraser. And why was to stum the country with the hon gentleman such a proceeding necessary? Because the Government had already laid out and sold one town site (Langley) which they now aban- but the calm and deliberate advice and assist-[DeCosmos] would take no whiskey, and yet doned for another. It therefore became neces sary to announce their intentions in some formal manner. Hence this Proclamation. Hon Attorney General-It is a law, though, for all that.

Hon Mr. Young-The Hon Attorney General says it is a "law." Is there any enacting clause in it? Is there any recital of the authority under which the law is created? No, none whatever, and the Hon Attorney General knows this as well as I do. We are told New Westminster cannot be

moved because a commissioner was sent out

by the Imperial Government to select its site.

which that commissioner caused the site of

Langley to be abandoned (hear, hear). How

is it, if the status of New Westminster cannot

moved from Langley (hear, hear.) If the ar-

gument be of any value, it must have been of

abandoned when Imperial interests or grave

that it should be abandoned. As matters have turned out, it may be a cause of regret that two towns were ever established. It may minster. He would now allude to the remarks bia was ever created a separate Colony. But also be a cause of regret that British Columshe was created into a separate Colony, and having been so created, as a matter of course, it became necessary to establish a capital or chief town in that separate Colony. In Van-couver Island a capital or chief town was already established. Houses were built there. Mercantile establishments had been formed there. A centre of population had been at- he could not go back from such well founded tracted. Money had been invested, and all opinions. Every circumstance of the Colony these things were so patent that no proclama rendered it imperative, and the pu is agitation without principle. If he desired true, the case stands this way: The hon genthem, and that Victoria was the capital of It was true the rights of these who had prospect to the property of the pr Vancouver Island. But how different was it perty at New Westminster deserved considbere. Cne town abandoned and another pro- eration, but they should not be an obstacle po ed to be formed in the dense forest. A in the way of the public welfare. He did not proclamation was indeed necessary to make see the policy of government trying to support this known. And this is the origin of this two towns when the advantage of the Colony proclamation. I have shown it is not a law; but for the sake of argument I am willing to admit that a document penned under such circumstances and in so formal a manner is equally binding as a matter of good faith upon the Government as if it were a law. But what then? Circumstances alter cases. And are the circumstances of the colony the same now member for Victoria had not used the exact was then? The whole circumstances of the country are changed. Take the Union Proclamation. Look at the "British Columbia Act." able population in the interior should have no Columbia" before the Union meant one thing, Do we not find that the words "British attained under the present circumstances weight with the government by signing these but after Union they meant another? Are not Vancouver Island and her dependencies added progress would depend upon our own efforts; to what was British Columbia before the Union? We are told that Valcouver Island had asked for Union, and that therefore she has no voice in the matter. In fact that her people have to be treated as captives who must bear the yoke they have imposed upon themselves. But read Lord Carnarvon's themselves. despatch of 31st October, 1866, detailing the reasons which led her Majesty's the hon gentleman would have claimed that Government to unite the colonies. they had a right with government. But as there one word in that despatch which the case stands, the hon gentleman desired will support such an argument? We that those who lived off the government are told too, that the petitions which were should speak for the whole colony. The hon laid before that House are not to be regarded. gentleman says the seat of government is a Now, he had taken considerable care to exprerogative question; the crown or its repre- amine those petitions; the one from Victoria entatives possess the right at common law to he found signed by 1448 persons; he had gone say where the seat of the government shall completely through the whole of the petitions, be, where the legislature shall meet, where and be had found amongst them the names of the courts shall meet. But like all other men whom he had known for years. It had principles under the British Constitution been stated that the getting up of these petithere is a limit to the prerogative. There is | tions was a dishonorable and dishonest dodge, such a thing as the use of the prerogative; and that the signers, if not operated upon by and such a thing as the abuse of the prero- designing individuals, had been filled with chousand miles from where the Council sits, gative. If the governor, for instance, located whisky. For his part, from his knowledge the courts at Burrard's Inlet whilst there of many of the signers, he repudiated such an were no people there, and whilst the people of assertion as one of the grossest calumnies that the district resided chiefly here, that would was ever alleged against a respectable and in a Victoria paper? Who will say after this be an abuse of prerogative. The convenience Intelligent community. (Applause.) The Colthat New Westminster is the fittest place for of the people would not be consulted. If an onies had undoubtedly been united on Imperial incompetent person were made a judge of grounds, to consolidate British interests in the such courts, that would be an abuse of North Pacific, and British Columbia was now mediate action was necessary on the motion. prerogative. But if the courts for this dis- to all intents and purposes, a new Colony. trict be located at New Westminster, where More than half the population reside in Vanthe inhabitants could be accommodated, and if couver Island. (No, no -hear, hear.) I say Colony, and there could therefore be no a competent judge be appointed to such yes, yes. But for the sake of argument, admit prior claims existing; it was of advantage to courts, the prerogative in such a case would that only one half reside in Vancouver Island, the Colony that the capital should be located be used and not abused. The council could and that the one half consists of only 4000 at Victoria. have little difficulty in advising the governor persons. Now what was their public debt at as to the use of his prerogative in locating the time of union? £40,000, or £10 per heal; justify his vote for the constitution of Vic-Two thousand whereas the public debt of British Columbia names are appended to the petitions before was £200,000, or £50 per head; so that now, for being much necested in the progress the House asking that Victoria be made the with the united p pulation, the public debt seat of government. There are no petitions is £30 per head. Therefore while the people London was not in the centre of danken sailor to a policeman. He could not to the contrary. The majority of the council of the mainland had been relieved to the would represent the country in recommending extent of £20 per head, the people of Vancous that country. It was the best policy to notorious that a mob in New Westminster the governor to grant the prayer of the peti- ver Island had had that £20 imposed upon had driven a person from his post whilst tioners. To do so would be a proper use of them, and yet they were to have no voice in a loster and advance one town in a small discharging a public duty, had pre-ented him, the prerogative. Not to do so would be an a mob prevented him in New Westminster abuse of the prerogative. To make Victoria future of the united colony. Is it likely that from carrying out the instructions of govern. the seat of government would be exercising any such question would be decided against ster, 'ut they could not weigh against the ment. This the hon gentleman cannot deny. the prerogative legitimately, using the prerowas this then the place par excellence where gative within constitutional limits, in fact public dinner in London the other day, Lor rived in the colony 8 or 9 years ago he

of Her Majesty's Government, only to act so as occasionally questions must arise that the views of imperial policy did so cross as to require the exhibition of the most kindly and affectionate feeling on the one side and the might be a prerogative matter but depend upon it, that prerogative would never be exery papital of the two colonies. Force of circums stances had made her so, and then the prosperity of New Westminster was greater than it stored; the money that is now locked up in the banks, and that is now partly going out of the country, will be invested in the country, and a tide of prosperity will set in. We are told that if the seat of government be removed I cannot believe it, I firmly believe, on the contrary, that it will increase in stability. You must have a town on the lower Fraser. It prosperity of Victoria is increased, so will New Westmirster in proportion thrive and flourish and eventually become a town of considerable magnitude. The hon member for New Wests minster had called attention to the last paragraph of the Governor's message, and had desired to impress upon bon menbers that in discussing the question of the capital, they were guilty of political agitation, but the hon in such case, treating the deliberations of the Council as political agitation. Could anything be more absurd? What did His Excellency want to inform him in this and in other matters ance of a constitutional body to guide him to act intelligently, and for the general benefit of the entire colony? The hon gentleman concluded by thanking the Council for the patience with which they had heard him, and stated that he felt he should have been wanting in his duty to the Governor, to the people of the colony, and to himself as a member of this

council had he given a silent vote, and did he

not give that vote according to his honest and

deliberate belief, a belief formed after a resi-

dence of 10 years in the colony, and an official

connection in a high position in the goverament for upwards of eight. Hon Trutch would say as few words as possible, but it was necessary to show be interfered with now, that the site was whence he derived his conclusions. As the question of the Seat of Government was at the present time not fixed, His Excellency equal value then, and yet we see Langley was would set the question at rest, but he depres cated immediate action on the subject. military considerations rendered it desirable (the Governor) had however, invited the members of that House to express their opinlous on the subject of the Seat of Government. The choice of a capital was one of the prerogatives of government, and he would not have considered him self priveleged to vote on the subject had the Governor not asked for their opinions. He (hon Trutch) would vote according to his conscience and hence he concurred with the resoluion. The capital, from what his experience had taught him should be at Victoria, and would be to make one important and attractive. The Government would be carried on at Victoria more conveniently and economically, ard the intelligence of the Colony would be available when required by the Executive. One prosperous town would offer inducements to the investment of capital in the Colony the benefit of which would be lelt throughout. In one populous town se should have amusements and t'e other advantages of society which could not be with two towns. The attempt to carry on two towns would be injurious to both, as their without the attractions obtainable by the fostering of one city, we should have no aid from abroad, and both would languish. Victoria possesses many natural advantages which New Westminter never can offer. The people of New Westminster had overcome unheard of lifficulties, and had shown much energy and enterprise; but were all of these increased tenfold, they would be useless to cope with the natural advantages of Victoria. The resolution expressed his ideas on the subject precisely, and there was no immediate action called for. He believed the great bulk of the people was in favor of Hon Sanders in supporting the resolution

pelieved he was doing good to the couns try, and in doing so he acted conscientionaly.

Hon Cox-The general feeling, he could safely say, was in favor of Victoria, and he could not do otherwise than support the re-

Hon Stamp supported the resolution as he proper measure for the present circumstances of the country.

Hon Pemberton believed every one should give his horiest opinion upon such an importaut measure. The great reason why he mediate action was necessary on the motion, it was also very moderate in tone. The Colony was to all intents and purposes a new

toria as the capital, that he had many reasons

visited both places and readily Victoria as being unquestiona place, he was subsequently con

Hon O's eilly-T' e resoluti House was most important to of the colony both at home and would affect its progress fro At present there was no pla attractive for the miners when down in the autumn with the their summer's mining. Th was, that he (the miner) took hi to San Francisco to spend or he would not do if there was a attractive amusements could the colony. In supporting two Government could not accomp that the true policy was to m the capital in order to make centre of attraction. He could distri t where he exercised his people were generally in favo The resolution did not call for action and it would have his su

Hon Helmcken-The politi as it was called showed the cit has some blood in its veins. I sire to make a name, he studie public welfare. The adminis be far better conducted at Vic any other part of the colony, he supported that place as pref other. The Legislative Assemi of vent for the feelings of the time and prevented more dang tions. But during the his experience in that Assenever seen the proceedings in any upparliamentary express ments. The ventilation of a was always of advantage to the He had always felt that Victo the capital and he maintaine correct in his judgement.

The House then divided and was carried by a majority of 1

LETTER FROM BIG Highly Encouraging

FRENCH CREEK, January Being well aware of the fact many in Victoria who are inter future of Big Bend. I though lines to you, stating how affairs parts of Her Majesty's possessi interesting and perhaps satisfac pect you have had little inform thing that has transpired here s Mining continued in the creek of December, the fellowing c better than they had durin namely: the Discovery, Dagget, ain and Half-Breed. Two me covery took out 175 ounces in t Every one here, that is 75 on th 12 on McCulloch, has the greate in Gold Hill Bench. There ar panies prospecting, and the Rol two men working, continues t dollars to the foot. There are claims taken up and recorded and I would advise any one in has interests in the Hill to them properly represented. T excitement about the Scotch C pany who are prospecting through Nose Tunnel, for the ground is richer and richer, and the wor satisfied that the channel is their ground; they are now about from their lines. I have sent sketch of part of the bench names of the separate compan you will be kind enough to rem am not writing this letter for but for your own personal info and anything that it contains your option whether to beli We have had a very joliy Ch can boast of a skating rink, a d French class, and, what has attention, the club known as th Of course not being a member society, it is impossible for ma any nformation as to what bron life or what they have sworn to say is that they gave a free ba night and a very handsome sup with Richard Stege's well know ability. The band was somethi vie with that of the Coldstream gisting of the following inst guitar, violin (a bully one made out of soup bouilli tins) tambour both of home manufacture. The handsomely decorated with the nations and evergreens with silvery letters entwined with th and the American and French

a half. We have had most splendid the thermometer never baving than 150 below zero, and that few hours for the last week : about 28º above zero througho The snow is about 6 feet deep i

Ball was kept up with great

o'clock the next morning. All

the town were present, they but

We are all anxiously looking the spring, for although the Big a great disappoin ment last y not the slightest doubt that if e in with a determination to give fair trial, more working and les few weeks will then decide whe ter to leave British Columbia or whether the motto will pro "we may be happy yet."