

The appointment of a select committee by the Legislative Council to enquire into and arrange our postal matters so that they may fully meet the public necessities, gives us just ground to hope that the injurious interruption to which our mails have so long been subjected will now be stopped. It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the vital importance of regularity in the transmission of mails, for it affects the whole of society—domestic alike with public interests. Few countries have been so shamefully abused in this particular as British Columbia; and while she remains under the control of existing outside influences, we can see little hope for improvement. We suggested yesterday the propriety of subsidising the G. S. Wright to run to San Francisco—a vessel which, if not in every respect up to the necessities of our trade, could nevertheless be made to work a complete revolution. In the first place, the company which now boasts the possession of the “entire steam traffic of the coast and that they intend to retain it at all costs,” can never be brought to treat us with justice except through pecuniary arguments. So true is this that our sister city Portland, (although American) after allowing their opposition boats to be sold to the same company, have found they made a great mistake, and are now exerting themselves to redeem their error. If Portland receives unjust treatment, what else can Victoria expect? It would well pay this colony to subsidise the G. S. Wright even at \$2000 a month, if she guaranteed two trips in that period. Such subsidy would work well in three ways—it would insure our merchants a constant receipt of their goods, and the public a constant receipt of their mails; it would afford those who wished to come to the country, and those who wished to leave it on business or otherwise the means of doing so quickly, and it would enable the Wright to battle out any opposition that might be brought against her to keep the monopoly where it is at present. We are convinced strong efforts would be made to retain the unbroken steam trade of the whole coast, the original object, by the way, of the monopoly which has ever sacrificed our interests to its convenience; but, if we properly sustain the Wright, we can laugh at all such opposition, for the stronger it is the more good it will do us. One thing is certain, the Halladay line will not be withdrawn from this route, especially as it now connects with Sitka, if we put on the Wright; and it is equally certain that we are intended to pay for such addition to its gain. It a pretty little game but a common one. If they did not think proper to call here with such freight and passengers as they got at each end, they would be compelled to come for coal; and at times it is by no means a bad idea to let such people feel we are independent of them. It cuts down the still-walking principle immensely. As the Home Government has promised to pay half our postal expenses, we can really see no great obstacle to some such plan as we suggest being successfully carried out immediately. We have only to add that the Wright might be permitted to call at Portland, either going down or coming up, which would accomplish another good. It appears to us the opportunity has at last offered by which we can free ourselves of one of our greatest evils; and we most earnestly but respectfully submit it to the consideration of the Executive and Select Committee, trusting it may receive the attention due to its importance.

It would have given us pleasure to continue such congratulations, but the wires from another of our distant possessions bring news as distressing as the other is glorious. His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, while in Sydney, was shot in the back by a Fenian named Farrell, in an attempt at assassination examination. Found a bruise on the forehead and diagonally across the nose and mouth, which he thought was received before reaching the water, and that the drowning occurred during insensibility; examined the stomach, found no water; the deceased's character was left above suspicion.

The life of the Prince we rejoice to say is so far considered safe. The question becomes every day stronger, what is to be done with this cancerous excrescence which has grown upon our body politic? In order to make a tree grow properly and its fruit fully flavored, the pruning knife is used without remorse or hesitation when disease demands it. We do not believe in reprisals on general principles; but when the life of man becomes valueless in the estimation of these fiends, and intellect, virtue, youth and innocence, are but additional reasons for assassination, every true man lies under the deepest obligation to avenge society. The history of Fenianism is the blackest history of murder, assassination, rebellion, incendiarism, and crime in every shape the world ever knew. The sooner, therefore, it is blotted from existence the greater number of valuable lives will be spared hereafter. What wrong had the Prince ever done the Fenians? What good would his death do their cause? These questions answered honestly show the relationship of Fenianism with the world. It must be put down by the strong arm of the law, or life ceases to be secure in any part of the British dominions.

Wednesday, April 29.  
FROM THE NORTH-WEST COAST.

**Loss of the Schooner "Growler" with Twelve Lives.**

Capt Forsaith, U S revenue officer, formerly stationed at Stekin, arrived on the steamer Fly yesterday morning via Nanaimo, to which place he came in the H B Co's steamer Otter. Capt Forsaith reports that while at Massett Harbor the natives reported the loss of a schooner (supposed to be the Growler from Victoria) with all on board, off Cape Murray about five weeks ago.

The Otter reached here last evening and brought confirmatory intelligence of the loss of the Growler. The Otter left Sitka on the 4th April. She arrived at Stekin on the 5th and landed Mr C Walden (who has been appointed Inspector of Customs there in the place of Capt Forsaith) and seven men, who will proceed up the river to mine as soon as the ice breaks up. The Otter left Stekin on the 9th and arrived at Massett Harbor, Queen Charlotte Island, on the 11th. The Indians reported a schooner wrecked off Cape Murray. The bodies of three men and one woman were seen in the water. They were much lacerated by the action of the waves. One of the men, they say, was very tall. The Indians got two small kegs of liquor from the wreck and obtained some money by diving. They brought over the quadrant (Norris, of London, maker,) for sale, and a gold breast-pin, the latter of which is in the possession of Capt Lewis, and was identified by friends of Capt Coffin as having belonged to that gentleman. The Indians also say the schooner had three boats. One boat the Kaigancies have possession of and the other two were lost. The schooner is supposed to be the Growler. On her way down the Otter called at North Island, Fort Simpson, Metlakatla, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Fort Rupert, Desolation Sound, Comox and Nanaimo.

The Growler sailed from Victoria on the 19th of March last with a cargo of general merchandise for Sitka, valued at \$35,000, owned mostly at Port Townsend. The following persons are known to have been on board of her when she left this port: Horace Coffin, Captain; George H Sprague, George Nicholls, Abram Jackson, Thos Kiley, A Stewart, C A Timson, John Shepherd, Samuel Thompson, Harris McAlmond, a half-breed woman, known as Estelle, and a young man (passenger) from San Francisco, understood to be connected with a mercantile house there. The Growler was the property of the new American Fur Company and was insured for \$2,000. She was about 50 tons burthen, N. M.

**Resumed Inquest on Martha Booth.**

Edgar Fawcett sworn—Was slightly acquainted with deceased. Saw her on the supposed day of death walking very rapidly up Fort street, between ten and eleven in the morning; stopped a few minutes at a house, and saw her last a little beyond Harris field walking at the same pace; had a green veil drawn over her face.

Martha Ann Booth sworn—Was the mother of the deceased. Had no words with her before leaving home; her mind seemed as usual, but might be a little strange; saw her from the yard as she walked down the road; wore a black silk-velvet turban hat with a green veil; could not swear to the hoops produced as belonging to her daughter, though she wore hoops like them. Mrs. Booth appeared in great distress.

Robert McMillan, constable, sworn—Went out to Cadboro Bay after the adjournment of the inquest with Mr. Ladner; found a great number of small pieces of paper scattered about for the space of a mile backwards and forwards, but too small to be read; deceased must have walked about a great deal; should say her mind was greatly troubled; found the hoops 200 yards from where the body was recovered.

Dr. Davis testified to the result of a post-mortem examination. Found a bruise on the forehead and diagonally across the nose and mouth, which he thought was received before reaching the water, and that the drowning occurred during insensibility; examined the stomach, found no water; the deceased's character was left above suspicion.

R. B. Powell sworn—Was in Moore & Co.'s drug store; knew the deceased by name; recollected her coming a few days before her death and asking for prussic acid; said she wanted it to make colors; refused to give it; in a short time she came back and asked for arsenic; asked her if she meant to poison herself; deceased replied, “no fear of that;” refused the arsenic; she looked white and agitated, but in sound mind; answered all my questions clearly.

After a short deliberation, the jury returned the verdict of Found Drowned.

The following scrap was found on the ground near the spot where the body was picked up:

Farwell, farwell, it is a solemn sound,  
And often brings a sigh;  
But give to me that good old word  
That comes from the heart—“good bye.”

Farwell, farwell, may do for the gay,  
When pleasure's throng is nigh;  
But give to me the (too blurred to be deciphered.)

**THEATRICAL ROYAL.**—This evening the beautiful sensation play of “Fanchon, the Chick-et,” will be repeated, by particular request, with the cast the same as before. Many of our readers who have already witnessed the splendid impersonation of Fanchon by Amy Stone, will not doubt, seize on the opportunity afforded of seeing it again; while to those who were not so fortunate as to be present on the previous occasion, we would say, go and be delighted. The play is one of the finest of its character ever written, and Mrs Stone's conception of the heroine is chaste, beautiful and charming.

**THE UP-COUNTRY.**—A private letter from Clinton, dated April 21st, says: The weather is delightful and the road in fine condition. Barnard puts his passengers through in fine style. The country is looking well, the crops of wheat and barley are nearly all in and some are up and looking finely. Almost every one feels hopeful of the future and is looking for good returns from the mines. The sow of wheat is exceedingly large this year.

The adjourned examination into the cause of the death of James Smith, will be held to day at 2 p. m., at Maidment's Half-way House, Esquimaux Road.

The Eliza Anderson, with passengers and Sound produce, arrived yesterday evening; we are under obligations to Mr F Finch for papers.

**REGATTA.**—A preliminary notice of the Queen's Birthday Regatta appears this morning.

MR R R BROWN will please accept our thanks for a file of Honolulu papers.

**Legislative Council.**  
Friday, April 24th, 1868.

Council met at 1 p. m. Present, Hons Hamley, Stamp, Pemberton, DeCosmos, Cox, Young, (presiding,) Creese, Spalding, Smith, Ball, Ker, Helmcken, Wood, Trutch, Walkem, O'Reilly, Robson and Elwyn.

Hon Helmcken gave notice that he would bring in an Ordinance to increase the duties on Foreign Fruit.

Hon DeCosmos said that as the question of Confederation was one of such great importance to this Colony the discussion might be deferred till evening. Deferred till evening accordingly.

**DRAWBACK ORDINANCE.**  
Hon DeCosmos explained the nature of the Bill.

Hon Hamley opposed the bill. The stock of spirits still on hand would not be consumed during the next two years. The difficulty of tracing original packages was the great obstacle to a system of drawbacks such as the bill proposed. The subject had been fully considered by the Executive Government and had been given up as impracticable.

Hon Helmcken thought the hon Collector of Customs was straining at a gnat. The difficulties in the way of such a system were not so great as represented.

Hon Robson opposed the bill. He never heard of such a system of drawbacks being applied to retail trade. He had had fifteen years' experience behind a counter and knew how impracticable it would be. Such a system might be very well in regard to the wholesale trade, as it alone had been applied in other countries. It would open the door to fraud and would prove more expensive to the Colony than advantageous.

Hon Ball thought the objections of the last speaker extremely fanciful. In consequence of our tariff foreign trade had considerably declined and he thought any system good that would help us to regain it. It was true some modification was necessary in the Bill, but that could be done in committee.

Hon Walkem was glad to hear the hon member, while holding his present position, speak on the subject as he did and enunciates such liberal views. If there was any modification necessary that could be arranged in committee. The amount proposed as the limit for drawbacks was small, but from small beginnings we should progress to great results. Everything must have a commencement. We should foster trade, which was the main thing. Instead of ladies buying small amounts, as suggested by the hon member for New Westminster, the system would induce merchants to come from the other side of the Sound and buy wholesale, by which means they could supply such small parcels of goods to the ladies as home as could be supplied here.

Hon Creese said that by a clause in the bill the Executive was supposed to do the work which ought to be done in that Council. He was not surprised to see such measures brought forward. The tariff was beginning to pinch Victorians and such bills were the consequence.

Hon Trutch was sorry he was obliged to oppose the bill, as he did not see any practical mode of getting over the difficulties attending such a system. He hoped ere long to see Victoria once more a free port.

Hon DeCosmos said such frivolous objections as those of the hon Attorney General were very likely to raise a storm against the Government. The system was nothing new; it had long been in use in Nova Scotia. He thought it would be a long time before a free port was re-established at Victoria.

On division the second reading was carried. To be committed to-morrow.

Fire Inquest Ordinance was read a second time. Committed for Monday.

Cherry Creek Silver Mining Company. The House went into Committee of the Whole on this petition, hon Cox in the chair.

Hon Walkem moved that the Council send an humble address to His Excellency the Governor, praying that the conditions asked by petitioners should be granted. All mining leases emanating from the hon Attorney General were marked by the same defect—the Royalties. The reason why similar conditions were not inserted in Cariboo leases was because they knew better up there than to accept such terms. We were just following in the footsteps of the Canadian, who having the richest side of Lake Superior, retained it unworked, while on the American side there were forty millions of dollars invested in mining.

Hon Trutch was prepared to go as far any one in a course of judicious liberality, but the terms demanded by that petition were contrary to the laws of the Colony, the laws it was his duty to support; hence the terms suggested by the Howe Sound Co. were impossible. If such changes in leases were permitted all leases under Government would apply for similar privileges. The company, by their agent, had prescribed their own conditions. The two per cent. Royalty could be no obstacle to the prosecution of the work, the amount would be so small to the company, but it might be a valuable source of revenue to the Colony. He objected to special legislation.

Hon Creese thought the hon mover of the petition had endeavored to lead the House to believe that it was owing to conditions of lease that the requisite capital could not be obtained in California. But the hon gentleman should have told the House that money was hard to get, and that the English gentleman who had examined the mine had come to the conclusion that the company had not yet discovered a perfect lode. He nevertheless believed that the mine was valuable. And he thought the result of granting the prayer of the company would be to lock up the mine. The company had never properly prospected their ground, and such money as they had invested was merely wasted. It would be better for the country if the mine had been thrown open altogether.

Hon Trutch said if they had ever complained of the lease or asked indulgence it would have been granted.

Hon Ball thought the Attorney General in his position had attempted to depreciate the mine, which was improper. If they had no scientific men amongst them they had spent their money in doing the best they could.

The resolution with amendments was then passed.

Committee rose and report received.

Hon Pemberton enquired as to disposition of the Crown Lands and the free grant system as referred to in His Excellency's speech of April 2nd, 1867.

The hon member put his enquiry in favor of address to the Governor. Resolution carried.

Hon Pemberton asked for returns of income and expenditure of the Assay Office since last returns made to the Council. Deferred till item of Assay Office was reached in Estimates.

Hudson Bay Titles Bill read a second time.

**THE FENCE BILL.**  
Hon Robson moved second reading. He thought the English Law was not adapted to this Colony.

Hon DeCosmos did not think the bill could be carried, as there was no provision for defining a legal fence.

Hon Wood opposed the bill. Second reading carried. Committed for Monday.

Patent Slip Bill deferred till to-morrow.

**BARRISTER'S BILL.**  
In Committee this bill was amended and ultimately passed. The third reading fixed for to-morrow.

On Orders of the Day stood the recommendation of Supreme Court Bill.

Hon Young came frankly forward to say that Government had no intention of forcing the bill on the House or of opposing any amendments that might be offered so long as they were not sufficient to destroy the bill. For his part he intended to vote for the bill with amendments.

Hon Helmcken would conclude from what the hon gentleman stated that it was not anything which had falling from himself or any other member of the House that such disposition of the Government had arisen, but merely from a desire not to run counter to the wishes of the people.

The Council then adjourned till 8 p. m. this evening.

**FRIDAY EVENING, April 24th.**  
The Council met at 8 p. m. Present—Hons Wood, Stamp, Pemberton, DeCosmos, Creese, Walkem, Helmcken, Spalding, O'Reilly, Ker, Robson, Smith, Ball, Trutch, Elwyn, Cox, Young (presiding).

**THE CONFEDERATION ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.**  
Hon DeCosmos—Although the present was one of the most important questions ever brought before this Legislature, it would be unnecessary for him to dwell upon the subject at that moment, as it must be fresh in the recollection of hon members, but when the question was brought before the Council last year, the question had been decided in the affirmative by an almost unanimous vote. The difference between the two periods was only verbal, the Dominion being now in existence, which had not then been created. This however, would now enable them to take final measures, which at that time were not possible. The people of Canada desired Union with this country,

and the Imperial Government was undoubtedly in favor of it. His Excellency the Governor had come to see its advantages, and the people of this Colony looked anxiously forward to Confederation. The hon gentleman then proceeded to explain the advantages of the conditions, as set forth in the address, that would accrue to this Colony on Confederation. He said England had belted herself around with Colonies, but Canada was the only instance of a colony colonizing. She would therefore be as a mother to us, assisting and protecting us. Her annual contribution of \$230,000 could not be balanced unless we had a population of at least 20 or 30 thousand, her fostering care would then be repaid her a hundred fold. The Government of Canada had no wish to remove the officers who held positions in this colony, under the present Government; on the contrary, the desire on the part of Canada would be to retain all in the country. The great object of Confederation was to consolidate all British America, and this was the most favorable moment for that consummation. If we allowed the present favorable moment to pass, the feeling with new issues; and when at some future time we desired to cast in our lot with them, we might not be able to obtain such favorable terms. All that the Canadian Government required us to do, was to make known our desires to Her Majesty's Government, in the manner proposed in this address, and backed up by the Canadian Government, we should be certain of success.

Hon Wood said he would propose an amendment to the resolution of the hon member for Victoria, as follows: “That this Council, while confirming their vote of last session, in favor of the general principle of the desirability of the Union of this Colony with the Dominion of Canada, to accomplish the consolidation of British interests and institutions in North America, are still without sufficient information and experience of the probable working of Confederation in the North American Provinces, to admit of their defining the terms on which such a Union would be advantageous to the local interests of British Columbia. In proposing this amendment; it would be necessary for him to advert to several topics. The desire for Confederation was not so universal as had been stated, and although superficially it appears to be received with favor, yet this was not the fact, to the extent supposed. A number of persons at Victoria had chosen to meet, and had assumed to represent the feelings of this colony, on the subject of Confederation. They had entered into communication with the Canadian Government, a most reprehensible proceeding in which they were wholly unauthorized. Their taking on themselves to pledge the colony to a certain course was affronting to this Council, and an insult to the intelligence of the people of this Colony. This Council was the proper body to communicate with the Government of the Dominion. They had paraded the resolutions drawn up and voted by themselves, as representing the voice of the whole colony. He had no desire to depart from his vote of 1867, in this Council, because Union was a doubtless advisable, that is, Union on fair and equal terms. They would have been foolish not to vote for such a Union on terms such as hon members had some sort of misty ideas, a sort of Confederation of which they should be proud to form a part. But it must be remembered that the vote was taken on 29th of March, two days before the termination of the session, and they then had not the slightest means of knowing upon what terms they were to be joined to the Confederation. The hon member had alluded to the nature of the Legislature of the Dominion. He tells us that we should be entitled to three members in the House of Commons, and two in the Senate. That is, we should have 181 in the Commons against 8, and 82 in the Senate against 2. With such overwhelming numbers against us, what chance had we of making our voices heard? Why, we should be entirely drowned, absolutely engulfed.

When we look at the terms on which we have to ask in our poverty stricken way to be transferred to Canada, he was at a loss to discover how it would benefit us, as we should be looked at as only forming a paltry fringe for the Dominion, and should be completely overborne. It would be most impolitic of us to transfer our allegiance to a Government of which we know so little, and from which we are not likely to receive the consideration that we do from that under which we live. When he voted for Confederation last year, he looked upon the subject as merely suggestive. There was nothing tangible at that time, and with other hon members, he did not conceive he was committing himself to any defined course. He had not the remotest idea of the paltry figure we were likely to cut as part of the Confederation or he would never have voted as he did. He could not see how we could be governed from Ottawa, from which we were separated by so great an extent of country. We should be entirely isolated. How could we communicate with our representatives? how convey our desires? He would much rather remain governed as we are. How could we confide in representation, who were paid by the Government to which they were delegated? He had no confidence in professional politicians, who usually occupied themselves more with their own private interests than with the interests of their constituents, and every professional politician has private interests. He was decidedly opposed to pay deputies, men who made politics a business or profession. Confederation at present would be a leap in the dark. It was a very good thing, perhaps, but it was at present on trial; and did not seem to be coming up to the perfection that its advocates would claim for it, as Nova Scotia experience had not convinced that people of its advantages. It was a mere experiment, and it would be better for us to wait till time demonstrated the benefits we should derive from it, than to rush in to a position of which we know nothing, and whence there was no retreat.

Hon Robson had listened with some surprise to the last speaker in his description of the unauthorized proceedings of the self-constituted Committee at Victoria, arrogating to itself the right of acting in the name of the whole of British Columbia. That action of the Committee was certainly open to objection, as furnishing a handle to the enemies of

the cause by which to do it at the same time he did not say constituted committee, speaking sentiments of the people. The admits that Confederation is yet endeavoring to destroy of the hon member from Vict not see how the hon member or his present action with his great session. His rapid transformation shear on the back track, was a proof of the hon gentleman's in relation to the danger arising inability to communicate with natives at Ottawa, the hon g evidently speaking from his There could be no confidence. representatives as he would be, as his sudden transitions of mind would require to be always at order to pull his coat tails. T in no danger of being led awa prehension of the fair and equ which we might enter the Cor they were clearly set forth in t of the hon member for Vict had stated were hard matters are not further from Ottawa th ing Street. Admitted to the we will be, and we may be ag Our destiny has been fixed by Government, which desires the British America shall be unde Confederation was as a of at home as by the Canadian a strange and unaccountable p colonial man. Was the man in a colony 20 or 30 years any man who had lived only 5 or 6 all colonial men, and the some of such prejudices the better. to be some feeling that in Con Canada we were separating fro ain and transferring our allegia There was no idea of separatio ance to Great Britain would and no weaker. Confederatio tend to strengthen our relatio sion proud of the name of Brito like to know if the hon sired to wait till we had a pre Canada; as, if such was his i ation would not take place i He would like to hear how ma learned gentleman would like t intended to wait till we had w a fair proportion he would h some time. We shall not hav to our population till some ch in the Government of the C proposed any practical solutio culities, other than by Confed might have been some reason tion. As it was the position inconsistent with his vote of fa (hon Robson) would support the hon member for Victoria.

Hon Helmcken conceived to say a few words on the subject, he had known the advocates of Confederation never had voted last session; would say distinctly that he much having done so, and the null and void. We could not the Confederation until the intory was taken into the Domimember for New Westminster would be taken in whether we Our destinies are in our ow Majesty's Government would us to confederate ourselves ag (DeCosmos—Nor Canada eit a large number of people in th did not say whether the Con good or bad, but he wanted time to see how the new work; whether it would wor There might be some hitch in and what that might be no It was useless talking about sion until the intervening terr over by the Canadians. Wha of talking about overlaid reso to wait a little longer to see tion is. He was perfectly ce few of the people of this colou the Confederation Act, as t two copies in the colony. beneficial to the Canadian the present time, There were questions to be settled, whic considerable anxiety to the D erment itself. There was difficulty and the acquisition States of the Russian Territ icularly the San Juan diffic could tell how it might affect Government, which was nev the present moment to undert ment. If it could be settled would be so much benefited. haps, be well to accept Confe cause we are poor; no reason sell our bright, and with talents. We don't know the Canada. We don't know would be. He was compelled these things, to show that it almost impolicy for this co itself to a position of which no The Canadians might hav which would be most misch colony. He thought it adv should wait a little longer. Government had recommended the question about the interv was settled. It depended wh adian Government was inclin in which case it would be lo acquired that territory, and would be imprudent to chang In case of any grievance would have to be lodged at Downing Street. As a port minion we should have no Imperial Government. He tain that the Canadian Govern much milk as would suffice fo so that she could waste a lit Canadian Government had qu with the little ones she had, likely she would bestow the this Colony, so that the inte would only get the skim. those proposed were only a e it was expected we should j showed ourselves excessive chances were that all these f dwindle down until they bec small. He said this althoug ted by an Imperial Act. Confederation Act might be altered conditions. He did