he U. S. Corvette Housa. by a Torpedo

nt of the Boston Herald the U.S. ship Canandaigua b. 18th, says :

found grief that I chronicle ited States corvette Housablockading squadron of internal torpedo machine. ce last evening, one of the on. At 834 o'clock a long edge of the water, was disthe ship. In an instant the d, the alarm sounded, and quarters, but before the ship dway, the torpedo explodoard quarter, making a most The propeller was broken torn to pieces, and the ship ss than eight minutes from do machine was first seen. six fathoms of water. As the most frightful scenes Men with nothing but their en struggling in the water. ing to get the boats loose. mounting the rigging. finally unlashed, and these ie those in the water The from the Canandaigus, carckering, who was badly inwe 1. As soon as Captain nacdaigua got the news he ignals of distress, and came and in three hours after Housatonic, all hands that salely transferred to that received every attention. ortion of our survivors were Wa bash.

essed-money, clothes, etc. hem, including some of the oard the Canandaigua in a ad accident of the disaster sign Hazleton, of Concord, ev, Captain's Clerk; John master, and John Welsh. on, were drowned. The ely on deck, but ventured which be had in his bag. Poor fellow he never reirker (colored) who was on y over where the ship was into the air and instantly kering was slightly injured John Goff, the Captain's ewhat injured. These were The officers and men of the greatest coolness durand thereby saved many onic has been the especial Three times have they

is a total loss. All hands

and now they have sucd that many others of the ckade will follow the fate It is well known that the eight more of these inferpounce upon the fleet. lousatonic are all that can er, and the gale which is I do much ta complete the noble ship. nas been very unfortunate.

om the Housatonic and ated Wechawker, in the st all his effects. He was to the Housatonie, and he second boat, and had he ild have been saved, but as over he jumped on board. n of him he was floating ats of the wreck, a corpse. ason, of Boston, escaped m with nothing but his 1. The Surgeon's steward. ho were in bed had barely eir night clothes. It is a tain Pickering was not he was directly over where place. He escaped, howvere cuts and bruises, and

water is about six feet the Housatonic. If the her guns and many valua e Paymaster's safe will cannot be raised, as her blown off, clean to the She was loaded down isions, which will be a f the survivors had quite v laid away to send home The loss to them is severe ment prevails here, and done to prevent the de ore of the fleet

FACE.—The N. Y. Tricurious story of a man for surgeons provided an ardisappearance of his own. thoroughly salivated by of cancerous formation e in his throat, which afthe upper jaw, lip, and rt of the nose. Dr. Buck, rgeons in the New York work to remedy the ere made in one cheek h drawn over, from which A piece of the frontal wn to make a new nose. is formed, and a glass eye hole face so changed that completely recovered, his to all his friends. It is which the identity of Mr. man's name—is to all a question of historical

lavy Gazette says we have illery, 9000 cavalry and that one half this force Danes would see the Auson the south side of the eriod far outlasting the compatriots. We could ien, and still have 28,000, hold troops and 152 regi-

, Mayor of Warsaw, revitations to a ball of reninety accepted, includdies, not one of whom ; and, consequently, the the want of better partdance with each other.

## THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1864. VOL. 5.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

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THE NON-PRODUCTIVE THEO

RISTS. The Civil List and the Union of the Colonies are questions that will acquire some celebrity in the future history of Vancouver Island. Many an original idea of political economy would have remained unadded to Hamilton or Mill-many a new "wrinkle" in diplomacy would have been lost to Palmerston or Gortschakoff-many a method of converting stone or water into gold would have remained a puzzle to the modern alchemist -had not these important questions come up in Vancouver Island in this year of Grace 1864. It is to them we are indebted for our Land Committee, and it is to this body we owe our scientific knowledge of the golden qualities of "rock and swamp." To the offi oials and their friends, however, must we give the credit of the discevery, after ages of maeless experiment, of the "philosopher's stone." Given an unlimited quantity of rock and swamp and these men, professed it the occult eciences, deep in alchemic loss, will speedily convert it into golden pickings which will bring them many thousand dollars a year. of the name of Midas, who possessed this old converting faculty to an tent; but his avarice preved too expensive

at last, and be prayed to have his extraordinary power taken away so, that he might become like other men. We do not expect that our "rock and swampers" will imitate the Phrygian King in this respect, however much they may resemble his subsequent character. Lut we are afraid that in future they will have to pay a little dearer for their whistle. Mr. Watson, on the Civil List resolutions states truly " that there are large tracts of unproductive land in the hands of capitalists rated at a value much under the market value, which, when in the hands of bona fide settlers, will rise in value and yield a corresponding increase of revenue." The unproductive lands of the colony have been year after year increasing in a marvellous ratio, through the industry of the mechanic, the farmer, and the tradesman, but the holders have hitherto escaped paying more than a merely nominal tax. The whole order of political economy seems in this respect reversed. Instead of encouraging the industrial elements of the country, we hold out every inducement to the non-producer. and compel a man to pay to the Government just in proportion to the amount of prosperity he contributes to the colony. The theory of our taxation seems to be, the less good one does, the less taxes he is called to pay. A man invests \$500 in land which he never intends to cultivate, and pays \$5 a year. Another invests the same amount in business and, whether he makes enough to sustain life, or gets into debt, is obliged to pay at the low est computation \$10 a year. The person who invests in the unproductive land finds that, owing to his more industrious neighbor, his property has risen the following year to perhaps double its former value; he, therefore, by paying one per cent. clears eighty-five; but as the land is idle, and no person paying him rent, he has the duplicity and impudence to tell his trading friend that as the taxes are eating up the proceeds from his land, he

Such is the position and such the arguments of the land jubbers of both Upper and Lower Houses. Not coment with retarding the growth of the country by acting the dog in the manger, in peither cultivating the land nor enabling others to cultivate itthey must needs indulge in these vermiculating vagaries—these twistings and turnings of

will be under the necessity of calling upon

him to contribute a larger proportion to the

Government, and thus enable him (the un-

fortunate land owner) to escape impending

abroad as despicable as animal greed without intellectual grasp can make them. The great misfortune is that the colony is likely to be ridden by these incubi until some stroke of fortune, like that which relieved Sinbad of his throttling load,

comes to our aid. The men in their private capacity are a heavy enough borthen on any struggling community, but their presence in a Legislative Council is an actual curse that must sooner or later bring disaster on the country. Nothing but a Cromwellian treatment will secure us against the evil day. The Lower House we have always shown has this non-productive element too largely commingled in its composition. Our remarks on

its non-representative character are fully borne out by the Treasurer, who declares that "we have districts nominally represented; but that everyone knews that the interests of the representatives of the districts, so far from being identical with those of their constituents are simply a hollow profession." Is it any wonder, therefore, with this nonrepresentative element ruling both Houses. that men should be found bringing forward theories of taxation repugnant to reason and to the interests of nineteen-twentieths of the whole population. We do not place a very high estimate on the mental calibre of these political economists, but we think, with all heir obfuscation, they are scarcely blind enough to the fact that to remove taxation rom real estate and put it on profits; or the result of general industry, would be simply to reduce rents in proportion. If an equivalent to the one per cent. real estate tax were forced upon the trudesmen, we are convinced that the real estate owner would be compelled to lower his rent much more even than this one per cent. The grasping selfishness of these men, therefore, does not point in this direction, as a general principle. But they have leased their available property for a number of years, and they have got large tracts of wild land; it would be there-fore a grand stroke of policy if they could only get rid of paying taxes on the former without any reduction in the rent, and comwithout any reduction in the rent, and compet the inhabitants to take all the cist of the
latter, while they, living in any part of the
world they chose, could nevel in the knowledge that they had a good-natured lot of
creatures working hard on Vancouver Island
to pay their taxes, and increase the value of
their property. A delightful dream truly,
but one we are affair, from which they will
be awakened some of these days, in a manbe awakened, some of these days, in a man-ner as rude as it will be necessitated.

The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday from New Westminster with a few passengers, amongst whom was Mr. James Loring of the Loring, Diller & Co., (Hard Curry) claim, who left Williams Creek on the 21st. ult. Mr. Loring reports favorably of prospects at the mines.

Miners were arriving fast and the Creek was beginning to assume a busy aspect. The Welsh Co. obtained excellent prospects out of their pay dirt, and the Cariboo Co. had also struck pay dirt prospecting \$5 to the

Goods were plentiful and prices moderate.

(Frem the Columbian.)

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY .- We understand the good people of Nanaimo propose spending the approaching anniversary of the birth of our beloved Queen with us, provided they can succeed in chartering a steamer for the occasion. In case they should carry their intention into effect we hope fitting preparations will be made here, not only to give our neighbors a hearty reception but to get up a programme worthy of such a gathering.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN BIBLE SOCIETY. 'he General Committee of this Society held special meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday evening for the transaction of Mr. Hall, the joint Colporteur for the Vanwas appointed Acting Joint Secretary, during the absence of Rev. J. Sheepshanks. A resolution was passed directing the Secretaries to correspond with His Excellency Governor Seymour, asking him to become Patron to the Society.

Exports.—The schooner Industry, from Victoria, took in a cargo of dressed flooring at Webster & Co's mill vesterday.

THE PIC-NIC .- We understand the arrange ments for the pic-nic excursion on Tuesday are progressing satisfactorily. A large number of tickets have already been sold.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS for week ending 23rd April, 1864: Duties, £1091 1 2; harbor dues, £20 2; head money, £41 12; tonnage dues, £106 11. Total, £1259 6 2; or £6107 5.6 Number of passengers entering at this port daily during same period, 208.

cleared from this port on Thursday with a cargo of lumber and shingles from Mr. Homer's mill.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF BRIT-ISH COLUMBIA.

From the Columbian. MONDAY April 25, 1864. Members present-Hons. Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, C. Brew, P. O'Reilly, H. M. Ball, J. A. R. Homer, H. Holbrook, J

Orr. W. S. Black and R. T. Smith.

grovelling avarice-and make our affairs ! Hon. J. A. R. Homer abandoned his reso-lution for taxing wild land in favor of one by

Hon. J. Orr upon the same subject. would o Hon. H. Holbrook, seconded by hon. J. A. patents. and to secure secrecy and fidelity in the trans

Moved by the hon. J. Orr, seconded by Hon. C. Brew, that the Government be requested to bring in a bill for defermining the rights of stock raisers and drovers to pasture their stock on uninclosed lands.

By the same, a bill to regulate the rouning at large of entire hors so Carned By the same, a tall to impose a tak upon unimproved lands either bought or presented By the same, a bill to regulate the killing

of game.—Carried.

By the came, a bill to allow spirity manu-factured within the Colony to be experted free of Excise duty, Carried.

By the same, a bill to regulate the

fine less of the rivers and coast of this solony Hon. R. T. Smith asked the Colonia Secretary whether or not any action had been taken with reference to the petition from the people of Hope praying that the additional tax of one half per cent. per pound at present collected on all goods leaving that place via Similkameen be taken off. The hon. Colonial Secretary replied that it was under the consideration of the Government, and would receive immediate

attention. Moved by hon, H. Holbrook, seconded by hon. Attorney-General, That a Select Committee of this House be formed to consider how an assisted emigration from Great Britain, either by paying part of passage money or giving grants of land, can be made

R. Homer, H. Holbrook, and J. Orr. The hon. Attorney General neked leave to introduce a Bill for the relief of certain military and naval settlers. Leave granted, and Bill read a first time.

The Postal Bill was introduced by the hon Attorney General, and read a first time. The House went into Committee of the H. Holbrook in the Chair. Several clauses were amended and passed, when the Comnittee rose, reported progress, and asked

The Joint Stock Companies Bill was read third time and passed. The Land Registry Amendment Bill was read a second time.

eave to sit again.

Hear H. Helbrook gave notice that he would on Thursday bring in a resolution asking His Excellency to appoint or recommend for appointment Nota

Hon. R. T. Smith gave notice that he would ask leave to lay before this House statement from a number of inhabitants of Yale in relation to certain grievances endured by them in consequence of parties being allowed to erect buildings on the ground situate between the town site and the river, and to ask that the Government grant no

more leases of said ground. THURSDAY'S SITTING.

Members present: Hons. Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Collector of Customs, C. Brew, P. O'Reilly, L. M. Ball, J. A. R. Homer, H. Holbrook, J. Grand, C. Black, and R. T. Smith.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved. A communication was read from his Ex-

cellency Governor Seymour informing the House that he approved of the recommendation to appoint honorary Justices of the Peace in certain localities, and the matter would receive his attention as soon as he should be in a position to inform himself more fully as to the requirements of the country in that respect.

Another communication from his Excellency was read informing the House that he had found upon his table a recommendation from the Council asking for a serious alteration in the Tariff, but that owing to his very recent arrival in the colony, and his conbusiness, chiefly connected with the labor of sequent limited knowledge of its requirements, he felt it his duty to decline to sanc conver Society and the one above named. I tion it during the present session, which had Amongst other matters the Rev. H. Reeve now so nearly expired, especially as he was aware that his predecessor would not have

sanctioned it. The committee appointed to arrange the matter respecting the transfer of Mr. Trutch's interest in certain works to the government reported that, inasmuch as Mr. Trutch refused to furnish any data as to the cost of the bridge, they were unable to arrive at any conclusion, and, therefore, referred the matter back to his Excellency.

The committee on the address reported. The address was adopted, and presented on

Friday at 1 o'clock. Moved by hon. H. Holbrook, seconded by hon. J. A. R. Homer, that his Excellency be respectfully requested to appoint, or recommend for appointment, notaries public for

this colony.-Carried. Hon. R. T. Smith presented a petition from inhabitants of Yale respecting the oca THE SCHOONER "ALPHA," of Nanaimo. cupation of ground on the river edge. After considerable discussion the matter was reterred to his Excellency.

The House again went into committee of the whole on the Inland Navigation Bill. point. After several amendments it was finally adonted.

The House went into committee of the whole upon the Legal Interest Bill, hon. H. Holbrook in the chair. The bill was read a third time and passed.

The House went into Committee, of the Whole on the Land Registry Amendment Bill, hon. P. O'Reilly in the chair. The Bill was adopted, read a third time and passed.

Hon. Attorney General gave notice that he would on Friday bring in a Bill to protect

Hon. J. Orr gave notice that he would on

would on Friday introduce a resolution recommending His Excellency the Governor to owner of that land up to the time you gave make an appropriation of £5,000 for the pur- / him the instalment paper; Ans .- Certainly. pose of subsidizing a line of ocean steamers to I would not have sold the land to anybody convey the mails between San Francisco and else during that period. the port of New Westminster, said steams ships to be not less than 1,000 tons register. Also a resolution recommending his Excellency the Governor to insert in the tariff bill recommended by this Council, a clause rerealing that portion of the Customs Act dated June 2nd, 1859, which allows customs duties he killing for the north coast of British Columbia to be collected at Vancouver Island.

Also, a resolution recommending his Ex-

cellency the Governor to advise the Imperial government to grant to this colony a Legisla-Also, that he would ask the hon. Colonial

Secretary for information relative to the appropriations for colonial buildings and roads in the district of New Westminster. Also, a resolution asking the Council to

take into consideration the reply of his Excellency relative to the tariff bill. Also, a resolution recommending his Excellency the Governor to increase the sum of £250 recommended by the Council to the person who will erect the first grist mill in the colony, to the sum of £500, and the auantity of wheat to be ground per day to be increased to 150 bushels.

ADDITIONAL

BY AN OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTOR

On Friday the Postal Bill passed its available for this colony. Carried. The following committee was maked by the mover: Hons. Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Collector of Customs, It Nind, J.A. reference to distance, is fixed at the uniform rate of sixpence sterling for each letter and newspaper throughout the colony.

A resolution passed unanimously authoriz ing the Governor to negotiate for a mail service between San Francisco and New Westminster, to be performed by steam vesvels of not less than 1000 tons burthen, the The House went into Committee of the colony paying a bonus therefor. The Whole upon the Inland Navigation Bill, hon amount of subsidy is not hinted or even stated in the resolution; but it is understood out-of-doers that \$25,000 is the maximum agreed on.

It is under consideration to admit ship building material, machinery for vessels, agricultural purposes or quarts mills into the colony duty free. The present session it is expected will

legal fraternity left on day for Cariboo.

COMMITTEE ON CROWN LANDS. Monday, May 2d, 1864.
Committee met at 11 a. m. Members resent—he Chairman, and Messrs. De-Cosmos, Tolgaie, Duncan, Dennes, Powell.

Foster. In the minutes of last meeting Mr. Pemberton wished to correct the date at which he first took up his land; it should be 1856 instead of 1854 The minutes also stated that the Chairman had presented a report at last meeting which was rejected, Messrs. Duncan and Dennes voting for its adoption, and Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell and Foster voting against it.

The Chairman asked Mr. DeCosmos it he roted against the report?

Mr. DeCosmos said certainly he did. Dr. Powell, on being asked by the Chairman, said he had voted for its postponement, ot for its rejection.

Mr. Duncan asked Mr. DeCosmos whether he would say distinctly that he voted against the report. Mr. DeCosmos said the Chairman had not formally put the question; be had put the

the "Ayes" but not the "Noes." Dr. Powell said no blame whatever was to be imputed to the Clerk in the matter. Dr. Tolmie said when he had left before the conclusion of last meeting, he never for a moment supposed so important a question would be brought up; he thought it was not parliamentary practice to bring up a vote

without notice. His protest was entered in the minntes. Maj. Foster said there was no negative ote taken on the question; he himself had not voted at all on the question.

The Chairman said the "Noes" had no been taken because the three gentlemen wished to postpone the matter. Mr. DeCosmos asked for the production of

for, and Messrs. Powell, DeCosmos and Foster against the report. Mr. Duncan indignantly objected to his

ime being taken up by discussing newspaper reports, and dashed out of the room in a rage, disregarding the entreaties of several of the and he would undertake to present it on members to remain. Mr. DeCosmos asked the Chairman

order the Clerk to produce the report laid before the committee at last meeting. The Chairman said that it would be difficult for the Clerk to produce what he had not got. The document was purely private. The Clerk was here despatched for 'May's mittee. Parliamentary Practice," to decide the knotty

Mr. DeCosmos would ask whether the report, when once submitted to the Committee. was public or private.

The minutes of last meeting were adopted. Dr. Powell wished to have it recorded that he had not voted positively on the Chairman's Report, but only asked for its postponement, and that it should be brought up at the next meeting.

The examination of Surveyor-General 11 a.m.

Pemberton was resumed :

In answer to a question put at last meeting, witness stated that Mr. Dallas' name was not in the pre-emption book. Witness said R. Homer, moved, That his Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to bring in a bill for the regulation of the Telegraph, Registrar for Cariboo East.

After Mr. Dallas had selected the land, he of eourse looked on him as the owner. Mr. Dallas pointed out the land he proposed to Dallas pointed out the land he proposed to Hon. J. A. R. Homer gave notice that he purchase in presence of Mr. McKenzie. Ques .- Did you look on Mr. Dallas as the

By Mr. DeCosmos-Did I not understand you on a former occasion to say that Mr. Dallas refused to take the land because a part of it had been sold? Ans .- Certainly. Ques .- What portion of land selected by Mr. Dallas was sold by you in the interim, and to whom? Ans .- It was a matter of a few acres, and was sold, to the best of my recol-lection, to Mr. Cameron; slide, were not more than five acres I believe; all that land

was unsurveyed at the time. By Major Foster-Do you believe that Mr. Dallas got the land he selected as near as could be by a general survey of a district which was not made until a later period?

Ans.—I do. By Mr. DeCosmos-Do you remember whether Mr. Dallas had prairie or timber land in view in making his selection? Ans. -Open land, to the best of my recollection. By the Chair - What about the two seetions bought by you in Lake district for a triend? Ans -A cousin of my own, unknown to me, bought land from the Hudson Bav company in London, intending to emigrate with his family, but changing his mind, I took the lands off his hands. His name was Henry Smith, and the lands now stand in

his name on the books. With regard to the Governor's reserve: By Mr. DeCosmos-Was there such a reserve as the Governor's reserve, and what was its size? Ans.—There was such a reserve, in size 1,000 acres in round numbers. Witness read a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the colonies, dated May 3, 1856, to the Governor of the Hudson Bay Company expressing his approval of the proposition of Governor Douglas to sell the land known as the Governor's reserve.

Witness resumed-The sections comprising the reserve were sections 68.1 D. 74. 75.

By the Chair-Who are the owners of these now? Ans .- I am the owner of sections 68 and 74. Ques .- When did you purchase these sections? Ans.-- ection 68 in April 19, 1859. Ques .- When did you occupy them ! Ans .- I think in 1856. Ques .-On what conditions? Ans .- There were no conditions. Ques .- How did you get possession of it? Ans.-I took possession from the Hudson Bay Company by their permission, and looked on it as my own property; I will

ascertain the date. By Mr. DeCosmos-When did you purchase section 74? Ans.-May 8, 1857. Ques.-Who owns 75? Ans.-B. W. Pearse; he bought it May 8, 1857. Ques. Who owns 76? Ans.—B. W. Pearse; he bought it May 25, 1858. Ques .- Who purchased section 1 D? Ans. Governor Douglas. Ques .- How many acres does it contain? Ans.-68 acres; it was bought Aug.

1856. By the Chair-Were you in possession of these sections prior to the reception of these

despatches? Ans.—Certainly not. By Mr. DeCosmos-Will you explain why there are 230 73 100ths acres of rock allowed in section 68, purchased on April 19, 1859, when allowance for rock ceased in June, 1858? Ans .- You will find that to be the case in every instance in which the land was bone fide held previous to date of instalment paper. Ques .- What is James Yates' property in Victoria District? Ans .- Section 11 containing 87 acres; and section 12, containing 117 acres, both bought in August. 1852; section 20 was bought in 1858; he was allowed 3 72-100ths acres of rock and swamp on section 20; his next purchase was section 21, bought May 26, 1851, the allowance in which is 5 acres.

By Dr. Powell-Was there ever a reservation made for Canadians in the ravine, Johnson street? Ans.-No; Johnson street was originally occupied by French Canadians, and the Governor desired me to let them have the ravine for garden purposes, but as they never fenced it nor took possession of it, the Governor directed it to be sold along with the town site.

By the Chair-Was there a reserve for a cemetery on Johnson street? Ans .- There was a gravevard there before I came : I surveved it: do not remember the precise number of acres in it; it was fenced, but badly; it was subsequently sold by me.

Mr. Pemberton was here dismissed. Mr. DeCosmos wished to make a statement about the report. He understood that Mr. Duncan and himself were appointed to the Chronicle newspaper, where it was stated draw up a report; Mr. Duncan was unable that Messrs. Duncan and Dennes had voted to attend on Friday and Saturday, and this morning he (Mr. DeC) had drawn up a report, and had he known Mr. Duncan would be unable to assist him, he would have had it ready. He would now ask the Chairman to allow him to draw up the report himself,

Wednesday or Thursday, completed. Dr. Powell said the object of the report was to embody all the evidence which had appeared before the Committee, and it did not matter whether it was drawn up by one member or more: any one man who would do it would deserve the thanks of the Com-

Dr. Tolmie cordially agreed with the proposition of Mr. DeCosmos. The Committee should be very much obliged to any member who would undertake the task.

Dr. Powell moved that in order to facilitate the completion of the business before the Committee, Mr. DeCosmos be empower 1 to draft a report, to be submitted to this Com-

mittee on Thursday at 11 o'clock, a.m.; seconded by Dr. Tolmie and passed. The Committee adjourned till Thursday at

