

The Weekly British Colonist
AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, August 7, 1866.

Papers Relative to the Proposed
Union of British Columbia and
Vancouver Island.

The Governor yesterday laid before the House copies of all papers relative to the Union of these Colonies that have passed between the Colonial Office and Governors Douglas, Kennedy and Seymour. To the despatches from the Duke of Newcastle to Governor Douglas, it is unnecessary to more than allude—they having been already published here. In the first despatch from Mr Cardwell to Governor Kennedy, regret is expressed at the refusal of the Assembly to accept the Civil List, and the Governors of the two Colonies are instructed to ascertain the feelings of the people as to Union. On March 21, 1865, Governor Kennedy sends a despatch to Mr Cardwell detailing the circumstances attending the passage by the House of the *unconditional* Union resolutions. He says that it having been claimed that the resolutions did not fairly represent public opinion, an election was held and Messrs McClure and DeCosmos, advocates of the measure, returned by large majorities. The position of the Legislative Council—in declining to consider the question—the protest of Hons. Rhodes and Finlayson against the non-committal policy of the Council, and the newspaper reports of the debates, are stated in this despatch. Next comes a despatch from Governor Kennedy enclosing a copy of the Chamber of Commerce petition praying for Union, for the preservation of the Free Port, and for the abrogation of the hostile Customs Act of British Columbia. On the same date (March 21) Governor Kennedy urges the necessity of uniting the Colonies on a free basis; the abrogation of the Free Port is recommended, and the proposal of Governor Douglas to have one Governor for the two Colonies, and allow each Colony "a separate Legislature, to make its own laws, raise and apply its own revenue, as at present, for its individual benefit," is thought to be "fraught with the elements of dissolution and discord." The next despatch that we come to is one from Governor Seymour, contradicting most of the statements contained in the petition of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, of a copy of which he had "become accidentally possessed." His Excellency disputes the safety of Victoria harbour, and says that in entering that harbour on a dark night in a vessel (the little elephant, Leviathan) drawing three feet six inches, he went aground. Governor Seymour does not, however, tell Mr Cardwell, that if he had attempted to cross from the Surrey to the Middlesex side of the Thames in the same manner that he tried to enter Victoria harbour, he would have struck on the opposite bank and gone aground there as well! The despatch then goes on to speak of the excellence of the entrance to Fraser River and cites the instance of H. M. S. Tribune having been enabled to reach New Westminster without accident; but the disaster to the Tribune as she was leaving the river is rather gingerly handled, and attributed to the "dull white colour of the pole that marks the channel." What the "dull white colour of the pole" had to do with the vessel going ashore in broad daylight it is hard to say. The cause of the depression at New Westminster is attributed to the unequal system of government that prevailed prior to his (Gov. S.'s) arrival in the Colony; the merchants of Victoria are taken to task for "engrossing the whole traffic of British Columbia." Not one word is said of the liberality of these very merchants to the merchants of the sister Colony or of their heavy losses in consequence, and the fact that they furnished the "sinews of war" with which to build the roads, open the mines, and even pay the Governor his enormous and unreasonable salary of \$20,000, is carefully excluded from Mr Cardwell. On March 29, 1865, Governor Seymour writes that the Vancouverians want to be

annexed and that the British Columbians are "strongly opposed to the proposed connexion." The people of Victoria are accused of trying to create a feeling of dissatisfaction among the mining population, and of 300 names attached to a petition for Union, "there are but three that would carry weight at Cariboo." On December 1st, 1865, Governor Kennedy encloses a petition for Union and the maintenance of the Free Port. In the course of his remarks, the Governor expresses his surprise that several influential persons who voted for DeCosmos and McClure on the Union and Tariff question have appended their names to this petition. The causes of the depression are attributed to "reckless credit, competition and overtrading;" in the event of Union, the Governor thinks that the Free Port should be abolished. A despatch from Governor Kennedy, dated December 16, 1865, enclosing the resolutions of the Assembly (which body had then repented of the *unconditional* clause) asking for Union "with the mode and amount of taxation" left for the people to decide, and asking for Responsible Government, is next produced. In a long dispatch from Governor Seymour to Mr Cardwell, written from Rue de la Paix, Paris, and dated February 17, 1866, the Victoria merchants are handled "without gloves" for their interference in the affairs of the sister Colony; the Cariboo *Sentinel* is denounced as the representative in Cariboo of Victoria (a libel by an opposition sheet which Governor Seymour should have had better taste than to reiterate;) in the face of the numerous and almost daily bankruptcies, Governor Seymour assures Mr Cardwell that "British Columbia is flourishing," and, as proof thereof, a list of the public works completed in 1865 (with Victoria capital, be it borne in mind) is sketched out. His Excellency then lays down a form of government, by which he proposes to give Vancouver Island four popular members, divided as follows: Victoria, 2; Nanaimo, 1; and Comox, 1. British Columbia is to furnish 8 popular members, and the remaining ten members are to be Government officers or appointees. The port of Victoria is denounced as "not in the direct line of commerce," and the assertion is made that no vessels except those specially bound there ever enter it. Nevertheless, His Excellency does admit that "Victoria is the largest city and the most agreeable place of residence," but he thinks that "in seeking Union with British Columbia, Vancouver Island relinquishes all claim to the possession within her limits of the seat of Government." (A melancholy fact.) A despatch from Mr Birch, enclosing a petition for Union from "445 persons," completes the list. It is evident from the meagre extracts that we have quoted, that Governor Kennedy has used his best endeavors to bring about Union, while Governor Seymour has left no stone unturned to belittle us in the eyes of the Colonial Office and give us a bill that he knew we would lay down our lives rather than accept. The plain truth is this: Governor Seymour is not, in favor of the Union of the Colonies, and has thoroughly indoctrinated Mr Cardwell with his views. The Derby Ministry may give us an officer less susceptible to such influences; but whether the Colonies be united or not, nothing will excuse the position assumed by the gubernatorial "delegate" of British Columbia to Downing Street. He has not simply opposed Union, but he has also opposed Annexation, and favored the adoption of a system that amounts to nothing less than Annihilation.

UNION OF THE COLONIES.

A BILL

FOR
The Union of the Colony of Vancouver
Island with the Colony of British
Columbia.

Prepared and brought in by Mr Edward Foster
and Mr Secretary Cardwell.

Ordered by the House of Commons to be
printed, 11th June, 1866.

Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as The British Columbia Act, 1866.
2. In this Act the term Governor means any Officer for the time being lawfully administering the Government.
3. The Governor of British Columbia after receiving an Address from the Legislative Council of British Columbia requesting that this Act should be proclaimed by him, and after having been officially informed that Addresses to the same effect have been adopted by the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island, shall proclaim the same accordingly.
4. From and immediately after the Proclamation of this Act by the Governor of British Columbia, the Colony of Vancouver Island shall be and the same is hereby united

with the Colony of British Columbia, and thenceforth these two Colonies shall form and be one Colony, with the name of British Columbia (which Union is in this Act referred to as the Union).

5. On the Union taking effect, the form of Government existing in Vancouver Island as a separate Colony shall cease, and the power and authority of the Executive Government and of the Legislature existing in British Columbia, shall extend to and over Vancouver Island; but in order that provision may be made for the representation of Vancouver Island in the Legislature of British Columbia after the Union, the maximum number of Councillors in the Legislative Council of British Columbia after the Union, shall, until it is otherwise provided by law, be twenty-three instead of fifteen.

6. After and notwithstanding the Union, the laws in force in the separate Colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, respectively, at the time of the Union taking effect, shall until it is otherwise provided by law, remain in force as if this Act had not been passed or proclaimed; save only that the laws relative to the Revenue of Customs in force in British Columbia at the time of the Union taking effect, shall, until it is otherwise provided by law, authority, extend and apply to Vancouver Island; and, until it is otherwise provided by law, authority, the Governor of British Columbia shall have, in relation to the territory for the time being under his Government, all the powers and authorities for the time being vested, in relation to the United Kingdom in the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury or in the Commissioners of Customs, with respect to the appointment of warehousing ports, and the approval and appointment of warehouses or places of security in such ports, and everything consequent thereon or relative thereto.

7. Nothing in this Act shall take away or restrict the authority of the Governor of British Columbia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of British Columbia either before or after the Union; nor shall anything in this Act interfere with the exercise of any power that would have been exercisable by Her Majesty in Council if this Act had not been passed.

8. Until the Union, British Columbia shall comprise all such Territories within the Dominion of Her Majesty as are bounded to the South by the Territories of the United States of America, to the West by the Pacific Ocean and the Frontier of the Russian Territories in North America, to the North by the Sixtieth Parallel of North Latitude, and to the East from the Boundary of the United States Northwards by the Rocky Mountains and the One hundred and twentieth Meridian of West Longitude, and shall include Queen Charlotte's Island and all other Islands adjacent to the said Territories, except Vancouver Island and the Islands adjacent thereto.

9. After the Union British Columbia shall comprise all the Territories and Islands aforesaid, inclusive of Vancouver Island and the Islands adjacent thereto.

The Acts described in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed; but this Repeal shall not invalidate any Order in Council or other Instrument issued under the Authority of those Acts or either of them, or any Act done or Right or Title acquired by virtue of those Acts or of either of them or of any such Order or Instrument.

SCHEDULE.—Acts repealed.—An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia; An Act to define the Boundaries of the Colony of British Columbia, and to continue an Act to provide for the Government of the said Colony.

Legislative Assembly.

FRIDAY, August 3rd.

Speaker took his seat at 1:15 p. m. Present—Messrs Trimble, Young, Ash, McClure, Powell, Dickson, Pidwell, Carswell.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

Mr Young gave notice of motion to come up on Monday next, that the resolutions in reply to the Governor's message of 6th July, be transmitted by the steamer to leave on that day.

The Speaker said the motion could not form part of the order of the day, until Tuesday, according to the rules of the House.

Dr Ash gave notice that he would move, "That in consideration of the divided state of opinion in this House, it is expedient that no further action be taken in the matter of the reply to the letter of His Excellency the Governor, dated July 6th."

On motion of Mr McClure, that the order of the day be discharged, and standing orders be suspended, in order to admit of a resolution being put—that the resolutions in reply, be transmitted forthwith to the Governor. House divided.

Ayes—Ash, Dickson, McClure, Young, Carswell.

Noes—Pidwell, Trimble, Powell.

The Speaker said that the majority required by the standing orders of the House, passed 1st August, was not present.

THE CORONERSHIP.

The following despatch was sent down by the Governor.

Vancouver Island GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA, 3d August, 1866.

To the honorable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly:

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to acquaint the Legislative Assembly, that I have received instructions from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to inform the House that he has duly laid before the Queen, the address from the House, praying that the order which purports to revoke the commission of Dr Dickson as Coroner, may be disallowed.

The Secretary of State does not apprehend that the appointment made by Governor Douglas, confers on Dr Dickson the irrevocable interest which he claims, and sees no reason to doubt that the proposed change in the mode of performing the duties, is for the public benefit. For these reasons it has not been in the power of the Secretary of State to recommend Her Majesty to accede to the prayer of the address of the Legislative Assembly.

I have, &c.

A. E. KENNEDY, Governor.

UNION
The following despatch was also received from the Executive.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, VICTORIA, 3d August, 1866.

To the honorable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly:

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to enclose for the information of the Legislative Assembly a copy of "papers relative to the proposed Union of British Columbia and Vancouver Island" which were presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, on the 31st May, 1866.

I have, &c.

A. E. KENNEDY, Governor.

[The papers embrace a series of despatches and replies from the Duke of Newcastle and Mr Cardwell, to the Governors of these Colonies.]

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Mr Pidwell introduced his bill constituting an Executive Council, consisting of four members from the Assembly and three from the Council, and moved that it be taken up in Committee on Tuesday next.

Cries of no! no!

Dr Trimble was surprised to find hon. members opposing so useful a measure as this merely because the resolutions had not been sent up. He considered such conduct outrageous.

Messrs Young, McClure and Dickson, spoke against going into Committee in view of the Union bill now before the Imperial Parliament.

Dr Powell favored the consideration of the bill in Committee.

Dr Ash would not oppose if there was any assurance that the bill would receive the Governor's assent; but he thought it would be only frittering away time to take up this bill; and there was, moreover, something hidden and dark lying behind it.

[Mr DeCosmos here came in.]

Mr Pidwell replied in favor of the bill, and the House divided on the motion to go into Committee.

Ayes—Trimble, DeCosmos, Powell, Pidwell, (4).

Noes—Ash, Young, Dickson, McClure, Carswell, (5).

The motion was lost.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

Mr McClure gave notice that he would move at the next meeting of the House that the resolutions in reply be sent up forthwith to the Governor, and that the Speaker be ordered to transmit a copy of the same by the first mail.

THE WANT OF CONFIDENCE.

Dr Trimble gave notice that he would move at the next meeting of the House, that the portion of the resolutions passed in reply to the Governor's Message implying a want of confidence, be rescinded.

HARBOR DUES AMENDMENT.

House went into Committee on the bill amending the Harbor Dues Act, and reported the bill with amendments.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

House in Committee on the bill called the "Debtors' Relief Act, 1866," passed by Legislative Council.

Clause I. Giving the Judge discretion to require security to be given by the plaintiff for costs and damages, before granting any writ of *capias*, *ad respondendum* or *ne exeat regno*, should same be obtained without reasonable cause. Passed.

Clause II. No writ or process against the person to issue without satisfactory proof that judgment debtor is about to leave the Colony. Passed.

Clause III. Persons arrested under process against the person shall be discharged on good security being given. Passed.

Clause IV. As to suing out a judgment debtor summons. Passed.

The Bill was then reported complete.

THE CORONERSHIP.

Mr McClure gave notice of motion asking for copies of His Excellency's communication to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reference to the address of the House in the matter of the Coronership, and Mr Cardwell's reply thereto.

House adjourned till Monday at 1 P. M.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Saturday, August 4th.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.—The public examination at the Lake District and South Saanich schools took place yesterday in presence of the Superintendent of Education. There were also present at the Lake District school the Rev. Mr Gribbell, minister of the district, Messrs Jessup, Nicholson and Russell teachers, besides parents of the pupils. The number of pupils at this school was 21, and the examination was considered most creditable. At the end of the examination the following prizes, the gift of Mr Gribbell, were distributed, viz: to Mary Cheeseman Albert Von Almon, Sophia Williams, Margaret A. Nicolson, Mary Von Almon, Cedra C. Cheeseman, Eliza Williams and Thos. Lyndsay. At the South Saanich school the number of children was only 11 and the progress less marked. The following children were mentioned as most deserving, David Thompson, Thomas Porter, Mary Raby, Henry Raby and Susannah Porter. The Very Rev. Dean Oridge who assisted in the examination and also the Rev. Mr Gribbell addressed the children, when they were dismissed to enjoy the holidays.

A CASE OF CONSCIENCE.—The gold watch and chain, valued at \$250 belonging to Capt Naunton of the bark Kent, was stolen from him, after the collision with the steamer Oregon, and the delinquent becoming no doubt, conscience stricken, has returned the stolen property to the British Consul at San Francisco, with the request that it be restored to its lawful owner.

MORE CAPITAL.—At the annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of British North America, held in London on the 5th of June, Mr Burnley Hume, chairman in the absence of Sir Minto Farquhar, made the following remarks in reference to the result of Mr Paton, the general manager's visit to this coast: "He had informed them at a former meeting that the directors intended to send out Mr Paton, the general manager, to inspect the branches on the Pacific coast. Mr Paton had performed the duty with an intelligence and zeal that entitled him to the highest credit. He had made a most able report upon the whole of the business transacted at those establishments, and that report made after the most minute examination, fully justified the diversion of a portion of the capital of the bank in the East, where they were crippled by a false legislation, to the West, where their capital had free scope."

NAVAL.—From the Panama *Star* of the 26th of June, we learn that the U. S. Steamer Suwanee, Capt. Paul Shirley, was to sail on that day for Vancouver Island, touching at San Francisco and the different ports on the Central American and Mexican Coasts. Capt. Richard A. Powell, C. B., at present commanding the cadet training ship Britannia at Dartmouth, has accepted the command, offered to him by the Admiralty, of the screw unarmoured frigate Topaze, 31 guns, 2,659 tons, 600 horse power, as second officer in command of her Majesty's ship on the Pacific station, vice Capt. Michael de Courcy, returning to England. The armour plated ship Favorite, originally intended for this coast has been sent to the North Atlantic station.

THE NORTH-WEST GOLD FIELDS.—Already parties are arriving and equipping themselves for the Saskatchewan mines, and several parties are making ready to start for Rainy River gold fields, on our side of the line with canoes. Definite information is said to have been received, and these enterprising persons go out to locate the richer claims. The Vermilion Lake people pushing north may possibly forestall them, but the country is large enough, and doubtless the deposits rich enough to satisfy all. What are our Canadian friends doing that they do not look after this rich portion of their territories?—*Nor Wester*.

DANGEROUS BRIDGE.—The bridge over the ravine leading to Ross Bay, is in a state dangerous to the life and limb of pedestrians and horsemen. Several of the planks are gone and the whole structure will soon topple over if some steps be not taken to secure it. We hope that the required repairs will be made immediately—as are now being done on the James Bay bridge.

PHOTOGRAPHY.—Mr F Dally, Artist of Fort street, has favored us with a photograph giving a general view of the Volunteer camp at Clover point, just before the encampment was broken up. The band master and his musicians figure conspicuously in the foreground.

QUICKSILVER in a pure state has been found at Leech River. After one day's sluicing a company found one pound and a half in their boxes. The dirt in which the quicksilver was found was taken from the hillside and was obtained by breaking up the bed rock.

AT HALF MAST.—Official announcement of the death of Hon. Lewis Cass, formerly U. S. Secretary of State, having been received at the office of the American Consul, the flag was set at half mast yesterday.

ENGLISH SHIPPING.—The H. B. Co.'s ship Prince of Wales, sailed from London for this port on the 30th of May. She is the only vessel now on the way from England, and there were none loading at last accounts.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Thirty-three members of the new House of Assembly are in favor of Confederation; only eight members being against it. This is what is called a clean sweep.

REMANDED.—The three Indians arrested on a charge of murdering Robert Urin, were again remanded yesterday, to await the production of witnesses for the prosecution.

GOLD BEARING QUARTZ.—A ledge of gold-bearing quartz is reported to have been lately discovered at Maple Bay, Cowichan, near Mr Bowman's hotel.

TELEGRAPHIC.—The State Telegraph flag ship Ringed Wacer, Com. Haines, arrived from Seattle, W. T., yesterday, on business connected with the Company.

THE "CYCLONE".—A letter received by J. Robertson Stewart, Esq., of this city, announces the safe arrival at Adelaide, Australia, of the ship Cyclone.

THE "CALIFORNIA" departed for New Westminster at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. She had a fair freight and several passengers.

THE schooner Indian Maid was sold at Nanaimo, by order of the Vice Admiralty Court, for \$1550.

FOR SIRA.—The Prince Menschikoff will sail to-day with a full cargo.