

THE VICTORIA PRICES CURRENT AND SHIPPING LIST.

Vol. 3.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEBY 22, 1865.

No. 124

Our merchants have been much surprised at the action taken by the British Columbian Legislature in raising the duties on all goods, without distinction of place whence imported. That this will seriously affect our relations with the sister Colony, there can be no possible doubt, and it is equally clear that this step was taken with a view to direct importation to New Westminster; the suicidal character of such measures is too patent to require any notice from us, but the peculiar feeling exhibited by the New Westminster people in their attempt to trammel the commerce of this Island is unwise in the extreme. In addition to this it must be remembered that New Westminster has been created wholly by the energy, industry, and fostering care of the people of Victoria.

In treating of a matter of such vital importance to commerce as the laying of onerous duties, we may be forgiven if we are led a little beyond the ordinary limits, that such subjects are allowed in a publication like the present; we cannot however deny ourselves the opportunity of impressing on our readers the impolicy and injustice of such a measure.

The duties heretofore levied in British Columbia were happily calculated to meet all the necessary expenditure of Government, when such expenditure was shared by the people of this Island, and at the same time offered no temptation to illicit traffic; they were at all times cheerfully paid by our merchants and were easily and cheaply collected; they presented no real restriction to trade, and thus met all requirements. Now all this is to be changed to suit the caprice of certain would be legislators. In the first place no amount of protection can induce ship-owners to send their vessels to New Westminster, as any difference in their favor, created by specific duties will be more than counterbalanced by the greater risk to navigation and consequent high rates of premium in marine policies. Secondly, the small number of merchants residing at New Westminster, would offer no sufficient inducement to shippers abroad to send goods direct to that place. Thirdly, supposing goods were imported into New Westminster they would have to be held by importers, as no foreign merchant could afford to lock up his capital, for the length of time required to realise in a place where the demand would be so limited. Numberless other reasons might be adduced to show the utility of any legislation with the object of making New Westminster a commercial entrepot.

On the other hand, we have excellent harbours on this Island, easily reached and open at all seasons of the year; their great convenience is so well known, that on the completion of the proposed new Graving Dock at Esquimalt, captains of vessels trading in the Pacific will always give this port the preference for repairs; we have plenty of the finest timber in the world at easy distances from the coast, with inexhaustible supplies of coal and iron (to say nothing of other valuable minerals), all of which will be duly turned to account in a short time. With such resources, the unfailing attraction for population and wealth, can there be any doubt of the future of Victoria? One other subject we may touch upon here; we would refer to the relative population of Victoria and New Westminster and the amount of assessable property respectively; the difference is so marked as almost to lead to the belief that the New Westminster M. P.'s have been indulging in a joke.

Any facetiousness however, would be in very bad taste where the welfare of these important Colonies is likely to be seriously affected, and we have no doubt that when the subject is laid before the home Government such light will be thrown upon the question as to make our neighbours feel heartily ashamed of themselves, and so bring about such an understanding between the two Colonies as must unite them with the bonds of interest and friendship; their relative advantages make them necessary to each other, and the progress of one is the success of the other, and thus the idea of antagonism is absolutely ridiculous.

There are no arrivals from England or San Francisco since our last.

As we have not space to give the Tariff referred to above, we shall publish it in our next issue.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND.

At the last meeting of the Chamber, held in Smith's Building, Government Street, the following gentlemen were elected

OFFICERS FOR 1865-66.

JULES DAVID, Esq.,.....PRESIDENT.
JAMES LOWE, Esq.,.....VICE PRESIDENT.
A. F. MAIN, Esq.,... SECRETARY & TREASURER.

COMMITTEE OF ARBITRATION.

W. PICKETT, Esq.,
R. BURNABY, Esq.,
H. NATHAN, JR. Esq.,
J. WILKIE, Esq.,
F. WIESENBURGER, Esq.,
HENRY RHODES, Esq.,

LOADING AND ON THE WAY.

From London—Ann Adamson, loading.
From Liverpool—Cyclone, loading.
Ta Lee, do

ALBERNI SHIPPING NEWS.

Corrected for the Prices Current by Anderson & Co.

SAILED.

Egeria, for Shanghai.

LOADING.

John Stephenson, for Adelaide.

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London—60 days, \$5 00, £1 sterling.
do 30 days, \$5 10, do
do Sight, \$5 15, do
San Francisco—1 per cent. premium.
Canada—4 per cent. premium.
New Brunswick and Nova Scotia—2½ per cent. premium.

HIBBEN & CARSWELL,

IMPORTING

BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS,

Constantly supplied and receiving from best sources
School, Standard, and Miscellaneous Books,
and Staple and Fancy Stationery in
all its Branches.

Corner Yates and Langley streets, Victoria, V. I.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN

MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

CAPITAL, ONE MILLION.

DIRECTORS IN LIVERPOOL AND LONDON:

THOMAS CRUTON, Chairman.
A. BOYD & H. T. WILSON, Deputy Chairmen.
Francis C. Braun, Francis A. Clint; Charles B. Colchester, William James Fernie; Arthur B. Forwood; P. G. Heyworth; Thomas Harrison, Thomas Kendall, Edward Lawrence; George Lyall, Andrew Macdonald; Robert Maxwell; George M. Papayannu; John Park; Charles K. Prieleau; John Ravenscroft; James Seawright; Samuel Stitt; Thomas Steinhouse; T. Wilkinson Tetley.
LIVERPOOL—Manager & Underwriter—ROBERT N. DALE
Secretary—J. H. LUKIS,

OFFICES—Manchester Buildings,

LONDON OFFICES—25 Cornhill.

The undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company, and are now in a position to accept Marine Risks

JANION, GREEN, & RHODES,

sol7

Victoria, V. I.

J. J. COCHRANE, C. E.,

Land Agent, Surveyor, and Auctioneer
of Real Estate only.

Government street, near the Post Office,
Victoria, Vancouver Island. del