

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, January 3, 1865.

OUR REPRESENTATIVE MEN.

After Dr. Helmcken and Mr. DeCosmos we come to men of less marked characteristics. Dr. Tolmie has probably more of the individuality of character than any of the remaining thirteen. Brought up in the same cautious school as Dr. Helmcken, we cannot look for much of the active reformer in him. Like the Speaker in many things, he is a kind of compromise between the old and the new—the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries. Hence we have him, like Dr. Helmcken, enunciating at one time political sentiments in keeping with the Tories of the period of George III, and at another subscribing to some of the most advanced ideas of the Liberals of 1864. Dr. Tolmie, although occasionally indulging in classical allusions and a figurative language of his own, has probably less of the romance in his composition than any other member of the House. He is a cool, calculating Scotchman, rarely or never excited unless the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company are at stake. If he votes for a measure, however demanded by justice, he votes for it because he believes it will pay. Of course we do not deny his possession of a sense of abstract right, but we think he is in all things utilitarian. In an assemblage of, to a great extent, novitiates in legislation, it is just as well that some one should bear the materialistic mantle, but we should prefer it supported by a member better acquainted practically with the progress of more populous countries, and less associated in ideas with the peculiar policy of the Hudson's Bay Company. Dr. Tolmie is, however, as may be expected, a man of what is usually termed "strong, common sense," and is, all things considered, a valuable member of the House.

Of the commercial men we cannot say very much. Unlike the same class in the House of Commons our mercantile members have no characteristic of liberality, nor are they at all productive in a legislative capacity. They throw none of that energy which is called out in their business pursuits into their vocations in the House. We have, in fact, yet to see a single one of them associate his name with any important political measure. We are more astonished at this from the fact that they are brought into more immediate contact with the public than any other class, and are by no means wanting in ordinary ability. Mr. Franklin is a mercantile man and is supposed to represent, with his colleagues, the commercial interests of Victoria, but has any person yet seen a measure that has emanated from this gentleman that could be the most ingenious twisting be regarded as an aid to our commercial importance? Mr. Franklin has been in the House for nearly five years—he has represented Victoria almost from its first emergence from a Hudson's Bay Company's trading post to its present respectable city-like appearance, but has any one seen the Franklinian stamp on any rational measure of the Assembly? We believe not. We have listened to speeches interminable enough and pray enough from Mr. Franklin, but we have yet to witness in him the first knowledge of political economy, and the first indications of one who thinks for himself, acts for his constituents, and acts fearlessly and decisively. Mr. Franklin has been so much like the man with the donkey—he has been trying to please everybody and has ended in pleasing nobody. He has been smiling at every one of his constituents for five years, smiling like a martyr of old, at the members of the House when he is receiving the most agonising thrusts—smiling in sunshine and smiling in rain—wearing in fact that peculiar expression which Shakespeare, "patience on a monument" might be supposed to do when "smiling at grief." All this is very nice for a "small tea party" might even be attractive in the intellectual and aristocratic retreat of a Vancouver Island club, but it is not the coin in which constituents are required to be paid. Mr. Franklin has some knowledge of finance but he cannot put it to a very practical use under our present system of Government. He has no practical knowledge of colonial institutions, but he takes every opportunity of endeavoring to show that he is surcharged with the commodity. He is a man who sensibly shuns extremes; but in his eagerness for compromise if there were two propositions before the House to-morrow—one to transmit the members to Heaven and the other to the nether world—he would vote for the latter course and remain half-way. He is never, unless by accident, "decidedly right." He is in fact a constitutional antipathy to anti-progressive ideas of politics. When we say that Mr. Franklin is the mildest and most inoffensive of the members and that he is, like the Governor in Little Dorrit, ex-tractingly scrupulous about the "proprieties," we have given perhaps his greatest claim to public attention as a legislator.

BOUCCIAULT'S NEW PLAY OF "OMOO."—GENERAL FEATURES OF THE STAGE.—Mr. Boucciault has placed on the Liverpool stage a play based upon Mr. Melville's novel "Omoo." A Liverpool paper says the introduction of the aurora borealis gave a strangely polar vividness to the scene. But the breaking up of the ice is the great "sensation scene" of "Omoo." The hammocks of ice are upheaved and broken amidst a startling crash, and piece by piece disappears, to the horror of the people who are on the treacherous island. The husband and wife are drowned but their child, Omoo, is drifted away on the ocean, while the negro servant is left struggling in the water, to be rescued, however, along with his charge, by a passing vessel. The piece, it is said, adds largely to the reputation of the dramatist.

QUICK TRAVELLING.—A passenger bent on doing things rapidly may now leave London on any night at 8 o'clock, and the second night after precisely at the same hour be in Madrid.

British Columbia.

LATER FROM CARIBOO.

The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday from New Westminster with about fifty passengers and about \$50,000 in treasure in private hands.

From Mr. Alexander McGregor and others who left the Creek on the 6th and 7th instant, we have the following information.

Williams Creek. The weather, which had been remarkably fine, became very cold on the 5th. Snow lay about two feet deep on the creek, thermometer in exposed places down to 28 deg. below zero. Those claims which had been at work, viz., the Adams, Cameron, Grizzly, Moffatt, Caledonia, were all stopped or about to stop for want of water. Provisions remained without change and things generally on the creek were quiet.

Lightning Creek. On this creek the Ayrshire Lash Co. were about to commence work with their new machinery. They will probably work all winter. The other companies had stopped.

On Lower Creek. There were four companies trying to do a little.

Miscellaneous. Smith & Co. had started sleighing from the Mouth of Quesnel. Below that the snow was not deep enough for sleighing. Coming down our informant states that the weather was extremely severe and travellers suffered very much from frozen feet and fingers. About half-a-dozen portages of from a quarter to nearly two miles in length had to be made over the ice.

A report was circulated at the mines that the Chilcooten Indians intended paying a hostile visit to Cariboo and some were much concerned about the threatened invasion. Their alarms were however, soon quieted.

The Express was met on the 8th near Edward's place, the sleigh having broken down. Two miners named Haigh and Shepherd were met at the 100 mile post. They had started on horseback for Kootenay, and had got about 100 miles on the other side of Kamloops when they found the snow so deep and the cold so severe that they returned again.

Keithley's Creek. About forty white men and three hundred Chinamen have been at work on this creek during the past season. The former have been sinking for the old lead in the former channel of the creek, which is believed to extend for 8 or 10 miles up from the mouth, as it has been struck in two places, four miles apart. The lead lies in some places 200 feet below an immense bank of gravel lying along the creek, and is reached by tunnelling from the bed of the present stream. The past season on Keithley's has been remarkably mild and pleasant, with only occasional showers of rain. The creek has been completely free from the freshets which in former years proved so destructive. The yield of gold from Keithley's next year is expected to be large.

Forks of Quesnelle. A large number of Chinamen have been at work on the North Fork and have carried on their operations on a most extensive scale, having completely turned the whole stream into a new channel formed by digging a canal through a bar 300 yards long and about 40 feet wide. They were only prevented from realizing the fruits of their labors by the setting in of winter, the stream being completely blocked up by "anchor ice" freezing up from the bottom—a peculiarity of the Cariboo country. The bar which these industrious laborers have exposed is thought to be very rich in the precious metal.

The Horseshoe Trail. Capt. Mitchell has completed his trail from the 108th mile post, and was met by our informants going up to the South Fork Lake with the material for a horse-boath to ferry passengers across the lake. He has obtained the sole right to use the ferry for two years, from the Government, and as the trail shortens the distance to Williams Creek via the Forks by two days, and the Quesnelle mouth route by three to four days, Capt. M. expects to attract the bulk of the travel to the new trail next spring. Roper & Co. are erecting a fine new house at their post at the 108 mile-post, and will have it finished by March next. Our informants state that it will be one of the best situations in the whole upper country, should the Horseshoe trail succeed.

The Fraser. was full of hummocks and small ice-fields down to Harrisonmouth, rendering travelling most difficult and dangerous. The canoe in which our informants came down, containing nine white men and five Indians, had to be dragged over the hummocks by hand, the travellers frequently breaking into the water: on one occasion the whole number went through and only saved themselves by clinging to the sides of the canoe. On reaching open water, they got along finely, reaching New Westminster in ten and a half hours from the Harrison.

The Weather. at Keithley's was very mild, at the time of our informants leaving, there being only a few inches of snow and the thermometer having only once sunk so low as 10 deg. below zero. At Williams Lake however on the same day it was 29 deg. below zero, and at Lake LaHoche, when the travellers passed, it had reached 37 deg. below, and they heard that in some places the mercury had been frozen.

VOLUNTEER STORAGE OF GUNPOWDER.—Recent London journals announce that Mr. Ingham, the Hammersmith magistrate, had granted a summons against Lord Ransleigh for storing more than 50 lbs. of gunpowder at the headquarters of the South Middlesex Rifle Corps at Fulham, contrary to the provisions of the 23d and 24th Victoria.

PROVOCATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

His Excellency's Speech. HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—I must express to you my best thanks for the prompt manner in which you have passed the Supplementary Appropriation Ordinances, to which I assent in the Queen's name, and have concluded the financial business of the year.

I have received your Resolution, requesting me to convey to Her Majesty's Secretary of State the opinion of the Council, that one half of the expenses incurred in connection with the Chilcooten expedition should be defrayed from the Imperial Treasury. I have to a certain extent anticipated your wishes in this respect, but your Resolution, which shall only forward, cannot fail to give additional weight to my representations.

I shall, likewise, be able to address your Resolution respecting the very imperfect arrangements now existing for the defence of the Colony; in support of some statements on the subject already made by me.

I see a reason for depriving you of the holiday which we should wish all to enjoy at this time of the year, and I therefore now propose your Honorable Council to the 13th of January, 1865; and the same is hereby prorogued accordingly.

No. 18. An Ordinance granting a Supplemental Supply of Sixty thousand and seventy-six pounds, eight shillings and eight pence, out of the General Revenue of the Colony of British Columbia, and its Dependencies, to the service of the year One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

Most Gracious Sovereign:—Whereas certain further Supplies are required for the use of Your Majesty, and whereas the Legislative Council of British Columbia, do cheerfully grant the same, we do therefore most humbly beseech Your Majesty that it may be enacted, and as it is enacted by the Governor of British Columbia, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:—

Grants Supplementary Supply of £60,076 8 8.

That the sum of Sixty thousand and seventy-six pounds, eight shillings and eight pence, be granted to the use of Her Majesty, for the purposes mentioned in the Schedule hereto; and that the same be paid out of the General Revenue of the Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies, for the service of the year 1864, and the Governor of the said Colony is hereby authorized to empower the Treasurer thereof to give and apply the same accordingly.

Passed the Legislative Council this 21st day of December, 1864.

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CHARLES GOOD, Clerk. Assented to in Her Majesty's name, this twenty-first day of December, 1864.

FREDERICK SEYMOUR, Governor.

SCHEDULE.

Governor's half salary, 17th February to 12th April..... £231 0 8 Increase of salary to two Clerks in Colonial Secretary's office..... 75 0 0 Stationery, Treasury Department... 20 0 0

Assisting Auditor General's salary... 283 17 9 Clerk in Lands and Works Department..... 200 0 0 Salary to officer temporarily in charge of Lands and Works Department..... 49 13 8

Increase of salary to Chief Clerk Customs Department..... 60 0 0 Increase of salary to Landing Waiter..... 60 0 0 Increase of salary to Postmaster General's office..... 36 7 9

Increase of salary to Deputy Postmaster, transferred to Williams Creek..... 80 0 0 Increase to Porter's salary..... 15 7 8 Increase to Messenger's salary..... 33 8 1

Contingencies, Post Office..... 100 0 0 Increase of salary to Warden of the Gaol..... 31 0 11 Contingencies, Legislative Council..... 100 0 0

Salary to Superintendent of Gold Escort, two months to New Westminster..... 148 0 0 Clerk to Registrar at Cariboo..... 140 0 0 Temporary Clerk, Mining Board..... 62 0 0

Salary to Assistant Gold Commissioner, Quesnel..... 600 0 0 Clerk to do..... 250 0 0 1 Chief Constable..... 300 0 0

In aid of Cariboo Hospital..... 600 0 0 Further assistance to do..... 100 0 0 Additional assistance to Hospital, New Westminster..... 100 0 0

Relief to destitute poor..... 65 0 0 Rent of Government House and offices..... 124 0 0 Sir James Douglas' travelling expenses..... 129 8 7

Removing Colonial Secretary's office from Victoria to New Westminster..... 75 0 0 Keep of Government Horses..... 175 0 0

Douglas street road..... \$420 0 0 Repairs to District Roads..... 100 0 0

Seymour Creek Trail..... 45 12 0 New Westminster Streets Clearing..... 307 5 4 Folly of Insurance on Government House and Furniture..... 46 11 11

Grant to Hyack Fire Co..... 100 0 0 Do. Sapperton Fire Co..... 100 0 0 Redemption of Land Scrip..... 161 9 4

Refund of purchase money to Captain Houghton on certain lands..... 166 5 0 Refund of Duties, &c..... 50 0 0

£49,076 8 8

LATER FROM KOOTENAY.

Commissioner Haynes arrived in New Westminster on Wednesday, bringing \$6,652 in treasure for the Government. We are indebted to his courtesy for the following intelligence from Kootenay. Mr. Haynes left Wild Horse Creek on the 1st November, after having laid the claims over from the 1st November to the 1st May, 1865.

At the time he left, between 300 and 400 men were residing on the Creek. Most of them were waiting for the completion of Dore & Co's ditch, which it was expected would have been finished before the close of the season, but owing to the frost it had to be laid over before that time. The shafts sunk had not turned out as well as expected. Several companies were engaged in tunnelling, but with the exception of the Gold Hill Company, which was taking out about one ounce per diem, none of them had proved remunerative when Mr. Haynes left. The nights were very cold, and sluicing, etc. was stopped by the frost, a good deal of prospecting had been done, but owing to the men not taking sufficient provisions with them, they had been unable to test the surrounding country fairly, although coarse gold was found in many of the streams in the neighborhood. Several companies were doing very well. Fisher & Co. took out a nugget worth \$100 at \$18 per ounce, a few days before Mr. Haynes left. Ackley & Smith, close to his house, were making \$100 a day with the rocker. Many others were doing well and all were hopeful. New stores were springing up, and Hostetter's brewery was in work. There was an abundance of provisions on the Creek, and Mr. Haynes met several teams going in as he was coming down. Flour was selling on the creek at 40c, and other things at the same prices as quoted in the Colonial Secretary's report. Mr. Haynes crossed the Boundary Line about eighty miles from the mines, and fearing to attempt the Fort Shepherd trail on account of the bad condition of his horses, crossed the Pica orillas at Semn-ac-ee-teen, and proceeded by the Spokane prairie until he struck the Walla Walla road leading to Colville. Mr. Haynes met several men at Colville who reported good diggings at Little Salmon river, about thirty miles north of Fort Shepherd. They said they could make from \$18 to \$20 a day with rockers on this flat. They recorded a ditch right with Mr. Haynes. From Colville he came on to Osoyoos lake, and from there to Princeton, across the Cascade range to Hope. The weather up to Mr. Haynes' arrival at Osoyoos lake was mild and pleasant. At Osoyoos lake snow began to fall, and as he proceeded became very deep in places. Mr. Haynes was obliged to cross the Cascade range on snow shoes, the snow being too soft for ordinary walking. At Princeton, on the 3d of December, Mr. Haynes met Mr. Jenkins, who was sent by the Governor to explore for a trail to Kootenay. Mr. Jenkins intended to go to Osoyoos lake for the purpose of getting horses. From there he would proceed by Kettle River valley to Stata-postan Lake, there to search for a divide believed to exist in the neighboring hills, and which would enable him to reach the mouth of the Kootenay River. If the divide can be found, (and Mr. McDonald of the H. B. Company is positive that there is one) little difficulty is anticipated in reaching the mines from the mouth of the Kootenay River. Mr. Jenkins will return to Osoyoos Lake and proceed by the Okanagan to Shuswap for the purpose of exploring for a trail in that direction. On Wild Horse Creek there were plenty of vegetables, which were brought in from Bitter Root Valley. Potatoes were selling at from 25 cents to 30 cents per lb.; cabbages, turnips, and carrots, at much the same prices. There were plenty of cattle and sheep, and those too in the finest condition. Mr. Haynes is fully of opinion that a great rush will take place to the new mines in the spring.—North Pacific Times.

PATRIOTIC EXPRESSION OF SENTIMENT.

The following resolutions of the 55th Massachusetts colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment, expressive of loyalty and attachment to the Government which has emancipated them from their down-trodden race the bestowed upon the privileges of citizenship, were passed with acclamation on the order being promulgated placing the pay of the colored troops on an equality with the white soldiers, and forwarded to the Boston Liberator for publication.

CAMP 55th MASS. VOL. INFANTRY, Folly Island, S. C., Oct. 14th, 1864.

Whereas, the just claims of the 55th Regiment Mass. Vols., on the pay question, having been admitted on the basis of equality; and whereas, we, the non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment, anxious to take advantage of this and every opportunity of giving expression to our loyalty to the cause and country, especially when we behold that country in the midst of its perils rising to the dignity of giving freedom and knowledge to an unfortunate race, and bestowing upon it the rights of citizenship; therefore,

Resolved, That we stand now, as ever, ready to do our duty, whenever and wherever our country requires it, in the work of crushing this wicked rebellion, and preserving the national unity.

Resolved, That we are determined to make it our first duty, as soldiers, by promptitude, obedience, and soldierly bearing, to prove ourselves worthy of the responsible position assigned us by Providence in this, the grandest struggle of the world's history between Freedom and Slavery; and our first duty as men, by every means possible, to contradict the slanders of our enemies, and prove to be true our fitness for liberty and citizenship in our native land.

Resolved, That while it deeply grieves us to find many who should have understood and appreciated our motives in connection with the pay question, falling to give us support and sympathy—sometimes even going so far as to condemn, thereby unconsciously giving aid and comfort to the enemy—nevertheless, we have no hard feelings against such; being convinced that, ere long, if not already, they will see the error of their way and discern the wisdom of our acts, as surely as that they are to enjoy the benefits of our successes.

Resolved, That even as the founders of our republic resisted the British tax on tea on the ground of principle, so did we claim equal pay with other volunteers, because we believed our military and civil equality in issue; independent of the fact that such pay was actually promised, and not because we regulated our patriotism and love of race by any given sum of money.

Resolved, That we do most sincerely thank those of our friends at home, who have stood by us throughout our trials and deprivations, and whose sympathy and practical kindness went far towards softening the rigors of our condition; especially are our thanks due to William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Governor Andrew, and Senators Sumner and Wilson—those heroic champions of liberty—for their unflinching and successful efforts in our behalf.

G. P. JONSON, Chairman. JOHN T. SHORTER, Secretary.

SENTENCE OF DEATH ON MULLER.

Baron Martin and the Lord Chief Baron having put on their black caps, the first-mentioned learned Judge addressed the prisoner as follows:—Franz Muller, you have been found guilty by the jury of the wilful murder of Mr. Thomas Briggs. It is no part of the duty of the Judges generally to express any opinion with regard to the verdict of a jury, whose business it is to decide upon the guilt or innocence of a prisoner; but it is usual for the Judges to state whether they entirely concur with the verdict which the jury may arrive at, and I am authorized by the Lord Chief Baron to state on his behalf, that we are fully satisfied with the decision at which the jury has arrived; and for myself I may state that if I had been on the jury, I should have concurred with them in their verdict. It is usual to do this for two reasons—first, for the satisfaction of the jury; and secondly, that you may be fully aware that no hope remains for you in this world, but that, within a very short time, you will be removed by a violent death, and I hope that you will avail yourself of the means that I have no doubt will be afforded to you of making your peace with your Maker. I forbear to go into the particulars of this case, but there are a variety of minute circumstances which if they had been fully gone into would have more and more tended to establish your guilt. The history of your dealings on the day of the murder is strongly confirmatory of your guilt. You left the house of Mrs. Blyth about 11 o'clock in the morning; you proceeded to the house of Mrs. Roper, where you remained till between 7 and 8 o'clock—one witness says a quarter to 8; that you then left stating your intention of visiting that young girl at Camberwell, and it is obvious that you must have got there before the time stated by the witness, Mrs. Jones, who I am convinced is mistaken as to the hour; you then came into the City, and I have no doubt seeing Mr. Briggs with his watch and chain, you yielded to the temptation of becoming possessed of it. There are other circumstances strongly tending to show this, because on the following days you were endeavoring to raise money by pledging your own watch, and in other ways raising money. I have no doubt that you stole this watch and committed this murder, in order, by some means, to obtain money to pay your passage to America, and that is the real, true version of this case, and I state it in order to remove from your mind any hope of a remission of the sentence. It only remains for me to pass, not the sentence of the Chief Baron or myself, but the sentence which the law of England imposes upon persons convicted of the crime of wilful murder. His Lordship then passed the usual formal sentence of death.

The prisoner heard the sentence without exhibiting the slightest emotion. When the learned Judge concluded he expressed a wish to address the Court, and in a low tone he said—"I wish to say I am satisfied with my trial. I have not been convicted according to the truth (his voice now trembled greatly, and he was almost inaudible), whatever my faults may be;" tears then choked his utterance.

THE THREE REQUISITES.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir,—Will you have the kindness to inform your friends and the public that the colony of Vancouver Island is getting smaller by degrees and beautifully less, and will continue to do so until three changes take place. The first is for Governor Kennedy to dissolve the House of Assembly and select a few of the members to assist him in the Council.

2nd.—To do away with the Free Port, so that we may be enabled to raise a revenue and protect our farmers.

3rd.—To request the British Government to send us 3,000 able bodied Convicts and 2,000 soldiers to look after them, the convicts to be employed making roads, clearing the Government land of its trees and stumps, so that industrious farmers may be induced to settle amongst us: when these changes take place our colony will prosper, and not until then is the opinion of

THE NEW ORDER OF THINGS—NOW ARISING IN OUR NATIVE LAND.

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A GREAT FLEET OF COTTON SHIPS FROM INDIA TO ENGLAND.—Recent European advices say: 47 vessels are now on their way to England from the East Indies, with cargoes of cotton ranging from 1,800 to 7,000 bales each. The aggregate amount is no less than 221,864 bales. All these vessels are at sea, and their arrival at Liverpool at different periods will keep the cotton mills in operation for a considerable part of the coming winter.