

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, Dec. 5. House met at 1:15 p.m. Present: The Speaker, Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Dickson, McClure, Duncan, Trimble, Dennes, Cochrane and Ash.

UNION OF THE COLONIES. The Speaker read the following reply from His Excellency the Governor to the application for copies of the despatches and correspondence in the matter of the Union of this colony with British Columbia.

Dr. Helmcken did not consider that the Governor was at liberty to lay all his official communications before the House. He did not think that any despatches had been received stating that union should positively take place.

Mr. DeCosmos observed that it was not a direct reply to the question.

MARRIAGE LICENSES. The Speaker read the reply of the Executive with reference to Dr. Dickson's application for a return of the fees received for marriage licenses and the disposition of the same.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the reply be taken into consideration at the next meeting of the House, which was carried.

BILLS OF SALE. Mr. DeCosmos asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the law of Bills of Sale. He said the real object of the proposed enactment was to carry out the spirit of the English law, by placing personal property in this respect on the same basis as real estate.

Mr. DeCosmos presented a petition from W. Loudon, of the "Willows," complaining that formerly he had traded under a country license, but that recently the authorities had decided that his business would not admit of his paying so much and his license was taken away, and the value of the property destroyed thereby.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the bill be read the first time, and that the length of time necessary to qualify as voters be reduced from six to three months, besides a liberal provision for the enlargement of the area of representation with the abolition of the property qualifications.

Mr. DeCosmos, in pursuance of notice, asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the Law of Partnership. The enactment will include clauses limiting the liability of partners.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH. The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the reply to the Governor's address. Dr. Dickson in the Chair. As regards the Crown Lands despatches, Mr. DeCosmos said that he presumed that the House would have ample time to discuss the question, but that he felt bound to avail himself of this opportunity to draw attention to a curious circumstance.

UNION AND CROWN LANDS DESPATCHES. Mr. McClure moved, in conformity with previous notice, that the Governor be respectfully requested to lay before the House copies of all public despatches forwarded to the Right Honorable Edward Cardwell in reference to the Crown Lands resolutions of June, 1864, and the Union resolutions of January last.

Dr. Helmcken thought that there must be some misunderstanding in the affair, as such a delay could scarcely have occurred. It was just possible that what should have been done had been done.

to enquire about the actual date of transmission. In justice to the Governor, to the House, and in short to everybody else, it was only right to put such a question.

Mr. DeCosmos thoroughly concurred in the motion of his hon. colleagues. If the House of Commons in England decided that particular extracts would suffice for their deliberations, it was the will of the majority.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the motion of the junior member for the city had partially taken the matter out of his hands.

Dr. Helmcken, in moving an application for a further return, remarked that the facts required had not been supplied, and the House wanted detailed information on this subject.

Mr. DeCosmos strenuously supported the member for Victoria District. Although it may be true that the funds belonged to the Crown Revenue, the House had a perfect right to investigate such affairs.

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may in the Government of a small community like our own was simply ridiculous. Outside this part of the question he could see instances—he did not believe they existed—but he could see where extracts from certain despatches might altogether mislead the House.

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as in Oregon and California, and that in consequence of our proximity to those States he had fixed it at that amount.

Mr. DeCosmos repeated his argument in favor of the original sum. He was anxious to ask honorable gentlemen whether it was not wise to legislate to attract population, to legislate to retain our immigrants, to legislate to hold out suitable inducements to single men to marry and reside permanently here.

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no step in advance, the Homestead as well as other bills had been called for years by the people, and he thought that no time should be lost in carrying them through.

Mr. DeCosmos moved the first reading of this bill to amend the Law of Partnership; its limits, and the liability of partners. It assimilated in character, an Act passed in England in July, 1865. Carried.

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The principal brought yesterday render of the Sheriff at Liverpool. That tells us of the fact that the captured and the vessel of the authority. While on this subject has officially informed the Government in Liverpool. Confederal loans, answer to a decision of the English Vice-consul the United States that held a cargo then received from decision and circ commented upon why it may not be necessary the stance of the de Chancellor was, signed all the pro it was equally bo responsibility attach Seward not only insists on the rest was given by the Liverpool firm.

From England is shown the decline shown but very Britain. The ce although it would has at length di fall disease in t The sheep contin find are "dying k of the Times bo according to his o pigs, in flour of The island reve Kingdom have show a flattering a loss of £1,200, inland revenue £161,000 than revenue from hon showed an incre number of gallon the United Ki crease of 946,39 testimony," says condition of the take alarm at an ting liquors mus slandering the i quantity consum less than it was duties were raise last before those duty commenced in a uniform Kingdom. A nine-tenths of a but the present than six-tenths there is an incre the revenue. If colonial spirits of almost a gallon 1862. Of wine the same period head to '88, and '7. These facts the substitution ardent spirits," the most import tion of Rome by ment commenced menced, on the From our So have the unwe have actually bro Spain. During latter power an Spain, among of Legation was a impunity in Ch the San Martin assailed the Spa rebellious manne even French me leges in Chilean navy of Spain. the El Mercur Government in Admiral Parej humiliation of from the tort to ple apology. Yapanais, acc on the eve of th tary of Chilean had a ten-fold Government in miral's ultim immediately proceed the Republic of war against Sp scribed by three million dollars Congress, and the Executive

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