

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, February 9, 1864.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Monday, February 1.
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present: Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Powell, Tolmie, Street, Foster, Duncan, Bayley, Denness.THE NEW MEMBER.
Mr. Selim Franklin, the member elect for the vacant seat in the city representation, was introduced by Messrs. Tolmie and Duncan, and having taken the customary oaths, took his seat in the House.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Thursday next he would move for an address to His Excellency to pension off the present Chief Justice, and to appoint as Chief Justice a good common law English barrister, of 12 or 15 years experience.

Mr. Young asked leave to introduce a bill to provide for the periodic publication of the assets and liabilities of the banks in the colony, and the registration of the names of their shareholders. The hon. member would not go into the merits of this matter, as its desirability must be apparent to all hon. members.

Mr. DeCosmos would give notice that on Tuesday, February 24, 1864, he would move that the House go into Committee of the Whole on the fisheries of the colony.

Mr. Young laid before the House the Colonial Auditor's recapitulation of the abstracts of revenue received, and payments made during 1863.

SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Supply. Mr. Street in the Chair.

The Chairman asked to be released from the Chair.

Mr. Duncan moved that Mr. Franklin be appointed Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. Tolmie seconded. Motion carried.

The Chairman said the first item would be the salary of the Governor, \$14,350.

Mr. Helmecken said he regretted that the civil list was laid before the House in the way it had been. Information which should have been laid before the House 4 months ago was still withheld from it. By the action of a certain committee, which was thrown into the greatest difficulty by the absence of information which this committee should have laid before the House in a few days. He thought with all due deference to this committee, that this matter should be postponed till the House go into the whole question of the civil list, as moved by the Duke of Newcastle.

The Duke of Newcastle proposed to make a bargain with the Colony; if we grant \$50,000 to His Majesty, he will make over the crown lands, minerals, &c. He looked on this as a very bad bargain. The Acting Surveyor General has shown the revenue obtained from crown lands in 1863; assuming that this rate continued at the same figure for the next ten years, the revenue obtained, at \$1 per acre would be \$213,000. If we take a period of 50 years at the same rate, we would have a value of about \$11,745,000. The estimates as now laid before the House, show \$31,070 for fixed salaries, deducting \$22,009, the land revenue of 1863, we have a yearly balance of \$8061 to be made up from other sources than the land revenue. In round numbers the colony in ten years would have to make up \$20,000 for that colony by taking the crown lands and paying the proposed salaries would lose that amount. If we look further into the future, as we are bound to do, the loss in 50 years would be \$1,150,450, and that at a most liberal allowance for crown lands that this investigation of the committee would justify. This being his view, the hon. member thought it a very grave matter to vote the civil list proposed by the Duke of Newcastle. Assuming that the crown lands of this colony are worth \$31,070, and that the other resources we have. In the first place we must remember the Duke of Newcastle's words, "The colony must be self-supporting." The only way to meet the deficiency would be to tax ourselves to meet it, or to form some compact or union with the neighboring colony. If the House be not disposed to unite with British Columbia with sufficient safeguards for our Free Port, he thought it might be managed in another way. He did not see why our Governor and our staff should not conduct the Government of the two colonies. Taking the figures in the Governor's speech, the revenue of British Columbia for 1864 will be in round numbers, \$120,000. Our revenue for the same period will be about \$40,000, or about one-third of that of British Columbia. He would propose that we should contribute to the civil list in like proportion. By that means this colony would save over \$16,000 per annum by having one staff of officers for both colonies. In calculating the land revenue the cost of collecting it would have to be taken into account, and he was fully of opinion that we would have most decidedly the worst of the bargain. He believed our only safe course was to form an alliance with the neighboring colony.

Mr. Helmecken said that in speaking of the injury the Crown Lands Committee had inflicted on the colony, he was speaking on the assumption that the new Governor had not been appointed. He considered that the demonstration had done their best to secure the colony to pay the civil list. It was only a wonder that the new Governor had not been sent out already, and we would have been forced to pay the civil list whether we would or not. As for a single staff of officers for the colonies, he had been in favor of that from the first, but was so now. He did not look on it as much as a matter of economy; but which we might only have to pay ourselves a civil list, it did not follow that we should save two-thirds. But he supported

it on the ground that there should be no separation between the colonies. He quite agreed with the honorable member for the city, that the Crown Lands would not always yield the same revenue they do now. As to looking five years into the future, he thought that was futile. If we kept the same form of government fifty years hence we have now, it would be going more than "two steps backward." As for asking for assistance from the Home Government, he did not wish to expose this colony to be snubbed again as it had been already. There was one question to look at in the estimates—where is the Governor to be housed? We have no fine mansion with parks and lawns, and stables and outhouses, &c. suitable for the representative of Her Majesty. He would propose to acquire the Majesty's Government with this fact, and perhaps they might provide means to erect a suitable habitation. Besides, the despatch did not provide for a house at all, although our estimates did. He was quite prepared to go with the hon. member in his views, even without the information which the gentlemen of the Crown Lands Committee had obtained, they had kept to themselves.

Mr. Tolmie agreed with the hon. gentleman who had already spoken. As to calculating the value of crown lands for the next 50 years, he was surprised that a member of the Crown Lands Committee should suggest such views. He (Dr. T.) thought that even in the next year, much less in 50 years, we would not have as many pre-emptors, nor as much revenue as in the last year, 1863.

Mr. Young said that the despatch of the Duke of Newcastle did not state that the crown lands alone were to be given up, but the "crown revenues" which were a very different thing. He (Mr. Y.) did not consider that the civil list was larger than was paid in other colonies; he thought, however, that the two colonies might do with one staff of officials to a certain extent. One Governor, one Colonial Secretary might do; but when we come to the Treasurer and other officials, he thought we could not do with one for the two colonies. As to the Colonial Secretaryship, he might inform the committee that he had some months ago sent in to H.M. Government his resignation as Secretary of British Columbia, to which he had, as yet, received no answer. As to the Indian claims, he did not think that so heavy a charge as the hon. Speaker seemed to think. At Alberni had been laid out for settlement, and was being rapidly taken up, and the Indians were perfectly satisfied with the reserves that had been set aside for them.

Mr. Helmecken said that for several years this colony had offered a civil list in exchange for the crown lands, but had never received any answer, unless this despatch could be thought such. There was one thing he would state, however, which was that he would not vote a cent of the civil list till the whole of the crown lands were made over to the colony, (hear, hear.)

Mr. Tolmie said that he thought one Surveyor General might easily do all the work of the two colonies. The survey could be done by private surveyors at a cheaper rate than by public officers.

Mr. DeCosmos agreed with the hon. member for Victoria District. He would favor the appointment of county surveyors, who might also act as the hon. member's agents, as is done in other colonies.

Mr. Young did not say that there must be two Surveyors General; but there must be two Land Officers—one in each colony, and persons in charge over them, whether they were called Assistant Surveyors General, or anything else.

Mr. Street would like some further information as to the crown revenues, alluded to by the hon. Colonial Secretary. If it were contemplated to exact a royalty on minerals, he thought it a very unwise policy.

Mr. Young explained that he did not allude to such a policy.

The committee rose and reported progress, to sit again for the purpose of drawing up an address to the Imperial Secretary of State to the effect that there should be but one civil list for the two colonies.

To-morrow (Tuesday) the House would take the Bank Note Bill, and the Ministerial Council.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED.

Tuesday, February 24, 1864.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present: Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Franklin, Trimble, Tolmie, Street, Bayley, Denness.

STILL DEBT BILL.

This bill has been printed, and will be laid before the House at an early day.

Mr. DeCosmos asked leave to fix a day for a Committee of the Whole on the fisheries of the colony. The Speaker fixed Thursday week, 11th instant.

BANK NOTE BILL.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on this bill. Mr. Bayley in the Chair.

Mr. Young said that at the last discussion on this bill, exception had been taken to clause 3 of his amendments, on the ground that the Government inspection therein proposed, would lay open the private affairs of the customers of the banks. He had gone to the banks, and had seen the managers of the banks, and they had requested the addition of the words "books necessary to show the amount of notes in circulation," which they thought would obviate the danger of private parties' affairs being made public.

Mr. DeCosmos asked if the hon. member proposed to add a clause compelling the banks to publish monthly returns of their transactions.

Mr. Young said that the bill he introduced yesterday provided for the publication of quarterly returns.

The clause passed as amended.

Clause 4, providing for the registration in 14 days after the passing of the act of paid up capital or available assets, stating the nature of such assets, was agreed to.

Clause 5, inflicting a penalty of \$500 on any one illegally issuing bank notes, or exceeding the legal amount of issue, in contravention of this act, was also agreed to.

The hon. member introduced an explanatory clause to the effect that available assets should be taken to mean Government or Municipal Securities, or securities readily convertible into cash by a third party.

Some discussion arose as to the true definition of the term.

The explanatory clause was finally withdrawn. Mr. DeCosmos moved that the convertibility securities should mean other than real estate.

Mr. Street moved that no issue of bank notes other than by incorporated banks, shall be lawful after the 1st of March, 1865. Carried.

The bill was passed as amended, and was then reported.

The bill to provide for the publication of the returns of the banks in the colony, and for the registration of the shareholders, &c. was read a first time.

To-morrow (Wednesday) the House will go into Committee on Supply.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 24, 1864.

House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present: Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Franklin, Foster, Street, Tolmie, Duncan, Bayley, Denness.

BANK NOTE BILL.

This bill with amendments came up from the Committee of the Whole, and was received by the House.

SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee on Supply. Mr. Franklin in the Chair.

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The Government of Vancouver Island salaries, at the rate named by His Grace, has resolved that it is prepared to pass such an Act except in so far as the salary of the Governor is concerned, and with respect to that salary.

Not does this House find that any present or prospective Crown Revenue would either justify that appropriation. This House, however, deeming it very desirable for the best interests of this Colony, that all sources of revenue should be at the control of the Legislature, is prepared to vote a permanent salary at the rate of £1500 per annum, and this House earnestly trusts in consideration of the great importance of this Colony to the Mother Country politically, commercially, and geographically, that Her Majesty's Government will not refuse the small assistance of a like contribution necessary to provide a suitable salary for an able and experienced Governor.

At the same time, however, this House would desire to record its conviction that it would be more to the substantial interests of both this Colony and that of the sister Colonies of British Columbia, that but one Governor should preside over both, their interests being so interwoven that any interruption of a policy at once harmonious to both must prove immediately prejudicial to one and ultimately disastrous to both.

He learned from private sources that a strong movement was being made to unite the two colonies and impose a duty on imports to this port, and he thought that by simply agreeing to a joint Governor we would settle the matter at once.

Dr. Helmecken said the difference between his resolutions and the hon. Colonial Secretary, were about the same as between Tweedle dum and Tweedle dee. He (Dr. H.) would be very sorry to make Victoria dependent on British Columbia, but he could not see any such danger. As to the residence of the Governor, he was quite willing to let the Governor select his own place of residence. As to the movement alluded to, of the home authorities imposing duties on goods into Victoria, it was not in their power; that was a matter to be settled by ourselves. The matter of economy was not the primary consideration in this question. The main object is to prevent a separation of the colonies; at present they are virtually one. The proposition of His Grace is to separate them—to make us foreigners to each other, and he believed there was but one opinion in this colony as to the propriety of the Governor for the two colonies will be a great means of keeping them in peace and harmony. On the other hand, if the colonies are separated, not only will there be jealousy between them, but that feeling will extend to our government officials; and he believed that a great deal of the feeling now existing might be traced to an official source.

Col. Foster was glad to find that the feeling in Vancouver Island was decidedly changing from what it was a few years ago. Then British Columbia was anxious for a union, but she was not so now. He obtained no confirmation whatever. He knew from a very good source that the Imperial Secretary of State was fully intent on a union of the colonies, and for this reason, that it would be the only means of keeping down the petty jealousies which would otherwise continually arise. He believed the bad feeling between the lower portion of British Columbia, and this colony, was wholly owing to the conduct of a gentleman in Her Majesty's service, who had not carried out Her Majesty's instructions in reference to that colony. He concurred entirely with the principle of the resolutions, that we cannot give this civil list, because we cannot afford it, (hear, hear.) He thought if we could do with an inferior Governor at a reduced salary, we could do with inferior officials, in the same way. By allowing the separate system to creep into the Colonial Office at home we defer the union of the colonies for years and years. We have now an opportunity of making known our views on this matter, and of making an effectual appeal to the Home Government in their favor. He felt sure that there was little difference of opinion in this House on this question. An opinion had been advanced by the Colonial Secretary that the people of England were endeavoring to interfere with our policy; he did not consider it necessary to attempt any refutation of such an opinion. He would leave that to the Committee. He believed that the proposition of His Grace was entirely forced upon him by the position taken by these colonies. Whether the views held on the lower Fraser would have any weight with the rest of the colony of British Columbia, a few months would suffice to show. From what he heard when at home, he was sure that His Grace was well waiting for some expression of the feeling here, which would give him an opportunity of aiding a union; an act which he (Mr. F.) believed His Grace looked forward to as the great act of his official career.

Mr. Young said he did not propose to bring here an inferior governor and inferior officials, but that this colony should pay its half of a list the rest to be made up by the Home Government from the votes made by British Columbia. He had strongly opposed union on a former occasion, and he deprecated any action which would tend to bring about that state of things.

Dr. Tolmie was favorable to the greatest degree of union which could be obtained without interfering with our own mode of collecting our revenues. As to this colony becoming a dependency of British Columbia, he (Dr. T.) had no fear on that score. As to saying, he hoped that the business might be so great owing to increase of population, &c. that there would be no present saving, but ultimately he was convinced that this saving would be very great. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DeCosmos did not intend to occupy the time of the House at present, with the exception of the remarks of the hon. Colonial Secretary, agreed with all that had fallen from hon. members. There were clauses in the resolutions of the hon. Speaker which would require discussion as they came up.

Mr. Franklin said that his hon. colleague (Mr. DeCosmos) had taken as a basis for calculating the Crown Lands revenue, the pre-emptors for the past years, but there were many other sources of revenue, as town sites, minerals, &c., as well as the improvements which might be expected to be made,

and which would be a source of revenue. The hon. member showed how the revenue of the colony had increased while the civil list had not been augmented. He could show that financially this colony could bear the additional burden. He desired to show that the colony of Vancouver Island was in a strong and healthy position, and quite able to maintain its own government, and did not want any help from British Columbia. We had never received any help from the Home Government; no defenses, no fleet, and now when here were rumors of war on all sides, we were left defenceless, and loyal as he was he denounced heartily the whole policy of the Duke of Newcastle in regard to this Island. The trade of this colony would next year be worth £50,000 more to Great Britain, and what do we receive? And shall we be left subject to the *ipse dixit* of the Duke of Newcastle at his word, and he dictate the terms?

Mr. DeCosmos took up the amendment of Mr. Young; in regard to Vancouver Island, he was an appendage, he could not see how that could be, but at any rate he threw overboard that view altogether; his idea was that the two colonies should become one thoroughly and completely. He was not disposed to occupy the time of the House, but he could not concur with the resolution of the hon. Colonial Secretary. He agreed with the purpose of those of the hon. Speaker, and would do his utmost to carry through such principles.

Mr. Young thought that so long as we have two colonies we must have two staffs of officials, with a few exceptions. He had no desire, as his honorable colleague had, to see Vancouver Island an integral portion of British Columbia; he would not object to see British Columbia an integral part of Vancouver Island. (Laughter.) Victoria Australia had voted a civil list of £112,000. Canada a list of £79,000, Van Diemen's Land of £41,000, and we are asked to pay only £26,000! He could not look at this question as a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence; it was of the utmost importance, that the whole of the revenue of this colony should be under the sole control of our own Government.

Col. Foster said it was very evident that the Colonial Secretary had some information which the House had not. (Laughter.) He thought the honorable gentleman should afford as the necessary information.

Mr. Young said he was not possessed of any particular or private information. If we ask Her Majesty's Government to unite us with British Columbia, it puts it in the power of the Home Government to pass an Imperial Act uniting us to British Columbia.

The Chairman said he was convinced that such grave resolutions should not be discussed without a proper notice being given.

Dr. Helmecken said it was absolutely necessary that some one should draw up and present an answer to the Duke of Newcastle's despatch, and that this answer should be discussed. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Bayley spoke briefly and forcibly in favor of entertaining the resolutions.

The Chairman then put Mr. Young's amendment which was lost. Mr. Young only voting in the affirmative.

The preamble of Dr. Helmecken's resolutions was then put and carried.

The Committee rose and reported progress.

Mr. Franklin would ask the Speaker if the resolution of the resolutions in Committee on Supply was in accordance with parliamentary rules.

Col. Foster said the hon. gentleman was not in order; the House had already decided on receiving the resolutions.

The House adjourned till to-morrow (Thursday) when the Ministerial Council question will come up.

STATISTICAL TABLES.—

With this issue our readers will receive a large Supplemental sheet of Statistical Tables for the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia for the year 1863, with comparative statements in each case as far back as it was found practicable to furnish reliable figures. The compilation of these tables has been attended with considerable labor, and we venture to believe that on examination they will be found accurate and reliable. It was originally intended that they should appear with the commencement of the new year, but owing to the impossibility of procuring all the necessary returns from the various offices in this and the sister colony until the accounts for the past year had been made up, it was deemed expedient to postpone the issue until the Review could embrace all matters of interest to the community at large. In its present form the sheet constitutes a true index to the past growth and present condition of our colonies, commercially and financially, and will prove a valuable record to merchants, legislators, bankers and others. In presenting it to the public we must not omit to mention that we are indebted to Mr. E. Maffandine for valuable assistance rendered in the collection of figures, also to the Collectors of Victoria and New Westminster, our local bankers, the United States Consul, Messrs. Anderson & Co., W. P. Sayward, Jackson & Co., and Michael Mair & Co., the Vancouver Coal Mining Company and the heads of the Government departments for courteously placing at our disposal such information as was required.

MACHINERY FOR WILLIAMS CREEK.—

The large iron pump constructed by McDougal & Son, for the New Richmond Company, will go up on the Enterprise this morning. Mr. Lawrie, the Secretary of the company, will go up with the pump to Yale, from which point he will make arrangements with the forwarders to carry it through without delay. The pump weighs about two tons, and the expense of carriage will be about \$2,000. This is the first apparatus of the kind which has been sent to Cariboo, and the Richmond Company are deserving of much credit for the enterprise they display in the undertaking. We think they are fully deserving of a similar encouragement to that afforded to the proprietors of the machinery for the upper lake steamers, viz. a premium equal to the rate of the import duty.

The Weekly Colonist.

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THE POLICE INQUIRY.

An investigation was made by A. F. Pemberton, Esq., Chief of Police, into the conduct of members of the Police force, who had been made the subject of complaints had been made the subject of complaints had been made the subject of complaints.

Mr. Pemberton said before a inquiry, he wished to observe that force here was constituted in the manner as in London. It was a military system, each being superior. It was his (the Chief of Police) duty to regulate the discipline. He wished to make a public inquiry, as it had, he thought, great importance, but cases of assault must not be allowed to pass. He could not himself deal with, as he had to go to a higher court, the complaint, he (Mr. P.) sent the complaint of the case to the court, which he could issue a summons hearing the statement of the complainant, but he had only orders, he thought he could not the matter by personal investigation. He did not deny that he had been made the subject of a complaint, but he would probably not have been made the subject of a complaint, but he would probably not have been made the subject of a complaint.

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