

Tuesday, May 8, 1866.

PROFUNDITY IN THE COUNCIL.

There are some things that would be amusing did we not know they were injurious. We could well afford to laugh at the ludicrous spectacles occasionally presented by the Legislative Council in its debates on political economy were we not conscious that the colony suffers from the lamentable exhibition. Who for instance can read the report of yesterday's proceedings in the Upper House on the Franchise bill, without coming to the conclusion that this body is simply a burlesque on legislative institutions. When we find a man occupying the prominent position of Colonial Secretary putting forward the idea that the gauge of respectability is the value of land a man possesses, we are inclined to turn to the calendar and see if we are not living still in the palmy days of Barons and retainers. Let King Freesty's successor, Jim, be brought forward and receive those honors which of right belong to him. Let the various native chieftains of the Island be placed in those positions of trust to which the ownership of an unlimited quantity of land entitles them. Henceforward society will rest on a different basis. Honor, intelligence and education will be empty names. Three thousand dollars' worth of real estate will place a man above reproach, whether he robs his neighbor of the amount—it will be a guarantee of his intelligence, whether he be the veriest clown—it will speak more highly for his educational attainments than the highest University degrees. Three thousand dollars invested in property in Vancouver Island! What a miraculous metamorphosis it makes in the individual to be sure. No matter if he be a black-leg—no matter if he be a clodhopper—no matter if he is as backward in civilization as the Siwash, the very moment he makes this investment his whole moral and mental qualities undergo a speedy transformation and he stands before the public a model candidate for the representation of a Vancouver Island constituency. Some people there are to be found in Vancouver Island this present moment reckless enough to assert that, if the investment of \$3000 in real estate in the colony indicated any peculiar quality in the investor, it would indicate his egotism, folly, and would prove that instead of being a fit person to legislate for the public he above all men in the community would be least adapted to the position. The Colonial Secretary, however, thinks otherwise. In his profundity the man who buries his capital in the ground, doing good to none, is a much wiser man as well as a more useful man than the person who invests it in an industrious pursuit, by which employment is afforded to others, and an addition made to the wealth of the country. When the Attorney General puts the question—Is a man not as respectable with \$5000 worth of goods as with \$5000 in land? the Colonial Secretary replies "decidedly not; because (mark the logic) the man with the \$5000 in goods may not own the goods, but the man with \$5000 in land would own the land." It requires an astute mind to perceive that a man can own goods and at the same time not own them. So much for Mr. W. A. G. Young. To come now to the philosophy of Mr. Rodrick Finlayson. That gentleman, according to our report, says it would be far better to do away with our representative institutions than have such as we have had—which means of course that it would be much better to have the Executive untrammelled in the raising and the expending of public revenue. Unfortunately, however, for Mr. Finlayson's consistency, it is not many months since he was shouting as loud as the loudest against the heavy taxation of the country, and applauding the scheme of retrenchment of the House of Assembly. It would really seem that some men lose their wits, or at least their memory, when they enter the halls of legislation. Mr. Finlayson is no less untenable in his subsequent position. The country, he says, that has not a sufficient number of capable men to act as legislators amongst the class worth \$5,000 of real estate is unfit for representative institutions. Could any proposition be more ridiculous. If there is any department in a country requiring the largest intelligence and greatest experience amongst its members it is the legislative department; for by its acts the destiny of the country may be decided. Now Mr. Finlayson will not pretend to say that this intelligence and experience are confined, and especially in small communities like Vancouver Island, to men holding \$5000 in real estate; on the contrary the gentleman knows that there is a great deal more practical knowledge—a great deal more legislative fitness outside this circle than inside. In this colony, as well as in many others under the British Crown, the original property owners, the men who become rich by chance, were generally men of very little experience, in many instances indeed deplorably ignorant. In all cases, however, whether ignorant or otherwise they have proved themselves the most unfit to exercise the legislative power. Yet Mr. Finlayson and his worthy colleague the Colo-

nial Secretary want the colony to be subjected to this oligarchy of ignorant upstart assumption. Failing in their desire to see the representative institutions of the country taken away they want to reduce the representative power to a nullity. In fact, did the absurdity become law, the colony might before the end of the year be virtually unrepresented; from the simple fact that the depreciation of property might make it almost impossible for the largest landowner to declare he had \$3,000 worth of real estate. To think that men instead of going to work and passing liberal laws for the encouragement of the population already here, and for the purposes of attracting people to our shores should, be using their ingenuity to denude the inhabitants of their rights, and all this at a time when the very existence of the country is trembling in the balance—when unless the most marked liberal change is made in the legislation of the colony, nothing but a total desertion from our shores, can be the result—is beyond all belief. Another year of illiberal action and there will not be enough people on the Island to give anything more than agricultural value to the best property on it.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Speaker took his seat at 1:25 p.m. Present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Trimble, Dickson, Carswell, Ash.

The Sheriff's returns declaring Charles Bedford Young duly elected a member of Parliament for Victoria City, was received, and having been introduced to the House by Dr. Trimble, took his seat.

DISTRICT COURTS BILL. This bill, with amendments, came down from the Council. Received and read.

MAGISTRATES' AND CONSTABLES' FEES BILL. This bill came up for second reading. Dr. Dickson again gave an outline of the bill, and moved the second reading.

Mr. Young seconded, believing that where offices were not paid they should be self-supporting.

The second reading was carried, and motion to print lost.

SPRING RIDGE WATER WORKS BILL. This bill came up for second reading.

Dr. Powell asked for the evidence that had been taken before the committee.

The Speaker said the evidence had been open to the inspection of any hon. member ever since the report was made.

Mr. Young thought the bill should be sent to Committee where its provisions could be better discussed; he was opposed to monopolies, but water was an essential thing, and if the Company could make out a good case he might be in favor of granting the privileges asked for a few years.

Mr. DeCosmos disapproved of the recommendation.

The bill passed the second reading and was committed.

INVESTMENT AND LOAN BILL. The House went into Committee on this bill, Dr. Dickson in the chair.

Dr. Powell explained to the House the objects of the bill which is to encourage the establishment of Investment, Savings and Loan Societies in this colony.

The bill is a lengthy one containing 43 clauses and occupied the House during the remainder of the sitting. The Committee rose and reported progress at the 4th clause, and the House adjourned until Thursday at 3 p.m., when the order of the day will be the Municipal, Militia, Spring Ridge and Indian Liquor bills.

THE DREDGER. Dr. Ash gave notice that he would move that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider what steps should be taken in regard to the Dredger machine.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, May 2, 1866. Council met at 2:30 p.m. Members present.—Hons. Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Surveyor General, Treasurer, and Hons. D. Fraser and R. Finlayson.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary took the chair.

WAYS AND MEANS BILLS. The second reading of these bills came up as the order of the day.

Hon. Donald Fraser said he was prepared himself to go on with these bills, but as two hon. members were absent he suggested the postponement of their consideration for a full House.

The motion was agreed to, and the Council went into Committee on the

FRANCHISE BILL. Hon. Treasurer in the chair. Hon. Colonial Secretary moved the recommendation of the clauses in this bill already passed through Committee. It was very evident that the whole bill required reconstruction, many of the clauses having no dependence on each other.

Hon. Donald Fraser seconded and the motion was carried.

Clause 1 was deferred.

Clause 2, providing that every male British subject of 21 years of age, properly qualified as hereinafter mentioned was eligible, passed; also clause 3, stating the qualifications and disqualifications.

Hon. Attorney General said \$1000 would be better.

Hon. Donald Fraser would rather have none.

Hon. Colonial Secretary spoke shortly in favor of a substantial qualification. He deprecated men who could pack up all their traps in a carpet-bag and leave for the other side at an hour's notice legislating for the welfare of the colony.

Hon. Treasurer asked if this high qualification would have the effect of inducing a better class of men to come forward as members?

Hon. Mr. Finlayson said it would be far better to do away with our representative institutions than have such as we have had.

Hon. Colonial Secretary said he would make it \$2500.

Hon. Attorney General said he would not vote for more than \$1000. Was not a man as respectable with \$5000 of goods as \$5000 of land?

Hon. Colonial Secretary—No! The goods may not belong to him, while the land does.

Hon. Attorney General said land was not held here as in England. Here men were merchants in land as in anything else. He did not see why incomes should not be qualification as well as real estate.

Hon. Treasurer agreed with the last speaker.

Hon. Colonial Secretary moved that the qualification be \$3000 in real estate.

Hon. Surveyor General seconded.

Hon. R. Finlayson said if any country had not sufficient men in it worth \$5000 to act as legislators that country was not fit for representative institutions (hear, hear).

Hon. Attorney General said \$5000 in real estate did not give talent. People might wish to put in a man who was an enterprising and intelligent citizen but who was not worth \$2000 in all. He believed some of the best minds in the colony had not the requisite qualification.

Hon. Treasurer said he could bring many instances where persons had spent \$30,000 in the colony and had not \$3000 in real estate.

The \$3000 amendment was carried.

The disqualifications as previously amended were passed *mem. con.*

Clause 5, providing that all members shall after a general election take the oath of allegiance before the Chief Justice or such other person as the Governor shall appoint, or before the Speaker when the House is sitting, was passed.

The schedules providing the requisite oaths were then passed.

Hon. D. Fraser said he feared the House would object to coming before the Chief Justice to take the oath, as an infraction of their rights.

Hon. Colonial Secretary said it was a provision in the Imperial Instructions to the Governor by which they have their being.

Clause 7, providing that any election not conforming to the previous clauses be null and void, was passed.

On Clause 8, providing that all members sitting and voting when disqualified shall forfeit \$250 per day while so sitting, to be recovered by any person in the law courts.

Hon. Attorney General said he feared this would cause a conflict between the House and the law courts.

Hon. D. Fraser said the House only, as in the House of Commons, could purge itself.

Hon. Colonial Secretary said Colonial Legislatures were very different things from the House of Commons. This had already been proved by cases in Australia.

Hon. Attorney General said the privileges of Colonial Parliaments were only as they were granted by the Crown or conferred by statute.

The clause was passed, also the remaining clauses, with verbal amendments to Clause 15, and the committee rose and reported progress.

The Council then adjourned till Monday, at two p.m., when the Ways and Means Bills will be taken up.

LETTER FROM COMOX. TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir,—As Mr. Colman accuses me of placing wrong views of the road dispute before the public, and as it is a question of vital importance to the settlement, will you allow me to state the facts. Mr. Pidwell, after he had settled the dispute about Duncan's affair commenced laying out a road through the settlement; when about two miles were done he authorized Messrs. McFarlane, Cameron and Fitzgerald to finish it; they for reasons of their own did not do so. Now as Mr. Pidwell was then receiving a good salary as Superintendent of Roads, was it not his place to stop and at least see it done? It would not have taken more than two days at the outside. When he heard they had not finished it he writes to McFarlane asking why it was not done, after he had given his word as a gentleman to see it through, highly indignant because McFarlane would not do his work for which he was so well paid.

Mr. Colman also says the Commissioners had no authority to lay out a road; certainly according to the act they have not. I will now explain why they did it. In December last Mr. Baily, the Chairman of the Commissioners, saw Mr. Pearce in Victoria and represented to him how much the settlers required a road; he answered that they must lay it out and make it themselves or at least commence it as there was no money in the treasury, and further, that if he did not see that they tried to help themselves he would not try to benefit the settlement in any way.

Our London Correspondence.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, March 10, 1866.

COVERT GOSSIP.

"No scandal, I hope, 'gainst Her Majesty," I fancy you will say when you see this heading. No! nothing of the kind; rather a word of commendation, because she is gradually emerging from her shell. Yesterday she positively came up from Windsor, held a court at Buckingham Palace, and slept there afterwards! That is rare news for those who believe "the season" depends upon the movements of Her Majesty,—particularly as there are to be several other gatherings of the same character, at which presentations of the young female nobility are to be allowed. The first court was postponed for several days on account of the sudden death of Sir Charles B. Phipps, the seigneur of the Privy Purse, which is a most severe loss to Her Majesty, that official having had the confidence of the Prince, and being trusted with the most important duties, which he well and worthily performed. He is to be succeeded by Generals Grey and Biddulph, who are to be joint keepers of the privy purse, whilst Sir J. Cowell, formerly tutor to Prince Alfred, succeeds to the Mastership of the Household, and General Biddulph vacates. At present Her Majesty declines to hold any levee herself, and deposes the reception presentation of an account of the *haut noblesse* to Her Majesty. The Court is on the quiet respecting the approaching marriage of the Princess Helena, which is fixed for July 9th, and Her Majesty has had the satisfaction of seeing her second son granted £15,000 a year by the nation, his promotion to a captaincy in the Royal Navy, and his appointment as Master of the Trinity House, vacated by Lord Palmerston's death, who succeeded the late Prince Consort. Whenever the younger scions of the Royal Family come to town they make the most of the opportunity, and generally manage to go to one or other of the theatres in the evening. Like their great grandfather George III., they are all intensely fond of the drama;—so is the Queen, but she is not likely to give her patronage again by visiting either opera house or theatre.

THE REFORM BILL. Positively the long talked of Reform Bill is to be introduced on Monday evening in the House of Commons.

At the close of last week Mr. Gladstone gave notice that he should ask for leave on that day to bring in a bill, but declined to say whether he would bring it on the first reading. Since that time, having been badged all round, Earl Russell and his colleagues have made up their minds to "stand the hazard of the die,"—whether "game" or not remains to be seen.

Speculation is very busy about the details of the measure. On this side there is to be a £5 rating for towns, and a £10 qualification for counties, and that a prominent feature will be a re-distribution of seats, which will be generally popular everywhere, except the places that will be disfranchised.

The apathy with which this event is received is perfectly ridiculous. Not a ghost of enthusiasm can be raised. The working men and Tories go to work upon no other grounds than that it is time something were done to settle the question.

Earl Russell is very ill, and it is said he has offered his resignation but had to contradict it the next day; and yet the Thunderer was not very far wrong, for scarcely on terms with his colleagues and worried on all hands, there is no doubt this veteran politician—statesman I cannot call him—must be most anxious to "rest and be thankful."

The means may be given to deliver the coup de grace on his once more taking the matter of reform in hand, and if it should be so the more will he be Minister of State. That we have got a much more Radical House of Commons than the last is quite evident, but parties are so much split up in every direction that if ever a Reform Bill should be dragged through there the Peers will make short work of it, and it will not rouse the country as it was roused two and thirty years ago.

CHURCH RATES. This disagreeable subject of litigation is again before the public, and the change that has come over the House of Commons cannot be more positively shewn than by the manner in which the proposition wholly to abolish the impost was received. In a very full House at the evening sitting of last Wednesday the second reading of a total abolition bill was carried by a majority of 33! Mr. Gladstone distinguished himself on the debate by speaking both for and against the measure, his arguments in opposition being much stronger than those on the other side, and then he completed his pretty little game by voting for the measure.

The general impression abroad is that all parties will agree to a compromise. Even Mr. Bright intimated that in his opinion this was the only way to be met. If that be done, there may be a truce between Churchmen and Dissenters, the power of whom could they but be wise enough to see it could gain nothing but advantage from concession.

FENIANISM. Stephens is not yet caught nor is this silly plot yet exploded. It is however in a fair way of being so, although not a few expect there will be an uprising somewhere or other on St. Patrick's Day, the 17th instant. One thing is most satisfactorily proved, that the army and police are found to be loyal to the core. Only a few disolute soldiers have been mixed up in the affair more from drink than disloyalty, whilst not a man in the police force has been false to his fealty.

Great threatenings come over from America as to what is to be and shall be done, but nothing is likely to come of it. The "snake is so severely scotched" that it will not form again easily.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE. The Government measure to stamp out this disease, although it presses severely in its effects, is already beginning to show the Government having refused to appoint a day of fasting and humiliation to appease the Almighty's vengeance—

to which a certain class of religionists wholly attribute this visitation—the Bishops have taken up the cudgels and have fixed different days in their respective dioceses, on which the clergy will have an opportunity of talking a great deal of nonsense to their hearers' content, and making themselves supremely ridiculous.

The Government judged very rightly that the appointment of such a day would only incite drunkenness and profanity, whilst it would deprive the working classes of a day's wages, which those persons can very ill afford. Whoever likes to obey the Bishops' behests may do so, and no harm will come of it. The adoption of a more severe ascetism in one day in the middle of Lent if it does no good will not do any mischief, and if it please a few, so let it be. But there is an old fable, of which such people remind the world, the moral of which is "that it is better to put one's hand to the wheel than call upon Heaven for help." Had proper means been adopted at the proper time the Kinderpest, long 'ere this, would have been a thing of the past.

DOCTOR WHEWELL. Wherever science has made its way the name of Dr. Whewell, the late Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, cannot fail to be known and respected. On this day fortnight this eminent gentleman, on returning from a ride, was flung from his horse; and, although he recovered his senses, never rallied from the effect of the shock. There is no doubt that Dr. Whewell was Cambridge's brightest ornament. In position, as in mental power, he towered above every one else in that University, as he also did in stature. Tall and massive in form he was a remarkable man to look upon, and was observed of all observers wherever he was seen. But from a certain amount of sadness in demeanor, the effects of his early career, he rose from the ranks, his father having been but a Lancashire village blacksmith,—he would have been as much respected as he was admired. His loss will be far more than local; doubtless many a one who reads this notice of his death, will feel quite as much as if he had never quitted "the old house at home."

FRANCE. The Prince Imperial has had the measles, but so favorably that it was hardly worth mention.

The debate on the Address in the Corps Legislatif is still proceeding. Some truths and hard things have been said; but they will all amount to nothing. Louis Napoleon is the master of the situation. He knows how to rule the French, and they submit to be ruled by him. The explosion of some of the older members is a safety valve. Like Lord Derby's navy, whom his wife was also thrashing, it may be said, "It pleases them and don't hurt me."

AUSTRIA. A telegram from Vienna says that alarming rumors of a warlike character are continually circulating there. This comes after the deposition of Prince Cozza, whom the inhabitants of the Principality have sent about his business to his great delight, and his arrival at Vienna. These rumors, however, have it is thought nothing to do with the Principality, but rather with Prussia. The split between the two countries is certainly growing wider and wider, but there will be no war. Compromises everywhere are now the order of the day.

Austria is trying very hard to get over her difficulties with Hungary. She does not, however, appear to make much way. The sore is too green to be rapidly healed by Imperial salve.

SPAIN. Spain is by no means in a tranquil state. There is a rumor that the garrison of Ouidad Rodrigo has rebelled and gone over to Portugal, and that there have been risings in various other places.

CONSOLS.—Money, 86 1/4; for Account 87 1/4 @ 8 1/2.

THE LABOUCHERE'S MAILS.—From the following letter from the British Consul it would appear that the whole of the mail on board the steamer Labouchere, excepting two bags of newspapers, were lost. Messrs. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, we learn, was fortunately saved.

BRITISH CONSULATE, San Francisco, 20th April, 1866. DEAR SIR,—By the steamer Labouchere, which was lost off Point Reyes on the 15th inst., I forwarded to you forty-six bags mail matter, all of which were lost except two bags of newspapers. The letter mail lost was received here between the 6th and 14th, and contained, I judge, the English mail of the 24th to 27th February. The newspapers, of which there were about thirty-six bags, had been accumulating here for four or five weeks.

I am, dear sir, Very truly yours, CHARLES MASON, Acting Consul.

THE COLUMBIA RIVER ROUTE.—From Gen. James McAniff the Walla Walla Statesman has the following:—The steamer "49" was all ready to take her place on the route to the Big Bend mines, and was expected to start on her first trip on Saturday, the 14th ult. She is pronounced by those who have examined her a fine boat, and fully equal to the requirements of the trade.

Cap. Len. White, the purser, and the whole crew were on the ground, and it is quite certain the boat started at the time stated. Parties who have been hurrying through Colville, paying exorbitant freights, are in bad luck, it being difficult to realise charges. In the Colville market flour is quoted at \$14 per 100 pounds, but when sold in large quantities \$12 is the ruling rate. The road to Colville is in bad condition, animals frequently miring down, and the trip attended with many delays. General Mc. was more fortunate than many others, and yet he pronounced it a "hard road to travel." At Colville there were three stores doing a healthy business, and at the landing two more mercantile establishments, both having a fair trade.

At Little Dalles, which is to be the landing place of the steamer, it is expected that a little town will spring up. All through the country the settlers are hopeful, and calculate upon great things from the Big Bend mines.

One of his confederates, a

With all the similarity of Englishman and the American, citizen of the United States, certain conditions very striking. The one man in a newly-formed the other in a newly-formed widely different in their character two persons can well be. With man everything must be done change (we are not speaking of generally as much detested by the Chinese. The first and last in order. Look after life and let the material prosperity of take care of itself, is his great philosophy. Look at the material of the country and life and proper care of themselves is the language. This gives us the key progressive, but well-conducted colony, and the healthy, vigorous orderly American territory. In infancy we have generally the loggish heads with the Government disposed to grumble at mismanagement to take remedial measures, arrogant, self-willed and inexperienced. First attempts, therefore, at colonial generally a failure. The Government most cases, guided by the weak light of a past century, is Government. Incapable of appreciating march of events—of seeing the for liberal laws—it wraps itself its antique mantle and gapes at the depopulation of the country cannot or will not see that men accustomed to the hardships and difficulties of pioneer life will not flinch a time in a perpetual warfare with the nations which Government places in Much easier and much more profitable to them to leave the country to its fate, than to war with men who have the faculty of the willfully blind. Find the British colony, no matter how its prospects, laboring and struggling years under the strangling operation rulers.

Very different is it with the territory. There so soon as population mences to pour in the whole strength of the people are strained to the country's resources. There is restriction, and every man rushes with energy unknown in other countries accomplishment of his task. As the automatic character of the English, while denuding it of force and preserves, or tends to preserve, at the time the public peace and general order of the almost unrestrained license of the people territory, while giving full to the enterprise and vigor of the itants, destroys to a great extent life and property. In the gold around us we have ample proof of In the territory of Idaho every stage has been until recently bringing intel of highway robbery and murder. In would seem that crime was the normal of the territory, and not shrinking afraid to show its face at noonday but audacious crime setting at defiance very courts erected for its suppression. There was an organized system of mining that made it in the first place impossible to catch the guilty party, the second place if caught made it difficult to convict him. A reign of existed that caused the judge to tremble the bench and the juryman to shake fear in the box; for the life of the on just as likely to pay the penalty as the other, if any of the sacred gang of detest had received at the hands of his just deserts. The last of these was committed on an important named Raymond who testified in against some of the band, and was down in consequence in cold blood by a man named Clark. The murderer was rested; but no one doubted that he was as others had done before him, escape full penalty of the law. Indeed one of known leaders of the gang, a man named Opdyke, before the body of the murderer had been removed, stepped boldly forward and said—"That affair grew out of law suit yesterday and there will be more like it." No one dared arrest Opdyke and he rode off. The public mind, however, wrought up to that excite which in an American community no something more than words. A Vigil Committee was formed and the guard in which Clark was confined was broken open in the middle of the night, the gang knocked down and pinioned and Clark away. The next morning the citizens awe-struck at seeing Clark's body hanging at the end of three poles a little tance from the town. When Opdyke heard of the circumstance he threatened eral of the citizens with summary vengeance but he calculated without his host, for was riding along on one of his murder missions he himself was taken prisoner the vigilantes at a place called Syrup Creek and after a little ceremony, strung up tree. One of his confederates, a

Tuesday, May 8, 1866

THE COLONY AND THE TR