

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, January 30, 1866

THE SUPPLIES.

The estimates are finally passed. The House went to work yesterday more vigorously than usual and sat from one o'clock till half-past eight. The standing rules were suspended, so as to admit the estimates being pushed through, and thus save the country probably a fortnight's more expense in the salaries that were abolished. The most important vote yesterday was that in relation to the construction of a trunk road to Nanaimo. A few days ago the scheme had many bitter opponents in the House; yesterday, however, it passed when the vote came on, without a dissentient. This was as it should have been. The country wants opening up, the farmers want land as well as water communication, and the poorer classes want employment. It was not only, however, in the matter of the trunk road that the House showed itself alive to the pressing wants of the colony. The Saanich road had \$5,500 voted for it; the Burnside road \$3,000; the Sooke road \$3,000; Metchosin, \$3,000; Cedar District, near Nanaimo, \$1,500; and Salt Spring Island, \$500. Besides these there were several road items of the previous day. Taken altogether the amount voted for public works of this character, including the trunk road, is \$45,500. This, however, is not to be raised by taxation this year or the next; but paid for out of loans or exchequer bills. The total amount to be raised by taxation the present year is \$146,000, and this embraces the thirty thousand dollars for steam communication. Last year the actual amount voted was considerably over double this sum and the year, before it was almost as much again. The amount sent down by the Executive the present year is \$193,895. This, however, would have had to be supplemented by \$21,000 for steam communication, as only \$9,000 are put down for this sum in the estimates. Including the steam project, therefore, the Executive's demands would have been \$215,000. When we add to this the various new items, such as \$1,500 additional for the fire department, \$6,000 for the hospital and several thousands voted for other necessary institutions, the amount would have reached to between two hundred and twenty and two hundred and thirty thousand dollars to be raised by taxation the present year. The retrenchment, therefore, has virtually been about eighty thousand dollars. Had it not been for the steam communication and the necessity for voting monies to relieve departments that were allowed to fall behind last year, we should have had but little over \$100,000 to vote. As it is, however, the "pruning knife" has done its work, and we think wisely. It is possible that some of the departments may feel a change at the outset of the new order of things, but things will quietly get into their groove, and the efficiency of the public service will be as good as ever.

FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday afternoon from New Westminster with about 40 passengers. There had been no communication with the Upper Country, the river up above being frozen solid, but a letter had been received by Messrs. Deitz & Nelson stating that heavy rains had prevailed and the ice would probably soon break up. A conversation in connection with the Sunday Schools of Trinity and St. Mary's Churches took place in the Council Chamber at the Camp on Wednesday evenings and was a great success. A mammoth Christmas tree was provided for the entertainment of the juveniles, and the Rev. Mr. Jenns exhibited a number of excellent geological, mineralogical, botanical and marine specimens. The firemen's ball on Thursday evening, under the patronage of the Hon. Mr. Birch, was largely and fashionably attended and is pronounced by the *Columbian* to have been the best of the season. No Eastern news had been received, the wires being down.

THE BRITISH SQUADRON IN THE PACIFIC.—The following ships, we believe, constitute the whole of the British fleet at present on the Pacific station: In the North Pacific (Esquimaux) H.M.S. *Clio*, steam corvette, 22 guns, 1,472 tons, 400 horse power. *Scout*, steam corvette, 21 guns, 1,462 tons, 400 horse power. *Alert*, steam sloop, 17 guns, 75 tons, 100 horse power. *Sparrowhawk*, steam gunboat, 4 guns, 676 tons, 200 horse power. *Grappler*, steam gunboat, 3 guns, 60 horse power. *Forward*, steam gunboat, 3 guns, 60 horse power. *Beaver*, surveying ship, 3 guns. The following ships are cruising in the South Pacific: *Sulley*, flagship, steam frigate, 35 guns, 3,066 tons, 500 horse power. *Leander*, steam frigate, 39 guns, 2,760 tons, 400 horse power. *Tribune*, steam frigate, 23 guns, 1,870 tons, 300 horse power. *Devastation*, paddle sloop, 6 guns, 1,058 tons, 400 horse power. *Camelion*, steam sloop, 17 guns, 952 tons, 200 horse power. *Mutine*, steam sloop, 17 guns, 822 tons, 200 horse power. *Shearwater*, steam sloop, 11 guns, 669 tons, 150 horse power. *Columbine*, steam sloop, 5 guns, 659 tons, 150 horse power. Total number of ships 15; total number of guns 226.

THE CHILCATEN EXPEDITION.—In answer to the application of the British Columbian Government to the Imperial Government to bear half the expense of this expedition (£16,000), Mr. Cardwell informs Governor Seymour that the cost of the expedition must fall upon the Colony.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24th, 1866.

The House met yesterday punctually at one o'clock. Members present: The Speaker, Messrs. DeCosmos, McClure, Trimble, Dickson, Powell, Ash, Duncan, Carswell and Cunningham.

DIRECT STEAM.

The Speaker read a message from His Excellency, stating that he had received a proposal for carrying the mails between San Francisco and this colony, to which he had to return a definite answer before 3 o'clock, and suggested that the House appoint a committee to confer with him on the subject.

The matter was discussed with closed doors, a deputation of the whole House then proceeded to wait on His Excellency, and on returning sat again with closed doors, after which the reply of the House was carried to His Excellency by the Speaker and Messrs. DeCosmos and Trimble.

CHURCH RESERVE.

Mr. DeCosmos presented the petition of the City Council on the Church Reserve, which has already been published.

On the motion of Mr. Duncan the Speaker appointed a committee of Messrs. DeCosmos, Trimble, and Duncan to report on all petitions before the House.

STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. McClure gave notice of a motion to suspend the standing orders of the House at any time during the session by a majority of the House.

REPRESENTATION BILL.

Dr. Ash gave notice of motion to amend this bill.

THE ESTIMATES.

House went into Committee on Supplies, Dr. Trimble in the chair.

ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES (continued). James Bay Bridge, new piling and repairs, unexpended in 1865, \$850.

Mr. McClure was of opinion the amount should be expended or very much reduced. Dr. Ash asked for information.

Dr. Helmecken did not know whether the expenditure of the sum asked for was requisite or not, but he thought the lives of the hon. members ought to be preserved; there were two piles that must necessarily be replaced.

Mr. McClure moved that the item be reduced to \$250.

Mr. DeCosmos said the town had to expend all its money in building up the country, he was opposed to the city paying any of the expense of the country, the ratepayers benefited should bear the expense.

Dr. Helmecken said the time was when the country supported the town; the hon. gentleman was raising an animosity between town and country.

Mr. DeCosmos said on examination he found that the city contributed eight-ninths and the electoral districts only one-ninth towards the general Government; what benefited the country certainly ultimately benefited the city, but he was opposed to taxes being levied upon the city to pay for every improvement. This was a matter that should be dealt with by the municipality.

Dr. Helmecken denied that the city paid one-ninth of the general revenue, and as to the municipality there was none in existence.

Mr. DeCosmos maintained that there was. After some further debate the item was reduced to \$250.

Comox road and bridge at Green's Landing, \$1,500.

Mr. DeCosmos spoke in favor of the item, which was carried.

Kokasalah Bridge, Cowichan, \$1,100.

Mr. DeCosmos moved a postponement until next meeting. Carried.

Mr. Cunningham moved that a sum of \$1000 be voted for a bridge across the Nanaimo River.

Mr. McClure seconded.

Dr. Ash said as the hon. member (Mr. Cunningham) had voted against the item for Victoria Bridge this had better be dealt with by their own municipality. (Laughter.)

Mr. McClure said the hon. gentleman had voted against the general Government undertaking repairs, not against its erecting bridges. (Hear, hear.) Municipalities or local districts should look after repairs.

The item was carried. Postponed.

Maple Bay Road, \$500. Postponed.

Mr. Carswell moved \$1500 for road from Sooke River to Muir's Farm and repairs of bridge over the river. There were no means of carrying produce from that settlement nor could he even visit his constituents.

After some remarks from Mr. DeCosmos, the chairman ruled the motion out of order.

LIGHTHOUSES.—Provisions and fuel, \$1,600.

Mr. Duncan moved a reduction to \$1300, the same as last year.

Dr. Helmecken did not think it enough.

Mr. McClure supported the original item, and thought retrenchment should not interfere with the efficiency of so important a service as that of the lighthouses.

Mr. DeCosmos advocated the lighthouse keepers being allowed to provide for themselves.

The original item was carried.

Dr. Helmecken said on shore it was practicable, but not afloat.

Stores—\$1000.

Dr. Dickinson alluded to the recent sale of the lifeboat at Race Rocks, which provoked some discussion, it being asserted by hon. members that the boat was too cumbersome to be of any service.

Dr. Dickinson then introduced a motion that a sum of \$250 be appropriated to the construction of a boat for use at the Race Rocks lighthouse, accompanying it with some comments on the recent casualty that occurred there. The motion was carried.

The item of \$1000 for stores was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.—Revising List of Voters, \$400.

Dr. Dickinson, without making any reflection upon anybody, thought the present List of Voters most incomplete and unsatisfactory. There were a number of persons who were dead still registered as voters on the list. There had been only some four or five names erased during the last three years. He opposed the vote.

A motion of Mr. DeCosmos to reduce to \$100 was carried.

Mr. Dennes here entered the House.

Sheriff—List of Voters, \$150.

Dr. Dickinson moved that it be reduced to \$125.

Dr. Helmecken—Oh! I move that it be \$125 50.

Dr. Dickinson's motion was lost and Dr. Helmecken's amendment carried, amid much laughter.

Contribution to Fire Department—\$1500.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that it be increased to \$3000.

Carried without dissent.

Insurance of Government Buildings and property—\$1000. Carried.

Contribution to Agricultural Society, \$500.

Mr. DeCosmos gave the gentlemen who devoted their time to getting up this show great credit; but he would move that it be reduced to \$250.

The original item was carried on a division by 6 to 3.

Mr. Duncan moved the appropriation of a sum of \$1000 for a Flour Mill at South Saanich.

Dr. Helmecken—Lake, you mean?

Mr. Duncan—I wish it was; I would then move for \$2000.

Dr. Powell thought notice of motion should be given before a resolution involving a money grant was entertained by the House.

Mr. DeCosmos thought it very remarkable in the hon. member introducing such a question at this stage of the proceedings of the Committee in Supply.

Dr. Powell said he had merely made the enquiry, but now he would move a resolution to the effect that such notice be required for the future.

Mr. McClure would have had no objection to such a measure had it been introduced at an earlier stage; but the estimates being now nearly got through with, he thought it quite unnecessary.

Dr. Helmecken thought such a course the most proper, and he regretted it had not been acted upon from the beginning. The course that the committee had been pursuing afforded facilities for unfair legislation, for members when they wanted to get a grant passed could watch their opportunity, and when they saw that they could command a majority they would bring their measures forward.

Mr. McClure—The item can be re-committed in the House.

Dr. Helmecken—But the majority that carried the question in Committee could also carry it in the House.

Mr. McClure—The hon. the Speaker is unusually acute. He tells us that a number of members finding themselves on some occasion in a majority can form themselves into a clique and bring forward a measure and carry it by a kind of snap judgment. On being told that the thing can be recommended in the House, he sagely tells us that the majority in the Committee can also carry it in the House. Well, if that's the case, the clique is simply the majority of the House (hear, hear), and he would like to know by what means the Speaker intends to prevent the majority ruling (laughter).

Dr. Helmecken thought the hon. gentleman who had just said down exceedingly facetious, exceedingly logical, and exceedingly wise. He had become quite an oracle in Parliamentary matters, but he had not put the case properly before the members. He disliked altogether the course that the House had adopted in regard to their dealing with the estimates; it led to a system of log-rolling, or "you tickle me and I'll tickle you!"

Mr. McClure thought the question out of order.

Mr. DeCosmos thought the motion out of order as it was against a rule of the House.

Dr. Dickinson moved that the resolution of the hon. member for Lake (Mr. Duncan) be postponed until the next meeting of the House.

The Chairman said he would prefer that the Committee should refer the point of order that had been raised to the Speaker to decide upon.

Mr. McClure thought it was a matter that should be decided by the Committee; the Speaker had already given his opinion in regard to it.

Mr. DeCosmos thought the object of his hon. colleague (Dr. Powell) was not commendable in his opposition to the course which the Committee had been pursuing—and styled his (Dr. Powell's) opposition as snapping and snarling.

Dr. Helmecken thought perhaps his snapping and snarling might prevent the hon. senior member for the City from forcing through the Committee some grant of money that might not pass upon due and timely consideration.

A motion to refer the question to the Speaker was carried.

The Speaker resumed the chair and decided that it was a standing parliamentary rule that no new matter could be brought before the House without notice, and that a money grant not embraced in the Estimates would come under the head of new matter.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that at the next sitting of the House he would move that the sum of \$25,000 be granted to build a wagon-road from Goldstream to Sayward's sawmill and through to Saanich.

Committee resumed.

INTEREST AND SINKING FUND.—Interest on road and harbor loan, 1862, \$11,640.—Carried.

Interest on temporary loan, \$2,000.—Carried.

Interest on sinking fund, \$7,760.—Carried.

DRAWBACKS, \$1,500.—Carried.

REFUNDS, \$500.—Carried.

IMMIGRATION.—For general purposes of immigration, \$1,000.

Dr. Helmecken thought it necessary to vote an amount in order that men might obtain assistance in getting out their wives.

Dr. Powell thought if men could not bring their wives out they had better leave them at home.

Mr. McClure said he would willingly support any well digested immigration scheme, especially if it were arranged by both colonies, but to vote \$1,000 to be applied as former sums have been he would not. The greater portion of the last thousand dollars had, he believed, been expended very unprofitably—one man's family had been brought out and almost the first boat took them to the American territory, leaving the Government to whistle for the money. Another family had been brought out, with almost the same result to the Government, as the money never was paid back. If money was voted the House should have some guarantee that it would be spent profitably and according to a well regulated system. He moved that the amount be struck out.

Mr. DeCosmos thought great discretion should be exercised in bringing people to the colony. He thought before immigration was encouraged some effort should be made to develop the resources of the country and reduce labor. Whatever money was expended should be applied in such manner as would benefit the colony by keeping immigrants within it.

Mr. Duncan thought the colony should first possess the Crown lands, and then there would be something to offer the immigrant. The lands were not open now to emigrants, and no good scheme could be adopted.

Item lost.

INDIANS.—Expenses connected with Indians, \$1000.

Dr. Helmecken, before voting on this item, would express his indignation at the recent proceedings of Her Majesty's ship *Clio* with the Fort Rupert Indians. He would characterize the treatment of the Indians on that occasion as inhuman in the extreme. He did not consider it any part of the duty of Her Majesty's ships to fire upon and destroy wretches out of doors in the winter season, leaving them no shelter from the storm and cold, and to destroy their canoes, thus leaving them in an entirely helpless condition. He thought it the duty of this House to express in the most decided manner its entire abhorrence of such a system. The Indians were revengeful like the whites, and he (Dr. H.) had no doubt that they would be avenged for the injury done them, and innocent white men would be the sufferers. If Her Majesty's Government had taken in hand to govern and manage the Indians regardless of the advice of the colony, then he (Dr. H.) would say let Government bear the cost.

Mr. McClure concurred in much that had fallen from the hon. member. He could not but regret that so indiscriminate a destruction had been wreaked by the man-of-war on the encampment and property generally of the Fort Rupert Indians. A number of these natives had been brought down to Victoria, tried and discharged—thrown upon Victoria streets, without a home, without a canoe, and without bread. To the kindness of some white men several of them were enabled to start home again in a canoe; but there were some still hanging round Victoria unable to get back. The worst feature was that when they would get back they would find all their property destroyed—all the accumulations of years gone—and they would be obliged to commence life anew—and all this for an offence the courts of law acquitted them of. It could only be expected that retaliation on our northern settlers would ensue (hear, hear).

Mr. DeCosmos agreed with the remarks which had fallen from both speakers; he thought the best way to treat Indians was to buy their good-will; he approved of the course pursued formerly; he was in favor of the bread and molasses policy, but should they prove rebellious then of course it would be necessary to deal rigorously with them and put them down with the strong arm. The treatment of the Fort Rupert Indians was bad in the extreme—in fact he had heard that the natives had been literally robbed of many of their household goods.

Dr. Helmecken said the Indians' ideas of justice in many cases differed from our ideas, kindness was the only mode by which they could be managed, but should they revolt and become rebellious then adopt rigorous measures. The Indians within the limits of our towns and settlements should be compelled to conform to civilized law, but those Northern Indians were out of the bounds of civilization and in their own territory. So far as the statement of the hon. gentleman on his left (Mr. McClure) was concerned about the Indians being thrust on the street it was perfectly true, and he considered it an outrage; they should have been sent back. Even the Indians taken a number of persons even as hostages they would have dealt in a more civilized manner with them.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that \$500 be substituted for \$1,000.—Motion lost.

The item of \$1,000 was lost by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that at the next sitting of the House he would bring in a resolution relating to the amalgamation of sundry offices.

Committee rose and reported progress.

Mr. Duncan gave notice that on Friday next he would move an address to His Excellency requesting him to lay before the House his despatches to the Colonial Office respecting the Postal establishment.

House adjourned to meet on Friday next at 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, January 26.

House met at 1:20 p.m. The Speaker in the chair.

Members present: Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, McClure, Dickinson, Trimble, Duncan, Dennes, Cochrane, Carswell, and Cunningham.

COMMUNICATION.

The Speaker read a message from His Excellency in reply to an address from the House asking information in regard to selling liquor.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that it be printed.—Carried.

CONVEYANCES.

Mr. Dennes brought in a bill relating to conveyances, which was read the first time.

INCORPORATION OF NANAIMO.

Mr. Cunningham asked leave to bring in a bill to incorporate Nanaimo. Leave granted.

POSTAL REGULATIONS.

Mr. Duncan moved an address to His Excellency the Governor, asking for his despatch to the Colonial Office relating to the postal regulations in this colony. Carried.

SUSPENSION OF RULES.

Mr. McClure moved that the rules of the House be suspended by a majority of the members present at any sitting.

Mr. Cochrane moved as an amendment that a two-thirds vote be required to suspend a rule of the House.

Dr. Powell thought it a dangerous principle to establish. A very small number of the House might reverse the action of the majority.

Mr. DeCosmos said if such a thing were done the majority of the House could again reverse the action.

Mr. Dennes thought a majority should govern in all cases.

Motion carried.

Yeas—DeCosmos, Carswell, Dennes, Mc-

Clure, Trimble, Cunningham, and Carswell (7).

Noes—Powell, Duncan, and Cochrane (3).

QUARTERLY COURT.

Mr. Cunningham's resolution, requesting His Excellency the Governor to instruct the Chief Justice to hold a quarterly court at Nanaimo, came up for discussion.

Mr. Cunningham hoped there would be no opposition, as it would require very little time.

Mr. Dennes would not oppose the motion, but still he feared the Chief Justice would not find time to attend a court at Nanaimo.

Mr. Cochrane seconded and supported the motion.

Dr. Powell would like to be informed how the duties of the Chief Justice were to be performed in the city.

Mr. Cochrane said the Chief Justice did not belong to the city of Victoria, but to the whole colony.

Mr. DeCosmos said the Chief Justice should hold circuit courts just as they did in other colonies.

On motion, the resolution was referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Dr. Dickinson moved that the rules of the House be suspended.

Mr. DeCosmos seconded the motion.

The Speaker ruled the motion out of order, no matter having yet come before the House requiring a suspension of the rules.

SUPPLY.

House went into committee on supply, Dr. Trimble in the chair.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the committee rise, and ask the House to suspend the rules of order to consider the estimates.

Dr. Helmecken thought a definite question should arise before the rules should be suspended.

Mr. DeCosmos thought it quite proper to ask for a suspension of the rules, in order to go into the Estimates generally, as it would obviate delay, and avoid the necessity of giving notice. He thought to object to the suspension of the rules was endeavoring to obstruct the business of the House.

Dr. Helmecken disclaimed any intention or desire to obstruct the business, but he thought the motion unparliamentary. There should be a definite question upon which the rule should be asked to suspend.

Mr. McClure said the committee of supply had among other things abolished the salaries of several officials; those salaries were still running on, and it was important that the supplies should be got through with as speedily as possible in order that the bill should go to the Upper House and be acted upon. The wants of the country demanded immediate action, and if the rules were suspended a great saving of money would be effected.

Dr. Powell said if the motion to suspend would nullify the rule requiring notice of motion before a money vote could be introduced, he would most decidedly oppose it.

Motion carried.

Yeas—DeCosmos, McClure, Dickinson, Dennes, Carswell, Cochrane, Cunningham.

Noes—Helmecken, Duncan, Powell.

Committee rose and the Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the rules of the House be suspended for the purpose of taking into consideration the General Estimates.

Motion carried.

Committee resumed.

Mr. Duncan moved that \$1000 be granted in aid of a Flour Mill at Saanich. He said there was an excellent water privilege there, and a private company were willing to build a good mill provided they were aided by the Government. The motion was not seconded.

Dr. Dickinson moved a resolution that this House renew the offer it had made as an inducement to build flour mills, as passed in 1864.

Mr. Cochrane seconded, and expressed astonishment that the hon. member for Lake (Mr. Duncan) should know so much more about the wants of his (Mr. C's.) constituents than he did himself. He only knew that a private party was about erecting a flour mill, and he was opposed to giving private grants; he thought the mode proposed by the amendment the better way, the grant should be general.

Dr. Dickinson stated that his resolution would grant \$1250 premium to any person or persons, erecting a flour mill capable of producing fifty barrels of flour per day.

Resolution carried.

POSTPONED ITEMS.

Engineer of Tug, \$1,091 25; carried.

Two Stokers at \$60 per month, \$1,440; carried.

Three crew at \$45 a month, \$1,620; carried.