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Another Gubernatorial Misstatement.

It is always an unpleasant task for a journalist to be compelled to recur to the shortcomings of a ruler, and to point out traits in his character that unfit him for the high position to which he has been appointed by a confiding sovereign But there are times and occasions when it becomes imperative, as a matter of public safety, to speak boldly and unreservedly of the conduct and policy of those who have been placed in authority over us The habit of misrepresentation is a sad fault with some men in the humbler walks of life, and where the habit is indulged in by those over whose actions we have control, there is at hand a remedy or a means of redress that can easily be applied. But when the offender is a *Governor*—we can only expose the moral fraud, and leave the perpetrator to the tender mercies of public opinion, to be judged as may be thought proper. In remarking yesterday upon the last effusion of Governor Seymour—the message on the Capital—we pointed out that His Excellency had been guilty of distorting a patent fact, where he stated in his message that only one section of the Colony asked for Unconditional Union; and we showed that the people of the mainland—with the exception of the few inhabitants of the little blot on the map at Frasermouth—were in favor of uniting the two Colonies *on any terms;* we also showed that His Excellency was not only aware of the existence of this feeling, but that his own dispatches, accompanying the Union petitions from the mainland, had appeared with them in the Blue Book. We have to-day the disagreeable duty devolving upon us to convict Governor Seymour of an equally grave and mischievous inaccuracy in the same message. Speaking of the gubernatorial residence at Westminster and Victoria, he says:

"The Legislature of the mainland was accordingly called upon to provide a house suitably furnished for the residence of the Governor, *while no such provision was required from Vancouver Island.*"

"Now, mark how plain a tale shall put thee down!" Governor Kennedy arrived at Victoria on the 25th day of March, 1864. He found that no residence had been provided for Governor Douglas—that gentleman having occupied his own private mansion. On the 2d day of April—*only eight days* after setting foot on our shores—what do we find the new Governor doing? Among the very first messages that he transmits to the House is one relating to the question of providing a suitable gubernatorial residence, and enclosing a despatch from the Colonial office upon the same subject. The Duke of Newcastle, at that time, was Secretary for the Colonies; and the despatch is not merely content with pointing out the "duty" of the Island Legislature to "*provide the Governor with adequate house accommodation,*" but approves of the preparation of "*plans for a house by a competent architect*" in England. In order that there may be no room for a cry to be raised that we wish to defame Governor Seymour by falsifying the record, we herewith produce copies of the message and despatch as laid before the Vancouver House of Assembly on the 2d of April, 1864:

VICTORIA, Vancouver Island,
2nd April, 1864.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to take this early opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Legislative Assembly the absence in this Colonp of any residence for its Governor.

I was aware of this fact before my departure from England, and in reply to a communication which I addressed to the Secretary of State upon the subject, I received a despatch, dated the 16th September, 1863, which I have now the honor to submit for the information of the House of Assembly.

In submitting this subject to the House, I would observe, that it is one wholly distinct from that of the Civil List, and it will be for the consideration of the House whether it should not be so treated.

In the event of the House of Assembly being disposed to entertain the question of a temporary residence for the Governor of the Colony, or the erection of a permanent one, or both, I will be prepared to submit a definite proposal on either or both subjects.

I have the honor to be,
Mr Speaker and Gentlemen,
Yobr obedient servant,
A. E. KENNEDY,
Governor.

DOWNING STREET,
16th Sept., 1863.

SIR:—I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge your letter of the 27th ultimh, on the subject of a Government House at Vancouver Island, and to acquaint you that as no residence for the Governor has hitherto been provided by the Colony, it becomes a matter of necessity that you should cause a representation to be addressed to the House of Assembly, moving them to supply the requisite funds for building one, and also for furnishing the public apartments.

The duty of providing the Governor with [illegible] upon all Colonial communities, and I entertain no doubt that the House of Assembly of Vancouver Island will cheerfully respond to your application on the subject.

Pending the erection of the House, the Duke of Newcastle authorizes you to engage a suitable residence, the rent for which will have to be defrayed by the Colony.

His Grace approves your suggestion of having a plan of a house prepared by a competent architect in this country, and as soon as it is completed he will be happy, to inspect it.

You will, however, necessarily incur a personal liability for the architect's charges, in case the Assembly should decline to adopt the plan, and to provide for the expense of obtaining it.

I am. Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) FREDERIC ROGERS.

To Captain Kennedy, C. B.

We do not think that any more remains to be said on this head. It is reasonable to suppose that the remainder of the document is of an equally incorrect character. The whole message bears an exceedingly suspicious aspect, and when we have shown that it is historically untrue upon the only two local points with which it condescends to deal, may we not, with propriety, cast a doubt upon the correctness of every statement that it contains? The magnanimity—the spirit of Christian forbearance—which the Governor gives us to understand he displayed when "it was at his intercession alone that the order to sell the Government House at Victoria was withheld"—is certainly worthy of admiration. Coming from any other source but the Governor, it would not surprise us to hear that the Imperial Government designed to dispose of that costly pile—indeed, after the manner in which we were traduced in the Paris letter, and the low estimate that was sought to be placed upon the intelligence and loyalty of the Islanders, we are only surprised that the Home Government was not ready to sell the Island, people and all, to the highest bidder, as a piece of property not worth the keeping, and which, like the beggar of Bagdad's shoes, it would be better to pay somebody to take off its hands.

THE CALIFORNIA—It was all a mistake about the California having left on Thursday. A despatch received from San Francisco yesterday states that she will leave to-day, at noon, in which case she will be due here on Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST

Eastern States.

WASHINGTON, March 27—Banks, from the Committee of Foreign Affairs, reported a joint resolution declaring that the people of the United States cannot regard the proposed confederation of the provinces on the northern frontier without extreme solicitude. A confederation of states, extending from ocean to ocean, without consulting the people of these provinces, founded on monarchical principles, cannot be considered otherwise than as a contravention of the traditions and the constantly delared principles of this government that will endanger most important interests, and tend to increase and perpetuate embarrassments which the governments were already discussing Passed without a division.

ST LOUIS, March 29—The Missouri river is open to Omaha. The boats are taking emigrants for Montana.

Europe.

LONDON, March 28—Evening—It is understood that the Government proposes to guarantee the Canadian Railroad Loan.

The Grecian Government has asked the leading powers to interfere for the prevention of further bloodshed in Candia.

Mexico.

NEW YORK, March 29—Despatches from San Louis Potosi say there is good reason to believe that Maximilian is cornered. He offered to surrender; the answer was a refusal to treat with traitors.

California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 27.—Sailed—Ship Elizabeth Kimball, Puget Sound; bark Adelaide Cooper, Puget Sound.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 28—On Wednesday the whole of the day was occupied with the Land bill. A clause proposed by Barnard was carried permitting persons who pre-empted under the old Act to add enough to make up the quantity as at present allowed.

Pilotage bill reported complete by committee. Southgate added a clause by which the Pilot Board can examine masters and mates for provisional certificates. The bill was then read a third time and passed.

Ports of Entry bill reported complete by committee.

The Governor's message on the capital was read on Thursday.

A long discussion took place on the Land bill, which was ultimately reported complete by the committee.

The Harewood Extension bill was passed through committee complete.

The consideration of the Mortgage bill in committee adjourned.

The Limitation of Foreign Actions bill was proposed for second reading by Robson, who made the bill an excuse for talking against time.

NO MAILS.

The Government has received information that the California will not bring up the mails for this Colony next trip.

The Capital Question!

Action Deferred for the Present!

The Governor lays before the Legislative Council for their information certain petitions addressed to him requesting that Victoria may be made, according to some of these papers the capital—according to others the seat of Government of the United Colony. It is in no cavilling spirit that he points out that those first alluded to appear to have been signed under a false impression; there is no intention of erecting public offices in New Westminster during the present condition of the Colonial finances. The Government officers do not complain of the accommodation afforded them; and if economy be a line considered, the retention of the seat of Government on the banks of the Fraser is to be preferred, inasmuch as considerable outlay would be required to make the Government house at Victoria permanently habitable. It is a matter of sincere regret to the Governor that this vast and thinly peopled territory should, in the early stage of its political existence, have been divided into two separate Colonies, and that two necessarily rival towns should have been founded in comparatively close proximity. His labors would now be lighter, and the Colony more prosperous, had the spare resources of the inhabitants been concentrated in the erection of one town of magnitude of sufficient importance and attraction to retain during the winter the greater part of the unattached population of the Colony. He would not care if the site for the capital had been fixed where Victoria now stands, or on the bay of Esquimalt, or at New Westminster; not could he, if the matter had been clearly understood by all, have objected to fixing on the chief town, or within a certain radius of it, and another upon those who took to other occupations in outlying districts. But it is not in order to express regret over the past that the Governor now comments on the petitions he forwards. New Westminster was, by proclamation having the force of law, created the capital of British Columbia. Her Majesty was invited to name the young city, and bestowed on it the designation it now bears. Though styled "capital," it would not appear to have been the seat of Government, and the affairs of the mainland were directed from the chief town of the neighboring insular Colony. Dissatisfaction, whether general or local the Governor is not in a position to say, ensued, and Her Majesty was advised to separate the administration of the Government of British Columbia from that of Vancouver Island. In his acceptance of office in this Colony the present Governor was instructed to use all means in his power to bring about an entire union of the two Colonies, which the Secretary of State had reluctantly advised the Queen to disconnect. His Grace stated that it was the intention of the Government that New Westminster should be the seat of Government of the Colony if a fusion could be obtained, although he believed that Victoria would always retain her commercial supremacy. The Legislature of the mainland was accordingly called upon to provide a house suitably furnished for the residence of the Governor while no such provision was required from Vancouver Island. On his arrival in the Colony, the Governor found the sum of £10,000 voted for the erection of public buildings, but with the cheerful concurrence of the public officers interested; he declined to lay out the money in that manner, choosing rather in the general interest to devote to the lowering, by improvement in communication, the price of commodities in the gold districts. In the desire for Union, the Governor looked for great and material advantage to the present Colony until the Imperial Legislature had considered the time had arrived for carrying into effect a policy Her Majesty's Government has steadily kept in view. When British interests on the shores of the North Pacific were consolidated by act of Parliament, the Governor understands that during the passage of the act it was stated in both Houses of Parliament that New Westminster should be the seat of the general Government. An influential member of the Government informed him a few days before his departure from England: "I do not think it necessary that the Secretary of State should give you instructions as to the seat of Government. It is understood that New Westminster should be the Capital, and that you should visit Victoria when you think necessary; but if you wish for definite orders you will do best to ask for them in a formal letter to the Secretary of State." The Governor has no doubt that such an application would have resulted in a royal decision in favor of New Westminster; and he may state, that it was in his intercession alone that the order to sell the Government House, at Victoria, was withheld. He is of opinion that the question as to the future seat of Government, and of the assemblage of the Legislature had better ultimately be decided on local recommendation. He would, however, not desire that the interest of New Westminster should be prejudiced by his regard for the general interests of the Colony having been superior to that he felt for the comfort of himself and the public officers; nor on the other hand, would he wish any undue consideration to be given in favor of Victoria on account of a large outlay having been made on a governor's residence at a time when Vancouver Island could but ill afford it. He would take no advantage of the fact of one section of the Colony, having asked for unconditional union, while the other stood aloof; nor would he maintain that the proclamation, though having the force of law, may not be repealed when the community reaches a more advanced state of population and mode of government; but for the present, he will leave matters as they are He will watch, without preference or prejudice, over the general interests of the Colony as they may develop themselves in the uncertain future, and will be prepared to act upon his own judgment in the advice, if any, which he may lay before Her Majesty's Ministers. He trusts that no immediate action may be urged upon him; he feels deeply the injury the Colony has sustained from political agitation, and now states plainly that should he find it necessary to set the present question at rest, he will bumbly recommend to the Queen that he and his successors in office be commanded to reside permanently in the present capital of the Colony.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, March 27, 1867.

Eastern States.

WASHINGTON, March 26—The Senate has refused to confirm Frank Blair as Minister to Austria.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will probably report in favor of Wilson's resolution for the trial or release of Jefferson Davis on parole. It is believed that Congress will adopt a resolution that Davis be released within a week.

NEW YORK, March 25—A misunderstanding recently occurred between Admiral Tucker and Captain Stanley, of the United States steamer Tuscarora, owing to which the usual courtesies between the United States and Peru were suspended.

NEW YORK, March 26—A Paris correspondent says Stephens and a number of American officers in Paris are quite innocent of the recent rising in Ireland. It took them by surprise.

Mexico.

GALVESTON, March 25—Rio Grande dates are received to the 22d inst. No change had taken place in the position of the troops near Queretero. Supplies were scarce, all provisions having been seized for the use of the army. The Imperialists were deserting by companies. The Liberalists had seized Conducta, with 80,000 pieces of silver.

NEW YORK, March 25—The steamer Moro Castle, with Havana dates to March 20, has arrived. The Liberal forces were closely besieging Vera Cruz and exchanging shots with the garrison.

Europe.

LONDON, March 26—*Evening*—The English Government has decided not to permit the return of Lamirande, the French forger, who was taken in Canada under the Extradition Treaty, as he was claimed illegally, but reserves the right to do so should France renew the demand.

San Francisco Shipping.

Sailed, March 27—Bark Milan, Puget Sound; schooner Ann Eliza, Yaquina.

New Westminster, Mar 30.

The Medical Ordinance after consideration in committee was reported complete, with the addition of an amendment requiring a diploma from the college where three years instruction was imperative. It does not interfere with the present practitioners.

County Courts Procedure Ordinance read a second time.

The Governor's message assenting to Exchequer Debenture Ordinance, was read.

Limitations of Actions Bill reported complete with amendments.

The Governor's message, with respective debts of the two sections of the colony read and ordered to be printed.

Land Bill read third time and passed. Dr Cosmos motion that the Land Office be also and Immigration Office, and other recommendations inducive of immigration, reported complete with amendments by committee.

CAPITAL DEBATE—A telegram from New Westminster, at nine o'clock last evening, announced that the Council had been in session since ten o'clock in the morning discussing the Capital Message. There can be no doubt that the Island members and their Cariboo compatriot, Mr Walkem, will have the matter fully ventilated before they leave the Chamber, and will plainly express the feelings of their constituents upon this last insulting and incorrect gubernatorial document. In consequence of the length of the debate our reporter was unable to reach the telegraph office in time to transmit a despatch.

ALLEGED THEFT OF FOWL.—A Chinaman, living on Store street, was yesterday charged at the Police Court by a Nanaimo Indian, residing at Foul Bay, with having in his possession three fowls belonging to the Indian. After much trouble to sift the evidence, by the aid of a Chinese, native and an English interpreter, the case was not proven, and John Chinaman was allowed to take his chickens, much to the satisfaction of a *host of Celestials* in Court.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—The female teacher of the Victoria Free School for girls has tendered her resignation, and it has been accepted by the Educational Board. The present efficient assistant teacher assumes the duties provisionally, and we understand it is probable the committee to whom was referred the question of the continuance of public schools on the insular portion of the Colony, will report so as not to materially affect the present system in force.

A DENIAL—The "third party" to the entrance of the butcher's shop on Government street, on Thursday night, denies that he "cleaned the establishment out." He says that he was there by the authority of the official assignee, and did not disturb any of the goods.