

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

## And Victoria Chronicle.

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**WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST**  
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It is really a pity that the friend who strongly advocates the cause of Free Trade in this day's issue, has detracted from the value of his argument by placing a wrong construction upon at least one of the series of articles we have recently penned in favor of the extension of a Treaty of Reciprocal Trade to this Colony. Our correspondent assumes that we send to the wall the interests of both Town and Country, because we told the farmer in pretty plain terms that he could not expect to be the object of class legislation any more than the merchant was allowed to be four years ago when the struggle between Free Trade and Union and Tariff took place; and that he would not be allowed to stand in the way of a great public good, in which he, being a part of the public, would share equally with the rest. But we did not demand that he should be "sacrificed" upon the altar of Reciprocity. On the contrary, we pointed out wherein we thought he would be directly benefited through the operation of the proposed system; but added, that were a limited scheme possible the exclusion of certain of our agricultural products—vegetables, for instance—from the list, would not meet with opposition at our hands. As, however, we do not believe limited Reciprocity possible, we are not disposed to fritter away our time in asking for what we are sure we cannot get. Again, our correspondent says that the loss to the revenue through Reciprocity would be \$100,000, and that no advocate of the scheme has as yet shown how that loss would be made up. We answer (as we have frequently stated) by the substitution of a cheap and efficient, in place of our present expensive and inefficient form of Government, by the amalgamation of the public offices and removal of all heads of departments save that of Colonial Secretary; by a reduction of salaries that at present are too high; the introduction of a system of economy in every branch of the public service; and by attracting hither capital and labor to open our mines and fell our forests, which would enlarge the "area of taxation" and increase the consumption of goods that would still pay duties. The plea which our correspondent advances in favor of Free Trade and direct taxation meets with no opposition from us. Any system of Reciprocity which may be extended to this Colony cannot interfere with the admission of such articles, free of duty, as the Legislature may decide. But our correspondent is in error when he asserts that the loss to the revenue by Free Trade would not amount to more than \$30,000. The Customs' dues this year, we learn, will reach \$300,000. How, then, does "Free Trade" after raising his \$30,000 by direct taxation in Victoria and Nanaimo propose to make up the remaining \$270,000? He surely cannot expect to raise it by "direct taxation from Nanaimo and Victoria," and if he does, can he not see that if New Westminster or some other seaport on the Mainland were to enjoy all the benefits of Free Trade and cheap goods, and yet escape the entire burden of taxation, that the Mainland would become a much more desirable place of residence than the Island, which would have to shoulder the whole load of taxation? Under Free Trade, the Americans would obtain a market here without conceding a single privilege in return. Were Canada to throw open her fisheries and her markets to Americans without requiring an equal concession on their part, would she not be acting most unwisely and unfairly towards herself? Under Reciprocity, there need be no limit to the articles we admit free. We do not (as "Free Trade" appears to fear) bind ourselves to admit free into our ports only such articles as the Americans will admit to their ports. We may throw our trade open to one or one hundred

articles if we choose, without in the least interfering with or jeopardizing the privileges we acquire under Reciprocity; and if in exchange for the Reciprocity granted us by the Americans we returned to unrestricted Free Trade, would our neighbors be disposed to object? Certainly not; the more liberal we, the better off they. The only good point "Free Trade" makes in his letter is where he complains that the abolition of the Free Port has sent Mainland merchants to San Francisco for their stocks. This, we acknowledge, is a serious matter, and one that we intend to discuss fully before the meeting of the Council on the 17th inst. The tendency of our present commercial system is to make San Francisco the market of assorted goods for Cariboo as well as the rest of the Coast; and it would only be through a reform, some, what similar to the one our correspondent suggests, that the trade now passing our doors could be restored to its original and legitimate channel; but it is idle for "Free Trade" to hold out the inducement that Victoria and Nanaimo stand ready to make up any deficiency that may occur in the revenue, so that the remainder of the Colony may escape untaxed. In parting with our friend for the present, we wish again to impress upon his mind, that there is nothing incompatible with Free Trade in Reciprocity; and that no advocate of the latter is necessarily an opponent of the former.

We believe it has been laid down by the Chief Justice, from the Bench, that American divorces of parties married in Great Britain or the Colonies are not binding here; consequently a man and woman married here or at home and unmarried in Washington Territory may not legally mate again in this Colony; but should they do so and escape prosecution for bigamy, the consequences might in after years be awkward for the children by the second marriage. We have in our mind a recent case where a wife procured a divorce in the neighboring territory from an absent husband and married another man before her first husband was even aware she was suing for a separation. The *modus operandi* of procuring divorces in Washington Territory is simple enough. Mr. X becoming dissatisfied with Mrs. X, separates from her, and applies in due form to a Washington Territory Court for a judicial separation; he is told that he must become a resident of the territory before his application can be granted; he accordingly rents a shanty for three months at a nominal rate of \$3 or \$4 per month, puts the key in his pocket, and returns to his business in Victoria; at the expiration of three months he makes affidavit that he is a resident of the territory and produces an obscure newspaper, in an obscure corner of which appears a notice addressed to his wife of his intention to apply for a divorce at the end of three months (which notice it is intended shall ever meet the eye of the person to whom it is addressed), and upon the clerk of the court announcing that the wife has filed no objection to the application, it is assumed that her silence gives consent, and the applicant is declared a free man once more. The proceeding from first to last wears such an air of immorality and want of principle that it shocks an uninterested observer. The divorce laws of our neighbors are too lax and ought to be repealed.

**THE GALE.**—The heavy northeaster which commenced about 10 o'clock on Wednesday night, continued until 8 o'clock yesterday morning without intermission, at which hour the wind suddenly hauled round to the southwest and heavy squalls prevailed during the rest of the day, and as we go to press old Bores is still piping away right merrily. The damage on land, so far as we have heard, is confined to the stoppage of telegraphic communication, the blocking up of roads by fallen trees, and the prostration of fences. The steamer Eliza Anderson sailed for Puget Sound at 3 a.m., but upon reaching Trial Island was driven back by the severity of the gale and sought refuge at her wharf. The steamer Continental, hence for Portland, may have escaped the gale, by crossing the bar on Wednesday; the G. S. Wright, for the same destination, probably crossed on Tuesday morning; and the Active, we should not be surprised to learn, is lying at anchor in Neah Bay. Some anxiety is felt for the safety of such vessels in Puget Sound as sustained the severity of the gale.

**FROM NANAIMO.**—The steamer Sir James Douglas arrived from Nanaimo yesterday evening. She brought down Mr. Pearce, Assistant Surveyor General, two other passengers, eighteen tons of coal for the Government offices and a small freight of produce. She reports the Alacata sailed, being towed out by the Grappler; and the Shooting Star likely to be loaded by Tuesday next, in which case she will be towed out by the Douglas on Wednesday. The Douglas experienced a heavy blow coming down, which detained her several hours on the way.

The County Court sat yesterday until a late hour and stands adjourned until this morning. We shall give a full report tomorrow.

**A NEW AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY.**—John L. McOlellan, formerly well known in Cariboo, is reported to have discovered a magnificent country in Montana Territory on the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains near the Boundary Line, which bears no marks of the presence heretofore of either Indians or whites. The account of the discovery, which reads more like a fairy story than the description of a real scene—is as follows:—The party traveled up the banks of a large stream for sixty miles, when, as they were emerging from a wide valley covered mainly with timber and swamps, they beheld the walls of a rocky canon rising perpendicularly to a height of from a hundred to two hundred feet, while half a mile ahead of them the mountains were precipitous and the rapids rising to a height of a hundred and fifty feet. Desiring to see more closely the natural beauties of which they had obtained a glimpse, the two men proceeded up the right bank of the river to the foot of the falls. Upon arriving there, a scene of wonderful beauty presented itself to their view. The falls were three in number, like stone steps on the solid rock, and were respectively twenty-five, thirty-five and forty feet in height, and separated from each other by gentle rapids one hundred yards in length. The width of the upper fall was about fifty feet; of the lower ones seventy-five feet. When standing at the base of the falls they were at a loss to tell where the water came from. They could perceive a snowy conical peak towering above, but far behind the upper fall. Determined, if possible, to see all the wonders, our explorers climbed to the summit of the falls, and there beheld a most beautiful heart shaped lake about fifteen miles long and from five to ten wide. The lower point was at the falls; the reentrant angle directly opposite, and five miles distant. In the angle last named, and upon each side of the lobes of the heart, extending a distance of fifteen miles into the mountains, was the snow-capped peak which they saw from below, rising perpendicularly from the water's edge a thousand feet high. On the Southern side of the lake was a heavy timbered slope, culminating in a high mountain range; on the North side, an extensive and beautiful prairie.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**—A Government Gazette Extraordinary summons the Council to meet on the 17th inst. for the dispatch of business. Following are the names of the members:—Hons. Young, Gress, Trutch, Hamley, Bushby, Alston, Ball, Holbrook, O'Reilly, A. F. Pemberton, Sanders, Walkem, Wood, Carrall, Davis, Drake, Helmcken, Havelock, Humphreys, Ring, Robson.

**ANOTHER MATCH.**—It is said another match for the same amount, \$250 a side, has been made between Voltaire and Lucy, to come off on Christmas Day. This race ought certainly to decide which is the faster animal.

**LECTURE.**—A lecture was delivered at the Literary Institute, Nanaimo, on Monday evening last on the subject of Astronomy by the Rector of the Parish, Rev. Mr. Garrett. The lecture gave unqualified approbation.

**J. P.'s.**—Messrs E. G. Alston, G. A. Walkem and H. Holbrook are gazetted as Justices of the Peace in and for the Colony of British Columbia.

**Free Trade vs. Reciprocity.**  
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—For some days past you have with considerable ingenuity advocated Reciprocity with the United States, but you have failed to tell us who are to be benefited by the proposed treaty. You imply the general community; but I observe in your article of the 9th, that you tell the agricultural interest it must not expect class legislation for its particular benefit, but that as the interests of the town went to the wall for its benefit on the question of tariff, the interest of the country must in turn be sacrificed on the question of Reciprocity. Having thus sent to the wall the interests both of town and country, I would ask you, are now the general community? No advocate of Reciprocity has attempted to show how the revenue we should lose by it is to be made up. If, as I saw proposed in a letter in your columns, all American manufactured goods and raw products are to be admitted free, at least four-fifths of our customs revenue would be lost, and in a short time all the trade would be in the hands of Americans; and we should virtually be an American colony. If only the raw products are to be admitted free, the loss of the revenue then would be about \$1,000,000 per annum. What class or interest will be so benefited as to be able to make up the deficiency? The advocates of Reciprocity draw the farmers' attention to the opportunity he would have of selling his produce in the markets of the Sound, (I will leave the farmer to judge what will be his chance of profit in our neighbors' markets) and argue that he would gain more by better markets than he would lose by open competition. I say that the better market would be gained if instead of waiting for our neighbors to help us, we were boldly to restore the Free Port to Vancouver Island.

In the case of Reciprocity, as I before said, the loss to the revenue would be \$1,000,000, which none of its advocates have shown how we are to make up. In the case of Free Trade in Vancouver's Island, the loss to the revenue would not be more than \$30,000, which amount Victoria and Nanaimo, being relieved from the burden of indirect taxation, might fairly be asked for, and would easily be able to pay in direct taxes.

Some may say—is it fair to the rest of the Colony that Vancouver Island should be made a Free Port, while on the Mainland the system of indirect taxation is maintained? I reply, certainly it is, if Vancouver Island contributes in direct taxes a fair share towards the general revenue of the Colony. On the Island the population is gathered into two centres, Victoria and Nanaimo, and a system of direct taxation is easily applied. On the Mainland the population is more sparse, and scattered over a wide surface, and there a revenue could only be collected indirectly by custom's duties on imported goods; but you may say, why not leave matters as they are? I reply, because the present system, in the hands of the holders of a monopoly, and scattering her natural advantages, which, if carefully cultivated, would make her the distributing point for English merchandise on the coast.

We shall very shortly have a railway to Puget Sound. The town which will spring up at its terminus will, under the present system, be a formidable rival; but if Free Port is restored, will become an important customer, and instead of rivaling, will contribute largely to restore to Victoria her former prosperity. Under the present system even British Columbia merchants are compelled to go to San Francisco for goods, not because they are cheaper there, but because there only are they able fully to assort their stocks, the present trade of Victoria being limited to the consumption of the Colony, is not large enough to warrant large importations.

The restoration of the Free Port would, I conceive, benefit every interest in the Colony. The commercial interest would recover from its long depression; the agricultural interest would find a good and certain market near at hand; the up country merchant would find in Victoria a cheap and convenient market to buy his goods; we should attract a large trade, which would increase with the prosperity of our neighbors on the Sound; an increasing number of ships bringing cargoes to our ports, would take return freights of coal and lumber to other ports at lower rates than if sent up in ballast from San Francisco, and the quality of our coal and lumber will ensure a market. In these things, and in our natural advantages of climate and position, we possess that which, without Reciprocity and without Confederation, will ensure our prosperity. Let the revenue only be collected in a way that will least damage the general interests of the Colony, (and I have endeavored to show that direct taxation is better adapted for the Island portion of it), and I have no doubt that all those who, like myself, look upon this Colony as a home for themselves and their children, will in time be satisfied with as bright a future as their foresight predicts.

**FREE TRADE.**  
**Bank of British Columbia.**  
Yesterday the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders was held at the London Tavern; Mr. T. W. Mackenzie, chairman of the company, presiding.

The report that already appeared, was taken as read.

The Chairman, in moving its adoption, expressed the satisfaction which the directors received from the result of the half-year's working, observing that they might have recommended a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, but they thought it more prudent to propose 2½ per cent., and write off a large amount to the balance of the bad debt account, in the hope of giving a better return at no very distant period. Although the profits for the last half year showed a marked increase over the corresponding period in 1867, the half year ending in June invariably showed smaller profits, in consequence of trade being less active. The continued depression in business had operated against the bank, but trade was showing unmistakable symptom of revival; and since their accounts had been made up a very large proportion of their cash balance had been profitably employed, and with an increased exchange business would, he trusted, add considerably to their profits in the future. The charges, of course, appeared large in proportion to profit, but they could do twice the business without increasing that item of their expenditure. Their note circulation was steadily increasing, a sure indication of public confidence. On June 30, 1867, their issue of notes was \$74,196; on 31st December of the same year, \$106,439; on 30th June last \$131,875; and by their last advance \$134,116. Their agency at Cariboo, where their chief circulation existed, had become a valuable adjunct to their Victoria branch whereas formerly it was the very reverse. Victoria having been declared the capital of the colony their branch there was reaping the advantage of such a settlement of the long vexed question, and was now a source of profit to them. Already there was a revival of business. The coal trade, which for some years languished, had recovered, and bid fair to be a most important item of export, and as those engaged in it were securing good profits, they looked for a handsome return. Gold mining was also steadily progressing, but slowly; like coal, it wanted the introduction of capital to enable those engaged in it to provide the necessary machinery. Arrangements had nearly been completed to make either a floating or permanent graving dock at Esquimalt, and when this was accomplished it must have a very beneficial effect upon Victoria. The enterprise would, it was believed, have an imperial guarantee of 4 per cent. on the capital expended, and it was hoped that the government would extend such a guarantee to other objects of equal public utility in the colony. An exploring party, under the auspices of the colonial

Government, had started for the interior of Vancouver Island, hitherto unexplored, and the directors looked forward with much interest to their report. The branch at San Francisco continued steadily to progress under its present able and prudent management, and the directors looked forward to its fully justifying their judgment in opening a branch of the bank at that emporium of the Pacific coast. By late advices it appeared that there was a full expectation of the Central Pacific Railway being finished and opened for traffic by July next, and San Francisco being the terminus in the west, it must have a very important effect upon the trade of San Francisco and of all the territories in close proximity. There was every prospect of the reciprocity treaty between the United States and the Dominion being passed and ratified. On this subject we included in that treaty it must exert a most beneficial effect upon the future of that rising colony, despite its past depression. The Portland branch was a source of profit to the bank, and was progressing satisfactorily. One very hopeful feature in the future of British Columbia was the steady progress of agriculture, the colonists expecting at no distant time to supply their own wants. A report had been received indirectly of the burning of the bank premises at Barkerville, but it appeared that the treasure was saved, and beyond temporary inconvenience the loss would be very small indeed. The bank had in itself the elements of success, and it only required the hearty support and confidence of the shareholders to enable the directors to reap the full benefit of its position.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gillespie.

Mr. Wright asked for some explanation of the large item of charges, amounting to nearly £7,000.

The Chairman admitted that the sum was large in proportion to the profits, but the bank had five officers, and he believed that the items had been reduced to the very minimum of safety.

A Shareholder asked whether the directors had considered the position of the new shares; and Mr. Mackenzie, Q. C., M. P., expressed an opinion that no satisfactory alteration could be made in the amount of the shares without diminishing the security of the creditors, and the law officers of the crown would not sanction any measure which would have that effect. Moreover, nine-tenths of the new shares were held by the old shareholders, and it was obvious that no possible advantage could result to them from the change; and as regarded the new shareholders, any attempt to moot the question would entail upon them losses that they could not gain. The 215 newly issued shares afforded a large security to creditors, and at the same time formed the very best reserve fund. Having weathered the financial crisis, and made a net profit for the last half year equal to 6 per cent. per annum, he looked forward to the future of the company with the greatest confidence.

Other Shareholders having expressed satisfaction with the report, and confidence in the directors, the motion was unanimously carried, and the dividend was declared for the half year ending the 30th of June last, at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, free of income tax, payable on and after the 29th inst.

A sum of £50 was awarded to each of the auditors for their services during the past year, and after very cordial votes of thanks had been passed to the directors and the general manager the proceedings terminated.

**A Sensible Convention.**  
We see it stated that on the 17th of this month, the women of Germany were to hold a Conference at Strigard, for the purpose of discussing the points of the following programme:—

1. To find out the best ways and means to teach young mothers how best to regulate the physical education of their children.
  2. The establishment of small museums of literature, art, and industry. These museums would not merely contain the best works of literature and art especially adapted for women, but they would principally be a kind of schools or academies. Places for meeting, lectures, and the like; in which topics, such as the education of children and matters of domestic interest, should be treated by competent women and men; if these can be prevailed upon to assist in the movement. There would also be Sunday schools for women and girls of all classes, savings banks, supply associations, offices for those that want places, etc.
  3. The commencement of a reform in dress, chiefly directed against the vulgarities of fashion, and the best way and means to carry out this reform effectually. As a basis for this reform the following points have been accepted:  
a. That nothing new be declared "old-fashioned" which has once found itself useful, appropriate, and becoming.  
b. That nothing new be adopted unless it has proved itself to be both to the purpose and answering the demands of good taste.  
c. That all garments and objects of toilet that are hurtful to health be put away.  
d. To inquire whether large savings might not be effected in things of dress, so that the expenses might be made more appropriate to the income.  
e. The transformation of benevolent female institutions into self-supporting and earning female institutions.
- THE NEW COLOURS.**—The fashionable shades in Europe this season are the Florence—a rich ruby; the Grens a darker shade; a very brilliant Green—and various tints of Amber. Some very choice goods in these beautiful colours have been received at the London House by the Continental.

Paris Exhibition, 1867.  
**SAUCES, JAMS**  
**BLACKWELL**  
**BLACKWELL'S**  
**JESTY'S TABLE**  
**RAUD**  
**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ENGLAND.**  
**MEETING, 1868.**  
**HOWARD,**  
**SON & SON,**  
**EMULSION, and PAN-**  
**D WHEAT PHOS-**  
**EUROPEAN NEWS.**  
**THE MAIL.**