

## The Weekly Colonist

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1864.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Sessional Debates, &c., &c.*

*Friday, April 26.*

Council met at 2:30 p.m. Members present,

the President and Hon. Attorney-General, Treasurer, Surveyor-General, R. Finlayson and D. Fraser.

The Council went into Committee of the whole on the House of Assembly's resolutions on the Civil List.

Hon. Surveyor-General moved an amendment to the resolution of the Hon. Treasurer.

"That the Legislative Council concurs in the resolutions of the House of Assembly, dated 9th February, 1864, that the sum of the committee were under obligation to the Hon. Treasurer.

The Hon. Member for Nanaimo, in his speech,

which was evidently alluded to in the despatches of His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle.

"The policy of this colony had been heretofore to submit on her reputation as a free port, till she had attained a commercial position; and on the strength of her supposed revenue from that position, we had borrowed £40,000, and could not see how we could now depreciate our resources as the proposed resolutions would inevitably do. The House of Assembly had no objection to availing themselves of the services of the Governor of another colony, but now when asked to pay their own they acted in a manner strikingly spirit of parsimony." The hon. gentleman maintained that the revenue was quite capable of meeting the Civil List demanded, or if not, it could readily be made to do so by regulating the real-estate and trade license taxes. He had no hesitation in saying that two years the real-estate tax would yield a sufficient revenue to pay the whole government expenses. He certainly could not concur in the amendment introduced by the hon. Mr. Fraser.

The hon. Surveyor-General, after referring them at the most minute, and as far as the views of that gentleman as to the desirability of making the colonies provided for themselves, said he could not do so.

He could not however agree with him in his estimate of the revenue which might be derived from the Great Land, expressing himself convinced that they were comparatively valuable assets of the colony.

He also was of opinion that the Real Estate Tax could not be made an additional source of revenue.

He added to the further calls which would be shrewdly made on the revenue for harbor improvements, coast roads, road expenses, interest on £20,000 for a Governor's residence, &c., which would reach £15,000 or £20,000, and urged that the present revenue would be found insufficient.

Hon. R. Finlayson seconded the amendment.

Hon. Donald Fraser offered the following resolution in amendment to those of the Hon. Treasurer:

"The Legislative Council of Vancouver Island having taken into consideration the copy of the resolution of the Hon. House of Assembly, dated February the 9th 1864, introduced into the House from its opinion by His Excellency the Governor, doth resolve,

"1st. That in the general sense of the said resolutions of the House of Assembly; and thereafter,

"Resolved, that this House is of opinion with reference to His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle's despatch of the 16th of June, 1863, referred to in the said resolutions of the House of Assembly, asking for a permanent Civil List in return for the control of the Crown Revenue, that no best income can be expected to be derived by the colony from the public lands, which are the only productive source of Oceana's Revenue, for the following reasons:

"1st. Because the public land suitable for agriculture is limited in extent;

"2nd. Because the price of such land is now reduced from 4s. to 2s. per acre, and cannot be increased, the reduction having been rendered necessary and expedient to encourage settlement and to meet the competition of low priced land in the neighboring countries;

"3rd. Because the amount of money necessary to be paid to Indians to extinguish the Indian title to portions of the land will absorb a considerable sum of the proceeds of the sale of land;

"4th. Because the expenses of survey and other incidental charges in which the land will become subject before the proceeds of sale can be realized will absorb the sum arising from such process;

"5th. Because the terms under which the land is held the occupiers (pre-emptors) are not to be called upon for payment of the land pre-empted until the Crown Lands shall have been first surveyed;"

"6th. Because the revenue of the colony does not at present afford the means of defraying the expense of a general survey; and consequently a considerable period of time, probably many years, must elapse before the purchase price shall become due.

"7th. Because the terms under which the land is held the occupiers (pre-emptors) are not to be called upon for payment of the land pre-empted until the Crown Lands shall have been first surveyed;"

"8th. Because the expenses of survey, namely, the public lands of the Crown, and the Crown Lands, which are productive in most other colonies, do not and cannot be expected to produce any revenue to this colony, which is compelled by its maintenance of a free port system, to the peculiar advantage of English commerce, to support the Government and to defray the expense of internal improvements by direct taxation, already so onerous that it cannot be increased."

"9th. Resolved, that in the opinion of this House the offer of His Grace does not afford an equivalent for the Civil List agreed to by the Court adjourned until Monday next.

"10th. Resolved, that in the opinion of this House the resources of revenue, namely, the public lands of the Crown, and the Crown Lands, which are productive in most other colonies, do not and cannot be expected to produce any revenue to this colony, which is compelled by its maintenance of a free port system, to the peculiar advantage of English commerce, to support the Government and to defray the expense of internal improvements by direct taxation, already so onerous that it cannot be increased."

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