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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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THE WEEKLY COLONIST. farmished to Subscribers for \$6 a year; \$4 for six

months: \$2 50 for three months: payableinadvance . THE UNION DEBATE.

The question of uniting the colonies of Assembly according to notice, and in response to communications from His Excellency the Governor and the Secretary of State for the Colonies. A good deal of interest seemed to sentre on the topic by the public, but the numbers of the Assembly were exceedingly cautions in their treatment of the matter in debate. Mr. DeCosmos, the Union champies, was evidently unwilling to discharge all sonfined himself to generalities and to explaining the nature of the series of resolutions plaining the nature of the series of resolutions and the series of the series of resolutions and the series of the series of the series of resolutions and the series of the series confined himself to generalities and to explaining the nature of the series of resolutions which he introduced. Mr. Franklin, the anisation produced at the introduced of the series of

etween the two knights, ere was a dreary, oppressive silence. Every bedy thought something should be done, and hobody seemed either willing or able to do it. An appealing look was cast by some of the members of the committee at the Speaker, but that gentleman contented himself with raising his eye-brows about an eighth Duncan, Carswell, Dennes. of an inch, and giving his shoulders a hopeless shrug. Any friend of the Northern States would have felt at this particular imeture exceedingly anxious about the "Union cause." After fifteen minutes of profesand do-nothingism, Dr. Trimble rose and proposed, no doubt ironically, "that the committee should rise and report progress," which the committee accordingly did, and

thus the first day's debate ended. The scheme-or rather schemes-of Mr DeCosmos for uniting the colonies may be thus briefly summed up. A Legislative Union, with two Houses of Legislature; the Upper to comprise an equal number of representatives from both colonies; the Lower to commence with fifteen members for each colony, but any future increase to be regulated by population. The right of taxation in each colony to rest only with the majority of each colony's representatives. Providing this procuring a member to take the chair, several scheme is not practicable, a federal union is proposed which differs from the foregoing in questions which are of common interest to both colonies, and controls the Crown revenues. Questions of local interest, such as taxation, &c., to be dealt with by the same representatives, but in their local capacity. Mr. Franklin's scheme is to unite the colonies by the very slight thread of a fedeeach colony-whose duties will be confined to legislating upon such topics as postal communication, immigration, joint loans, &c. It will be readily perceived that Mr. DeCosthe actual working. The Legislative union which he proposes is made, by the stipulations in reference to taxation, &c., nothing sent home in February last, asking for the

THE BRITISH COLONIST more nor less than a federal one—at least such a federal one as is propounded in the such a federal one as is propounded in the colonies. Subsequent to this the Governors of the Two colonies have received messages vernment had been changed [no, no !] Hon. leaving the inhabitants to manage their local

> have on beard in that colony the opinions of five gentlemen, who represent the various by member as to require no remark. Honelectoral districts, and ten officials—all amissions are not the blow that was interpretated by British Columbia at our able gentlemen enough -but who represent nothing but their own personal interests. The

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, October 3, 1864. House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present -Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Tolmie, Trimble, Dickson, Southgate, Street,

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS. The Speaker read a message from His Excellency the Governor in regard to the Probate Court, stating that the returns would be laid before the House at the earliest possible moment, the subject having already occupied the attention of the Executive; also a similar message in regard to the returns of the Bankruptcy Court asked for by the House; also in regard to returns as to Indian liquer

SMALL DEBTS BILL. Committee on the Small Debts Bill on Fri-

day next .- Carried. NEW CHIEF JUSTICE. Mr. DeCosmos moved that the House go into committee on Thursday on the question

of the appointment of Chief Justice.-Car-UNION OF THE COLONIES. The House went into committee on this question. The Speaker had some difficulty in

declining. Dr. Dickson at length consented Mr. DeCosmos in rising to open the debate this respect, that the combined Legislature said he did not intend to go into the question becomes a federal one and deals with all at any great length, nor to enter into details, as he supposed hon, members had already made their minds up on the matter. Hereafter, to go into the question. The union of the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island had been brought before the public by the Duke of Newcastle during a previous session, and the question had been taken up ration, composed of six members—three from | and debated at great length in the House. Various views were expressed during that debate, one party being for an active Legislative Union, another for a federal union, and a third being opposed to any union whatever. The results of that debate were to present mos' schemes differ more in the name than in more enlarged views of the question in the House, and more correct notions of the position of affairs to the country at large. Since that time certain resolutions had been

more enlightened system of government; but creates the anomaly of a representation in the federal Legislature, while the local government is an oligarchy of officials.

There is, of course, detects in the schemes propounded by Mr. DeCosmos, as must necessarily be the case in all half must recommend the colonies set supporting. On that the colonies of the colonies and the colonies of the colonies of the colonies and that there were some reasons—the dust colonies of the Colonial Office would doubtless be provide for their own defence, in a military point of view at least. The navy was rather different. It was therefore desirable to relieve the important colonies of the Colonial Office would doubtless be lessened somewhat by having only one Government is an oligarchy of officials.

There is, of course, detects in the characteristic colonies, by uniting the many resources at the most proposing to defend two separate colonies, by uniting the most colonies and that there were some reasons—the dust ites of the Colonial Office would doubtless be lessened somewhat by having only one Government is an oligarchy of officials.

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There is, of course, detects in the colonies of the co sehemes propounded by Mr. DeCosmes, as the mit one. The next point was that the mit one of the mit one of the mit of the

chasting trade, the effects of which had been felt here and might be still more so. He

vested in a Governor, Legislative Council, and

3 That the Legislative Council be composed of an equal number of persons from each colony;
4. That the Assembly should consist at first of thirty members, fifteen elected by each colony; That any additional representation in increased population:

6. That one Executive should act for both colonies in all matters so far as practicable; 7. That the Federal Legislature should have jurisdiction over all public questions in which both colonies have a common interest; 8. That the eapital of the Federal colonies be

New Westminster;
9. That each colony should have a local legislature consisting of their respective mombers in the Federal Legislative Council and Assembly; 10. That each local legislature be consolidated into one Chamber;

11. That the jurisdiction of the local legislature

extend only to those local questions in which both colonies have not a common interest;

12. That each local legislature should have the Mr. Dennes moved that the House go into right to determine the mode of taxation within its jurisdiction for Federal as well as local pur-

13. That the Crown revenues be the property of the Federal Government; That all laws, usages and liabilities of each colony except where altered by act of union, remain as they are till changed by the Federal or local legislatures respectively;
III. Resolved,—That His Excellency the Gov-

ernor be respectfully requested to enter into negotiation with His Excellency the Governor of British Columbia with the object of establishing a Legislative or Federal union of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, based on the provisions of the previous resolutions;
IV. Resolved,—That His Excellency the Govnor be respectfully urged to submit any ques

ernor be respectfully triged to submit any ques-tion of difference between himself and His Excel-lency the Governor of British Columbia respecting the proposed union to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies for final decision binding on both colonies;
V. Resolved,—That a Committee of five, incluwhen different views on the subject might be presented, he would probably take more time views of this House as embraced in the foregoing to so into the question. The union of the

After reading the resolutions the hon.

gentleman passed them briefly in review, and concluded by moving their acceptance by the ommittee. Mr. Franklin had been urged to give his pinion on the important question now prought before them. His hon colleague had introduced the subject of union but had not seen fit to give his arguments in favor of his views. He (Mr. Franklin) hoped that the hon, gentleman or some of his supporters would advance some argument so that he

second series of his resolutions. In both his from the Home Government calling their atplans this gentleman very adroitly destroys all objections to union on the score of interaction to the question of union, and His governor we now had two, and that was fering with the free port, by virtually opening speech asked the House of Assembly sufficient proof of the change of policy. The to give him their views on the matter. It second Governor was sent out on account o now devolved on the House to say whether the jealousy exhibited by British Columbia affairs. Mr. Franklin's federal scheme holds they were in favor of union or not. He would because the Governor was not ubiquitous, out no political inducement whatever to state that there were, in the first and to meet the wishes of the people of that day morning. They report the water still British Columbia. It makes no provision place, Imperial reasons for a union of the colony the two Governors had been appoint high in the creek but falling, and by Tuesday that the present representative abortion of colonies. The Imperial Government held ed. His hon colleague had presented Imitself responsible, and we looked to it for pro- perial reasons for union; he [Mr. F] would the neighboring colony shall give way to a tection. The new Colonial policy of the admit that there were some reasons—the duagain.

The question of uniting the colories of Vancouver Island and British Columbia bids fair to be the most memorable topic in the carly political history of the two countries. Yes, individual opinions of those members; for the subject again came before the subject has never yet been made a test question of uniting the colories of vancouver Island have as yet expressed no opinion in this union. We were people of the same fave, protected by the same language, the same burden of our defences. His hon. colleague to the two countries. Yes, in the House by the members are merely the individual opinions of those members; for the subject again came before the subject has never yet been made a test question of union. We were people of the same to treat the same language, the same language language, the same language, the same language language language. tion at any electioneering contest. The same of riew, and a union would remove some of lation but an immense area; it was easier to may be said of British Columbia. So far, we the obstructions to business which now exist. govern the whole of London with its three There were great difficulties in regard to the millions of people, than British Columbia taken out as high as 4 and 6 bits to the pan-courts of law, which were so palpable to every with its sparse population scattered over Two or three companies intend sinking shafts 200,000 squares miles. The development of this fall. British Columbia had been neglected; the Governor had been in one spot when he should be in another, and thus important inexpression given in our own Legislature as might go on giving instance after instance in the case of the Kootanais mines, an old min favor of union, but he would now take up the for formalism and leave details miners had gone in to the serious injury and passengers at a bout \$80,000 in treasure. terests were neglected. He would point out

> ular assembly meeting at New Westmineter to decide how it should be levied. As to a federal union, there were various there was an old Indian trail, which had been great questions on which the two colonies should act in concert, but the monetary affairs of each should be kept distinctly sep- travelled this distance in one day, and conarate. The extent of his idea of federal sidered it about 50 miles. the cues and recommend to their several gov- reliable steam communication with Yale Federal Assembly from either colony, be based on ernments measures of a national character, from Victoria; from Yale to Cache Creek on immigration, joint loans, Indian affairs, law union. Mr. Franklin concluded by saying

> > the matter. The Committee here rose and reported progress and the House adjourned till today (Tuesday).

THE GREAT FIRE AT YALE.

YALE, B. C., Sept. 28, 1864. EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST,-A very disasthe pregress of the flames was checked.

The following is the estimated loss :-Bradshaw Fraunthal..... 6,000 Greenbaum

We are very sorry for Mr. Fraunthal, whose loss is the largest as he had lately received his fall stock from San Francisco and harbor dues, £34 3 4; head money, £11 8; Victoria. We must also mention Mr. Barry might be prepared to meet the question. His whose whole stock is destroyed.

Good News from Sooke. FURTHER DISCOVERIES.

Messrs. Johnson and Handy left Leech iver at 9 o'clock on Saturday night with a candle stuck in a bottle to light them on the way, and reached town at 5 o'clock on Sunit is thought the miners will be at work

A shaft has been sunk by a party of goo

sluice their ground. The gulch extends several miles in an easterly direction.

sluicing is being made on this creek, more particularly near the mouth. Some of those who have taken up claims report having taken out as high as 4 and 6 bits to the pan.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Westminster on Saturday afternoon with 90

detriment of the British Columbian revenue, and nothing had been done. The siea of the colony was so great that the Government could not do justice to all parts of it. Vancouver Island, on the contrary, is small in area, but sufficiently extensive to be a British colonies in size and recources. Australia had first but one Government, but it was now divided into six or seven different colonies. In British Columbia the population was a Rosting one, while Vancouver Island had a settled people, comment of being amorganish as a marriage of the passes.

We gather from the Component being a settled people, comment of being amorganish as a marriage of the passes.

We gather from the Component being and account of the passes and been held in her contrary to the passes and the colonies are settled people.

tance of 110 miles, the water was navigable for steamers of a moderate draught of water From Shuswap Lake to the Columbia River improved, and new was in a suitable condition for pack animals to traverse. He had

union would be that three members or dele- At their second meeting, the committee gates from each colony should meet and dis- reported that : " In the first place, there is a such as railroads, telegraphs, postal affairs, the Bonaparte, there is 110 miles of excellent wagon road; from Cache Creek to Lake courts, etc. In four or five years the colo- Kamloops is 20 miles, which distance is well nies would be in a better state for taking up known to be a practicable trail; from the the serious question of a full legislative lower end of Lake Kamloops to the upper part of Shuswap Lake is about 110 miles, that he was not prepared to go further into which for the greater part of the year is of the question at present, but hoped to have a sufficient depth of water for steamers of a future opportunity to go more at length into moderate draught; from Shuswap Lake to the Columbia River is 40 miles; making in all 60 miles of road or trail to be constructed. which will complete our communication with the Columbia River. From the junction with the Columbia there is navigation to the reported best paying section of the Kootanais mines, a distance of 200 miles."

Mr. Thomas Spence, in a speech on the subject said that "it was his candid opinion that if we could once establish this line of trous fire occurred here at 3 o'clock this route we should thereby secure by far the morning by which all the buildings on Front larger portion of the overland travel from street, from Messrs. Kimball & Gladwin's Canada and the East. The point where the o Messrs. Oppenheimer's, were destroyed. emigrants first strike the Columbia river is at The fire is supposed to be the work of an the "Boat Encampment," from which place ncendiary, as it originated in a vacant the distance from Shuswap Lake is only about building formerly occupied by Messrs. L. and 150 miles, 110 miles of which would be ac-Oppenheimer, and a canoe containing complished in boats down the Columbia three men was seen going down the river a river to a point within 40 miles of Shuswap few moments after the discovery of the fire. Lake. This in itself would be a grand achieve-Great credit is due to all parties, who dis- ment, and assist us materially in furthering played much presence of mind, but it was the wolfare of the colony, and especially in not until three hours of great exertion that settling this section of the country, which we all know is a rich and extensive field for the farmer and grazier. The present paying por-northerly direction.

The Lytton people have subscribed \$500 McLardy..... 2,000 towards fitting out an expedition, and New . Nelson 1,000 | Westminster \$300, of which Governor Seymour contributed \$50. The expedition was to start from the latter place on Saturday,

CUSTOMS: RECEIPTS for week ending Satur; day, September 24, 1864; Duties, £698 7 7tonnage dues, £73 5. Total, £817 3 11. Number of passengers entering during same period, 58.