

BRITISH
COLUMBIA
AND
VANCOUVER
ISLAND.

grown rich and powerful by protection. In the United States the question had been thoroughly argued, and the United States had gone on protecting their industries, and at the same time increasing their population and rapidly augmenting their wealth. We, ourselves, had given the thing a noble trial of six years, and although he would not say it had done no good, still he thought the time was past for free trade, and the country demanded protection. Take the familiar example of the saw mill, quoted yesterday, (a laugh). He had seen the working of saw mills under protection on Puget Sound, and had seen their beneficial effects in building up the country. Our geographical position, which had been so much talked about, and praised in the "*Times*" so early as 1849, would be best brought out and developed by union with British Columbia, and by going into connexion with the great federation of the eastern Colonies (applause).

Dr. Helmcken said there was no doubt whatever that even if we should remain separate we could raise all the revenue we required (hear, hear). He had not a doubt of it.

Mr. Bayley said the present state of the Colony was one of insolvency (no, no, and laughter). He maintained that this was the case, and it had been caused by the falling off in gold and the over-speculation in real estate. He held that the trade of Victoria was dependent on British Columbia and not on the phantom trade with foreign countries which had been held up so long before our eyes. He had stood up in the House and opposed union with British Columbia, but that was because he had been led to look at this country as the Great Britain of the Pacific. He had now seen reason to change his opinion. He looked on Victoria as reduced to a mere shopkeeper (a laugh), who had to depend on British Columbia to buy her wares. The moment that British Columbia was able to buy for herself from the manufacturers and producers, what were we to do with our goods? Our warehouses would be full, but no one to be purchasers, that was the state to which we were fast coming unless we adopted a different policy.

Dr. Dickson said he had no fears about our ability to exist as a separate Colony; but union was strength, and he was fully satisfied that a complete and thorough union was for the best interests of both Colonies (hear, hear). He had taken the trouble to see the great majority of his constituents, and had also heard the opinions of a great number of the inhabitants of the city, and he had come to the firm conclusion that nineteen-twentieths of the whole population were thoroughly and strongly in favour of union, and that they expected the House to take active steps to bring it about. Hon. members might depend on it, too, that if they did not move in the matter their constituents would soon turn them out and get in better men.

Mr. Franklin said he now found resolutions on the table, which had been ruled in order, opening up the question of union. The question of union had already been settled; British Columbia had rejected our offers, and we were now asked to go on bended knee and pray for a union. He had been returned to this House on free trade principles, and he could not give a vote on the question without going before his constituents, and he thought every honourable member was bound in honour to follow the same course. He was unprepared to abandon the policy of this country and to adopt unconditional union, and he felt sure that was the general opinion of the country (laughter).

Dr. Helmcken said hon. members had said that the union of the Colonies had been rejected by British Columbia. He denied it entirely (applause).

The Legislature of British Columbia had never taken the resolution of this Legislature into consideration at all (hear, hear). He felt sure the British Columbia Legislature would not be guilty of such discourtesy as to throw our resolutions over without an answer (hear, hear). The question had evidently never been considered, as we never have had an answer (applause).

Mr. Southgate said if he could see his way clear to a union which would preserve free trade in Vancouver Island he would heartily support it, but he did not see how it could be brought about. He alluded to his recent visit to San Francisco, and to the interest felt by merchants there in our free port.

The resolutions were then put *seriatim*, and the first section carried unanimously.

Section 2 was also carried.

Ayes—De Cosmos, Helmcken, Tolmie, Dickson, Duncan, Cochrane, Carswell, Dennes (8).

Noes—Franklin, Young, Burnaby, Trimble, Southgate (5).

Section 3 was also carried by the same vote.

On section 4, M. Burnaby moved the following amendment:

That in view of the resolutions passed by this House, and adverting to the pledges given by hon. members at their election on the subject of the free port, respectfully requests that his Excellency will dissolve this House and submit the question to the country.

The amendment was lost, and the original resolution carried by the previous majority—8 to 5.

The committee rose and reported the passage of the resolutions, and the Speaker informed the House that they would come up for adoption on Friday next.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, Jan. 27, 1864.

House met at 3.20 p.m. Present, The Speaker, and Messrs. Burnaby, Young, Tolmie, Franklin, Powell, Dickson, Duncan, Dennes, Carswell, De Cosmos, Bayley, Cochrane, and Southgate.

Petition of Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Burnaby, on leave, presented a petition from the Chamber of Commerce of this city. It reads as follows, and was laid on the table:

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island.

The humble Petition of the Members of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Sheweth,

That your petitioners, having had under their serious consideration the subject now under discussion in your Honourable House, and which being of vital importance to the welfare of this Colony, is also engaging the marked attention of all classes of the community, viz.: the maintaining of Victoria as a free port and raising the necessary revenue for carrying on the Government by direct taxation, or abolishing the free port and raising the required revenue by imposing duties on importations; beg re-