

The Weekly British Colonist

Bathurst, March 13, 1869

We are surprised that no one of the popular members has introduced a resolution asking what steps have been taken by the Colonial Government towards securing for British Columbia a revised and reduced postage-tariff.

As we pointed out a week or two ago, this Colony pays a higher proportionate rate than any other Colony for the transmission of its letters without any valid reason or excuse being furnished for the charge.

It would be interesting to know why a three-cent stamp affixed to a letter mailed at Alaska should pay for its transmission to the most distant parts of the United States, six cents to any part of Canada, or twelve cents to Great Britain.

While a letter mailed at Victoria for any portion of the United States—even across the Straits, a distance of twenty-two miles—requires fifteen cents in stamps to insure its transmission?

Why an English shilling is required to send a letter to Great Britain? Ten cents on each letter, we are informed, goes to the United States government, but by what right the charge is made particularly when the mails are usually transmitted by our own subsidized steamer has never been satisfactorily explained.

We are aware that this important question has been pressed frequently upon the notice of the Imperial Government, but the answer returned has invariably been unfavorable.

Another evidence of the paternal care with which Downing street looks after the interests of British Columbia. But why relax our efforts—why sit quietly down and stupidly submit to the extortion without a murmur?

The British Ministry of today is not the same that returned the last unfavorable answer to our complaints; and how does any one know that a proper representation of the fact that year after year we have been pecuniarily bled in a ratio five times greater than the people of any other British Colony, may not prove successful with the British Ministry?

Individually the tax is more beguiling, but there is a principle involved that ought not to be lost sight of. We conclude as we began by expressing surprise that some hon. member has not brought the matter to the notice of the Colonial Government during this session.

which must issue, if our Indian policy be not amended in its total extinction. Third, he is a kind and useful man. There is a disposition to make the Indian the scapegoat of almost every evil that occurs— theft, murder, &c., are gratuitously charged on the Indian.

The scene at the period of the sailing at Cowichan Bay when by the foresight and promptitude of the Indians two boat loads of voters were rescued from a watery grave, valuable as laborers in the field of the hunt. Many of them spruce to a higher status, wish to be educated, and to fill them encouragement, &c.

Then repeal this mischievous law, treat them as men, let them feel their responsibility, educate them, and they will imitate a better example, and the forests which now echo with the howling of the wolf will, the sooner, reverberate with the howling of the kindly herd.

Fourth, the policy of all nations has hitherto been a mistake in relation to the Indian man. Am I told that we have no precedent for not prohibiting the sale of liquor to the Indian? What of that? What has been the issue of the policy towards the aborigines of India, of Australia, &c.?

A fearful tendency to extinction. As to America, when she had spanned her vast continent with a railroad, she had found herself on the horns of this frightful dilemma. Either the commerce of a most important part of the world must be interrupted, or to see her own words to the Indians on her plains, "must be wiped out."

As our children ought to be wiser and better than their father, because of their superior advantages, so let us the youngest of Her Majesty's Colonial Dependencies set an example in our Indian policy that will show to the world our opportunities have not been lost upon us.

Hon. Drake felt very great pleasure in seconding the resolution, but he would not attempt to follow the hon. gentleman through the intricacies of the Darwinian theory of natural selection. He formerly held the opinion that Indians should be exterminated, but he now entertained different ideas.

We have no power to prevent the illicit sale of liquor—the Indians can get all they choose to pay for. He thought it would be judicious to repeal the law. It was true they might urge that on moral grounds the law should be kept on the Statute Book, but that was mere sentimentality.

As the law was quite inoperative, the Indian is looked upon as an inferior kind of humanity, but the practical result was quite the reverse; the liquor sold to them was liquid poison, where champagne and whiskey were mixed together they frequently caused death.

has answered very well, of course he merely spoke from his own experience during 7 or 8 years on the mainland. He would be sorry to see any person traveling up-country of the Indians, were allowed to obtain all the whiskey they desired. As to the quality of the whiskey for the Siwash, it could only be of one character, he required it sufficiently strong, that the quantity obtainable for half a dollar would be well him over; he would be very sorry to see the law repealed.

Hon. Pemberton thought it would be going too far to repeal the law, but some alterations might be made with absolute advantage. A proposition had been made some time ago to open a place, under proper restrictions, on the Indian reserve, where nothing but wholesome liquor would be sold; it would possibly answer very well, at all events it might be tried.

Hon. Trutch was clearly against the resolution; the arguments advanced in its favor were based on false premises altogether. The Anglo-Saxon race throughout the colonies had taken it as an axiom that the sale of liquor should not be allowed to Indians, hence the legalized sale had never been allowed.

We had established by precedent that the sale of liquor to Indians was a moral crime, and if allowed it would be to allow that which we know to be morally wrong. If the sale was legalized we should soon be witnesses to far worse scenes than those heard of at the present time.

The Indian always drinks to excess, and if he gets all he wants he is sure to get drunk; the use is unknown to him, the abuse, his natural habit. Drunkenness in the white man was quite as bad as in the Indian, but white people cannot be classified, whereas the Indian can; if the consumption of liquor is excessive with the latter at present, it would be ten times more so if the law was repealed.

and would soon lead to the extermination of the race; he believed the law to be right in principle and would never vote for its repeal. The hon. member of the resolution had traveled out of the record in his remarks touching out action in other colonies, and had cast a marked air on our policy in India respecting the mode in which the Anglo-Saxon race had acted towards the natives there.

The theory of the American Indian Government was, in his opinion, the most benevolent in the world; but, as he had previously stated, the practice was a mistake. Our action towards the Indian in this Colony had, he believed, been most creditable, and the Indians had benefited very much in their contact with us.

The Indian liquor law, he believed to be a step in the right direction, and if any alteration was made, it should be in the way of additional stringency. Hon. Helmcken had for years advocated the repeal of the Indian Liquor Law, as he believed it was the cause of crime and afterwards of the consequent punishment, for we by this law, absolutely created the offense.

The consumption of liquor was no crime in the eyes of the Indians, and we only increased the evil by enforcing the law. It was a mistake to think that all Indians like liquor; in this respect they are like the white men, some did, and some did not. From the restrictions on the sale at present existing, the Indians usually obtained liquor in large quantities, and he gets drunk in consequence.

No one pretends to deny that the Indian liquor law was a dead letter in the Statute Book—it only answered the purpose of an advertisement to the world that we were a very moral people; the trade might be carried on clandestinely, but it was carried on nevertheless. The law created a system of espionage, and a set of people known as informers, he had been informed by the whiskey sellers that they could sell all they wished to, and if they did not sell, the Indians would get it from the other side.

The Indian was always prepared to give any price for gin, and the restrictions on the sale only made it better for the vendors, who obtained a high price for bad liquor. He thought that if the Indians were allowed to buy liquor when they pleased, that we should never hear of the outrages that from time to time occurred. The white man was just like the Indian, in his tendency to get on a spree when he had been deprived of liquor for a time, and then obtained it in large quantities.

The proper way was to do to the Indian as we would have the Indian do to us. The Colonists were not to blame for the treatment of the Indian, but Her Majesty's Government; the people of Exeter Hall felt a great deal of nonsense about the Indian—but it was mere lip work; people who had not sufficient to live on could not be expected to civilize the Indians.

He thought they had done very well in allowing them to mix with them, which was the best way to improve them. It was true that the prohibition of the sale of liquor was the traditional policy of the Hudson Bay Company, and that was very easy when they were alone in the country, but the Company at home had no idea of the impossibility of preventing the sale now.

He thought the stories about the honorableness character of the liquor, and the number of deaths in consequence, were exaggerated. If we allowed the Indians to buy good liquor, we should save two ends; we should induce the Indian to work, as it was only by that means he could obtain the money to buy it, and we would increase the revenue—and so not only to do the Indian, but ourselves, a great deal of good.

Hon. Alston—So far from repealing the present Act he was under the impression that the Government should apply more stringent measures to enforce it. The law was not a dead letter. He was informed by persons who had schooners on the coast, that if it was not for the Indian Liquor Law the trade would be destroyed. There was no liquor sold at Comox than at any other part of the coast.

The Indian was an inferior race, and must and would decline; but we should take care that he did not decline faster than he ought to do. He was sure that the Governor would not consent to the repeal of the Law, no matter what the sense of the Council might be on the matter.

Hon. Walkem—When the Act was passed every one felt the necessity for it, and there was not one dissentient voice. In '61 and '63 people could not travel up the country with safety, and nearly every row or murder that occurred at that time was owing to the influence of liquor. The Chilcooten expedition that cost the country so much was attributable to the liquor carried there by packers.

Formerly there was a large class of vessels that used to trade on the coast for the sole purpose of bartering whiskey for furs; the law now prevents this kind of traffic, and none but a small class of vessels can venture in the trade. The Indians never were and never will be supplied with anything but the worst class of liquor, and it was all nonsense about the repeal of the law enabling them to obtain anything else.

New London Literary Institute.—The first of a course of lectures was given by the New London Literary Institute at their Rooms, Barrard Inlet, on Saturday, 27th ult., and proved quite a success. The room was filled to overflowing, and the audience quite enthusiastic in its reception of the several pieces.

The following programme proved to have only one fault which will certainly be remedied next time—it was got through in too soon. Recitation, W. Smith; reading, R. M. Clementson; glee, Club; reading, J. K. Lockhart; song, R. M. Clementson; reading, H. E. Nagle; song, R. Leadbeater. Each gentleman sustained his part well.

The readings had evidently been selected with an eye to the diversity of interest they contained, and the introductory and explanatory remarks that preceded each piece contributed no little to the amusement of the company and the success of the entertainment. The choir was occupied by Mr. A. J. Smith, to whom a vote of thanks was passed, and the meeting closed, one wish animating the breast of everyone—that it had not closed so soon.

Loss of \$40,000 in U. S. TREASURY NOTES. As one of the steamers plying between Victoria and Portland was crossing Columbia River Bar, about the 5th of January, the steamer ran aground, and the passengers U. S. Officer from Sitka, who had in his charge a very large sum in Treasury notes, and who had been rendered unusually apprehensive by the fact that in entering Esquimaux harbor on Christmas Eve, on the bark Delaware, that vessel was wrecked here narrowly escaping with his life and treasure to the shore, adopted the precaution of removing the notes from his room and securing them in his stowage. He also handed several rolls of the notes to his Secretary, who accompanied him. The steamer fortunately rode the waves in safety, and when all danger had passed the officer proceeded to relieve himself and Secretary of the notes and return them to his stowage room, when, to his dismay, he discovered that \$40,000 of the notes were missing. He has since been found. It is believed that in the hurry and bustle of disembarking from the bark Delaware, the notes were dropped, but were not missed until after the officer reached Columbia River. An investigation is in progress at San Francisco.

THE EXECUTION OF INDIAN HARRY. The unfortunate Indian Harry, who was hanged yesterday morning at seven o'clock, in the lot adjoining the Police Barracks. The condemned man met his fate with the bearing of a stoic. He made no remarks on the scaffold; but in his cell said that but for whiskey he would never have committed the crime. The last interview with his wife and children was very affecting. The drop was sprung shortly after 7 o'clock, and saw a few convulsive twitches of the limbs, the body hung quite motionless. After hanging the usual time, the body was cut down and delivered to his friends.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.—Last evening a Degree Temple was organized in this city by the election of the following officers, who were duly installed by Lodge Deputy McFadden: Degree Templar, Geo. Norris; D. Y. T., John Work; D. S., Lawrence Goodacre; D. T., Henry Waller; D. F. S., John Vaughan; D. M., John Robertson; D. J. C., John Titcomb; D. O. G., A. Crane; D. R. M., Oliver Jackson; D. O., D. Richards. The title of the Temple is the Vancouver, No. 10,000 of total holds has a grand

We are glad to observe from a report made by the Sanitary Commissioners, who made a tour of inspection yesterday, that there is not a single case of sickness amongst the Indian population of the city, as certified by Councilor Rossell, Chairman of the Commission, to a grand and busy A. T. Brewster, the great New York dry goods man, is Grant's Secretary of Treasury. His Secretary of State (R. B. Westburne) is the gentleman who commenced an acquaintance with Grant, their unknown—in the White Room of the Governor of Illinois and his appointment as Secretary of the regiment, and to create a grand and busy

From Nantuxto. The steamer Sir James Douglas arrived from Nantuxto and yesterday afternoon. Among her passengers were Mr. Morley, J. P. The bark Washington, to land with coal for San Francisco, is due at 10 o'clock on the 14th inst.

Washburne's Oil. The Fire Department turned out last evening and washed out a number of pestilential shanties, occupied by Siwash, on Oriental Alley and Johnson street. The ringing of the bells caused many persons to leave their homes under the impression that a conflagration was in progress.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Much watchfulness must be exercised as winter advances, and the earliest evidences of all health must be immediately checked and removed, or a slight illness may result in a serious malady. Relaxed and sore throat, diphtheria, quinsy, throat cough, chronic cough, bronchitis, and most other pulmonary affections will be relieved by rubbing this cooling Ointment into the skin as near as practicable to the seat of mischief. This treatment, so simple and effective, is admirably adapted for the removal of these diseases during infancy and youth. Old asthmatic invalids will derive marvellous relief from the use of Holloway's remedies, which have brought round many such sufferers, and re-established health after very other means had signally failed.