# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 5. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1864. NO. 25.


he U. S. Corvette Housa-
by a Torpedo.

nt of the Boston *Herald*,
the U. S. ship Canandaigua,
eb. 18th, says:

found grief that I chronicle
nited States corvette Housa-
e blockading squadron of
n infernal torpedo machine.
nce last evening, one of the
son. At 8¾ o'clock a long
edge of the water, was dis-
the ship. In an instant the
d, the alarm sounded, and
quarters, but before the ship
adway, the torpedo explod-
oard quarter, making a most
The propeller was broken
torn to pieces, and the ship
ss than eight minutes from
edo machine was first seen.
six fathoms of water. As
the most frightful scenes
Men with nothing but their
en struggling in the water,
ing to get the boats loose,
re mounting the rigging.
finally unlashed, and these
e those in the water. The
d from the Canandaigua, car-
ckering, who was badly in-
we l. As soon as Captain
nandaigua got the news he
signals of distress, and came
e, and in three hours after
Housatonic, all hands that
e safely transferred to that
received every attention.
portion of our survivors were
Wa bash.

is a total loss. All hands
essed—money, clothes, etc.
hem, including some of the
oard the Canandaigua in a
d accident of the disaster
sign Hazleton, of Concord,
ey, Captain's Clerk; John
master, and John Welsh,
ston, were drowned. The
ely on deck, but ventured
which he had in his bag,

Poor fellow he never re-
rker (colored) who was on
y over where the ship was
into the air and instantly
kering was slightly injured
John Goff, the Captain's
what injured. These were

The officers and men of
the greatest coolness dur-
e, and thereby saved many
onic has been the especial
. Three times have they
, and now they have suc-
d that many others of the
kade will follow the fate

It is well known that the
eight more of these infer-
to pounce upon the fleet.
Housatonic are all that can
er, and the gale which is
ll do much ta complete the
noble ship.

has been very unfortunate.
om the Housatonic and
ated Wechawken, in the
t all his effects. He was
k to the Housatonic, and
time, has lost all. Ensign
the second boat, and had he
ld have been saved, but as
over he jumped on board.
n of him he was floating
ts of the wreck, a corpse.
nson, of Boston, escaped
m with nothing but his
n. The Surgeon's steward,
ho were in bed had barely
eir night clothes. It is a
tain Pickering was not
he was directly over where
place. He escaped, how-
were cuts and bruises, and
gain.

e water is about six feet
the Housatonic. If the
her guns and many valu-
e Paymaster's safe will
e cannot be raised, as her
blown off, clean to the

She was loaded down
visions, which will be a
f the survivors had quite
y laid away to send home
The loss to them is severe.
ement prevails here, and
done to prevent the de
bre of the fleet

FACE.—The N. Y. *Tri-*
burious story of a man for
surgeons provided an ar-
disappearance of his own.
thoroughly salivated by
of cancerous formation
e in his throat, which af-
the upper jaw, lip, and
rt of the nose. Dr. Buck,
rgeons in the New York
work to remedy the
ere made in one cheek
n drawn over, from which
A piece of the frontal
wn to make a new nose,"
s formed, and a glass eye
hole face so changed that
completely recovered, his
to all his friends. It is
which the identity of Mr.
e man's name—is to all
a question of historical

*avy Gazette* says we have
rtillery, 9000 cavalry and
that one half this force
Danes would see the Aus-
on the south side of the
eriod far outlasting the
t compatriots. We could
en, and still have 28,000,
hold troops and 152 regi-

, Mayor of Warsaw, re-
vitations to a ball of re-
ninety accepted, includ-
dies, not one of whom
; and, consequently, the
the want of better part-
dance with each other.


THE BRITISH COLONIST

EVERY MORNING

(Sundays Excepted)

AT VICTORIA, V. I.

TERMS:

Per Annum, in advance, ..... $6 00
For Six Months, ..... 3 50
For Week, payable to the Carrier, ..... 1 00
Single Copies, ..... 10c
Advertisements inserted on the most reasonable terms.

THE WEEKLY COLONIST

is published on Tuesday morning for the mail steamer, and contains the news of the week, with a large amount of miscellaneous matter, and is the cheapest and most desirable family paper in British North America.

AGENTS.

John Nesbitt, ..... Nanaimo.
Mr. Clarkson, ..... New Westminster.
Kimball & Gladwin, ..... Yale.
Barnard's Express, ..... Forks Quesnelle, B. C.
W. R. Burrage, ..... Lillooet.
Jas. Daly, ..... Douglas.
R. P. Fisher, ..... San Francisco.
F. Algar, ..... Clement's Lane, London.
G. Street, ..... 30 Cornhill, London.


## THE NON-PRODUCTIVE THEORISTS.

The Civil List and the Union of the Colonies are questions that will acquire some celebrity in the future history of Vancouver Island. Many an original idea of political economy would have remained moulded to Hamilton or Mill—many a new "wrinkle" in diplomacy would have been lost to Palmerston or Gortschakoff—many a method of converting stone or water into gold would have remained a puzzle to the modern alchemist—had not these important questions come up in Vancouver Island in the year of Grace 1864. It is to them we are indebted for this Land Committee, and it is to this body we owe our scientific knowledge of the golden qualities of rock and swamp. To the editorials and their friends, however, must we give the credit of the discovery, that tracts of useless land belonging to the public are a great evil to the country. Given an unproductive class, with a strong leaning towards gold converting family, to an alarming extent; unwearied practice proves no expensive art; and we have at last, and be praised to have, an extraordinary power taken away so that he might become like other man. We do not expect that our "rock and swamper" will imitate the Phrygian King in this respect, however much they may resemble his subsequent character. But we are afraid that in future they will have to say a little larger for their whistle. Mr. Watson, on the Civil List resolutions states truly "that there are large tracts of unproductive land in the hands of capitalists rated at a value much under the market value, which, when in the hands of *bona fide* settlers, will rise in value and yield a corresponding increase of revenue." The unproductive lands of the colony have been year after year increasing in a marvellous ratio, through the industry of the mechanic, the farmer, and the tradesman, but the holders have hitherto escaped paying more than a merely nominal tax. The whole order of political economy seems in this respect reversed. Instead of encouraging the industrial elements of the country, we hold out every inducement to the non-producer, and compel a man to pay to the Government just in proportion to the amount of prosperity he contributes to the colony. The theory of our taxation seems to be, the less good one does, the less taxes he is called to pay. A man invests $500 in land which he never intends to cultivate, and pays $5 a year. Another invests the same amount in business and, whether he makes enough to sustain life, or gets into debt, is obliged to pay, at the lowest computation $10 a year. The person who invests in the unproductive land finds that, owing to his more industrious neighbor, his property has risen the following year to perhaps double its former value; he, therefore, by paying one per cent. clears eighty-five; but, as the land is idle, and no person paying him rent, he has the duplicity and impudence to tell his trading friend that as the taxes are eating up the proceeds from his land, he will be under the necessity of calling upon him to contribute a larger proportion to the Government, and thus enable him (the unfortunate land owner) to escape impending ruin.

Such is the position and such the arguments of the land jobbers of both Upper and Lower Houses. Not content with retarding the growth of the country by acting the dog in the manger, in neither cultivating the land nor enabling others to cultivate it—they must needs indulge in these vermicelas, ing vagaries—these twistings and turnings of grovelling avarice—and make our shame abroad as despicable as narrow greed without intellectual grasp can make them. The great misfortune is that the colony is likely to be ridden by these incubi until some stroke of fortune, like that which relieved Sinbad of his throbbing load, comes to our aid. The men in their private capacity are a heavy enough burthen on any struggling community, but their presence in a Legislative Council is an actual curse that cannot cease or lessen while they are in the country. Nothing but a Crown colony government will succeed against the evil day. This non-productive element too largely composes the Legislative Council of Vancouver Island to be free from its influence, but that everyone knows that the utterances of the representatives of the districts, so far from being identical with those of their constituents, are simply a hollow profession. It is any wonder, therefore, with this non-representative element ruling both Houses, that men should be found bringing forward theories of taxation repugnant to reason and to the interests of nineteen-twentieths of the whole population. We do not place a very high estimate on the mental calibre of these political economists, but we think with all their obfuscation, they are scarcely blind enough to the fact that to remove taxation from real estate and put it on profits, or the result of general industry, would be simply to reduce rents in proportion. If an equivalent to the five per cent. on real estate tax were forced upon the tradesmen, we are convinced that the real estate owner would be compelled to lower his rent much more than the one per cent. The grasping natures of these men, therefore, does not point in the direction as a general principle. But they have based their available property on a number of years, and they have got large tracts of wild land. It would be somewhat a grand stroke of policy if they could only get rid of paying taxes on the former without any reduction in the rent, and compel the latter, by increasing the taxation, to yield a revenue to the country. We do not believe that the majority of the people of this country are in favor of such a system of taxation, but we do believe that the majority of the people of this country are in favor of a system of taxation which will compel the non-producing element, too largely composing the Legislative Council of Vancouver Island, to yield a revenue to the country. We do not believe that the majority of the people of this country are in favor of a system of taxation which will compel the non-producing element, too largely composing the Legislative Council of Vancouver Island, to yield a revenue to the country.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(From the Columbian.)

MONDAY, April 25, 1864.

Members present—Hons. Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, C. Brew, P. O'Reilly, H. M. Ball, J. A. R. Homer, H. Holbrook, J. Orr, W. F. Black and R. T. Smith.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon. Attorney General gave notice that he would on Friday bring in a Bill to protect patents.

Hon. J. Orr gave notice that he would on Friday ask for the appointment of a Deputy Registrar for Cariboo East.

Hon. J. A. R. Homer gave notice that he would on Friday introduce a resolution recommending His Excellency the Governor to make an appropriation of £5,000 for the purpose of subsidising a line of ocean steamers to convey the mails between San Francisco and the port of New Westminster, said steamships to be not less than 1,000 tons register. Also a resolution recommending his Excellency the Governor to insert in the tariff bill recommended by this Council, a clause repealing that portion of the Customs Act dated June 2nd, 1859, which allows customs duties to be paid on goods destined for the Colonies to be free of duty.

By the same, a bill to regulate the fisheries and coast of this colony.

Hon. R. T. Smith asked the Colonial Secretary if any action had been taken on the petition from the people of Hope praying that the additional tax of one-half per cent. per pound at present collected on all goods leaving that place via Smith's Inlet be taken off. The hon. Colonial Secretary replied that it was under the consideration of the Government, and would receive immediate attention.

Moved by hon. H. Holbrook, seconded by hon. Attorney-General, That a Select Committee of this House be formed to consider how an assisted emigration from Great Britain, either by paying part of passage money or giving grants of land, can be made available to this Colony. Carried. The following Committee was appointed by the mover: Hons. Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Collector of Customs, H. M. Ball, J. A. R. Homer, H. Holbrook, and J. Orr.

The hon. Attorney General asked leave to introduce a Bill for the relief of certain military and naval settlers. Leave granted, and Bill read a first time.

The Postal Bill was introduced by the hon. Attorney General, and read a first time.

The House went into Committee of the Whole upon the Inland Navigation Bill, hon. H. Holbrook in the Chair. Several clauses were amended and passed, after the Committee had reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The Joint Stock Companies Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Land Registry Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. J. A. R. Homer, seconded by hon. H. Holbrook, moved, That his Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to lay before this House a bill for the regulation of the telegraph, and to secure accuracy and fidelity in the transmission of messages. Carried.

Moved by the hon. J. Orr, seconded by Hon. H. Holbrook, that the Governor be respectfully requested to bring in a bill for the protection of the rights of stock raisers and farmers against their stock straying on unenclosed lands. Carried.

By the same, a bill to impose a tax upon animals and vehicles brought into and sold in this Colony. Carried.

By the same, a bill to impose a tax upon animals and vehicles brought into and sold in this Colony. Carried.

Hon. R. T. Smith gave notice that he would ask leave to lay before this House a statement from a number of inhabitants of Yale in relation to certain grievances suffered by them in consequence of parties being allowed to erect buildings on the ground situate between the town site and the river, and to ask that the Government grant no more leases of said ground.

THURSDAY'S SITTING.

Members present: Hons. Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Collector of Customs, C. Brew, P. O'Reilly, H. M. Ball, R. Homer, H. Holbrook, J. Orr, and R. T. Smith.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

A communication was read from his Excellency Governor Seymour informing the House that he approved of the recommendation to appoint honorary Justices of the Peace in certain localities, and the matter would receive his attention as soon as he should be in a position to inform himself more fully as to the requirements of the country in that respect.

Another communication from his Excellency was read informing the House that he had found upon his table a recommendation from the Council asking for a serious alteration in the Tariff, but that owing to his very recent arrival in the colony, and his consequent limited knowledge of its requirements, he felt it his duty to decline to sanction it during the present session, which had now so nearly expired, especially as he was aware that his predecessor would not have sanctioned it.

The committee appointed to arrange the matter respecting the transfer of Mr. Trutch's interest in certain works to the government reported that, inasmuch as Mr. Trutch refused to furnish any data as to the cost of the bridge, they were unable to arrive at any conclusion, and, therefore, referred the matter back to his Excellency.

The committee on the address reported. The address was adopted, and presented on Friday at 1 o'clock.

Moved by hon. H. Holbrook, seconded by hon. J. A. R. Homer, that his Excellency be respectfully requested to appoint, or recommend for appointment, notaries public for this colony.—Carried.

Hon. R. T. Smith presented a petition from inhabitants of Yale respecting the occupation of ground on the river edge. After considerable discussion the matter was referred to his Excellency.

The House again went into committee of the whole on the Inland Navigation Bill. After several amendments it was finally adopted.

The House went into committee of the whole upon the Legal Interest Bill, hon. H. Holbrook in the chair. The bill was read a third time and passed.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Land Registry Amendment Bill, hon. P. O'Reilly in the chair. The bill was adopted, read a third time and passed.

Several of the members have already gone up country.

Judge Begbie, Commissioner O'Reilly and some of the legal fraternity left on Saturday for Cariboo.

## COMMITTEE ON CROWN LANDS.

MONDAY, May 24, 1864.

Committee met at 11 a.m. Members present—he Chairman, and Messrs. DeCosmos, Tolmie, Duncan, Dennes, Powell, Foster.

In the minutes of last meeting Mr. Pemberton wished to correct the date, at which he first took up his land, it should be 1856 instead of 1854. The minutes also stated that the Chairman had presented a report at that meeting which was rejected, Messrs. Duncan and Dennes voting for its adoption, and Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell and Foster voting against it.

The Chairman asked Mr. DeCosmos if he voted against the report?

Mr. DeCosmos said certainly he did.

Dr. Powell, on being asked by the Chairman, said he had voted for its postponement, not for its rejection.

Mr. Duncan asked Mr. DeCosmos whether he would say distinctly that he voted against the report.

Mr. DeCosmos said the Chairman had not formally put the question; he had put the the "Ayes" but not the "Noes."

Dr. Powell said no blame whatever was to be imputed to the Clerk in the matter.

Dr. Tolmie said when he had left before the conclusion of last meeting, he never for a moment supposed so important a question would be brought up; he thought it was not parliamentary practice to bring up a vote without notice.

His protest was entered in the minutes.

Maj. Foster said there was no negative vote taken on the question; he himself had not voted at all on the question.

The Chairman said the "Noes" had not been taken because the three gentlemen wished to postpone the matter.

Mr. DeCosmos asked for the production of the *Chronicle* newspaper, where it was stated that Messrs. Duncan and Dennes had voted for, and Messrs. Powell, DeCosmos and Foster against the report.

Mr. Duncan indignantly objected to his time being taken up by discussing newspaper reports, and dashed out of the room in a rage, disregarding the entreaties of several of the members to remain.

Mr. DeCosmos asked the Chairman to order the Clerk to produce the report laid before the committee at last meeting.

The Chairman said that it would be difficult for the Clerk to produce what he had not got. The document was purely private.

The Clerk was here despatched for "May's Parliamentary Practice," to decide the knotty point.

Mr. DeCosmos would ask whether the report, when once submitted to the Committee, was public or private.

The minutes of last meeting were adopted.

Dr. Powell wished to have it recorded that he had not voted positively on the Chairman's Report, but only asked for its postponement, and that it should be brought up at the next meeting.

The examination of Surveyor-General Pemberton was resumed:—

In answer to a question put at last meeting, witness stated that Mr. Dallas' name was not in the pre-emption book. Witness said after Mr. Dallas had selected the land, he of course looked on him as the owner. Mr. Dallas pointed out the land he proposed to purchase in presence of Mr. McKenzie. Ques.—Did you look on Mr. Dallas as the owner of that land up to the time you gave him the instalment paper? Ans.—Certainly. I would not have sold the land to anybody else during that period.

By Mr. DeCosmos—Did I not understand you on a former occasion to say that Mr. Dallas refused to take the land because a part of it had been sold? Ans.—Certainly. Ques.—What portion of land selected by Mr. Dallas was sold by you in the interim, and to whom? Ans.—It was a matter of a few acres, and was sold to the [illegible]

By Major Foster—Do you believe that Mr. Dallas got the land he selected as near as could be by a general survey of a district which was not made until a later period? Ans.—I do.

By Mr. DeCosmos—Do you remember whether Mr. Dallas had prairie or timber land in view in making his selection? Ans.—Open land, to the best of my recollection.

By the Chair—What about the two sections bought by you in Lake district for a friend? Ans.—A cousin of my own, unknown to me, bought land from the Hudson Bay company in London, intending to emigrate with his family, but changing his mind, I took the lands off his hands. His name was Henry Smith, and the lands now stand in his name on the books.

With regard to the Governor's reserve:

By Mr. DeCosmos—Was there such a reserve as the Governor's reserve, and what was its size? Ans.—There was such a reserve, in size 1,000 acres in round numbers.

Witness read a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the colonies, dated May 3, 1856, to the Governor of the Hudson Bay Company expressing his approval of the proposition of Governor Douglas to sell the land known as the Governor's reserve.

Witness resumed—The sections comprising the reserve were sections 68, 1 D, 74, 75, 36.

By the Chair—Who are the owners of these now? Ans.—I am the owner of sections 68 and 74. Ques.—When did you purchase these sections? Ans.—Section 68 in April 19, 1859. Ques.—When did you occupy them? Ans.—I think in 1858. Ques.—On what conditions? Ans.—There were no conditions. Ques.—How did you get possession of it? Ans.—I took possession from the Hudson Bay Company by their permission, and looked on it as my own property. I will ascertain the date.

By Mr. DeCosmos—When did you purchase section 74? Ans.—May 8, 1857. Ques.—Who owns 75? Ans.—B. W. Pearse; he bought it May 8, 1857. Ques. Who owns 76? Ans.—B. W. Pearse; he bought it May 25, 1858. Ques.—Who purchased section 1 D? Ans. Governor Douglas. Ques.—How many acres does it contain? Ans.—68 acres; it was bought Aug. 1856.

By the Chair—Were you in possession of these sections prior to the reception of these despatches? Ans.—Certainly not.

By Mr. DeCosmos—Will you explain why there are 230 73 100ths acres of rock allowed in section 68, purchased on April 19, 1859, when allowance for rock ceased in June, 1858? Ans.—You will find that to be the case in every instance in which the land was *bona fide* held previous to date of instalment paper. Ques.—What is James Yates' property in Victoria District? Ans.—Section 11, containing 87 acres; and section 12, containing 117 acres, both bought in August, 1852; section 20 was bought in 1858; he was allowed 3 72-100ths acres of rock and swamp on section 20; his next purchase was section 21, bought May 26, 1851, the allowance in which is 5 acres.

By Dr. Powell—Was there ever a reservation made for Canadians in the ravine, Johnson street? Ans.—No; Johnson street was originally occupied by French Canadians, and the Governor desired me to let them have the ravine for garden purposes, but as they never fenced it nor took possession of it, the Governor directed it to be sold along with the town site.

By the Chair—Was there a reserve for a cemetery on Johnson street? Ans.—There was a graveyard there before I came; I surveyed it; do not remember the precise number of acres in it; it was fenced, but badly; it was subsequently sold by me.

Mr. Pemberton was here dismissed.

Mr. DeCosmos wished to make a statement about the report. He understood that Mr. Duncan and himself were appointed to draw up a report; Mr. Duncan was unable to attend on Friday and Saturday, and this morning he (Mr. DeC) had drawn up a report, and had he known Mr. Duncan would be unable to assist him, he would have had it ready. He would now ask the Chairman to allow him to draw up the report himself, and he would undertake to present it on Wednesday or Thursday, completed.

Dr. Powell said the object of the report was to embody all the evidence which had appeared before the Committee, and it did not matter whether it was drawn up by one member or more; any one man who would do it would deserve the thanks of the Committee.

Dr. Tolmie cordially agreed with the proposition of Mr. DeCosmos. The Committee should be very much obliged to any member who would undertake the task.

Dr. Powell moved that in order to facilitate the completion of the business before the Committee, Mr. DeCosmos be empowered to draft a report, to be submitted to this Committee on Thursday at 11 o'clock, a.m.; seconded by Dr. Tolmie and passed.

The Committee adjourned till Thursday at 11 a.m.

The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday from New Westminster with a few passengers, amongst whom was Mr. James Loring of the Loring, Diller & Co. (Hard Curry) claim, who left Williams Creek on the 21st ult. Mr. Loring reports favorably of prospects at the mines.

Miners were arriving fast and the Creek was beginning to assume a busy aspect. The Welsh Co. obtained excellent prospects out of their pay dirt, and the Cariboo Co. had also struck pay dirt prospecting 85 to the pan.

Goods were plentiful and prices moderate.

(From the *Columbian*.)

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.—We understand the good people of Nanaimo propose spending the approaching anniversary of the birth of our beloved Queen with us, provided they can succeed in chartering a steamer for the occasion. In case they should carry their intention into effect we hope fitting preparations will be made here, not only to give our neighbors a hearty reception but to get up a programme worthy of such a gathering.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The General Committee of this Society held a special meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday evening for the transaction of business, chiefly connected with the labor of Mr. Hall, the joint Colporteur for the Vancouver Society and the one above named. Amongst other matters the Rev. H. Reeve was appointed Acting Joint Secretary during the absence of Rev. J. Sheepshanks. A resolution was passed directing the Secretaries to correspond with His Excellency Governor Seymour, asking him to become Patron to the Society.

EXPORTS.—The schooner Industry, from Victoria, took in a cargo of dressed flooring at Webster & Co's mill yesterday.

THE PIC-NIC.—We understand the arrangements for the pic-nic excursion on Tuesday are progressing satisfactorily. A large number of tickets have already been sold.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS for week ending 23rd April, 1864: Duties, £1091 1 2; harbor dues, £20 2; head money, £41 12; tonnage dues, £106 11. Total, £1259 6 2; or £6107 5.6. Number of passengers entering at this port daily during same period, 208.

THE SCHOONER "ALPHA," of Nanaimo, cleared from this port on Thursday with a cargo of lumber and shingles from Mr. Homer's mill.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(From the Columbian.)

MONDAY, April 25, 1864.

Members present—Hons. Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General, C. Brew, P. O'Reilly, H. M. Ball, J. A. R. Homer, H. Holbrook, J. Orr, W. F. Black and R. T. Smith.

Minutes of previous meeting was read and confirmed.