

## The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday March 14, 1865

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, March 9.

House met at 3:15, p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, McClure, Tolmie, Trimble, Dickson, Burnaby, Duncan, Carswell, Denness.

## PETITION ON THE INCORPORATION.

Dr. Powell presented a petition from one hundred and fifty-four citizens of Victoria, praying that the jurisdiction of the police and the city prison be transferred to the Mayor and Corporation; also praying for the abolition of the office of Stipendiary Magistrate and conferring his powers on the Mayor and Corporation; also for the election of an Alderman for each ward, having jurisdiction as a magistrate, and occupying the bench in rotation.

The petition was ordered to be laid on the table.

## COASTING TRADE.

Mr. Duncan gave notice of motion for return of all coasting licenses issued by the Harbourmaster to foreign vessels; also for other returns connected with the recent throwing open of our coasting trade.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

The House went into committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Franklin in the chair.

## TAX ON STOCK.

Mr. DeCosmos said by determining the tax on stock at once, we could leave the trades license to the last. The object of this tax was to raise revenue, and to impose a tax that would not interfere in any way with the exports of the colony.

Dr. Helmecken proposed in amendment to Mr. DeCosmos's motion, that the tax on cattle be \$1 per head; on horses, \$1; on sheep and hogs, 50 cents per head; and on dressed meat 1/2 cent per pound.

Dr. Helmecken alluded to the facilities for smuggling cattle which our coast afforded, and by imposing the lighter tax he proposed the inducement to do so would be lessened. Another point was that on all stock exported to any other country a drawback equal to the import should be allowed.

Mr. DeCosmos regarded the first part of the amendment—that of \$1 per head on cattle—as a piece of folly. There was not the least fear of smuggling cattle, and even if it were done a little our own people would benefit by it. But that could easily be prevented by heavy penalties. On horses the tax of \$1 was equally useless as it would amount to nothing—only 148 horses having been imported last year. The proposed tax of 50 cents per head on all sheep and hogs was equally wrong and useless. As to the tax on dressed meat, he agreed with that.

He could not see that any serious derangement would be caused by the tax he had proposed. By that tax we would afford a protection to our farming classes and induce them to go into stock-raising to a greater extent than formerly. Our mercantile classes had been the only ones who had been encouraged, and it was now time to encourage our farmers and the few rough manufacturers we already had.

Dr. Helmecken said he was glad to see that he and the hon. gentleman had agreed on this tax, except on the amount. As the hon. gentleman had called him (Dr. H.) foolish for proposing \$1 per head, he (Mr. DeC.) must be four times more foolish in proposing \$4 per head (a laugh). By the tax he (Dr. H.) proposed, we would obtain a revenue of \$10,000 a year. By levying a tax of \$4 per head the cattle trade would be greatly deranged, and it would lead to complications between cattle dealers here and in Oregon and California. He had no intention whatever in offering a protection to farmers in this island by his motion, as he did not believe that \$1 per head would do any good in that way whatever.

Mr. McClure would move an amendment to the hon. Speaker's motion. He thought \$1 per head too small, but \$4 per head was too large. He would therefore move that on cattle the tax be \$2 50 per head, horses \$3 per head, sheep and hogs \$1 per head, and dressed meats 1 1/2 cent per pound. He did not believe in making stock bear all the burden of the deficit, and although his motion would produce a smaller revenue than that of his hon. colleague for the city, it would give room for other motions to be brought forward affecting other articles of consumption.

At Dr. Tolmie's agreement with the last speaker that \$2 50 on cattle would be better than \$4, but he would suggest that on yearlings and calves the tax should be only 50 cents per head (hear, hear) in order to encourage the importation of young stock, which could be raised more easily on the wider pastures of the other side than here. On horses he would agree with the hon. gentleman that the tax should be \$5, but on young horses he would suggest the tax of 50 cents. He would also favor the suggestion of the hon. member who preceded him, in levying a permit on vegetables, etc. (hear, hear).

Mr. Duncan said the House had a certain sum to make up, and they should levy their taxation in proportion. He thought the original motion the best mode of raising the deficit, and he would therefore support it.

Dr. Tolmie said the tax of half a cent on dressed meat was too low; it should be higher in proportion than on live stock, in order to encourage the export of hides from this colony.

Mr. DeCosmos said the tax of \$4 per head on cattle would equal about 4-6ths of one cent per pound. On hogs the rate at \$1 50 per head would be about 1 1/2 cents per pound, and as we expected a large immigration of Chinamen into the country who were known to consume a large quantity of pork this would be almost the only way we could reach them. On sheep the proposed tax of \$1 per head would amount to half a cent per pound.

Mr. Franklin said in regard to the proposal of imposing a landing permit on cattle, as we had already a landing permit on merchandise he would not offer any objection if it were not immoderate, as it would not be trenching on our principle of the free port. On the question of dressed meat he would suggest the prohibition of all imports of dressed meat unless in whole carcasses. This was desirable in a sanitary point of view, as diseased cattle might often be thrown on our market.

Mr. DeCosmos said it would be far better to make the import on dead animals the same as on any live stock, as there was always an amount of offal in killing stock that was of value, besides it gave additional employment to our people.

Dr. Tolmie proposed that the rate on dead animals should be made heavier in proportion than on live stock (hear, hear).

Dr. Helmecken said it would be necessary to make provision as to a drawback on stock exported.

Mr. DeCosmos regarded the allowance of any drawback on stock exported as totally impracticable. It would be impossible to define the stock, whether it had been imported or not.

Dr. Helmecken said it was quite unnecessary to identify the stock at all. All that was necessary was for the exporter to go to the harbourmaster and say he had so many cattle to export and to demand a refund of the amount of the landing permit. It did not matter whether the cattle had been imported to the island one year or fifty years.

Mr. Burnaby opposed the system of drawback as adverse to the great principles of free trade, for which he had always contended. He was strongly opposed to anything which would interfere with the freedom of the exporter. As to the \$4 per head tax he thought it too high, and would support the amendment of his hon. colleague.

Mr. Duncan said this was simply offering a bonus to the cattle raiser in the island. It was impossible to refund money which had never been paid.

Dr. Helmecken said if no drawback were allowed he would decidedly vote against the imposition of any tax at all. If there were no drawback it would simply be offering an inducement of \$4 per head to import cattle direct to the neighboring colony, and other imports would follow. He reiterated his opinion that the drawback must go with the tax. The moment the resolution passed the House, that moment the tax was levied, and the tax and the drawback must go together.

Mr. Duncan argued that the system of drawbacks was wholly impracticable.

Dr. Tolmie said the question was very simple but had been mystified by too much argument. The only stock exported was to Westminster.

Mr. McClure said it was a choice between two evils—that of giving a bonus on stock exported, and of interfering with our export trade. He would rather support the drawback system, confining it, however, to stock exported to New Westminster. By the published imports of British Columbia and by our own statistics, we could keep a check on the exports of stock.

Mr. Burnaby bore testimony to the correctness of the arguments of the hon. senior member for the city as to the difficulty of collecting the drawback on stock. The matter would make more trouble and labor than would be caused by much larger transactions.

Mr. Franklin said unless the drawback were allowed the rate of tax should be reduced to a very low figure—not more than \$1 per head. The average number of stock shipped by each steamer to New Westminster was not more than five head, and it would be easy to get a certificate of the number landed from the officials at that port of entry.

Dr. Tolmie said it was useless putting on a tax on stock unless we got something for it. One dollar per head on stock exported would be a serious matter, but \$1 per head on imports would not be worth striving for.

Dr. Dickinson favored the import tax of \$4 per head. As to the drawback, he favored it simply as a bonus to our own farmers.

Dr. Powell agreed with the proposition for a drawback, but thought there would be many difficulties in the way of collecting it, and he was averse to any obstacles being thrown in the way of commerce. He agreed with the hon. chairman that the best way of arriving at the number of stock would be to get a certificate from the officials at the port of entry, but this would involve much additional labor. He would support the motion made by his hon. junior colleague.

The first part of Dr. Helmecken's motion imposing a tax of \$1 per head on cattle was lost, only the mover in the affirmative. The motion for a tax of \$2 50 was also lost, on a vote of 5 to 6, and the tax of \$4 was carried.

Ayes—DeCosmos, Dickson, Carswell, Duncan, Trimble, Denness, (6).

Noes—Helmecken, Tolmie, McClure, Burnaby, Powell, (5).

Dr. Tolmie's amendment of a tax of 50c on yearlings and calves was carried.

The clause taxing horses \$1 per head was lost, and Mr. McClure's proposition of \$5 per head carried by a vote of 6 to 5.

Yearlings and foals \$1. Carried.

Sheep 50 cents per head, lost; and the motion for a tax of \$1 per head was carried.

Hogs 50 cents per head, lost; \$1 per head also lost, and the tax of \$1 50 carried.

Dressed meat—fresh—one half cent per lb, lost; beef cattle \$5 per carcass, carried.

Mutton, per carcass, \$2, carried.

Hogs, per carcass, \$2, carried.

Dr. Helmecken's motion for a drawback on all stock exported to New Westminster equal to the amount of permit levied, to be given to the owner, was carried by a vote of 6 to 5.

Dr. Helmecken moved that the Resolutions be reported to the House. Carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION—TAX ON MONEY LENT.

Mr. Burnaby gave notice that at next meeting of the Committee on Ways and Means he would move that a tax of one per centum per annum be levied on all mortgages, notes and bills of all classes for money lent, to be paid by the lender or lenders on the aggregate amount of money he or they may have lent as aforesaid during the present year.

Mr. McClure gave notice that at next meeting of the Committee on Ways and Means he would move that Landing Permits be charged on all vegetables, potatoes and roots at the rate of one half cent per lb, and that \$5 per ton be imposed on hay.

Mr. Trimble gave notice that at the next meeting of the Committee he would move that the sum of 10 cents per ton on the registered tonnage shall be charged on all vessels entering the ports of Vancouver Island, coasting vessels excepted.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that at next meeting of the Committee on Ways and Means he would move that one half per

cent shall be levied on the amount of the annual salary of all persons who have been six months in constant employment in Vancouver Island and who do not otherwise pay taxes by trades licenses. That employment for 6 months out of 6 shall be considered constant employment. That masters and employers shall make a return every 3 months of all persons in their employ (exclusive of those receiving less than \$150 a year) and the amount of the salary of each person, but that such returns shall not be made public. The master or employer shall pay and collect it from the employee either by deducting it from his salary or otherwise.

## TAX ON LUMBER.

Mr. Duncan gave notice that at the next meeting of the Committee he would move that a tax of \$3 per M be imposed on all lumber imported into the colony.

The Committee then rose and reported the resolutions passed, and the House adjourned till to-morrow (Friday), when the Committee on Ways and Means will resume their sittings.

## EUROPEAN.

## Newspaper Dates to January 22.

The replies of the governments of Sweden and Holland to the manifesto of the rebel Congress, setting forth the design of Jeff Davis government, are published. Both decline to swerve from the neutral position which they have hitherto maintained.

The Paris correspondent of the London Post notices and discredits some rumors that Napoleon designs recognizing the Southern Confederacy. The writer also says that there is a great antipathy to England entertained by American statesmen, and that the British Minister to this country has consequently severe difficulties to contend with at Washington.

The Dutch papers claim Gen. Sherman as a Dutchman! A few years ago he was a journeyman dyer in Pilburg, and subsequently emigrated with a few of his fellow workmen to America, in consequence of a commercial failure in which they were concerned in Amsterdam.

The blockade running steamer Lelia, from Liverpool for Wilmington, was wrecked on the 15th inst. off the bar of the Mersey, and became a total loss. A large number of persons were drowned.

We have received the full text of the bill providing for the abandonment of all claims to St. Domingo by Spain, which has been laid before the Spanish Cortes by the ministry.

The excitement over the Pope's encyclical is extending. It is rumored that trouble with Russia has grown out of it, and the government of Spain has forbidden its publication without authorization from the Council of State. Cardinal de Andrea, had been ordered to repair from Naples to Russia to answer for having spoken disrespectfully of it, and it was said, refused to comply with the order. An account of the action of the French government in opposition to it had been communicated by M. Sarrigues to Cardinal Antonelli, the Pope's Prime Minister.

It is said that the Emperor Napoleon has nominated Prince Napoleon as regent of the French empire in the event of his death.

Austria, it is stated, has determined to withdraw from her alliance with Prussia if the latter persists in the project for annexing the duchies.

The Paris Patrie states that the French government is about to incorporate Cochinchina among the number of its regular colonies, on the same footing as Gadeloupe, Martinique, Senegal, and la Reunion.

Of four hundred and two emigrants leaving Havre in the month of December last, there were three hundred and sixty for New York, thirty-eight for the States of the Rio de la Plata, three for Lima, and one for Rio Janeiro.

The steamship Columbia, from Liverpool for the West Indies, had sank off Brest, and of thirty-four persons on board all but three were drowned.

The rumors that British troops were about to be sent to Canada are authoritatively contradicted by the London Globe.

A motion had been made in the Spanish Cortes, on the part of the opposition members, in favor of retaining possession of St. Domingo.

Consols closed in London on the 21st of January at from eighty-nine and five eighths to eighty-nine and three fourths for money. In Liverpool cotton was firmer but unchanged. Breadstuffs were inactive, and provisions firm and buoyant.

The number of French war vessels to be disarmed is now announced as thirty-three. The London Globe advises the English people not to expect any reduction this year in the expenditures for the British army and navy.

The Mosely cotton spinning firm of Schofield & Sons had failed for about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. There were rumors of the failure of other large firms.

The Bank of England had reduced its rate of discount from six to five and a half per cent. Consols closed in London on the 14th instant at from eighty-nine and three fourths to ninety for money. The Liverpool cotton and breadstuffs markets were dull and inactive. Provisions were firm, and produce was quiet and firm.

Rumors prevailed in Paris confirmatory of the report to the effect that the Emperor Maximilian, of Mexico, had ceded to Louis Napoleon the States of Sonora, Durango, Sinaloa, Chihuahua and Lower California.

The Paris reports state that Marshal Bazaine has received orders from the French Emperor to seize and hold Sonora as indemnity for the expenses incurred by the French government in placing Maximilian on the Mexican throne.

The London Times discusses the proposition of some of the Southern rebels, for the sake of insuring their separation from the North, to place their confederacy under the protection of some strong European government, and says that none of these Powers would be likely to accept the offer if it should be made, even with the agreement to abolish slavery.

Some of the London papers are very severe on Mr. Seward and the Brazilian government for the supposed settlement of the difficulty

regarding the seizure of the rebel pirate Florida in the port of Bahia.

The number of persons on board the rebel blockade running steamer Lelia when she foundered at the mouth of the Mersey, on the 15th instant, was variously estimated at between thirty and sixty, only eight of whom were known to be saved.

In the town of Nicastro, on the Gulf of Venice, shocks of earthquake have been daily felt during the last seven months, and to these have lately been added subterranean noises, in consequence of which it is feared that a volcano is about to burst forth there, and the people are leaving the place.

The Theatre Royal, of Edinburgh, was totally destroyed by fire on the 13th instant, and a number of persons were killed and injured.

Captain Corbett, late commander of the rebel pirate Sea King, alias Shenandoah, has been committed for trial in Liverpool, charged with violating the Foreign Enlistment Act.

The Liverpool Post states that orders for twenty thousand artillery uniforms for the rebels have recently been executed in that city.

Messrs. Schofield and Bright of the British Parliament, have been recently addressing their constituents favorably to the United States government, though the American propositions to place gunboats on the lakes and to abrogate the Reciprocity treaty with Canada were deprecated.

It is asserted that Spain will demand of Peru indemnity to the amount of fifteen million francs.

## LETTER FROM LEECH RIVER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST, Sir,—Allow me, through the medium of your columns, to say a word or two about the Leech river gold mines. There are between two and three hundred miners and storekeepers from the forks of Sooke and Leech to the North Forks, and it is the general opinion that this summer there will be between 1500 and 2000 miners on the creek.

Of course the severity of the winter prevents them from making progress on their claims at present though a few manage to make sufficient to keep themselves in food by taking advantage of an occasional fine day. There are some also working in the benches who are getting out a very fair quantity of gold, but the generality of them are totally unable to work, they consequently grumble at the length and stubbornness of the winter.

At the same time I believe there are few who are not sanguine of the future prosperity of Leech. Miners say they are confident that the great fountain source of the auriferous deposits exists not far off, as the color can be found almost anywhere for miles distant, in some places rich, and the higher they ascend the river the better the prospects become.

Now if it be true that Vancouver Island has run out of funds let those in authority show some zeal in attending to the just wants of the inhabitants of Leech river, which promises to be the chief source of our island wealth this season. In four weeks time the season will commence, but before that something must be done to back up the miners in their endeavors to make Leech a profitable and permanent gold field. Two things are requisite at once to commence with, viz: a new code of mining laws, that will enable every man to reap the full benefit of his claim, or if it answers his purpose better, to join with others and all work together. I know of a case that happened last year where a man who held a good paying claim was washed out by those below him, which forced him to leave his claim for the remainder of the season; he appealed to the late Commissioner, but as there were no laws to protect him he obtained no redress. Again, a claim on a small creek like this should extend right through the stream instead of only to the centre. Six men holding claims on one side want to flume that part of the river but cannot do so because those on the other side will not agree to it. To obtain the requisite laws you are aware that there is a requisition drawn up praying His Excellency the Governor to adopt on Leech river the mining laws of British Columbia. The other requirement is an efficient postal communication with Victoria. Some honorable gentleman in the House proposed \$300 per annum. One glance will show the absurdity of the proposition. Did the hon. gentleman for one moment reflect upon what was to be done for the money? I think not, and will tell him.

From Victoria to the North Forks the distance is 24 miles, which has to be travelled over four times a week, making 96 miles for the munificent sum of \$5 77! and the poor expressman will have about twenty or thirty pounds of letters and newspapers to should every time he leaves Victoria at that. Should he ride as far as Goldstream, his stage hire alone will amount to \$208 per annum, leaving him the enormous sum of 14 bits a week to live on! Further comment is unnecessary. A great deal of praise is due to Alfred Barnett, who, all through the winter has done his utmost to meet the obstacle of no postal arrangements in this locality, and to him we would like to see the appointment given, though not at the miserable stipend of \$300 a year. To bring this about some gentleman have drawn up a requisition praying His Excellency to grant a further sum than is already voted by the Legislature, and at the same time respectfully recommending Mr. A. Barnett to the appointment.

Yours, respectfully,  
E. M. WALSH,  
Woodman Stores.

N. B.—I beg to inclose a copy of the petition, which has already received some fifty signatures.

Leech River, March 9th, 1865.

To His Excellency Arthur E. Kennedy, C. B., Governor of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies.

MAY I PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY, Sir,—We, the undersigned miners and residents of Leech River having for a long time experienced the want of a proper postal communication, humbly submit to your Excellency now that the mining season is about to commence, which will necessarily cause a considerable increase to our population, the small amount voted by the Legislature is totally inadequate for the purpose, it being barely sufficient to pay stage hire on the wagon road, and we therefore humbly request your Excellency to grant such increase as

would induce any one properly to fulfil the duties.

We would further respectfully intimate that Mr. Alfred Barnett has from the first and during the winter attended to our interests in this way with safety and dispatch, and has acquired the confidence of the miners, and we should be glad if your Excellency would grant sufficient remuneration as would induce him to continue his services.

## British Columbia.

The steamer Fidelity, Capt. Loudon, arrived yesterday from New Westminster with a few passengers and an express.

No later intelligence had been received from Cariboo, communication with the upper country having been entirely cut off. Fraser River is full of float ice. Capt. Loudon reports large flakes floating down 40 and 50 feet long and 6 inches thick. The weather had however moderated and the river will probably soon be clear again.

(From the Columbian.)

TELEGRAPHIC.—Mr. Haines, local superintendent of the California State Telegraph Co., arrived from Semiahmoo in a canoe yesterday, May 9th. Mr. Haines informs us that the weather has been extremely unfavorable. The working party had crossed the Boundary, but owing to the weather he could not give any definite idea of when they would reach this city. No news had been received over the line.

ARRIVALS FROM ABOVE.—Capt. Golding and several others arrived in this city from Douglas on Thursday night. They experienced very great hardship and had several hairbreadth escapes in getting down. They report the river frozen from Sumas down to within two miles of Pitt River. The steamer Hope is tied up at Sumas. Mr. Dodge having returned to Douglas. The sleighing was good upon the Portages and preparations were making for starting the Lake steamers. There is no news of importance. Several parties arrived yesterday from Yale. They had come direct from the Thompson River. They represent sleighing as excellent down as far as Jackass Mountain, and from that point down to Yale the road is very bad from the depth of snow and on account of snow slides from the mountain. They bring no later news from above. The N. P. Times continues: They found some passengers from Yale on board the Hope who are expected to arrive to-day. They walked down on the ice, which is from one to three feet thick. On coming across Harrison Lake they experienced a severe gale of wind, and the Henrietta had a narrow escape of being capsized. Provisions were plentiful at Douglas, and along the road. Mr. C. K. Wright and Mr. Donnelly are among the party on the Hope. Our informants were in a terribly starved condition on their arrival in town.

Customs Receipts for week ending 3d March, 1865: Duties, £138 1 11; harbor dues, £11 11 4; head money, £16 4; fees, 4s; tonnage dues, £17 16. Total, £233 17 3.

THE HOPE-KOOTENAY TRAIL.—We mentioned on Thursday that Mr. Ladner had made a proposition to the Government to open a trail from Hope to Princeton for the sum of \$7,000, and have it completed by the 20th inst. We now learn that the proposal has been accepted, with this difference, that the sum is \$6,000.

[FROM THE NORTH PACIFIC TIMES.]

On Wednesday last a large quantity of prairie grass was fired near Harris' ranch. The sky in the evening was illuminated for some distance.

Mr. Dewdney, who started up the river to inspect Spence's bridge has returned, having found it impossible to proceed, the river being completely blocked with ice a short distance above Katesy's.

Mr. Haines is dissatisfied with the trail made by the Government from Semiahmoo Bay to Mud Bay, adding as it does some seven miles to the length of the road, by the circuitous route taken, and being almost useless for the purposes of the telegraph.

Owing to the stoppage of communication by the cold weather, the stock of beef and mutton has failed, and fish and game are at a premium in the markets.

DREAMY HOLMBROOK.—In a discussion in the British Columbia Legislative Council on a motion of the Hon. Mr. Holbrook for an appropriation of £100 for a resident pilot, the Hon. gentleman is reported to have said:

"That in the course of a fortnight two vessels would arrive direct from San Francisco, and unless there was a pilot at New Westminster, they would be detained at great loss. The Victoria pilot always managed to put every vessel aground on the sands." The two ships alluded to will have to be somewhat expeditious to arrive within the given time as they were not on the berth at latest dates.

SLEIGHING.—Everything in the shape of a sleigh was called into requisition yesterday, the snow being well adapted to that pleasurable exercise, and the jingling of bells was audible up to a late hour. We noticed two or three orthodox sleighs or cutters of Eastern importation traversing the streets, but the majority of the vehicles were of somewhat primitive and rude construction.

An adventure happened to one party last evening about 8 o'clock which might have resulted seriously. They were driving gaily along and were about to visit the house of a friend to add another petticoat to the joyous party. Opposite Jeffery's rooms, however, on Johnson street, there is a high embankment on the south side of which the water has been dammed up to the height of about seven feet. The surface of the water was frozen over and covered with snow so as not to be discernible to the eye of a stranger to the locality; presently a plunge and a scream were heard and the sleigh disappeared completely under the surface of the aforesaid pond, nothing but the horse's head being visible. The occupants of the sleigh finding their position rather chilly one quickly emerged, and the unfortunate horse, with the assistance of a bystander, was rescued from his perilous and uncomfortable situation, not much the worse for his involuntary header.