

The Weekly British Colonist

Tuesday, January 30, 1866.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Monday, Jan. 22. House met at 1:30, p. m. The Speaker in the chair. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, McClure, Trimble, Dickson, Duncan, Carswell, Cunningham, Cochrane, Ash.

Administration of Justice, continued, (exclusive of establishments)—Contingent expenses of unpaid magistrates, \$500.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the item be struck out. Dr. Helmecken said there must be something voted for this item. The Justices of the Peace were sent about from one place to another and other expenses were incurred which they would not pay out of their own pocket. He moved that it be \$250.

On a division the vote stood—Nees, DeCosmos, McClure, Carswell, Dickson. Ayes: Dr. Helmecken, Cunningham, Duncan, Cochrane. The chairman gave the casting vote in favor of striking the item out. Reimbursement to Chief Justice for passage expenses from England, \$750.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the item be struck out. In granting the pension it was stipulated that the late Chief Justice should hold office until his successor arrived, and when a gentleman accepts office on the understanding that his pay was not to commence until he took office he could not expect his expenses to be paid. He was not disposed to vote the amount out of generosity.

Dr. Helmecken thought the House was pledged to pay the amount. He read a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle on the subject of the appointment.

The item was struck out unanimously.

EDUCATION.—School house, Nanaimo, \$2,000. Mr. DeCosmos moved a reduction to \$1,500. Mr. Cunningham thought it impolitic to reduce the amount, as it was insufficient as it stood to pay for the school house; there were 230 children at Nanaimo—the present house would only accommodate some 30 children.

Mr. DeCosmos said had it not been that a sum had been promised to the good people of Nanaimo for a school house and an inducement held out to them to subscribe among themselves, towards it, he would not under the circumstances be in favor of contributing \$1,500, but anybody conversant with building in a new country would know that \$1,500 would build a very good school house. Could the country afford it he would vote \$500 or \$1,000 for school houses in Victoria and District.

Mr. McClure thought \$1,500 ought to suffice at present, more might be voted by and by if wanted. Dr. Helmecken considered \$1,500 sufficient, as it did not include instruction.

The motion was carried. Mr. Cunningham dissenting.

Repairs and additions to buildings, \$500; reduced to \$100. Books, petty expenses, &c., \$1,000.

Motion of Mr. DeCosmos to reduce the item to \$800 was carried.

Rent of school houses, \$1,080. Amount put and lost.

Ayes: DeCosmos, McClure, Cunningham, Dickson. Noes: Ash, Helmecken, Cochrane, Duncan, Carswell.

Dr. Powell here entered the house. CHARITABLE ALLOWANCES—Miscellaneous, \$500.

Dr. Helmecken moved that the amount be paid to the orphan school.

Motion by Mr. DeCosmos to postpone—carried.

HOSPITALS.—Contribution to Victoria Hospital, \$2,000.

A message from his Excellency was read furnishing a statement of the position, receipts and indebtedness of the Royal Hospital, and informing the house that the government had not deemed it advisable to pay the balance of \$3,000 due to the hospital.

Mr. McClure commented on the course pursued by the Executive in assenting to the payment of sums of money that could well be dispensed with, while amounts that were really indispensable were ignored. It was almost incredible to him how such urgent claims as those of the hospital, the public schools, and the fire companies should have been neglected, while thousands of dollars were expended on a gubernatorial mansion.

While forty thousand dollars or so were borrowed to build Government House, the Executive did not dare to get into debt to relieve the hospitals and overburdened fire departments. (Hear, hear.) He proposed the amount should be increased to \$5,000.

Dr. Helmecken said from personal experience he could say that the indebtedness of the Royal Hospital was as stated about \$3,000. During the year one hundred patients had been received, the daily cost of whom was seventy-five cents per head. The citizens and tradesmen had always behaved most liberally towards the Committee; meat, provisions, &c., had been supplied at the lowest rates, but difficulty had always been experienced in getting money from the Government. The \$3,000 was due from last year, and must be paid. He could not see why the Executive had refused to pay the \$3,000, and he coincided with the remarks just made. In adverse times the Hospital required more support, and \$5,000 was altogether too little. The Hospital surgeons had charged nothing for their services, and the Committee would no longer bear the responsibility of the debts on their own shoulders. In many instances the sick patients who were supposed to eat very little eat a great deal, and it was really a surer way than medicine that they required. The Hospital authorities did not ask more than \$5,000 for the present year, and would do the best they could with that sum. They were ready at any time to hand over the establishment to the Government if required.

Dr. Powell thought before so large a sum of money as \$5,000 was voted the House should know something more of the government of the Hospital by an irresponsible Committee. He had nothing to say against the Committee, but they had nothing to show to the House of the mode of expenditure.

Dr. Helmecken said a few words in explanation, and on a division the sum of \$5,000 was carried.

Female Hospital, \$250—struck out. POLICE.—Clothing for Constables, \$1,200.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the item be struck out. Dr. Helmecken—Oh no! the clothes have been ordered from England and are on their way out.

Mr. DeCosmos said that the Police in this colony was one of the grandest absurdities ever perpetrated in a new country. The attempt was made by the late and seconded by the present administration to make the police a well-dressed regimental body. He argued that the whole item be expunged and the clothing sold for what it would fetch on arrival.

Mr. Duncan thought a policeman should wear uniform to show that he was on duty; but he would not vote such a sum as \$1,200, considering that \$1400 was voted last year for clothing.

Dr. Dickson asked for explanation. If the amount was voted last year it was only keeping faith to disburse it now. But he understood clothing was on its way from England for 20 policemen and Superintendent, also for 90 convicts similar to what was worn in England.

Mr. Duncan said if that were so he would not vote a cent. The money if spent should be circulated in the colony.

Mr. DeCosmos here entered the House. Mr. McClure thought the item should be struck out, as the police were shortly to be placed under City control. The fact of the Government having incurred so ridiculous a responsibility as the order from England should not weigh with the House.

The item was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Fuel, water, and light—\$500; reduced to \$100. Bedding—\$50. Struck out.

Arms and ammunition—\$50; struck out. Occasional necessary employment of special constables—\$500; struck out.

Gaols—Provisions for 60 prisoners—\$4818. On motion of Mr. DeCosmos all the items under this head were postponed.

RENTS. Ground rent of Government House—\$81 90.

Considerable discussion arose upon this item. Mr. Cochrane moved that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee. There seemed to be a difference of opinion amongst honorable members whether the lease was a perpetual one or not. If, as some asserted, at the end of a number of years the property could be purchased at a fixed price, the House had better know it at once.

The motion was carried. Rent of Harbor-master's Office, Victoria—\$330.

Dr. Powell could not refrain from expressing his astonishment at this item. This House had passed a resolution last year that this office should be removed to the Government Buildings, and he was surprised that the Government should send the item down in the estimates.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that immediate steps be taken to remove the harbor master's office and post office to some central and more commodious situation.

Dr. Helmecken thought the harbor master's office was already in the best place that it could be in.

Resolution passed. The item for \$330 rent, carried.

Rent of post office \$330, carried. Gaol at Nanaimo \$100, carried.

Look-up at Esquimalt \$100, struck out. Quarters for policemen in outlying districts \$500; struck out.

TRANSPORT. Travelling expenses of officers, police and others on duty, \$1,000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that \$250 be substituted; carried.

Conveyance of prisoners \$500. On motion of Mr. DeCosmos \$150 was substituted.

Conveyance of Mails between Vancouver Island and San Francisco \$9,000.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the sum of \$30,000 be substituted.

Dr. Helmecken thought it would be rash to grant \$30,000 at the present moment; he would advise waiting until we know what contract the Government might make, it was just possible the work of carrying the mails might cost us nothing; it was time enough to vote the money after we knew it was required.

Mr. DeCosmos said the House had already voted a sum of \$1500 per trip and had authorized the Government to effect a contract to that extent. The Government were not obliged to expend the whole \$30,000 if unnecessary, but the House should pledge a sufficient sum to secure the object sought.

Dr. Ash thought that granting so large an amount might lead to an extravagant expenditure, when perhaps the mails might be carried for a smaller sum if it was not known a large sum was granted.

Mr. McClure said he had gone into a system of retrenchment in order that money would be spared for urgent undertakings. He supported the \$30,000, because he wanted to provide against the possibility of obtaining an inferior class of boat—he wanted in fact to afford the Executive no excuse for making an imperfect arrangement.

Dr. Powell thought the remarks of the hon. junior member for Metehosin implied a want of confidence in the Government. He (Dr. P.) would support the grant of \$30,000, and it was presumed, of course, that the Government will exercise prudence and economy in the matter.

A motion to postpone was lost. \$30,000 carried.

Between Victoria and Esquimalt, \$400; struck out. Between Victoria and Comox, \$5,000. Consideration postponed.

Between Victoria and Saanich, \$300; carried. Between Victoria and Sooke mines, \$1,000; struck out. Between Victoria and New Westminster, British Columbia, \$1,000; \$500 substituted. Between Victoria and Washington Territory, United States, \$500.

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As all prepared in Pure Malt Vine in Oak Vats, by means of PLATINUM, thus avoiding all possibility of crystals, or any other injurious metal; and precisely similar in quality to those of them for use at.

MR. MAJESTY'S TABLE. Asparagus, Patent Peas, &c. (Green, &c.) Yorkshire Game and Pork Patties, Fresh Fish, Salmon Cutlets, Whitebait, Fillets, Joints, Sausages, Herrings, &c. &c. in Jars, and Vegetables in Tins. Fruit in Jars, and Brandy, Crystallized, &c. &c. as well as many articles too numerous to include in an advertisement. They can be commended. Their Salad Oil is the best in the World.

AS AGENTS FOR THE FERRIS, ED. WORCESTER'S, &c. ROBERT PEARL'S Sauce, M. Sayer's and Aromatic Mustard, Poyne's White Sauce, White's Oriental Powder and Paste, and Mulligatawny and the Dessicated Milk, and for M. Chocolate.