

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 bye 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, 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 Harbormaster'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. Dr. Dickson said he would rise to state what he had stated last year in regard to this matter. Not one cent was paid by this Government for this service. (Laughter.) Hon. gentlemen might laugh, but what he said was a fact.

Dr. Helmecken said he was not laughing at what the hon. gentleman had said, but at the Paul Pry manner in which information was brought before the House.

Dr. Dickson said he would get information when and where he could, and would avail himself of it, and it would behoove some hon. gentlemen to get more information than they possessed before they gave their votes in the House. (Hear, hear and laughter.)

WORKS AND BUILDINGS. General Repairs to Buildings, \$1,000. Mr. DeCosmos moved that the sum be \$150. Carried.

Fencing round Government Square, \$750. Struck out. Tower at Race Rocks Light House for Fog Bell, \$600. Struck out. Fireproof Vault in Treasury, \$800. Struck out.

Finishing Court House at Leech River, \$200. Struck out.

ROADS, SEWERAGE AND BRIDGES. Repairs of existing Roads, \$1,000. Mr. Duncan moved that \$5,000 be expended on the Saanich road through the Lake District.

Mr. DeCosmos thought the proper course would be to tax the property of persons through whose land the road passed. Such custom prevailed in other countries and worked well. If the roads were bad in the winter season the farmers should bring in the produce earlier.

Mr. Duncan thought the system proposed by the hon. senior member for Victoria city might do well in 1890, but at present we had undertaken to build certain roads, and it was necessary that those roads should be completed. Besides this, \$10,000 were voted last year for the road and only \$1,700 spent.

Mr. McClure said he would in a few days bring in his bill for granting municipal powers to the districts. The only way the roads of the colony could be kept in proper repair was to put the responsibility on the people of the various districts. This would have the double effect of saving the pockets of the citizens of Victoria, who now build nearly all the roads, and of making land speculators pay their proper quota (hear, hear). He hoped, therefore, the motions for the expenditure of large sums on the Saanich road would be withdrawn.

Dr. Helmecken thought it a most absurd idea, proposed by the senior member for the city (Mr. DeCosmos). Why the produce of the farmers would all rot before they could have it sold in the market. With regard to the idea of making each district responsible for its own roads, it was equally preposterous.

Mr. McClure thought the hon. the Speaker's long residence in such places as Vancouver Island disqualified him from giving an opinion of what was done in enlightened countries (laughter). In all the North American Colonies and in the Australian Colonies there were municipal authorities who took charge of the roads. In some of the latter colonies small grants were given by Government to assist the local road boards. With regard to the statement of the hon. member for Lake (Mr. Duncan) that the Executive only spent \$1,700 out of the \$10,000 voted last year, what guarantees had the hon. member that any sum voted this year would be expended at all? Municipal power was the only thing that would set this state of affairs to rights.

Dr. Helmecken thought if the hon. junior member for the city had been recently sent home to England that was no reason he should boast of his newly-acquired acquaintance with enlightened countries (laughter). Mr. Duncan thought the hon. junior member for the city's argument about voting money that was not spent might be applied to nearly every item in the estimates.

Dr. Dickson's motion of \$9,000 was then put and lost.

Messrs. Dickson and Cochrane only being in the affirmative.

Mr. Duncan's motion of \$5,000 for Lake was also lost by a large majority.

Mr. Cochrane's motion of \$5,000 to be spent on the Saanich road, independent of locality, was lost by the following vote:

Ayes—Cochrane, Dickson, and Helmecken (3). Noes—Carswell, Powell, McClure, Duncan, Dennes, DeCosmos and Cunningham (7).

Dr. Helmecken moved that \$300 be granted to make a road from Cook's to Metehosin. He only wanted a cheap road cut through the brush to accommodate nine or ten settlers who are now greatly inconvenienced for want of it.

Mr. Dennes seconded.

Dr. Helmecken thought the hon. gentleman did not know the locality. He was aware that the hon. gentleman was at Metehosin last year, but that visit only resulted in a benefit to the gentleman's health—nothing more (laughter). The settlers in question he was certain the hon. member did not know.

Mr. DeCosmos—How do you know? Dr. Helmecken—Because they are not voters (laughter).

Mr. DeCosmos maintained he was conversant with the locality and knew the settlers. Dr. Helmecken—If the hon. member knew the locality and had been through it, it must have been when he walked with the celebrated bowie-knife between his teeth (laughter). For the place was one mass of brush-wood.

Mr. McClure thought if the trail was so easily cut and the settlers were so much inconvenienced, it showed little enterprise on their part to ask the Government for so small a sum as \$300.

The motion was put and carried.

Ayes—Helmecken, Dickson, Duncan, Cochrane, Dennes, Cunningham.

Noes—DeCosmos, McClure, Powell, Carswell.

A motion of Dr. Dickson to grant \$250 for the Burnside road was lost.

Mr. Dennes moved that \$1,000 be granted to build roads on Salt Spring Island.

Motion lost. Committee rose and reported progress. House adjourned to meet on Wednesday at 1 p. m.

EXCHANGE NO ROBBERY.—It is no misfortune for a nice young lady to lose her good name, if a nice young gentleman gives her a better one.

CITY COUNCIL.

MONDAY, Jan. 22.

Council met at 7 p. m. Present—His Worship the Mayor and Councillors Gowen, Lewis, Jeffery, Senr., Layzell, Hibbard, and Jeffery, Jr.

RULES OF ORDER. On motion of Mr. Gowen the mover, with Messrs. Lewis and Hibbard, were appointed a Committee to prepare certain amendments deemed necessary to the rules of order.

Pursuant to a resolution of the Council the Clerk read a report of the entire proceedings in connection with the late Council and the Council Reserve.

On motion of Mr. Lewis the report of the Town Clerk, which he thought very creditable to that officer, was passed and ordered to be entered on the minutes with a synopsis of the annexures.

Mr. Layzell asked His Worship to express his views on this interesting question.

The Mayor said it would be out of order; he would do so in Committee if desired.

A motion to go into Committee was passed with Councillor Gowen in the chair.

A lengthy debate ensued in which most of the councillors took part.

The Mayor thought the fencing in of the Church Reserve a great evil, and referred to the mode and purposes for which the Reserve was originally granted by the Hudson Bay Company, believing that the intention was not to set it apart for any particular Church, as certain rights had been exercised by other bodies on the Reserve; but the property had without doubt been made over by indenture with the consent of the Crown.

His view was not merely that the City should contend for the mere right of way, but for the property itself or its equivalent. He certainly would vote against assuming or defending this suit, on the ground that it was brought against certain individuals and not against the present Council. He concluded by expressing himself in favor of presenting a petition to the House of Assembly praying that that body would protect the public interests of the citizens by taking measures to secure the Reserve.

Mr. Lewis moved seconded by Mr. Gowen that the following petition be presented to the House of Assembly: [A copy of the petition appears elsewhere.]

The motion was carried, and on the Committee reporting progress the petition was adopted, Messrs. Layzell and Hibbard not voting, and the Clerk was instructed to present the same, with the corporate seal attached, to the senior member for the City.

EMPLOYMENT OF COUNSEL. Mr. Hibbard introduced a resolution for the employment of Mr. King to act on behalf of the Council, if necessary, until the House of Assembly had taken action in the matter, so as to prevent the case from going by default.

Mr. Layzell seconded the resolution.

Mr. Jeffery senr. said the matter was a private one, or the late Mayor and Mr. Smith could not have got their names taken off. He wanted no Councillor to be responsible for him.

Mr. Gowen said the resolution was a repetition of what had been thrown out at the last meeting.

Mr. Lewis was opposed to the step. On motion being put Messrs. Hibbard and Layzell voted for, and Messrs. Gowen, Lewis, Jeffery senr. and Jeffery, junr. against.

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Gowen, that Mr. Courtney be informed that the Council is not aware of any action against the Council.

Messrs. Hibbard and Layzell here left the board. The motion on being put was carried, and the Council adjourned until Monday evening at the usual hour.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, Jan. 23, 1866.

The Council met yesterday at 2 p. m. Present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary (presiding), Attorney General, Surveyor General, Donald Fraser, H. Rhodes.

Petitions were read in favor of and against the passing of the Harewood Railway Extension Act. The bill was read a first time after some discussion, it being thought by some honorable gentlemen that the bill after the second reading should be considered by a select committee.

The third reading of the bill introduced by the Hon. Attorney General for creating and extending the jurisdiction of district courts was postponed in consequence of the absence of the Chief Justice, whose opinion was sought on certain points.

The Council went into Committee on this bill, the Hon. Surveyor General in the chair, and after some discussion the Committee rose and reported progress.

POSTAL SERVICE BILL. The Council went into Committee on this bill, the Hon. Surveyor General in the chair. The Hon. Donald Fraser was not prepared without further information as to postal revenue to adopt such elaborate and expensive machinery as this bill proposed. He was in favor of a short bill giving the Governor power to regulate the postal system, but in the present state of the Colony he was opposed to further taxation being imposed.

The Colonial Secretary maintained that the proposed system was not expensive and the bill was much needed. At present there was no power in the colony to collect postage. The letters that came into the colony were the property of no one, but went into the hands of the postmaster, who required payment of so many cents before he would deliver them. In England the Postmaster General had power to prosecute for opening letters and other offences, but no such power existed here. Wells, Fargo & Co. paid outwards but not inwards postage on their letters. It was high time he thought that power should be given to collect postage.

lected under this bill without additional expense to the colony; they might be months over the bill and after all it would never pass the House of Assembly.

Hon. Attorney General alluded to the Royal prerogative as to the carriage of letters and the Imperial power to enforce a colonial system.

Hon. D. Fraser replied that there was no fear of that, they would not be willing to incur the expense attending it.

Hon. Surveyor General did not see that any expense was attached to the bill.

Hon. D. Fraser—A Postmaster General won't work for nothing.

Hon. Col. Secretary argued that instead of additional expense the effect of the bill would be to increase the revenue materially. The Express Company would not be interfered with as it was of great value to the colony, but at present the Postmaster received his instructions from the Colonial office, sometimes verbally, sometimes in writing, and he thought it high time that the system should be defined and his instructions given under statute.

Hon. D. Fraser—If the Governor had the power of controlling postal matters, it would be better for him to place the whole thing in the hands of Wells, Fargo & Co.

Hon. Col. Secretary—It would be a hard thing to make everybody pay 25 cents for a letter.

Hon. D. Fraser—My only object is to save expense; I don't want to be a week over a bill that creates an office that has to be paid and has no prospect of passing the Assembly.

Hon. Col. Secretary hoped the House of Assembly was composed of reasonable men who would see that the colony is too far advanced to continue under the rule of thumb. The members were all fully aware of the necessity for a better postal system.

Hon. D. Fraser thought that if the House of Assembly could be assured that the Postmaster General was not to have any increase of salary there was some prospect of the bill passing.

Hon. Col. Secretary again explained that there was no authority whatever under which the postal service in this colony was regulated. The bill had been examined by the Postmaster General in England who was of opinion that it would fully answer the purpose and work well.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes thought that a guarantee that no extra expense was to be incurred was the only way to enable the bill to succeed in the Lower House, as they had before thrown it out without a first reading.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary objected. It looked like want of confidence to tie down the hands of the Governor, who knew what the wishes of the people were.

Hon. Donald Fraser said he felt no want of confidence in the Governor whatever. If he did he would say so boldly; but he had a want of confidence in the resources of the country. He would be very sorry to curtail the working of government; but under the present circumstances of the colony, the depression in trade, and the valueless position of real estate, it was his duty to oppose everything in the shape of creating fresh Government offices or expenses.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary was prepared to state broadly, clearly, and distinctly that it was not the intention of the bill to saddle the country with one iota of additional expense, but on the contrary to add materially to the revenue.

Hon. Donald Fraser—Look at the first clause and say if you believe it would be sanctioned by the House of Assembly. It creates an office, and a salary must be paid.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary maintained that although nominally a new office was created, in point of fact the office at present existed. It was not a money bill, since no salary was mentioned.

Hon. Donald Fraser—Then why not express it in the bill?

The Hon. Colonial Secretary—Because I think it is going too far, and looks like a suspicion of something wrong behind. The House must have thrown the bill out before under a misapprehension that it was creating a new office.

A desultory conversation ensued, in which the Hon. Colonial Secretary explained the highly ridiculous working of the postal system with British Columbia; informing the Council that he had been unable, after repeated applications to obtain any of their colonial stamps, and consequently, when a letter went from this to the other colony it had to be accompanied by the money wrapped up in a piece of paper.

The Committee finally rose and reported progress, and the Council adjourned till Friday at 2 p. m.

FROM THE NORTH.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Captain Clarke, arrived yesterday from Comox and Nanaimo. She reached the former place on Friday morning, having experienced a snow storm which detained her at Nanaimo. On Friday evening the storm commenced at Comox, and raged for three days with great violence. On returning the steamer had to run into Deep Bay for shelter and lay there with two anchors down.

Throughout the entire trip Captain Clarke states he never experienced such weather, but the Sir James battled bravely with the elements. We have a copy of the Nanaimo Gazette of Monday, which appears in its enlarged form, and really presents a most creditable appearance. We congratulate our progressive contemporary on its rapid growth and prosperity. The weather last week was colder in Nanaimo than it had ever been known before. The snow drift was in some parts of Front street five feet deep, and the thermometer on Tuesday 3d of Wednesday nights ranged from zero to 7 degrees below it. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, Mr. John Sabiston succeeded in having 140 tons of coal placed on board the brig Ben Gairn on Friday last. On Thursday morning last Mr. Samuel Washington, one of the employes of the Victoria Coal Company, whilst engaged in his avocation as miner at the above named pit, was severely crushed by a portion of the roof falling upon him. He was placed at once under medical care, and was progressing favorably. The Gazette fully endorses the retrenchment policy of the majority of the Assembly, and adds: "With such a result to point to they can well afford to put up with the taunts and sneers of a few pretenders to political science who are at present endeavoring, both inside and outside the House, to impede them in their great and popular work of retrenchment."

LES, SAUCES, JAMS, & CO.

MANUFACTURED BY SE & BLACKWELL, PURVEYORS TO THE QUEEN, 105 SQUARE, LONDON.

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 bye 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.