

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 6.

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THE BRITISH COLONIST

EVERY MORNING

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NOTICE

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VANCOUVER ISLAND POLITICS.

After all the relevant and irrelevant remarks that have been called forth on the Crown Lands Debate—all the wrangling and quarrelling, and disgraced personalities that have been indulged in at various times during the recent discussion—it may be well, now that the fight is over, to consider and examine, not only the result but the character of the debate which has just closed. To go briefly into the first question, we find that the Home Government have asked the people of the colony to pay some \$6,000 a year as salaries for the Governor and the principal officials, and in return for this outlay have agreed to give to the inhabitants that property known as the Crown Lands. The answer of the Assembly to this proposition is not exactly such a one as Mr. Cardwell will probably desire, but it could not, consistent with the interests and the independence of the country, be any less exacting in its demands. The Legislature, while asserting the explicit charge made by the Hon. Secretary, declined to bear the burden, provided it Union of the colonies, and the people of the colony shall have a certain control of the large expenditures demanded. Nothing could be fairer than this, and although differing considerably from the letter of the Home Government's proposition, the terms of the Assembly's acceptance cannot, we think, be reasonably refused. There are virtually three courses open to the Imperial authorities in the matter. They can get over all responsibilities of the Crown Lands by bringing about a union of the colonies before the termination of next year; if this is not accomplished they can either grant the people the power to elect their heads of departments or the power to reduce the civil list. If the conditions be not accepted by Mr. Cardwell then the only course left with Her Majesty's Government, and not with the Legislature of this colony. But we think all things considered, the proposition will be accepted.

How much we are satisfied with the carrying out of these views we have indicated in reference to the Crown Lands and Civil List, we cannot close our eyes to some very crude and injurious ideas that have been promulgated during the recent rather tedious debate. It was asserted by the Speaker, and echoed by a few unthinking members both of the Assembly and the press, that politicians "on this continent"—meaning, we presume, America—bore a character akin to the "sport" or the "blackleg"; and there was evidently a desire that the inference should be drawn that every person in Vancouver Island who takes a very active interest in politics is nothing better. Independent of this disgraceful and unmanly method of trying to injure one's political opponents by something very like malicious slander, there is an ignorance exhibited in the matter by the Speaker and the small fry who applaud his obsolete observations, that does not we will be bound to say, find its echo in any other deliberative assembly or public journalism in the world.

Above all the associations that have ever existed that of politics is undoubtedly the most important, whether we look upon it in its effects on the individual or on the human race at large. It has from the earliest days embraced within its folds the leading minds of all countries; for to what nobler task could man apply himself than to that of preserving the morality, the safety, the peace, and the prosperity of his fellow-creatures? Yet in our Speaker's eyes the person who endeavors to do this on the American continent renders himself liable to be termed a blackleg. Pitt

was a politician, and it is absurdly suggested that Burke indulged in the same "gambling" propensities; but we do not find that Lord Macaulay or any other essayist or historian describes these men as "sports." Lord Palmerston is a jocular politician and understands the art of bunraku as well as any stump orator in America, but we never heard that he had cheated at cards or drugged a horse. Probably the atmosphere of England is too pure for the existence of the latter peculiarities, and that it is only in new countries that politicians and pickpockets are synonymous. Well, Daniel Webster was a native of the American continent and Henry Clay was equally unfortunate in his birth, but although each of these men was a notorious politician

in his own country, yet his life would contrast favorably with that of the purest of England's statesmen. Seward, Sumner, and a host of other great men on the American continent are politicians, but we cannot see anything in their lives that would lead us to classify them with blacklegs. Canada has her politicians—her Browns and Macdonalds—her Gals and her Dorings; but we do not hear of any of these individuals laboring in the obnoxious gang. On the contrary we find them conferring great benefits upon the Canadian people—devoting, in fact, their time and ability to the best interests of the country. To come from the world-wide men of politics down to our own narrow circle, we find men in our midst laboring hard and continuously for the public good—men belonging to that wretched class—the pariahs of civilization—the new country politicians. We see them day after day attending the House of Assembly—day after day giving their labors gratuitously to the country; and because they are a little more sincere, a little more determined, probably a little more disinterested than some others, they are glibly classified as gamblers, blacklegs, and charlatans. When we hear the cry of "stop thief!" our attention is not always distracted from the person who gives the alarm; for we are conscious that it is an old and stale game with professionals to direct public pursuit in a wrong channel. When therefore we see men who are bold enough to brand themselves with an unpopular name, we are more inclined to suspect their line of conduct to microscopic examination than that of the persons whom they denounce. We have been opposed on many points of this Crown Lands question to Mr. DeCosmos and his supporters, but that does not prevent our giving them our credit, for honesty of intention, or for a vigorous determination to carry out what they conceive to be the best policy. Dr. Helmcken is too valuable a man in the Assembly to have his usefulness destroyed by this unworthy means of detracting from one's political opponents, and we hope in the future he will content himself in his opposition with that more respectable and more powerful weapon which he so skillfully handles—the shaft of sarcasm. As for the ribald trash that so frequently appears in the columns of our contemporaries in reference to our public men and their motives, it is simply a disgrace to English journalism, whether we look at it in a moral or intellectual point of view. Although we have singled out Dr. Helmcken in the present instance as being guilty of what we conceive to be a grave breach of public decorum, we do not attempt to overlook the fact that Mr. DeCosmos, Dr. Tolmie, and various other members are just as frequently chargeable with the same offence. It is certainly time that both the press and the Assembly should endeavor to cultivate a little higher tone in their animadversions.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC DEBT.

By Mr. Fessenden to Mr. Prince, member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the following official statement of the public debt of the U. S. is given:
Aggregate debt bearing interest in coin \$1,087,556,438.86; interest, \$63,433,131.54. Debt bearing interest in lawful money, \$608,579,952.44; interest, \$29,699,770.41. Debt on which interest has ceased, \$355,570.09. Legal tender debt bearing no interest, \$433,160,569. Fractional currency, \$24,096,913.93. Total, \$2,153,725,444.26; interest, \$93,131,901.85. Amount of unpaid requisitions, \$136,190,000. Amount in the Treasury, \$10,252,608.16. Total, \$1,252,847,041.84. The amount of suspended requisitions abroad, includes all paid requisitions for every branch of the public service, it is stated in the Department that at this date, February 13th, this amount has been reduced about nine millions of dollars; also that the Department intends next week to commence paying the army of the Potomac.

CHERRY CREEK CLAIM IN CARIBOO.

A full interest, unnumbered, in the Phoenix or Idaho claim, Lowhee Creek, Cariboo, was sold by Daniel Scott on Saturday for \$20.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

LATER FROM CARIBOO.

We learn from a gentleman who arrived on Friday by the Alexandra from Fraser River that Mr. Heath had reached Harrison Landing from Cariboo, having left Williams Creek on the 16th.

Mr. Heath reports that things were beginning to look encouraging at the mines, and the belief of the miners is general that the yield of gold this season will far exceed that of any previous one.

The Warson Co. were said to be taking out about 70 ounces a day.

In Scott's Gulch two or three claims were taken out good pay.

The pack trains it was expected would be able to get in by the 10th of June.

An association of traders were buying up the trading establishments on the Creek. Harrison, Dodd, and other dealers had sold out to them.

The weather was mild and pleasant. Good surface diggings are reported to exist near Fort Sheppard. Some miners were about proceeding there.

Telegraphic Messrs. Libby & Burrage, telegraph operators, left on the Reliance on Wednesday to establish an office for the International Telegraph Company at Yale.

The Light Ship—We understand that the contract for constructing the Light Ship to be placed at the mouth of the river, has been awarded to Messrs. Bolton & Cook of Victoria.

The Conscription of the new Church at Sapperton will take place on Monday next. The services will commence at 11 a.m., and sermons will be preached in the morning by the Rev. the Lord Bishop of Columbia, and in the evening by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Columbia.

Customs Receipts—For the week ending April 22d—Duties, \$3,123 9 10; Harbor Dues, \$21 0 3; Head Money, \$53 16 0; Tonnage Dues, \$11 3 0; Gold Export, \$20 14 5; Fines, \$3 6 3. Total, \$3,368 10 5. Number of passengers entering at this port during same period, 312.

The steamer Enterprise arrived down Saturday at 6 p.m. bringing a few passengers and a cargo of goods.

The number of passengers, and an express for Dietz & Nelson, with Cariboo dates to the 20th inst. The news from the diggings is quite devoid of incident. Market prices have undergone little or no change since last quotations, flour remaining firm at 60c. Parties are rushing in provisions in order to avail themselves of the present high prices.

Mr. Alexander Douglas Melness was married to Miss Annie Roddy, on Williams Creek, on the 16th inst., by Rev. D. Duff, Presbyterian missionary. The weather was mild, and considerable mining going on.

Travelling is now very good all the way down, as will appear, indeed, from the circumstance of the trip being made from Williams Creek to here in eight days—excellent time at this time of the year. We are informed that the steamer Enterprise was expected to commence her trips to-day, connecting with Barnard's stages to Cariboo.

The Home Settlement Road—Only 26 miles of the road is open yet, the contractors having given up the job. We understand the government will carry on the work for which purpose Mr. Moberly will probably proceed up to-day. There are now a very large number of animals and much freight waiting to go over as soon as the road is open. It is not unreasonable to assume that the road will be open in ten days from this date. We would strongly urge upon the government the importance of pushing forward the work with all possible dispatch, inasmuch as an important trade is now waiting for ingress, while trains on the other side would be driven to Colville by any considerable delay.

From Kootenay—We understand that a letter has been received from Mr. Dandney, dated Similkameen Valley, in which it is stated that new and rich hill diggings have been struck on Wild Horse Creek, from which large nuggets have been taken. Great numbers of people are making their way up the Columbia towards Big Bend, in boats and canoes.

CHERRY CREEK GOLD AND SILVER MINING COMPANY.—Perhaps it is not very generally known that a rich gold and silver quartz lead has been discovered on Cherry Creek, and that a company has been fully organized to work it. Assays of the quartz have been made here, in Victoria and San Francisco, varying from \$800 to \$1,400 to the ton. The indications would point out the district in question as abounding in rich quartz leads, and men of practical experience have given it as their opinion that the discovery is one of the most important yet made in the colony.

HORN SILVER MINING COMPANY.—This company is quietly and unostentatiously prosecuting the work. The tunnel is now in 600 feet. There are yet 40 feet to run before reaching the point where it is calculated the lead will be struck. The amount already expended by the company will fall little short of \$30,000.

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NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

Colonisation Movement.

On the 17th inst., a deputation from the British North American Association, amongst whom were the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Wharoliffe, Lord Naas, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P.; Sir J. D. Hay, Bart., M.P.; Hon. William Napier, Sir Minto Farquhar, Bart., M.P.; Edward Watkin, Esq., M.P.; R. W. Crawford, Esq., M.P.; James Caird, Esq., M.P.; John Chapman, Esq., M.P.; Wm. Newmarch, Esq., F.R.S.; Robert Benson, Esq.; Charles Bischoff, Esq.; J. W. Maclure, Esq.; J. M. Grant, Esq.; Irving Hare, Esq., etc., waited upon Mr. Cardwell, at the Colonial Office, with reference to the colonization of the British territory in the north-west of America. The Earl of Shaftesbury having introduced the subject, several resolutions were passed, and a law passed with reference to the opening up of the territory between Canada and British Columbia. It appeared that the late colonial minister, the Duke of Newcastle, stated in his place in the House of Lords, on the 26th July, 1863, that arrangements were being made for the colonization of the British territory in the north-west of America. The Earl of Shaftesbury having introduced the subject, several resolutions were passed, and a law passed with reference to the opening up of the territory between Canada and British Columbia. It appeared that the late colonial minister, the Duke of Newcastle, stated in his place in the House of Lords, on the 26th July, 1863, that arrangements were being made for the colonization of the British territory in the north-west of America. The Earl of Shaftesbury having introduced the subject, several resolutions were passed, and a law passed with reference to the opening up of the territory between Canada and British Columbia. 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