

## The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, January 19, 1864.

## EXTRAVAGANCE IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

It was once remarked by one whose pen was more respected than that of any other public writer of the present century, that journalists as a class wasted half their influence because they did not comprehend the depth of the public ignorance. They always, he said, gave their readers credit for knowing things they did not know, and wrote therefore much too allusively. "People can not ask a paper where Honolulu is, and still they know that, what use is there in saying that Honolulu is open to attack. The converse of that blunder seems to be the especial weakness of even experienced politicians, when they have detected the public ignorance, as often that they fancy outsiders never can ascertain the truth, and the most palpable blunders are very frequently committed by those who have the direction of public things, and having been once suffered to pass are blindly preserved in, under the vain impression that the public will not go into the details, and if they do, will not understand them. It is not unfrequently becomes the duty of public journalists to point out such mistakes, and to guard the public mind against their recurrence so far as possible. There are matters within the ken of all who read and observe the ordinary current of events, which nevertheless cannot be passed over in silence by public writers, without their laying themselves open to the accusation of blind acquiescence in malpractices which they cannot but condemn. If, for instance, any branches of the state machinery or public service have through any cause become corrupt, or fallen into error, it will be the duty, however unpleasant the task, of the writer who desires in addition to giving faithful and correct record of current events, to reflect with truth upon the abuses of the age, to unfold and expose to view, as far as it is possible, all that wants correction in the system of public government, under which it may be his lot to live. There are few communities that have not their public evils to complain of, and some false positions to regret. All the departments of the public service cannot be expected to be in a state of perfection. In the oldest and best regulated forms of government and in most colonies, public matters are, as a rule, more cared for than in the mother country. Our own island is not an exception to this rule. Many and great are the evils under which since the first invasion in our colonization took place, we have gone through. Many and various are the departments that with the advent of a new governor will require overhauling. In the first place we can hardly reconcile the heavy civil list with which this colony is saddled with the comparatively small revenue and population of the colony. We do not say that the employers of Government are too highly paid; far from it. No Governor can expect to be well served who pays below the average salaries of the country. No men but those who are essentially idle prefer government service to any other permanent and regular employment. There is not as a rule half the chance of promotion and advancement in the public service that there is in private business. But what we feel inclined to deprecate in the system pursued in this colony, is the division of offices in a small community. Surely it is unnecessary to multiply offices. Better far would it be to pay the individual members of the civil service better, and to curtail their number. A glance at the heads of departments in our own city will convince the most liberal amongst us that there is some discrepancy between the income and expenditure of the state. Some eight or ten heads of departments are surely not the reverse of extravagant for a city of such magnitude as Victoria. We cannot but think that some retrenchment might be made in this respect with advantage. Fewer heads, with an efficient staff of clerks—not young gentlemen who are sent out to the colonies to vegetate upon what they themselves would call "a wretched government appointment"—but steady, quiet-going men of another calibre—at moderate salaries, who have some idea of work and how to perform it.

It is to be hoped that the notice of the members of the House of Assembly will be attracted to the state of the public offices when the estimates come before them. We have no doubt whatever that the civil list will be closely inspected and narrowly scrutinized by some of our political economists. It is possible, however, for the House to go even further than this, and who can say in the present state of affairs, it is not desirable for them well to consider whether it is by any means, and if so, how possible, to effect retrenchment without in any way injuring the public service.

**THE INFLUENCE OF FASHION.**—It would be useless to deny or attempt to deny that it is the lot of mortals to be influenced in a greater or less degree by fashion, and we presume the fair sex will not be displeased if we say that they are quick to discern and adopt the slightest changes occurring in the fashionable world. At this time a decided sensation and remarkable effects are being produced by the introduction of beautiful embroidery on ladies' and children's cloaks, dresses, etc. This, when worked by hand, is a tiresome and tedious job, and our fair readers will thank us, we know, for informing them that it is performed with marvellous rapidity by the Grover & Baker Machine, which combines this with many other valuable features. The work of days is, by this little indefatigable worker, reduced to minutes, and performed with a neatness and accuracy almost incredible. R. H. Adams, Pioneer Hat Store, Yates street, Agent for Victoria.

## THE NEW LIST OF VOTERS.

The claims for votes registered this year will have a considerable influence upon the present list of voters for the city of Victoria, if they are allowed to stand as they are at present, and inasmuch as any member elected now will be elected for a period of nearly two years and a half, it would be very desirable, if it were possible, to give all new electors an opportunity of voting for the return of a member for the city. The importance of the trust which will be placed in the hands of the member chosen to represent the city of Victoria at the present time is so great, that all who have any right to vote ought to be allowed the privilege of exercising the franchise. It is all important to the interests of the colony that the member who is to be elected to fill the vacancy in the House, should be a man of sound and ascertained views; one in point of fact who will plainly tell the citizens what his views are, and who will hold fast to a decided line of policy without vacillation. We do not desire to see our members pledged on all questions; no member is worth a vote if he does not take his seat quite unfettered, and free to vote on each particular question as it arises, according to his own opinion, but no public man can carry any esteem with him unless he has fixed principles, and decided opinions, upon all main questions of political economy. There can be no doubt that from the present state of party feeling in the city, taking last years list of voters as the basis on which to ground our opinions, no candidate expressing other than liberal views will have any chance of election; we do not suppose that the revised list would affect this position materially, and if we take into consideration the time that must elapse before the new lists will be ready, we cannot say that the advantage to be gained by admitting the new electors to vote at the coming election would in any way compensate for the delay that would be occasioned thereby.

The new claims having been now sent in, the Sheriff is required to make up the lists, and publish them for fourteen days; another period of fourteen days is allowed for objections, and then the list of voters and list of elections has to be submitted to the Reviser, so that a month must necessarily elapse in giving notices, and the Sheriff is not compelled to publish the list for fourteen days after the last day for sending in claims; and as there is no small labor in preparing the lists, it can hardly be expected with the greatest diligence that the new lists can be completed before the end of February. There could be no good end served by postponing the election for so long a period, but nevertheless it is of great importance that the electors should scrutinize well the list of voters when published, more especially the new claims. Many names annually re-appear on the list which have no right there, and it is by no means improbable that many of the new claims sent in will not bear scrutiny. The present election will, we have no doubt, be a sharply contested one. Every elector must be ready for the campaign next week, but we would earnestly caution every citizen against pledging himself to any party or individual before a public meeting has been held, at which each candidate may have an opportunity of expressing his opinions and views.

**THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**—There is a mystery about the proceedings of this body which tends to some extent to invest its doings with more or less interest, especially where a measure of more than usual public importance is under their consideration. Occasional glimpses of what is passing in review before these "potent, grave and reverend signiors" are afforded to the public, and have the effect of increasing the desire to know a little more of the operations thus quietly carried on. For instance, it is rumored about town that the bill to enable colonial barristers and attorneys to practice in our law courts is not unlikely to be shelved, through the persevering and determined efforts of a prominent legal member of the Council. Perhaps no measure has yet been brought before the House of Assembly, which received a more cordial and general support than this bill, nor one which was more acceptable to the community at large, and should the Council throw it out, they may expect to hear murmurs loud and deep from both Assembly and people. It is just possible that Dame Rumor may be astray in this matter; the old lady adds, however, that the gentlemen of the Honorable the Council are not famous for their punctuality or regularity of attendance, and that much delay and inconvenience to the public business is thus occasioned. A little more publicity, given to their proceedings would probably have a beneficial effect in this particular, and would also enlighten the community as to the individual views entertained on measures in which they are deeply interested.

**THE CANDIDATES.**—The addresses of the three gentlemen who, we presume, will be the only candidates in the field for the vacant seat in our Legislature are now before our readers. Owing to the unusual pressure of business in our columns to-day we are unable to enter at length into the merits of the candidates; we would however state our intention to afford Mr. Seabury our cordial support in the coming contest. We advocate this gentleman's return solely on political grounds, believing him to be the best man for the people, and we hope that the people will show their appreciation of him as a candidate by returning him at the head of the poll.

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15.

**THE CORONER STOPPING A FUNERAL CORTAGE.**—We are requested by the Coroner to correct a statement which appeared in the columns of our contemporary of yesterday morning, headed "Inquest." From it the Coroner's action would appear to exhibit a great want of prudence and humanity whereas, the contrary is the case when the whole story is told. We are informed that as soon as the death of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen's child was reported, Superintendent Smith dispatched an officer to ascertain them that an inquest would be held at one o'clock the same day. The officer then summoned a jury. Notwithstanding all this, the authority of the officer was disregarded, and they proceeded to the city with the body. The Coroner, on his way to hold the inquest, 40 his great surprise met the funeral, and instead of directing the body to be taken back to the place where, by warrant, legally issued, the inquest should have been held; and where, at that very time, the jurors were assembled, awaiting the inquest, he kindly consented to have it brought into the first house, so that the procession might not be detained. We believe that in all accidents which result in death within a year, the act under which Coroners hold inquests, provides that inquests shall be held upon the bodies. It is to be regretted, therefore, under these circumstances that the body of the poor child should have been removed without compliance with the Coroner's instructions. The act referred to requires inquests to be held by the Coroner, in the following cases, viz: All casualties by which death occurs; all sudden deaths; all violent deaths; persons found dead; persons dying in prison; lunatics who die by suicide, and felons, of themselves. This is a general exposition of the law, as regards the duty of the Coroner.

**COWICHAN AND COMOX REPRESENTATION BILL.**—We understand that the bill granting a representative to the three new electoral districts of Cowichan, Comox, and Alberni, has passed the Legislative Council. As soon, therefore, as these districts express their willingness to bear their share of the taxes, they will be entitled to a voice in the affairs of the country. Comox, by the petition of the majority of the inhabitants, has already expressed its desire to be represented, and doubtless Cowichan will soon follow suit. As to Alberni, it is questionable whether Messrs. Anderson & Co. (there are no settlers there to be enfranchised) will consider the honor worth the price.

**COAL AT COWICHAN.**—His Worship the Mayor, Mr. J. G. McKay and Mr. Samuel Harris have formed themselves into a company and secured the right of working a coal seam which has been discovered at Cowichan. The proprietors believe this to be one of the finest mining speculations which has been originated of late. The ground has been surveyed by a government surveyor. The outcroppings, which are traceable for a long distance, are pronounced by competent judges to be of the most promising description. An engineer and two men were sent up on the Emily Harris to commence opening the seam.

**SEALING A COW.**—Considerable amusement was occasioned yesterday from its having been found necessary, owing to the nature of the evidence in the case of *Millington v. Cameron*, pending in the Supreme Court, to ascertain beyond doubt whether a cow in dispute had been branded or not. Two professional barbers were accordingly fetched, and for the charge of \$2.00, the cow underwent the tonsorial process. His Honor last evening reserved judgment in the case in order that he might himself examine the shaven part by light of day.

**DOCTORS DIFFER.**—Assays have to-day been made by Molitor & Co., of the sample of quartz from the Sangster Mining Company's ground, showing it to contain no larger proportion of gold than \$40 to the ton. Rather different from \$1,350 to the ton, as per assay by Gumbinner & Co. The next test, by the New Westminster assay office, may result in the answer, rather stereotyped to be sure, of "No gold, no silver."

**CARIBO EXPRESS.**—The whale boat despatched by Messrs. Dietz & Nelson to Burrard's Inlet, to fetch the Express from New Westminster returned safely on Thursday morning. Barnard had got down with the Express, having been five days on the way from Yale, traveling partly on the ice and partly in canoes. Dates are to the 21st ultimo.

**LYNAXY ON THE INCREASE.**—Yesterday two fresh patients were admitted on medical certificates of lunacy to the Police Barracks. This swells the number of inmates similarly admitted to six. The "Monarch of the World" has been placed under restriction; poor King Henry's way is now reduced to the narrowest possible limits. He may with justice exclaim, that he is "monarch of all he surveys."

**LICENSING COURT.**—Before THOS. HARRIS and A. F. PEMBERTON, Esquires, J. P. Leave was granted for the transfer of the license of the California House, Johnson street, from Perkins & Ayres to Bayley & Goldworthy.

**THE "HAM-PAT MAN."**—John Thompson who was apprehended some weeks ago on suspicion of stealing a fat Christmas ham, was yesterday discharged. Thompson carried off the porcine delicacy in triumph.

**DISCHARGED.**—O'Brien, who has appeared several times on remand before the Police Magistrate charged with assisting men to desert from H. M. service, was yesterday discharged for want of proof.

**THE GALE.**—A strong sou'wester prevailed all day yesterday, and its effects will be in all probability be soon visible in the arrival of the fleet of vessels now due from England, San Francisco and elsewhere.

SATURDAY, JAN. 16.

**STABBING AFFRAY.**—The cowardly, unmanly, and inhuman practice of resorting to the use of the knife when incensed, is not, we regret to say, confined to Port Ludlow and places of that ilk in the neighboring territory, where mob law to some extent overrules justice. Yesterday we had a painful illustration that our community is not exempt from the degradation which the presence of characters who can indulge in such practices entails. A dispute arose during the forenoon on St. On's wharf between an Irishman named Dougherty and a colored man named Hobbs, both draymen, relative to the carriage of some produce landed from the bark Architect. The former called the latter by an opprobrious epithet, and Hobbs threatened violence if the expression were repeated. Dougherty again used the same words, and Hobbs attacked him with his fists. During the scuffle which ensued Dougherty drew a long clasp knife, and although Hobbs grasped him closely to prevent his using it, he succeeded in plunging the weapon into Hobbs' groin, inflicting a serious wound. Hobbs understood not a dangerous wound. Hobbs immediately released his grasp, and, bleeding profusely, rushed into an adjoining store, where the injuries he had sustained were examined. So far Hobbs had not in any way disgraced himself, and the entire sympathy of those who witnessed the affray was in his favor, but he forfeited it all by suddenly appearing behind his antagonist, while the latter was being soundly rated by some bystanders for his cowardly conduct, and with one blow on the head from a dray stationer felling him to the ground. Dougherty, who soon recovered, was apprehended and conveyed to jail, while Hobbs was taken to the hospital. Dr. Trimble, who examined Hobbs' injuries, pronounced his wound a serious one, from which it will take some time to recover. Had the blade entered transversely, it would undoubtedly have severed the femoral artery. Dougherty is also found to have been badly injured, and has one or two cuts on his body, which he probably inflicted on himself in the struggle.

**THE DEATH OF MEIGS DOUBTED.**—Capt Montfort, of the Northern Light, who arrived yesterday from ports on the Sound, informs us that no authentic information had been received of the death of Mr. Meigs at Port Madison, and it was hoped that the report was unfounded. A sailor positively asserts that he had seen Meigs on the wharf after the occurrence is said to have taken place, quite well.

MONDAY, JAN. 18.

**SOCIAL PARTY.**—The ladies of the Roman Catholic Church announce their intention of giving a social reunion in the Colonial Hall on Thursday evening. From what we hear of the programme, and from the well-known fact that the ladies always succeed in every thing they undertake, the public may anticipate a delightful party.

**A BROKEN LEG.**—On Sunday morning, about 1 o'clock, a man named Thomas Fogg, who has served his time in the Royal Engineers, fell or was thrown, while in a state of intoxication, from the sidewalk on Humboldt street, and broke his left leg above the knee joint. He was quickly picked up by the police and conveyed to the hospital, where he now lies. Dr. Dickson set the fractured limb yesterday.

**NATIVE COPPER.**—The manager of the Sooke Copper Mining Company arrived in town on Saturday with some very promising looking specimens of pure copper, taken from the company's mine. The metal is in a consolidated form, and appears to become more massive the further they go down. It is expected that a solid vein of copper will ultimately be reached.

**THE WAR.**—It is generally believed that the writ for the election of a member to fill the vacant seat, will be issued by the Speaker to-day. In that case the nomination will probably take place on Friday and the polling on Saturday.

**ICE IN FRASER RIVER.**—The surmise that the Fraser was entirely frozen up, and that navigation as far as New Westminster was impracticable, turns out to have been a myth. The river was never blocked up below Katsie's ranch.

**LECTURE.**—Mr. H. Doncaster has kindly consented to deliver a lecture in aid of the funds of the Royal Hospital on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock, in the coffee-room of the "Beaufort." Subject—The Persian victories of Alexander the Great.

**FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.**—Dietz & Nelson's Express arrived down on Saturday night in a whaleboat. The late heavy rains have completely cleared the Fraser from ice.

**IMPROVING.**—The men Dougherty and Hobbs, who injured one another during the encounter on St. On's wharf on Friday, are said to be improving.

**THE OCEAN MAILS.**—The contract for carrying the ocean mails to and from Esquimalt has been awarded to Mr. E. H. Wilby.

**REV. LACHLIN TAYLOR.**—This worthy and esteemed gentleman having accomplished the great work for which he visited these shores by establishing branches of the British and Foreign Bible Society in this and the sister colony, is now about to take his departure. Some of the reverend gentlemen's warmest friends and admirers have proposed to invite him to a breakfast, and the subject was on Saturday evening mooted at a special meeting of the committee held at Messrs. Franklin's office. Mr. Taylor however, who was present, expressed an earnest desire that the committee should not carry out the proposition. He spoke in the most feeling terms of

the good fellowship and personal kindness which had been manifested towards him by his brother ministers and the laity of both colonies since his arrival amongst them, and he should ever treasure with the liveliest and most pleasurable feelings the recollection of his visit to Vancouver Island and British Columbia, not forgetting rugged Cariboo, which was not without its attractions. In taking an affectionate farewell, he should feel equally grateful to his friends if the proposed demonstration did not take place, and he advanced several reasons why he wished the committee to let the proposition slumber. After some discussion the committee decided upon shewing a deference to the expressed wish of the reverend gentleman. It certainly does strike us that there are other and more appropriate ways which the friends of Mr. Taylor might adopt for marking their esteem of the worthy gentleman, and ways in which a large portion of the community might be enabled, as we are sure they gladly would, join.

## LITERARY INSTITUTE.

VICTORIA, JANUARY 14th, 1864.

**EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.**—SIR:—On glancing over your valuable paper some time ago, I noticed a letter on the subject of a Literary Institute, signed "Australian Miner," and as I happen to be acquainted with that individual, I took the liberty to ask him how he would carry his suggestions into practice, and this is his answer: "I would, as I stated in my letter, petition His Excellency the Governor, through our city members, for a grant of the site in Government street, and in the event of the prayer of the petition being granted, call upon the architects for designs, and after making my choice and ascertaining the estimated cost call a public meeting through the Mayor, and there and then appoint a collector for each city ward, to go round to every house and receive what they can afford to contribute towards the erection of the building. Now, on the supposition that in Victoria we have 5,000 inhabitants, and each individual contributes one dollar—which I consider a low estimate for such an object, especially when we recollect that we have some very liberal, open-hearted gentlemen among us, and who can well afford, and who would probably give, some a hundred dollars, others fifty dollars, twenty, etc., I would again apply to the Government to make up the remainder. And if they study their own interests and the welfare of the Colony they will readily accede to such a request, and for this reason; it will be the means of retaining a greater number of miners and other individuals in the city during the winter and as a matter of course, their money also. I have frequently heard men curse the place, simply because they have no place to which they can go to spend a leisure hour in rational enjoyment, and it is impossible for any one to know, much less describe, the dreadful monotony those persons feel who are obliged to walk the streets day after day, and which too often causes men to go far forget themselves as to lose that self-respect and self-control which they otherwise would have, under more favorable circumstances; for they are actually, by force of circumstances, driven into vice and vicious associations against their better judgment. But I must now revert to the building. We have been supposing that \$5000 has been contributed by the people, and another \$5000 by the Government—that makes \$10,000; and I should think that would build a good substantial brick building, of two stories, sufficiently spacious for the lower one to contain the library, reading-room and museum, and the upper one as the committee may desire, either as a lecture-room or subdivided into offices and let out at such a rental as would pay the librarian and perhaps supply, in addition, the library with newspapers and periodicals. Then there is the library. Well, you remember, Joe, when I was connected with the Sunday school on Bendigo, that I proposed to the committee that I should have a library in connection with the school, and they objected, on the ground that they had no funds for the purpose, but I told them I could devise a plan so as to raise a library, and that was to go round amongst the people and receive what they were willing to give; and I and another did so, and some gave us money and others gave books, so that we had a very good library within a month; and I would say to the Committee of the Literary Institute: 'Go, and do thou likewise.'"

Pao Bono Publico.

## METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

—FOR THE—

WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 16th JANUARY, 1864.

DATE.	TEMP. OF AIR.	BAROMETER.	WIND.	WTH.
Jan. 15.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 16.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 17.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 18.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 19.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 20.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 21.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 22.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 23.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 24.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 25.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 26.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 27.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 28.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 29.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 30.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.
Jan. 31.	Max. 48. Min. 38.	30.00.	W. by N. 4.	Clear.

**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.**—For bad legs, bad breasts and scrofulous sores, this is a genuine specific. The grateful and earnest testimony of thousands who have experienced their unrivaled power over every complaint, and who have been raised from prostrate helplessness and a condition worthy to enlarge in this place upon extraordinary virtues. The ointment should be rubbed in at least twice a day around the complaining parts. It then penetrates to the seat of the disorder, and effects a thorough and permanent cure. These preparations are composed of rare balsams, as mild as they are efficacious.