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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PROCEEDINGS.

[Specially Reported for the British Colonist.]

New Westminster, March 1st.
Friday's Sitting.

Council met at 3 p. m. Present—Hons Birch, Crease, Wood, Brew, Ball, Robson, Young, Walkem, Macdonald, Helmecken, DeCosmos, Southgate, Stamp, Cox, Sanders, Franklin, Trutch.

MESSAGE.
No. 13, enclosing resolutions received from Chamber of Commerce, of New Westminster, touching the commercial interests of the country.

Ordered to be printed and referred to select Committee on Tariff.

NOTICE OF MOTION.
Hon Macdonald moved on Monday the consideration of the subject of education and the desirability of retaining the common school system on the Island, and applying it to other populous parts.

Hon Robson moved that the article of manufactured flour pass free of road tolls. On orders of Hon Crease asked further postponement of second reading of Trades License Bill, which was granted.

MEDICAL BILL.
Hon Robson moved second reading of this bill. He said the medical profession paid a high license and should be protected against persons who had no business to practice. If there was one profession more than another that ought to be carefully guarded it was this, as human life was at its mercy. If a man had to be launched off in the easiest way at the highest price, it ought at any rate to be done scientifically, and instead of being less restrictive in a new than in an old country, he thought restriction was more needed.

Hon Ball opposed the second reading. There were not many regular practitioners in the country, and if the bill passed it would be the means of driving out the few quacks that were up country, so that when persons fell sick there would be no one to attend them, and if a child was to be born there would be no one to help it into the world.

Hon Helmecken said the medical profession required no protection but the people did. The proper light in which to view the question was to regard the people as so many animals, that must be taken care of in the same manner that a farmer would take care of his stock, and anything that would tend to render them stronger and healthier was an advantage to the State. He had not read the bill, but believed it was simply to provide for registration. There was a great difference between a physician and no physician, but there was a greater difference between a good physician and a bad one. It was far better to do without quacks and trust to Providence. Persons should not be permitted to assume a title moreover that would lead the public to suppose that they were regular practitioners. He was certain, however, if the people did not require protection the profession did not.

Hon Wood enquired if quacks were not suffered to practice in England as quacks? There was no reason, that he could see, why a charlatan might not practice as such; it was sufficient notice to the public if he was not registered and did not call himself a regular practitioner, then if people liked to take this nostrum and patent medicines they did it at their risk.

Hon Young could not support the bill, as he considered it the most exclusive, illiberal and arbitrary one he had ever cast eyes upon. He was willing that for the prevention of fraud and deception there should be protection, but nothing more, and would therefore agree to a measure of that character, but under this bill persons would be unable to retail a dose of castor oil or salts unless a qualified vendor of drugs and chemicals. If the bill could be so shaped in committee as to suit the views of hon members he would support it, but not otherwise.

Hon Robson said the bill had been prepared by medical men, and he would be sorry to see it thrown out, when it could be amended in committee to suit the views of the House. Hon members appeared to agree that a protective bill should be passed. The law was more stringent in Canada than in England, and it was not right to say because the law in an old country like England allowed so and so, therefore this bill cannot be passed, we really required more protection here.

Bill read a second time and committed for Thursday.

PREMIUM FOR QUARTZ MILL.
Hon Smith moved a resolution empowering His Excellency to offer a premium of not more than \$5000 for the erection of a quartz mill in the Columbia, Kootenay District, capable of crushing 24 tons in 24 hours, and if less powerful the premium to be proportionately less. He thought that this was a branch of industry that ought to be encouraged. We had very rich quartz veins in this country, and most of those engaged in prospecting them, were very poor men, who would be encouraged by the offer of this premium. From the best information he could obtain, the cost of a mill of that description would be \$30,000, and the premium would be of great assistance to men of small means, who might succeed in putting it up. He would like to see this important interest fostered, and hoped by the time the money might be required the Government would be able to appropriate that sum.

Hon Birch, in reply to Hon Walkem, said the premium for Cariboo was not in existence. Hon Walkem would then see no harm in voting in the affirmative. Our neighbors were far ahead of us in this respect. In the Black-foot mines, which were only of recent discovery, twelve quartz mills had already been erected, although they could not find employment for them and they had to be removed. The cost of a mill could not be less than from \$25,000 to \$30,000, but once up and paying it would be a general benefit to the country; the premium might be the means of stimulating persons to enter on the undertaking.

Hon Mr. DeCosmos saw no harm in a great deal of good as likely to flow from the offer of a premium. He had seen, and no doubt the hon Commissioner for the district and others had also seen specimens of gold-bearing quartz from the Columbia district of a very rich character, and if they could induce parties to go and open up some of these veins they would inaugurate a branch of industry of great benefit to the Colony.

Hon Birch could not agree as to there being

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no harm in the proposition. We were, no doubt, entering upon a quartz era; but last year, because a premium was offered in Cariboo, Shuswap thought it a hardship; and then it would be said, why not extend it to Canyon Creek or elsewhere where rich fields of quartz were known to exist? When he was on the creek Americans laughed at the sum offered by Government. The only effect would be a dozen letters each claiming the right to the premium.

Hon Helmecken wanted to know where the money was to come from, and what was the use of putting the amount down? They would vote money enough for twenty mills if they could be told where it was to come from.

Hon Smith said the matter would be left in the hands of the Executive. They might not have the money now, but he hoped they soon would have. There was no question that the premiums would stimulate prospectors, and would be of great benefit to the country.

Hon Trutch, apart from the personal consideration of finance, thought \$5000 would be but a small inducement to parties to erect a mill. When they had come to the conclusion that a mill would pay they would not be influenced in any way or the other by that sum, and would never attempt it unless they were satisfied first that the quartz was there, and secondly, that it would pay them to crush it. In fact, if it was so doubtful that the prospect of \$5000 could influence them, they ought not to attempt it, and the Legislature ought not wish them to do so. That was the experience of the past two years; no persons had availed themselves of the premium offered, not feeling sufficiently satisfied that the undertaking would pay. When they do entertain sufficient confidence they will erect mills whether a premium is offered or not.

Hon Smith replied that three or four men might be able to raise sufficient means between them to commence the undertaking, counting their labor as so much capital, and \$5000 would be a great help to them in raising means.

Hon DeCosmos said it would, moreover, afford them some security upon which to obtain credit. The premium would do good in calling attention to our quartz deposits if nothing else.

Hon O'Reilly said that although the Colony was no poor he believed in its future wealth, and considered that this money would be very well spent. Promising quartz reefs had been discovered, which for want of a crushing mill had gone unnoticed. Had they been tested and their supposed richness developed, it would have brought a large population into the country (hear, hear), whereas we were as ignorant to-day of our quartz wealth as we were three years ago. He was aware that specimens had been sent down from his districts to San Francisco to be tested, with what result he had not yet learned. The resolution might be amended so as to secure one quartz mill in the Colony.

Hon Birch replied that this would be simply giving away the money, because they knew almost for a certainty that there would be a mill erected in the northern part of the Colony.

Hon Smith objected to its being extended to other districts.

Hon Crease suggested the insertion of some words in the notice reserving the privilege of payment until the country was in a position to afford it.

Hon Robson was sorry to hear the learned Attorney General proposing to advertise to the world the poverty of the Colony. The proposed premium would be made a benefit name than in reality. It would serve to show the confidence of the Government in our mineral wealth, and he himself believed that the Colony was on the threshold of a quartz era that would lead to prosperity and glory. He was disposed to make the premium a benefit name than in reality. The large sum required for such a mill might render the Government safe, but there was a certain amount of risk involved in these undertakings and the premium would have a decided influence on wavering parties. It should have no hesitation in paying the per centage, but let it apply to the whole Colony.

Hon Cox said that there were twelve distinct quartz ledges in the Cariboo district, including Canyon Creek, which were laid over as there was no mill for testing them. Specimens had been sent down for testing, and if the reply was known he would have no faith in it. He thought the probability was that there would be a mill erected this year. If any premium was to be offered it ought to be given to Cariboo, where the ledges were well known to be rich. He considered, however, that it would be much better to offer a small sum for a test mill.

The resolution finally passed as proposed.

GOLD FIELDS BILL.
This bill came up for second reading, but on motion of hon Young was referred to select committee, consisting of Hons Gold Commissioners, Crease and Walkem.

Hon Wood threw out some suggestions about the necessity of amending the law relating to the jumping claims for non-certificates and non-registration. He thought it an iniquitous provision that enabled men without any merit of their own to jump a claim worth perhaps \$20,000 because the owner had neglected to register or take out a certificate. The staple production of the colony ought to be protected. The insecurity of mining, the difficulties of mining in this country, and the tricks and disadvantages under which miners labored, had beyond a shadow of doubt driven away capital. In lieu of loss of property in the cases he had alluded to he would suggest a penalty on the same principle as for improperly stamping a deed. Then there was the boundaries question, which had given rise to such endless and expensive litigation. This might be simplified by application to the Gold Commissioner to settle a boundary dispute before litigation, who would make it a matter of record.

After a few remarks from the Hons Walkem and O'Reilly, the subject dropped.

INVENTIONS BILL.
This bill was read a third time and passed.

POSTAL BILL.
This bill was referred to the select committee on Cariboo mails.

Council adjourned till Monday.

Monday's Sitting.

Council met at 3 p. m. Present: Hons Birch, Crease, Wood, Hamley, Ball, Smith, Barnard, Robson, Young, Walkem, Stamp, Macdonald, Helmecken, DeCosmos, O'Reilly, Southgate, Cox, Franklin, Trutch.

MESSAGE.
No. 14 from the Governor assenting, in Her Majesty's name, to the ordinance prohibiting the unreasonable destruction of game.

PETITIONS.
Hon Helmecken presented a petition from the merchants and traders at Victoria re-

peating the tariff on dry goods, praying that the duty on this class of goods should not exceed 7 1/2 per cent which would produce a larger amount of revenue than it cost them 15 per cent. The goods taken were that if the smaller per centages and Portland cement were retained, whereas with the larger duty it would be destroyed, trade diminished and a useful portion of the community driven away.

The petition was received, and ordered to lie on the table.

Hon DeCosmos presented a petition from Patrick Everett praying for relief in respect to the granting of license for certain premises on the Esquimalt Road. Received and laid on the table.

NOTICE OF MOTION.
Hon Stamp moved that all articles required for the use and consumption of persons employed on the mill at Burrard Leas pass duty free, also all material for the use of such mill.

Hon Hamley presented the report from the Education Committee, on which it was desirable to take the sense of the House. The Committee did not propose to revise the Tariff much in the main.

The report was received, and ordered printed.

Hon Helmecken wished to know whether it was not part of the duty of the Committee to amend the law as well as to consider the expediency of the tariff; because it was absolutely necessary that the law should be amended, and the committee might as well do it.

Hon Birch considered that duty to devolve on the legal adviser of the Crown and the Executive.

VICTORIA INCORPORATION BILL.
On the orders of the day, the Council then went into Committee of the Whole on the Victoria Incorporation Bill, and considered the postponed clauses.

Tuesday's Sitting.

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MESSAGES.
No. 14 refusing assent to Conciseness Bill. Nos. 15 & 16 assenting to the Sheriff's Ordinance, Indian Graves Ordinance, and Interstate Ordinance.

Nos. 17 & 18 recommending amendments to the Interest and English Law Bills, which were adopted in Committee of the Whole, and the bills were reported complete.

NOTICE OF MOTION.
Hon Walkem moved a resolution that the Admiralty practice in this Colony is too prolix and expensive, and that the English practice be adopted in its stead.

CONFEDERATION.
On the orders of the day Hon DeCosmos obtained leave to postpone his motion for committee to consider the advisability of taking steps for the admission of this Colony into the proposed British North American Confederation.

MANUFACTURED FLOUR.
Hon Robson brought up his motion to allow flour manufactured in the Colony to pass over the public roads free of road tolls. After some discussion in which Hon mover and Hons Ball, Barnard, Trutch, Helmecken Crease and Birch took part, the motion was amended so as to read "manufactured from grain grown in the Colony" and was passed.

EDUCATION.
Hon Macdonald moved "That in the opinion of this Council the Common School system at present in force in Vancouver Island is a great boon to a large number of the inhabitants and ought to be maintained, especially in such parts of the Colony in which the population may be concentrated."

The mover said that in view of our proximity to a liberal colony, all measures tending to induce families and people to come to this country should be of a most liberal nature. The Governor though expressing his own views on the subject, had left it to the Council to determine the system of education that should be adopted in the Colony, while himself favoring a denominational system. As for the opinion of his predecessor on the subject it was not worth much. The system had worked well, and been of great benefit to the Island, and none was entirely in favor of a free school system, with no support whatever from the people. It did not make it like the Prussian system, compulsory on the parents to send their children to school, and they might if they pleased send them to denominational schools, opinions as to their names which included three graduates of Scotch Universities, ought to be a sufficient guarantee of their capabilities and integrity. He hoped that the hon member who did not know how to vote, because he preferred the Canadian system, would support this motion. The objection in view was to provide a system adapted to the wants of the Colony, and none other would be adopted. His own opinion was entirely in favor of a free school system, with no support whatever from the people. It did not make it like the Prussian system, compulsory on the parents to send their children to school, and they might if they pleased send them to denominational schools, opinions as to their names which included three graduates of Scotch Universities, ought to be a sufficient guarantee of their capabilities and integrity. He hoped that the hon member who did not know how to vote, because he preferred the Canadian system, would support this motion. The objection in view was to provide a system adapted to the wants of the Colony, and none other would be adopted. 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