

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 7, 1865

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, March 2.

House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, McClure, Tolmie, Dickson, Burnaby, Duncanson, Dennes.

LIT. LAW.

Mr. DeCosmos introduced a bill to secure Liens to Mechanics and others. The bill was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

THE ESTIMATES.

The House went into Committee on the Estimates, Mr. Franklin in the chair.

Magistrate's Clerk at Nanaimo, \$485.

Dr. Dickson said the petition of the inhabitants of Nanaimo to this House showed that they deemed the clerk wholly unnecessary. He had it on unquestionable authority that there was not a police case before the Nanaimo magistrate once in three weeks.

Dr. Helmecken would support the vote, as where there was a stipendiary magistrate there should be a clerk, more especially as the magistrates had now to deal with civil cases. Besides the clerk might be very useful in taking the place of the stipendiary magistrate when he was absent [laughter]. As to there being one case before the magistrate's court in three weeks, probably that was because there were no police there [a laugh]. Perhaps if we had no police in Victoria like beneficial results might follow [laughter].

Mr. Franklin spoke in favor of the vote.

Mr. DeCosmos said he was firmly of opinion that the stipendiary magistrate could fulfil all the duties perfectly well without a clerk. As to the new Justice of the Peace Bill, it contained a provision enabling the magistrate to dispense with a clerk. He was not prepared to vote the salary, believing that the magistrate could easily do all the work entailed on him.

Mr. Burnaby said the stipendiary magistrate was the only officer at Nanaimo representing the Government, and had consequently a great deal of duties to perform. The new District Court Bill would also add greatly to his duties, and he (Mr. Burnaby) therefore thought the salary was necessary.

Mr. McClure thought one of the great faults of the House was voting money to clerks without proper consideration. We had heretofore in the colony too much dignity among our officials and too little work [hear, hear]. We had heard a great deal about the extra labor to be caused by the new District Court Act, but it was time enough to provide for that when the bill passed.

Mr. Duncanson said the province of this House was to legislate according to the well understood wishes of the people [hear, hear]. Looking at the petition before the House, he thought the proper course was to comply with the request of a majority of the inhabitants of the town. He was totally opposed to the voting of the salary.

Dr. Tolmie asked how many voters were among the petitioners? He thought the numerous duties of the Nanaimo magistrate required that he should have the assistance of a clerk, and he deprecated the action of the House in throwing out one day what they voted a previous day.

On a vote being taken on the item a tie resulted, when the chairman (Mr. Franklin) gave the casting vote for the salary, remarking that although the chair throughout the debate had always leaned to the side of economy [loud laughter], still he thought in this case the sum asked for was necessary.

Superintendent of Police, \$2000.

Dr. Dickson strongly opposed striking out the salary of the Inspector. He considered the sum of \$2000 for Superintendent was altogether too large. It was an increase of \$500 over last year. He would move that \$500 be voted to the Sheriff of the Police Magistrate as Superintendent.

Dr. Tolmie asked if the hon. member could state that the magistrate would accept the position?

Mr. DeCosmos said he could not regard the sheriff as the governor of the Victoria gaol. The ordinary rule was certainly that the sheriff was the governor of the county gaol, but Victoria prison was really a penitentiary, and such institutions always had a governor. In the present case he did not see how we could, without a great loss of time, shape the arrangement differently from the course proposed by the Executive. As to the salary, if the superintendent received any fees, he thought \$1500 was enough; but if not, the salary of \$1940 was not too much. As to the Inspector, he (Mr. DeC.) looked on that officer as merely a head sergeant. The Superintendent was the man who was expected to do the work, and not to sit in his office and smoke cigars, [hear, hear], and he should be paid accordingly.

Mr. Burnaby said the last speaker had expressed similar views to those he himself had previously advocated. He supported the voting of the salary.

Mr. Duncanson advocated doing away with the Inspector as a needless officer, and giving the Superintendent \$2500. The Superintendent should be paid well and made to do the work. The late proceedings in Victoria gaol showed the necessity of there being proper officers, who should be well paid. He must however call attention to the fact that we were now without a Superintendent—that officer being off at New Westminster assisting at the ball. He must condemn severely this state of affairs as highly improper. [Hear, hear.]

Dr. Dickson withdrew his motion, and moved in amendment that the salary be \$1600.

Lost; and the original motion for \$2000 was voted.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, \$2940.

Mr. McClure said he had moved for the recommendation of this item expecting that the returns of fees moved for in the House would have been laid before them. This however had not been done and he was consequently in the dark in the matter.

Dr. Dickson had made inquiries and had found that the fees under the former Attorney General had never exceeded \$900.

Mr. Burnaby objected to un-official and extraneous information being made use of in the House on this question. The House could only deal with official information in such a matter.

Dr. Dickson maintained that he had a per-

fect right to obtain and use any information he could get.

Mr. Burnaby reiterated his objection.

Dr. Dickson would not be put down by the hon. member. The hon. member had indignantly repudiated information he (Dr. Dickson) had on a previous occasion laid before the House, and he (Dr. D.) would not submit to it again.

Mr. Burnaby said the hon. gentleman had given it as official information.

Dr. Dickson begged the hon. gentleman's pardon; he had not done so.

Mr. Burnaby would leave it to the House.

Mr. Duncanson said hon. members of the Imperial Parliament had sometimes 20 or 30 clerks obtaining all kinds of information for them, and what good would that do if they could not be allowed to use it. Joseph Hume had 15 clerks employed getting information for him, and if he were allowed to make use of such information he could not see why the hon. member (Dr. Dickson) should be debarred from the same privilege. [Hear and laughter.]

Mr. Burnaby said the question before the House was a point of order.

Mr. Duncanson said he was speaking to the point of order. [Laughter.]

The Chairman (Mr. Franklin) vainly tried to restore order, saying there was no motion before the House.

Dr. Dickson again rose, followed by Mr. Burnaby, and the highly amusing although discursive debate continued for some minutes amid the general laughter of the House when Mr. McClure said, in order to terminate what he considered a purposeless debate, and because no official returns of the Attorney General's fees had been laid before the House, he would ask leave to withdraw his resolution. [Hear, hear.]

Leave was granted, and the question of order fell to the ground. The original salary of the Attorney General—\$2900 and fees—was then passed.

The Committee then rose and reported the Estimates complete and the House adjourned till tomorrow when the Supply Bill will be read a first time after which the Incorporation Bill will be resumed in Committee.

FRIDAY, March 3rd.

House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, McClure, Tolmie, Southgate, Burnaby, Dennes, Trimble, Dickson.

CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT.

The bill to amend the Victoria Incorporation Act, 1862, came down from the Legislative Council. The first reading was fixed for Monday next.

THE ELECTION PETITION.

Mr. DeCosmos for the Committee on Elections reported that the petition of Mr. C. B. Young against the return of Mr. McClure had complied with the formalities of the House, and ought to be received. His own opinion, however, was that such was not the case, as he could not find anything in the Rules of the House which would allow recognisances to be set aside and money paid.

SUPPLIES FOR THE YEAR.

The Committee on Supply reported that the sum of \$298,618 25 had been voted for the year, and on motion of Mr. Burnaby seconded by Mr. DeCosmos, the Supplies were granted.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Franklin, DeCosmos and Dr. Dickson to bring in the Supply bills into the House.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Mr. Dennes asked leave to bring in on Monday next a bill regarding the law of imprisonment for debt.

INCORPORATION BILL.

The House went into Committee on the Incorporation bill—Mr. Dennes in the chair.

Clause 11, declaring the disqualifications of voters was passed, the portion disqualifying those who had sworn allegiance to any foreign power, unless allegiance had been sworn to Her Majesty within three months of the election, being struck out.

Clause 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, regarding the election of mayor and councillors, were held over.

On clause 17, providing that the voting for mayor and councillors shall be open and no person shall vote by proxy.

Mr. McClure moved in amendment that the vote shall be by ballot. The hon. gentleman argued that the gross bribery and corruption at the late election demonstrated clearly the great necessity of the ballot being adopted.

Dr. Helmecken said he totally disagreed with the hon. member that there had been any bribery and corruption at any municipal election. The trouble at the last election had been to get anybody to vote at all.

Mr. DeCosmos believed, from what he had seen of the working of it, that vote by ballot was the best means of recording the suffrages of the people. The system would, however, require some further machinery to carry it out.

THE AMENDMENT WAS LOST.

Ayes—McClure, DeCosmos, Dickson.

Noes—Helmecken, Powell, Trimble, Southgate.

Clause 18, providing that the Mayor and Councillors shall be elected for one year, and that they shall be disqualified from office by holding any Corporation contract, and, unless they resign within two weeks after taking such contract they shall be fined \$500, and lose all interest in the contract, was passed.

Clause 19, fixing the nomination day for the first Monday in January in each year, was passed.

Clause 20 to 31 inclusive, regulating the routine of the election proceedings, were passed with verbal amendments.

Clause 32 to 34, providing for the administration of the usual oath to voters and candidates were passed, the oaths of allegiance being struck out.

Clause 35 to 40, regulating the duties of Returning Officers and Poll Clerks, were passed.

Clause 41, providing for the taking of the usual oath by the Mayor and Councillors equal before the Chief Justice, was passed.

Clause 42, providing that if the electors neglect to elect a Mayor and Councillors, they may be appointed by the old Council, was passed.

Clause 43, providing that seats in the Council shall be vacated by insolvency, felony, or three months' absence without leave, was passed.

Clause 44 to 47, providing for new elections in case of a vacancy, were passed.

Clause 48 to 50, in regard to contested elections, were passed.

Clause 51 to 52, fixing the mode of procedure in the trial of the validity of contested elections, were passed.

Clause 53, appointing the Council Chambers, caused some conversation. Messrs. Trimble, Helmecken, and DeCosmos being in favor of the Police Court being used.

Dr. Trimble said an office for the clerk could be obtained up stairs.

Dr. Helmecken suggested that the Chambers should be at the Police Court or such other place as His Excellency may be pleased to appoint.

The suggestion was adopted and the clause passed.

On Clause 54, providing that the Mayor shall be Justice of the Peace and shall have precedence in all places in the city.

Dr. Helmecken objected, saying that it was giving the maker of the law the power to execute it. As for the Mayor taking precedence over the Stipendiary Magistrate he was totally opposed to it. The Stipendiary Magistrate was far superior to any Mayor we had yet had at least.

Mr. DeCosmos said the Mayor of Victoria had already been decided to be a Justice of the Peace. The bill did not propose to give the Mayor exclusive power to adjudge; any other Justice of the Peace had similar power.

Mr. McClure agreed entirely with the clause as it was in the bill. The only way to induce our best citizens to come forward for the office was to make it respectable. The system proposed was the one in force in England and throughout the colonies generally, and he was wholly in favor of it here.

Dr. Helmecken moved that the clause be struck out.

Ayes—Helmecken, Trimble.

Noes—DeCosmos, McClure.

Mr. Dennes gave his casting vote in favor of striking out the clause.

The committee rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned at 5 o'clock till Monday next, when the Legislative Council's Amended Incorporation Bill, and Mr. Dennes' bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, with other important measures, will be taken up.

THE JENNY JONES.

PORT ANGELES, Feb. 15.

EDITOR COLONIST:—Seeing an article in the Victoria Chronicle of the 11th inst., regarding the sailing of the Jenny Jones, which I deem derogatory to my character, I beg to contradict each statement, as there is not the least semblance of truth in it. As the circumstances of this case have been placed before the public with a design to injure Captain Jones, I feel it my duty to give a plain statement of facts, and not allow the public to be misinformed through the audacity of an editor who has evidently given publicity to an article from mere rumor, circulated by malicious persons.

On Wednesday morning, the 8th inst., an officer came on board the United States mail steamer Jenny Jones on behalf of the sheriff, and posted a notice of seizure on the mainmast, and told me his deputy had charge. I accordingly acknowledged his authority, and considered the vessel under arrest, until Wednesday evening, when the Sheriff came on board and took the aforesaid notice down, and told me the matter was settled. I being at that time Chief Officer in command, deemed it my duty to prepare the vessel for sea, which I did. The American Consul then came down and informed me that he had examined the matter and was satisfied, bringing at the same time the U. S. mails, which he had taken from the steamer Eliza Anderson, stating that he would deliver it to the Jenny Jones, as she was the authorized U. S. mail steamer, which he did. He also notified me that the Jenny Jones was cleared and ready for sea, and that Captain Jones had all the necessary papers for her departure. Under these circumstances I felt justified in facilitating our despatch, and was proceeding to do so, when, to my astonishment, a self-constituted authority came on board and undertook to establish an authority, which, in his estimation, was paramount to all law, and custom which govern the maritime service; and as I am an law abiding man, I felt it my duty to repel an effort which I considered illegal.

Captain Jones was, in the meantime, detained in transacting some business on shore. I now found it necessary to sail, as the time for the delivery of the United States mails, is very strictly specified. I accordingly engaged a party to tow the vessel out of the harbor, as a portion of her machinery was defective. After clearing the wharf, I observed several officers on board, and as I thought they had no authority to detain a duly cleared vessel, especially when she had the United States mails on board, I politely requested them to go ashore. Seeing the justice of my demand, they readily acceded to my request, got into my boat, and went ashore. There was no force or violence used whatever. The crew consisted of but seven men, and the immense amount of guns and pistols, the Chronicle asserts as having been displayed to intimidate the officers, consisted of two mops, two brooms and one facet. The two former, I am willing to admit, might prove formidable if not dangerous weapons in the hands of infuriated women.

Now, Mr. Editor, this is about the substance of the matter, in a plain, unvarnished statement, and if you have any regard for your profession, you will have the kindness to show to the public your aversion for that contemptible style of collecting news—regardless of truth—whereby the interests of innocent people are endangered, and the confidence of the public abused.

Yours respectfully,

CHAS. GRANGER,
Chief Officer U. S. Mail Steamer Jenny Jones.

LEACH RIVER.—Snow now lies so deep on the trail that sleighing goes on as far as Kiblerwhite's at Goldstream. A party of about eight went off in one sleigh yesterday. Miners generally, though they grumble, feel increased confidence in the prospects of the coming season. One man entered a store on Kennedy Flat the other day and offered to sell 80 ounces of dust that he had washed out of his claim this winter.

British Columbia.

The steamer Enterprise returned on Friday from New Westminster having been detained one day in order to bring back a number of guests who attended the vice-regal ball on Thursday evening. Amongst the passengers were His Excellency the Governor and family.

The weather had been extremely cold and much snow had fallen. The navigation of the Fraser to New Westminster was still open although there was considerable ice up river.

[From the Columbian.]

NEWS FROM THE INTERIOR.

The steamer Hope returned from Harrison mouth on Saturday, bringing a number of passengers, amongst whom were Mr. Marston and Mr. Wilson of Lytton. These gentlemen inform us that although there is a great depth of snow in some places between Lytton and Yale yet foot travelling is good and the road has sustained no injury from slides.

Mr. Spence's bridge across the Thompson was about completed, and it was his intention to open it for traffic on the 28th ult. It is described as an excellent piece of work, and the plan of building upon piles appears to answer admirably.

Horned cattle had suffered grievously upon the winter ranges of the Bonaparte. Mr. York has lost 65 out of his drove of 200 head. Horses and mules have, however, wintered tolerably well.

There is an unusual dearth of news in the interior, and business is everywhere dull. There is a good deal of mining going on upon the bars of the Fraser, but we are without any definite information as to the result.

COMMUNICATION WITH KOOTENAY.—We understand Mr. Lader has made a proposition to the Government by which he undertakes to complete a trail from Hope to Princeton of a character suitable for a pack trail in summer and a sleigh-road in winter, and have the whole completed by the 20th prox., for the sum of \$7000. This, at first sight, appears to us to be a most favorable offer; and unless the Government is aware that better terms could be made, we hope the matter will be gone into at once, as time is now a most important consideration.

ADVENTURE WITH A BOA CON-
STRICTOR.

Captain Speke, the celebrated traveller, gives the following graphic account of an adventure with a boa-constrictor:

"At the earliest possible moment after our camp had been pitched a hunt was set afoot, and Captain Grant, myself and some attendants were soon making our way to 'the patch.' There were no animals there when we arrived, except a few hippopotami, and we were, therefore, obliged to await the coming of some more palatable game. Our patience, however, was severely taxed; and after long delay we were about to 'bag' a hippopotamus, when one of our attendants, perched in a tree about half-a-mile distant, began waving his blanket. This was a signal that game was approaching. We immediately drew into cover and awaited the coming of the latter.

We were not delayed long: for presently a long column of animals, from the elephant to the booby, appeared in view, trotting at a good pace to the river. Their flanks were soon presented to us, and each, selecting his object, fired. McColl shot a fine young buffalo cow, whilst Captain Grant was equally successful with a 'hoo-doo,' and several spears, cast by our attendants, stopped the career of two different animals of the herd.

At this juncture, however, occurred an unexpected adventure that finished our sport, at least for that day. I had sprung forward, immediately after firing, in order to obtain a fair shot at a huge elephant that I wished to bring down on account of his immense tusks. I got the desired aim and pulled the trigger of my second barrel. At the moment of my doing so a wild cry of alarm, uttered by one of the blacks, called my attention. Glancing around, my eye chanced to range up into the foliage of the forest, beneath which Captain Grant and myself had lain for several hours previous. My feelings may possibly be imagined as I beheld an enormous boa-constrictor, whose hideous head and neck protruded some distance into view, showed that he was about to make a fatal spring. His direction was certainly toward me; and as he flashed from his position like a thunderbolt, I gave myself up for ere aid could reach me, I was

fold after fold the monster would have crashed my frame into a quivering pulp. I fell, seemingly caught in a whirlwind of dust, and a strange, indescribable scuffle ensued. In the midst of this terrible strife, I suddenly became conscious of the presence of a second victim, and even after the time that has elapsed since then, I still recollect with what vividness the thought, shot across my mind, that this second victim was Captain Grant, that noble companion. At last, after being thus whirled about for several seconds, each second seeming to be interminable, there ensued a full, a stillness of death, and I opened my eyes, expecting to look upon those unexplored landscapes which are seen only in the country beyond the tomb. Instead of that, I saw Captain Grant leveling his rifle toward me, while, standing beside and behind him, were the blacks, in every conceivable attitude of the most intense surprise.

In a moment I comprehended all. The huge serpent had struck a young buffalo cow between which and him I had unluckily placed myself at the moment of firing upon the elephant. A most singular good fortune had attended me, however, for instead of being unfortunate as I imagined, my left forearm had only been caught in between the buffalo's body and a single fold of the constrictor. The limb laid just in front of the shoulder, at the root of the neck, into which it had been jammed, as it were, by the immense pressure of the serpent's body, that was like iron in hardness. As I saw Grant about to shoot a terror took possession of me, for if he refrained might possibly escape after the boa released his folds from the dead cow. But should he fire and strike the reptile, it would, in its convulsions crash and drag me to pieces. Even as the idea came to me, I beheld Grant

pause. He appeared to fully comprehend all. He could see how I was situated, that I was still living, and that my delivery depended on the will of the constrictor. We could see every line on each other's face; so close were we, and I would have shouted, or spoken, or even whispered at him had I dared. But the boa's head was reared within a few feet of mine, and the wink of an eyelid would perhaps settle my doom, so I stared, stared like a dead man, at Grant and at the blacks.

Presently the serpent began very gradually to relax the folds, and after re-tightening them several times as the crushed buffalo quivered, he unwound one fold entirely. Then he paused. The next iron like band was the one which held me prisoner; and as I felt it little by little, little by little unclasp, my heart stood still with hope and fear. Perhaps, upon being freed, the benumbed arm, uncontrolled by my will, might fall from the cushion-like bed in which it lay, and such a mishap might bring the spare fold around my neck or chest, and then farewell to the sources of the Nile. Oh! how hardly, how desperately I struggled to command myself! I glanced at Grant, and saw him handling his rifle anxiously. I glanced at the negroes, and saw them still gazing, as though petrified with astonishment. I glanced at the serpent's loathsome head, and saw its bright deadly eyes watching for the least sign of life in its prey. Now, then, the reptile loosened its folds on my arm a hair's breadth, and now, a little more, until half an inch of space separated my arm and its mottled skin. I could have whipped out my hand, but dared not take the risk. Atoms of time dragged themselves into ages, and a minute seemed eternity itself! The second hold was removed entirely, and the next one was easing. Should I dash away now, or wait a more favorable moment? I decided upon the former; and, with lightning speed, I bounded away toward Grant, the crack of whose rifle I heard at the same instant. For the first time in my life, I was thoroughly overcome; and, sinking down, I remained in a semi-unconscious state for several minutes.

When I fully recovered, Grant and the overjoyed negroes held me up, and pointed out the boa, who was still writhing in his death agonies. I shuddered as I looked upon the effects of his tremendous dying strength. For yards around where he lay, grass and bushes and saplings, and, in fact, everything except the more fully grown trees, were cut clean off, as though they had been trimmed by an immense scythe. This monster, when measured, was fifty-one feet two inches and a half in extreme length, while around the thickest portion of his body the girth was nearly three feet; thus proving, I believe, to be the largest serpent that was ever authentically heard of.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Saturday, March 4.

CAPT. MOORE IN NEW WESTMINSTER.—Captain Peel of the sloop Tibbals, now in this port, informs us that on Monday last he conveyed Captain Wm. Moore and family, with their household effects, to New Westminster, where he intends to fix his residence for the present. Captain Moore thinks himself a very ill-used man in the transactions regarding the Alexandra, and intends publishing all the letters and documents in his possession connected with the affair, for his own justification.

ACCIDENT ON THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The second mate of this bark had his hand very severely bruised yesterday by a heavy billet of wood falling on it from the upper deck. He was sent to the hospital.

THE SLOOP DEERFOOT, formerly belonging to Brookie Jack and his companions, was yesterday sold at auction for \$190.

Monday, March 6.

THEFT.—Hydab Joe, a regular jail bird, was found guilty on Saturday of stealing a pair of boots the property of Mr. F. Beagan, and further of wilfully damaging the windows of the police barracks, and was sent to occupy his customary position in the chain gang for six months.

TALES OF A HAUL.—BY GRAB.—Last night the police made a descent upon a house occupied by Chinamen on Cormorant street, and arrested the whole of the occupants, thirty-two in number, on a charge of gambling. They were all lodged in Limbo. Mr. Bishop will appear this morning for the accused.

DARING BURGLARY.—The room of a lodger in Lang's large building, Herald street, was entered on Saturday night while the occupant was asleep, and between \$30 and \$40 abstracted from the pocket of his trousers. The thief got off without being discovered.

CHARGE OF ROBBERY.—James McGilvray was charged in the Police Court on Saturday with robbing Thomas McDerby of \$270, and was remanded until this morning. Mr. Copland defended the prisoner.

LECTURE.—Rev. James Nimmo lectures tomorrow night in the Lyceum Hall on Mormonism. The subject is an interesting one, and will doubtless draw a full house.

THE FLORIDA BULLYING BRAZIL.—A diary kept by Charles Quinn, chief engineer of the Anglo-rebel pirate Florida, has lately come to light. It embraces the period between Jan. 16, 1863, and March 17, 1864, and reveals many curious and important facts. Here is a brief entry in it, which shows how confidently and with what success these rascals rely on the power of impudence to overcome the scruples of weak kneed officials in foreign ports.

OFF PARRAMATTA, May 9, 1863.—Got permission from the President to remain only twenty-four hours. When that time had expired we were not ready to leave. Thereupon Captain Maffit wrote a letter to the President, telling him if he compelled us to leave when we were not ready, that as soon as the war was over with us and the Yankees, our Government hearing of the insult, would send back for satisfaction. Thereupon the President added three days to our stay in Oregonian.

NEW WESTMINSTER.—The members of the Legislative Westminster on Tuesday, by over one hundred men, amongst whom were the late Governor, and all the naval officers, and all the members of the Legislature of New Westminster, were most tastelessly exertions were spared in comfort and enjoyment of only drawback occurred once which could not be

was intensely cold, all the stoves to dis-

the ardor of the rain no way abated, and

On a grand ball

the Vice-Regal residence

was attended and passed

by the Enterprise took

round to the camp.