

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Tuesday, March 24, 1868.

The session of the Legislative Council which opens to-morrow will probably be brief; yet it may nevertheless have an important bearing on the future of this struggling Colony. Upon the nature of the measures passed at this session may hang the welfare of the country for years to come. If the legislation be of a wise and patriotic character, good results cannot fail to flow immediately therefrom; but should it be ill-considered, selfish or sectional, the result must of necessity prove disastrous and exert a baneful influence upon the country at large. The majority of the popular members of the Council are warmly in favor of retrenchment and economy in every department of the public service. But should the views of the majority have undergone no change in the past fifteen months, the voice and vote of the people's representatives will be powerless in a House composed of two-thirds official members, who have a cogent reason—that of personal interest—in prompting them to continue the present system of Government and expenditure. We are advised, however, of a change having taken place in the feelings and opinions of the majority. We remember well that at the last session the members for the City of Victoria stood up in their places and denounced the reckless manner in which the public monies were being voted by the official majority in the Council, and that every motion pointing towards economy was either voted down in the Council or afterwards very quietly buried by the Executive. In turning over our files to again peruse the speeches of the popular members last session, we are struck with the almost prophetic character of their remarks—the warning, again and again repeated, that Government was appropriating monies which there was not the slightest prospect of its ever being able to collect—and the prediction that before the year had closed the Colony would find itself sunk still deeper in debt and difficulty. We all know how little these warning words were listened to by the majority—how that, influenced by the advice of an over-sanguine and inexperienced young man of mediocre ability, from the Colonial Office, the older and wiser heads among the officials were carried away by the force of his enthusiastic temperament and suffered their better judgment to be overruled by his sophistries and ill-digested ideas of political economy. Fifteen months have passed and even the officials are now constrained to admit there was truth and wisdom in the warnings of the unofficial members, and that their advice, if followed, would have resulted beneficially for the country. We believe hard-earned experience has taught the official members that as legislators they have a higher and nobler mission than the mere voting of their own salaries and the unqualified support of a system of Government that retains them in their seats. "Experience is a hard taskmaster." The past year has been one of bitter reverse for the Government of this Colony; but if the evil results of their legislation have aroused the "official element" to a sense of their duty, we do not despair still of seeing the Colony snatched from political ruin "like a brand from the burning." And let us here disclaim on our part, and on the part of the people of this Island, any intention in the past or future to offer a factious opposition to the Government. Opposition has been always offered from a sincere desire to introduce reforms which the good sense of the people told them were needed, but which the inexperience and want of ability of the former Colonial Secretary prevented his appreciating and adopting. Under the changed and improved composition of the Executive Council, the people are looking forward with eager anticipation for wise and wholesome legislation during the coming session. We do not say that these anticipations will be realized; but, accepting the equitable statement

of the "Capital" question as an earnest of what is to come, they are willing to "bury the hatchet," and bury it so deeply that it will never be resurrected during the continuance in office of the present regime; if they can but see their representatives accorded a respectful hearing, and their views, so far as compatible with the proper performance of the public service, adopted. With a great and radical change in the Government of the country imminent, there is a sincere desire on the part of the tax-payers to let "bygones be bygones" if the Government will but evince a disposition to meet them half way in the work of conciliation, and will pay more attention in the future to measures aiming at the advancement of the material interests of the Colony than to schemes having for their sole aim the selfish aggrandizement of the promoters.

Friday, March 20. County Court.

Before His Worship the Honorable Magistrate, Mr. Pemberton.

March 19, 1868.

There were 36 cases upon the docket, 2 of which were struck out for non-appearance, 14 confessed judgment, 3 were adjourned, 11 settled by private arrangement, and 6 came to trial. The cases tried by this Court were:

Jesse Cooper vs Wm Smith—For balance of account of \$9.50. Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

Ah Chow vs E C Holden—For labor as cook. Judgment for plaintiff, \$52 with costs.

Jas Deans vs Wm H Parsons—Action for labor said to have been performed in 1864; amount claimed \$16. Judgment for defendant, without costs.

McTeirnan vs Remie—Account for \$7.75. Judgment by default, with costs.

A. Astico vs Jas Detrait—Account \$9. Judgment by default, with costs.

Frank Mahalik vs Joseph Dedrick—Account. Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

The Court adjourned for one week.

The shipbuilders of Maine have memorialized Congress for the adoption of measures favorable to their business. Their aim is to secure a reduction of import duties, and also of internal revenue taxes, on all materials that enter into the construction of ships. That some action is needed to revive the business of ship-building is quite apparent. The cost of construction of a ship is nearly double as much in New York as it is in the British Provinces, and until something is done to remove this great disparity the business will remain stagnant.

PAPER HUNT.—To-morrow the weather being favorable, there will be a "meet" at the Halfway House, Esquimalt road, at half-past one, p. m., at which time the hares will start. The land-owners through whose property the hunt passes have kindly given permission to ride over their ground. It is to be hoped the field will follow the paper, as it will be much easier to replace the fences if this is strictly adhered to, there being a man employed for the express purpose of building them up again.

MUNICIPAL.—Attention is called to the Municipal Notice published this morning. The time for payment of the rates levied will expire on the 30th inst., and all persons refusing or neglecting to pay will subject themselves to the payment of a heavy penalty. The Corporation is really rendering valuable service to the city in effecting much-needed improvements, and it will be a pity if their exertions are hampered by the delinquency of rate-payers.

SAILED.—The telegraph ship Nightingale, Capt. Marton, left Esquimalt at noon yesterday, bound for New York. Mr. Margeson, who came in the ship Egmont from England in charge of the cable, sailed in the Nightingale. The ship was towed out by the Emily Harris, and in passing the ships of war her colors were dipped. The compliment was promptly acknowledged by the Fleet.

A LETTER received by Mr W. Clunes from his partner on Eureka Creek announces a rich strike in the company's tunnel, which has been driven upwards of 200 feet. The Billy Barker tunnel is in 175 feet and is approaching the same lead, which is supposed to be of great richness and extent. Eureka Creek empties into the Meadows at the foot of William Creek.

IMPORTANT REDUCTION.—The Upper Fraser steamer Enterprise will resume her trips as soon as the state of the river admits. An important reduction in the rate of freight is announced this morning. Heretofore the rate charged has been one and a half cents per pound. In future the price will be one and a quarter cent.

IN THE PRESS.—Mr Harcourt's lectures are now in the Press and being rapidly prepared for the public. The one on mining has been carefully enlarged and strengthened with figures. The two will make a pamphlet of some 40 pages, and so far as we have read they are the ablest vindication of the country we have yet met with.

The performance for the benefit of Mr. M. W. Anderson will come off on Friday evening, the 27th inst., at the Theatre. Mrs. Jeany Annot Fowles, Miss Lizzie Yeoman and several amateurs of Victoria, the Reindeer Amateurs and the Marsh Family have kindly volunteered to appear. "Henry Dunbar" and "Poor Pillioddy" will be presented.

The next steamer to arrive here will be the John L. Stephens. She will leave San Francisco on the 10th proximo. She is upwards of 300 feet long and of great draught of water; but Capt. Winsor thinks he will be enabled to bring her into this harbor without difficulty.

WE HEAR that the Managers of the Female Infirmary have tendered the institution to the Royal Hospital Committee. Not a bad move. The location of the Infirmary is much superior to that occupied by the Hospital, and we think the offer ought to be accepted.

ASSAULT.—Charles, a Hydah, for assaulting and cutting with a knife another Hydah, having a similar cognomen, was yesterday convicted and sentenced to two months' hard labor in the chain-gang.

SENTENCE.—Richard Williams, who was convicted on Wednesday for stealing \$4 37½ from a sailor, was yesterday sentenced to two months' hard labor.

It is reported that the seat of the popular member of the Council for Nanaimo will be declared vacant, and that Mr Ring will come forward as a candidate for the position.

The U. S. S. Lincoln will sail to-day for San Francisco. She will carry a mail, and an express.

The Enterprise, with members of the Council, will sail this morning at 9 o'clock for New Westminster.

A LARGE ship rounded Race Rocks yesterday afternoon and stood in towards Trial Island. She is probably bound for Nanaimo.

H. M. S. SPARROWHAWK will proceed to San Francisco to-day to be present at the opening of the Legislative Council.

The brig Robert Cowan sailed hence for Honolulu, S. I., yesterday morning, with lumber and general merchandise.

The ship Trebolgan will sail for Shanghai, China, to-day.

The Prize Essay.

Editor British Colonist:

There can be no possible objection to the Prize Essay appearing in your columns, if you can find room for it. But if the public are to be satisfied that the judges arrived at a just conclusion with regard to the comparative merits of the Essays, "Nil Desperandum" ought also to be inserted. I doubt, however, if the result of its insertion would be as "Essay" seems to anticipate; for I cannot but think that the majority of the public would reverse the award of merit by placing "Nil Desperandum" ahead of "Excelsior." That the Prize Essay lost anything by bad, or that the second gained anything by good reading, I beg most emphatically to deny. Mr Clarke read Mr Coleman's Essay really well, and the slight hesitation which occurred once or twice did not at all interfere with the rendering of any of the "finest passages." "Essay's" ears cannot be good if he received from Mr Clarke's reading an impression of "bad delivery." Others think that his delivery was something approaching perfection. In the Prize Essay there were some fine flights of imaginative fancy (?) unfortunately they were not necessarily connected with the scenery in question, but were just as applicable to any other landscape as to that viewed from Beacon Hill. As you say in your note appended to "Essay's" letter, whenever Mr Coleman condescended to take into consideration the subject about which he pretended to write he became tame and feeble; in fact, the descriptive part of the Essay was trashy in the extreme. The writer of "Nil Desperandum" never attained the height of eloquence, neither did he ever get down to the ship-sloppy twaddle of "Excelsior." Nothing would please me better than to see the two Essays published side by side in your paper in order that justice may be done as well to the author of "Nil Desperandum" as to "Excelsior."

THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH ARMIES AND NAVIES.—At the reopening of the sittings for Cour des Comptes, Count Basbiana read a report in which he compared the public expenditure of Great Britain in 1865 with that of France. Taking the army alone, England paid for her army of 146,000 men and 14,000 horses, exclusive of pensions, 335,050,000 francs. France paid for an army of 400,000 men and 85,000 horses a sum of 370,587,000 francs. Hence the English army were as numerous as the French one, it would cost about one thousand million of francs. The British navy cost in 1863, deducting pensions, 234,050,000 francs; the French navy 123,589,000. The pay of the British sailor varies between 403f. and 700f. and that of a French sailor between 202f. and 438f. The equipment of an English sailor cost 103f. and that of a French one 79f. 50c. The ration of an English sailor costs 452f. per annum, and that of a French sailor only 354f.

The Gale—Wreck of Two Ships on Discovery Island.

About 11½ o'clock on Thursday night a severe sou'easter suddenly sprang up, and continued until daylight with scarcely any intermission. On land, so far as we are aware, beyond the prostration of much valuable timber, no damage was effected; but the morning brought news of the wreck of two sail vessels on Discovery Island, distant some seven miles from Victoria in an easterly direction, and nearly opposite the disputed Island of San Juan. The lost vessels are the British ship Fanny, 896 tons, commanded by Captain Arthur, and owned by Rosenfeld & Birkenham of San Francisco, laden with 1,330 tons of coal from Nanaimo, and on her way to San Francisco; and the Hawaiian bark Rosalia, with a cargo of 150,000 feet of lumber, laden at Stamp's Mills, Burrard Inlet, and bound for Honolulu. The Rosalia, towed by the steamer Isabel, Capt. Pamphlet, sailed from Burrard Inlet on Wednesday, and on the same afternoon the Fanny, bound down, was spoken and taken in tow by the steamer—the Fanny attached by a hawser to the stern of the Isabel, and the Rosalia attached by another hawser to the stern of the Fanny. Shortly after the gale commenced the Rosalia's hawser parted and she drifted astern, and after beating about until 5 o'clock yesterday morning struck on Discovery Island. The Fanny continued a short distance with the Isabel, when her hawser also parted, and before sail could be set she, too, was driven on Discovery Island. Both vessels beat heavily all night long. The Rosalia, lying on the southerly side of the island, was exposed to the full sweep of the wind, and before day dawned her bottom was knocked completely out. The position of the Fanny is on the easterly side of the island and less exposed, but owing to her heavy cargo she soon settled down on the rocks and was full of water before the captain and crew left her. All hands landed in the ships' boats. The Fanny had four passengers for San Francisco. Both vessels are pronounced complete wrecks. The passengers' baggage, furniture, sails and a portion of the rigging of the Fanny were brought ashore yesterday. Much of the coal will probably be recovered at low water; and part of the Rosalia's cargo has already come ashore. We believe neither of the vessels was insured. The Fanny was formerly known at this port as the Voltigeur. She was worth with cargo about \$27,000. The Rosalia and cargo were valued at about \$14,000. Owing to a continuance of the gale yesterday afternoon little or no assistance could be rendered from the city.

LATER.—The Sir James Douglas report both ships abandoned, the crews having taken up their quarters on the island. One side of the Rosalia has been carried away by the force of the breakers. The Fanny's position is not considered so precarious as that of the Rosalia, and hopes are expressed of eventually saving her.

Supreme Court.

(Before His Lordship Chief Justice Needham.)

Friday, March 20th, 1868.

Trounce v Strachan & Ogilvy.—The rule nisi, in the case to set aside award came up for argument yesterday.

Mr Ring, instructed by Mr Pearkes, showed cause. Two cases were cited for defendants, in which the English Courts refused to set aside an award because it was prepared by the solicitor for the opposite party, although it was held an improper course and an American case.

Affidavits were filed, showing that the umpire had made his award before the formal award was drafted by defendant's solicitor.

The other points for argument were not discussed, the Chief Justice stating there was no occasion to go into them.

Mr Wood, instructed by Mr Bishop, in support of rule, not called on.

Rule made absolute with costs on the ground that defendant's attorney prepared the award.

R Finlayson and Dr Tolmie vs Fox.—Mr Ring made application for injunction against defendant cutting timber.

Application ordered to be amended.

There is but one

American perfume that has stood the test of time, and that is MURRAY & LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER, which, for over thirty years, has been in constant use, and which is to day admitted to be the only fragrant water adapted to the various uses of the bath, the handkerchief and the toilet.

As there are counterfeiters, buyers should always ask for the Florida Water prepared by Lanman & Kemp, New York.

New Gold Saving Process.

A correspondent sends us the following: Mr. H. Kelly, 84 Pine street, New York, for three years manager of the Virginian Gold Belt Mine, situated on the Potomac twelve miles above Frederickburg, and who is now the agent of the company in New York, gives a most favourable account of the amalgamating process invented by Van Buren Ryerson, its actual value having already been proved by four weeks' constant use. The yield of this mine has rarely exceeded eight dollars per ton, but under the new system the average has been thirty dollars, which is but three per cent less than the assay.

Twenty tons of ore from a Carolina mine were shipped last week to the new mill at the Gold Belt works, and the yield which in Carolina had not exceeded four dollars, by the new process was increased to twelve dollars. The difficulty in treating the Virginia ore was the excess of sulphur, which has generally been the enemy of progress in mining regions, and is the source of both trouble and loss in our Madoc gold fields. Ryerson's patent is for the use of superheated steam, which is steam heated up to a temperature of twelve hundred degrees, and to which the crushed ore is exposed for 15 minutes before the quicksilver is used. Mr Ryerson claimed that his process would overcome all previous difficulties, and enable the amalgamator to extract the entire assay, and the result seems to have justified his expectations. He uses a shaking bath 30 feet in length, and with a very peculiar movement, but the one distinctive feature of this process is the superheated steam. The crusher used at the Gold Belt mill is Brown's Boston Machine, which crushes 15 tons a day; it does not work with stamps, but by a centrifugal movement makes rock crush rock. The cost of crusher was about \$1,000, the price of Ryerson's machine was \$1,500 with a royalty of \$5,000. We understood Mr Kelly to say distinctly that a five horse engine was all the power required, but possibly this was an error. This invention or discovery will, we imagine, prove of great importance to our Madoc gold companies, especially as the charge of \$5,000 royalty will hardly be demanded in Canada. —Toronto Globe.

IN THE BOSOM OF HIS FAMILY.—The following mournful satire, accompanied by a cartoon representing Napoleon sadly contemplating the poor little Prince Imperial, is in a late number of the Owl:

Yes, the great end is attained. A crown rests upon his brow—his hand clasps a sceptre—by his side he wears the sword of a conqueror. He has shaped his course through a world of difficulties. He has believed in his destiny, and now has reached the summit of his ambition—a throne.

A dizzy resting place, and yet while new to it he is scarcely able to look about him. He has climbed so high that he can see naught but the sun of glory. He must be something more than imperial—he must be Great—great as a warrior, great as a statesman, great as a Bonaparte. The purple robes must be exchanged for the breast plate, the crown for the warrior's helmet. The world must be taught that Napoleon's nephew is no mean successor to his uncle's fortunes.

Deigning to use a dead man's coffin as a ladder to power, still he scorns to go to his grave without renown. Moreover, he has traitors to punish—foes to conquer. Were not the Russians and the Austrians the sworn enemies to the first great bearer of his name? Has he forgotten Moscow or Waterloo? Does he not know that by making the foes of Bonaparte the enemies of France, he secures for his family thousands of brothers—millions of adherents? It is a desperate game, perhaps, but it must be played. If he wins, he claims a palace, the devotion of a prince; if he loses, he falls to rise no more or yields up that which is dearer to him than life—celebrity. And he plays, and for a while the cards seem to favor him and he prospers. But at last the luck turns against him. He finds his plans unsuccessful and his people dissatisfied. And then he throws down his cards, and looks for comfort to those nearest and dearest to him.

He who has so often duped others now actually and willingly deceives himself. He tries to believe that he belongs to a family of kings, that his power comes to him from a long descent. That the bee has ever been the crest of France; that the fleur-de-lys has never waved from the turrets of the Louvre. And he brings together, to comfort him, the family he has belonged to those who scorn him as an usurper. And he gathers his family around him, the family he can love, the family he can trust, and when he tries to count their numbers, finds confronting him naught but the tombs of two dead men and the face of a child that is dying.

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The anomalous position of the judiciary of this Colony will prove a subject for discussion at the present session of the Council. Since Union we have had two judicial establishments, each of the other, and neither having jurisdiction beyond the limits which it was confined prior to the Union. Mr Begbie, holding a commission as Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony of British Columbia, exercises unostentatious control on the mainland. Needham, holding the commission as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Colony of Vancouver Island, presides over the former known as the "Vancouver Island." Neither man appears to be subordinate to the other, nor have they co-ordinate powers, since the Judge of British Columbia cannot sit as Judge of the Island any more than the Judge of Vancouver Island can exercise as Judge of British Columbia except by special commission. The Grouse Creek war rages. Chief Justice Needham presides at Cariboo and sits as Judge of British Columbia; but a commission was previously issued by the Governor, into whose hands, return to New Westminster. Justice resigned it. This state of things arises from oversight on the part of the Colony of Vancouver Island map, but failed to define the Court of either section measure which consolidated other branch of the Colony. ment left the Courts as distinct and to-day we are called on for the maintenance of two courts where one would suffice, a manifest injustice to the gentlemen interested would naturally imagine under Union Mr Needham Chief Justice's commission rank as Mr Begbie's superior. Mr Begbie being simply a Justice is not the fact. His position is as unchanged as ham's. To all intents and there has been no Union. Colonies so far as the jurisdiction of one or the other. Cases have arisen the jurisdiction of one or the other of an Act defining the privileges of each Court and this strange and anomalous affair is imperatively demanded as an act of justice to the themselves and a matter of to the public.

Mutual Aid or Benefit Societies.

Among the remarkable features of the present age is the prevalence of such societies. They have not only in Great Britain, but in the States, and what more nearly San Francisco, that it has become interesting to all to understand their object and the principles upon which they are based. Most successful have been the efforts of these associations to secure the establishment of a fund of the sum now annually squandered in building up the town. Building Society, when properly managed, is a species of joint stock company, in which subscribers and in proportion to the amount which they hold, different common fund, which thus being lent out at interest to subscribers who desire advances, and soon as it is received, making it a constantly reproductive fund. Large sums are raised in this manner, for to take, if one thousand shares were for at two dollars and a half per month, in one year the amount would be \$30,000, which, month by month, might be advanced to any number of borrowers who are so enabled them to repay, by equal monthly payments, with interest, the principal of the loan. The duration of the loan is generally fixed, and at the end of a given number of years which is equivalent to their subscriptions with comp