

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, December 19, 1863

The above Cartridges are for sale at three shillings per 1000 (or half-inch bore, for half-inch bore; and also for small bore.)

The long overdue statement of "Self-Reliance" reached us some ten days ago; but we are only enabled to find room for it to-day. The writer shows us we are bound in candor to say clearly, that there has been a saving of \$161,316 in the expenditure of the united civil list for 1863 as compared with the expenditures of the Colonies when separate in 1865; nor is this all. He shows that the expenditure of the present fiscal year will be \$64,926 less than was required for the support of the Mainland alone in 1865. But, he nowhere in his letter institutes a comparison of the population to prove that the expense of governing per capita, even as reduced, is not so great in 1868 as it was in 1865. Furthermore, he fails to make it clear that the expense of governing the Colony might not be materially reduced and at least one-half the amount now paid out in salaries devoted to the improvement and advancement of public works. The figures of "Self-Reliance" furnish a strong argument in favor of a continuance of the Union, and nothing more; but he produces the Government has been wrongfully charged with extravagance when he wisely says, "the more the people know of the financial condition of the Colony in which they have cast their lot the better." Who has been to blame, we ask, for the ignorance of its financial condition in which the Colony has long been kept? Have "the people" withheld statistical information for years such as "Self-Reliance" produces, or has the Government? If the people and Government are "to work together for the common good," why not give the people a chance to work? Why not let "the people" know more frequently how their accounts stand? Why not call representatives of "the people" into the Council as advisers to his Excellency instead of selecting them from a certain class of officers and officials? It is exactly what the people have been and are awaiting—an opportunity "to work together" with Governor Seymour. Does "Self-Reliance" guarantee that the opportunity will be afforded them?

Free Trade's letter this morning enunciates a good principle; but how on earth he expects to bring it into practice with the present system of Government, we confess we are unable to discover. The less commerce is shackled with Customs duties, the better for any community; but two systems distinct in themselves in one Colony for creating a revenue for the support of an expensive and unwieldy Government would never do. Free Trade on the Island would crush agriculture first and our infant manufactures next and drive both to the Mainland, where protected by a tariff they could supply our miners with their products and fabrics and send the surplus here to underbid the importer. What we want here—always supposing Reciprocity to be impossible—is one commercial system for both sections—a system that will protect the farmer, the miller, and the manufacturer, and open wide the door to goods of the character that Free Trade and other able writers have recommended. But before we can obtain it, we must have a simpler and cheaper form of Government, and rely upon what is claimed will be the result—an increased "area of taxation"—to meet any deficit that may occur.

The Runaway Ship. Editor BRITISH COLONIST:—I beg to correct your report of the case of Muir vs. Morton. In the first place there was no order made on the application against the Solicitor and that application was withdrawn from the consideration of the Court. In the second place Mr. McCreight and Mr. Walker did not appear for the defendant but for Mr. Drake and the result of the proceedings is that Messrs Muir, instead of getting \$3695, the amount they claimed, only got, including costs, \$600 payable in account in China and different bills of lading signed to those signed two months ago by the Captain and the crew.

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I am, &c.
M. W. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

As Usual.—The report published in the New Westminster paper that Government checks were refused payment by the Bank of British Columbia is contradicted by Mr. W. C. Ward, the Manager. We are surprised that any statement emanating from a source so low should have been deemed worthy of notice, much less of contradiction.

MASSON FUNERAL.—The remains of the late J.W. Masson were interred yesterday with Masonic honors. The procession was joined by a large number of citizens in their private capacity. Members of the Press, Telegraph Department, with Messrs John Dickson and Beber as personal friends, acted as Pall Bearers.

AMONG THE PASSENGERS who left New York by the mail steamer of Nov. 24th, were the newly gazetted Colonial Secretary Hankin and wife, and Mr. Edwin Russell, Manager of the Portland branch of the Bank of British Columbia.

THE boiler of the Tiger steamer was brought up on the G S Wright, and the machine will be put together on Brodick's Wharf to-day.

THE American ship Leonora is lying in Clallam Bay waterlogged by severe straining during the late gale. The steam-tug Columbia was sent yesterday to her relief.

THE steam tug Merrimac came over from Port Discovery yesterday afternoon.

"Self-Reliance" with Facts and Figures.
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—In the course of several letters which I addressed you on the subject of Confederation I incidentally touched upon the present financial condition of the Colony and gave certain details pointing out how large a saving had been effected in the Civil List during the last four or five years. These figures were flatly contradicted in subsequent leading articles, my veracity called in question, and I was challenged to produce a detailed statement which would bear out the assertion I had made, namely, that a saving of over \$100,000 had been made in the Civil List, i.e., the Government of the United Colony in 1868 as against the two Colonies in 1865. I have appended a statement which will verify the assertion I made. It is prepared from the published financial statements of the Government of the two Colonies for 1865, which, on reference to the Government Gazette of 1865, are open to everyone.

From this it appears that the reduction in the Civil List amounts to \$161,316, or \$61,316 more than I stated it to be. Furthermore the Civil List of the United Colony in 1868 is \$152,999, while of the Mainland alone in 1865 it was \$217,926, or the whole Colony is now governed by the sum of \$64,926 less than half of its cost to govern in 1865.

Another notable fact is that in the year 1865 there was raised by way of revenue, i.e., the people were taxed in British Columbia to the extent of \$610,780 and in Vancouver Island to the extent of \$189,953, making a total of \$800,733. This year the taxation will amount to \$576,000, or in other words, the burdens imposed on the people have since 1865 been actually lessened by the extraordinarily large amount of \$224,733. I wish distinctly to clear myself of the imputation cast upon me that my arguments were intended as a plea for officials. My only desire has been and is, that the real and not a false issue should be tried, that the people of the Colony should not be misled by the faulty representations of interested persons desirous of bringing the Government into disrepute. When the actual facts are known, it will then be open to all to act as they like and draw what conclusions they like. I deprecate any action being taken on, and any conclusion drawn from, false premises.

The more the people knew of the financial condition of the Colony in which they have cast their lot, the better; but I stoutly resist the theory that it is beneficial to a country that its inhabitants should be misled and embittered against their Government by statements constantly and cleverly disseminated as to the wasteful extravagance of the expenditure, the hordes of over-paid officials, and the fat offices on which they gorge themselves without ever thinking of trying to do their duty by the country or attempting to earn their salaries.

To have prosperity in a country, the Government and the people must work together for the common good, and how is this practicable while the minds of the people are forever being stirred against their Government by misrepresentations, and the Government is being abused and vilified by the people? If anyone will point out the benefits resulting from such a state of things they will confer a favor on

SELF-RELIANCE.
Many others derive good incomes from property here, who pay little more than the laboring man. I remember our late election that our present member, Mr. Drake, said he had made his home, and his children were his guarantee that for their sakes he would do his best for the general interest. I do not know whether he thought of it at the time, but no doubt, that is the kind of property most heavily taxed on the Island. But, soberly to address myself to the question, I will presume that we are only taxed for the sake of revenue—that very few members of the community will now argue that duties ought to be placed on anything, in order that one or more classes of men should derive at the expense of the general public. That the Government best does its duty to the people which endeavors most fairly to adjust the necessary taxation, and leaves each man liberty to follow such occupation as may seem to him most profitable, without endeavoring to foster one interest necessarily at the expense of another. And I assume also that it will be necessary still to raise the present amount of revenue, for even if the economy in the Administration which you advocate, and which, as desirable, is carried into effect, the amount saved thereby would be required for education, and for public works for the general good. And I say that the sooner the policy is changed which is weak by weak reducing the area of taxation, which is reducing the most important city in the Colony to an insignificant market town, the better it will be, not only for the towns on Vancouver Island, but also for those classes for whom these towns must be the only markets.

Victoria, under the present policy, will be only an unimportant town, supplying the neighboring districts, and in return consuming their products. But with Free Trade, Victoria has a much more splendid future. A railway, with a terminus on Puget Sound once made, will attract to these waters an immensely increased trade, of which we may get a large share. The Straits of Juan de Fuca will in all probability become the highway for the trade of China and Japan; and through our American neighbors will have been able to be beforehand in the completion of a railway across the continent, yet it will be our own fault if we do not reap the benefit from their enterprise, and a fair share of profit from the traffic which will pass over it.

The reduction of the duties on flour—the interdiction of the duties on manufactured goods, as suggested in your leader of the 8th, which would be equivalent to giving free trade to the whole Colony, except in agricultural produce, is at present almost impossible. The system you propose would at once cut off two-thirds of the revenue derived from Customs, and the remaining third would rapidly decrease, as the produce of the Colony increased. This would make it necessary to apply a system of direct taxation to the whole Colony, which would be a difficult matter as far as the mainland is concerned, while the burden of indirect taxation (which would then be confined to the absolute necessities of life), would still press as heavily as ever on the workingman.

CIVIL LIST, 1865.

BRITISH COLONIA.

Governor's Department.	\$21,915
Private Secretary, Contingencies	4,200
Colonial Secretary, do	4,200
Four Clerks, Printing Department, 2 Messengers, Contingencies	12,600
Treasurer	10,780
Four Clerks, Messenger, Contingencies	10,780
Chief Comptroller of Lands and Works Department, Surveyor, 4 Clerks, Messenger, Contingencies	12,770
Assay Office	10,000
Three Assistants, Contingencies	11,475
Customs	15,945
Two Clerks, Revenue Office; Landing Writters, Department Collector, Contingencies	15,945
Registrar General	3,980
One Clerk, Contingencies	1,200
Auditor General	4,130
Two Clerks, Contingencies	2,088
Harbor Master, including his private expenses, Contingencies	6,210
Judge, Attorney General, Clerk, Registrar, Contingencies	11,800
Police and Gaols	14,400
Gold Commissioners and Constables at Yale, Douglas, Kytoon, Altopook, Cariboo, Greenwood, Kootenay	80,715
Total	\$217,926

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Governor's Department.	\$16,734
Private Secretary, Messenger, Contingencies	14,067
Colonial Secretary	7,957
Clerk, Assessor, Contingencies	9,945
Harbor Master, Assst. Surveyor, Clerks, Contingencies	2,428
Registrar General	1,200
Auditor General	2,288
Police and Gaols	2,548
Legislative Council and Assembly	3,350
Judicial	17,084
Judge, Attorney General, Registrar, Police Magistrate, Contingencies	17,084
Police and Gaols	18,045
Total	\$96,999

UNITED COLONY, 1868.

Governor's Department.	\$21,950
Private Secretary, Messenger, Contingencies	15,500
Colonial Secretary	4,800
Treasurer	10,080
Two Clerks, Messenger, Contingencies	5,650
Chief Comptroller of Lands and Works, Assst. Surveyor General, 2 Clerks, Messenger, Contingencies	8,470
Registrar General, B.C.V.I. do	10,080
Assurance Office	5,150
Harbor Master	1,500
Post Office	2,300
Postmaster, Victoria; Clerk, N. Westminster, Contingencies	2,500
Legislative Council, Registrar, Attorney General, Clerk, Sheriff, Messenger	18,750
Police and Gaols	20,280
Gold Commissioners and Constables, Tall Cuts, Lectors at Yale, Cariboo, Lillooet, Kootenay, Contingencies for various Offices	52,500
Total	\$152,999

RECAPITULATION.

Civil List of British Columbia, 1865	\$217,926
do do Vancouver Island, 1865	96,999
Total	\$314,925
Civil List United Colony, 1868	152,999
More of the same	\$161,316
Total Saving effected in the Civil List of the Colony since 1865	\$161,316

Free Trade and Taxation.
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—In my former letters I have endeavored to show that it would be the general advantage of the Colony if Vancouver Island was made a Free Port. I would now show how unfairly the present system of indirect taxation presses upon the community. It must be remembered that the \$800,000 which is about the amount paid in Customs duties on the Island, is paid in the first place by the importer, and is an additional cost to the goods upon which he gets a profit. The retailer of the same goods also gets his profit upon the enhanced price, so that the cost of the goods to the consumer is probably increased 25 per cent. by the present duties—in other words, that the public pays \$100,000 for the \$800,000 received by the revenue. It follows therefore that by direct taxation the revenue would be increased by \$20,000, without increasing the burden of taxation; or the taxpayers might be relieved to that extent without diminishing the revenue. Again I would ask: who now pays the taxes? It is answered, every one according to what he consumes. True, but under our present system of a protective policy which places the heaviest duties upon the necessities of life, each man pays according to his needs and not according to his means. Take the lowest possible dietary scale. The amount consumed by every man would cost yearly about \$30. Say it is possible he can be clothed at the cost of \$50 more, together amounting to \$140. The duty upon this would be about \$38. This may be taken as the lowest possible amount the most economical now can pay towards the expenses of the Government. But let us take the wages of a working man at \$50 per month, or \$600 per annum—the greater part of which is spent here—that man is taxed to the extent of at least \$100, about half of which amount goes to the general revenue; the remainder would represent the proportion extracted from the consumer, in order (as I think unfairly), to protect the interest of the producer. Now, we have large holders of property who draw incomes from, but who do not reside in the Colony, who do not pay anything toward the revenue. Many others derive good incomes from property

ery here, who pay little more than the laboring man. I remember our late election that our present member, Mr. Drake, said he had made his home, and his children were his guarantee that for their sakes he would do his best for the general interest. I do not know whether he thought of it at the time, but no doubt, that is the kind of property most heavily taxed on the Island. But, soberly to address myself to the question, I will presume that we are only taxed for the sake of revenue—that very few members of the community will now argue that duties ought to be placed on anything, in order that one or more classes of men should derive at the expense of the general public. That the Government best does its duty to the people which endeavors most fairly to adjust the necessary taxation, and leaves each man liberty to follow such occupation as may seem to him most profitable, without endeavoring to foster one interest necessarily at the expense of another. And I assume also that it will be necessary still to raise the present amount of revenue, for even if the economy in the Administration which you advocate, and which, as desirable, is carried into effect, the amount saved thereby would be required for education, and for public works for the general good. And I say that the sooner the policy is changed which is weak by weak reducing the area of taxation, which is reducing the most important city in the Colony to an insignificant market town, the better it will be, not only for the towns on Vancouver Island, but also for those classes for whom these towns must be the only markets.

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"Bottled Sunshine."
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—The inventor of the hot-air engine, Captain Ericsson, has recently written a letter to one of the Swedish Universities in which he describes a wonderful apparatus for condensing the rays of the sun which are to be utilized in the production of motive power. One of the machines which the inventor has constructed is worked by steam which is generated by the condensed rays of the sun.

Should this invention turn out to be a success, doubtless we shall have importations of "bottled sunshine," and then what will become of the extensive coal fields of Vancouver Island? Equally with your able correspondent "Sigurd" I lament the unequal pressure of the Tariff upon our consumers. But what if it exists let us make the most of the system. The modern acceptance of a Tariff is not simply a vague schedule of duties by which to agitate out an amount of revenue—it is a debtor and creditor account so to speak, with other countries. We should endeavor as far as possible to lighten the charge upon our consumption by compelling other countries to contribute towards our wealth.

If we require to use "bottled sunshine," by all means let it come in duty free, and, on the other hand, if we can produce more "bottled sunshine" than our neighbors and if they expose our commodities to heavy duties, in that case let the Tariff provide a bounty to those who export in strict accordance with the principles of Reciprocity. In this way the producer is enriched and where the producer is enriched the country prospers and increases in wealth and importance. "Sigurd" would do well for his country if he could during the ensuing session of the Council induce the Government to grant a bounty upon all exports of Coal to American ports. This being accomplished, we need not fear Captain Ericsson's hot-air and sunshine.

FISTON-ROD.