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IMPORTANT MEETING OF MINERS.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF CONDEMNED.

The meeting convened by the miners, packers, and traders of British Columbia at the Theatre on Saturday afternoon, to consider the increased imposts and tolls levied in that colony, was very numerous and attended.

On the platform we noticed Capt. Evans of Lightning Creek, Mr. Loring of the Diller claim, Major Downie of the Meadows, Mr. Jenkinson of the Enterprise claim, Mr. B. Anderson of the Jacksonville and Astoria claims, Mr. Garfield of the Eureka, and other claims, Mr. Boose of the Eureka, &c., and in the body of the Theatre were numbers of the "home and snow" of the sister colony.

Called upon to preside, and Mr. Jenkinson to act as Secretary.

Capt. Evans opened the proceedings by remarking that he fully concurred in the object for which the meeting had been called. The miners were seriously affected by the recent duties in British Columbia. They were the men who had made that colony, and it appeared that the legislature now wanted to fleece and bleed them to their utmost capacity. If the policy at present adopted was enforced it would be the sure means of driving them out of the country. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman further said that this was a meeting purely of miners and others interested in mining in British Columbia, and he invited them all to come forward and express their views, proposing to limit the speakers to fifteen minutes each.

The Secretary was then called upon to read the following series of resolutions which had been prepared for the approval and adoption of the meeting:

Whereas; Our honorable Lawmakers have lately passed an Act, increasing largely the duties on imports into our colony, and we the miners, traders and citizens of the colony who have all our interests there and a natural and earnest desire to see it progress and prosper, deem it to be our privilege as well as our duty to consider calmly, deliberately, and most respectfully this action, and to give the full and honest expression of our views on the subject.

I. Resolved: That in our judgment the amended Customs ordinance, 1865, is an act of legislation which is inopportune, unjust, impolitic, unjust and inequitable in its general provisions.

It is inopportune; 1st. Because it largely increases the cost of living in the colony at a time when the mining and trading interests of the country can least afford to bear such an increase. The past season was in every sense an unprofitable one. The miner's labour was, to a great extent, spent in preparing for future operations and his profits were consequently small. The trader shared the small profits of the miner. This has produced a general feeling of distrust and depression in the country. The increased taxation only tends to add to this feeling, and thus deter both men and capital from going into the country.

2nd. Because a gold export tax of 3 per cent has just been imposed on all treasure leaving the colony, which is in itself a heavy increase upon our former taxes. When to this is added a high tariff on all the necessities of life, it becomes a burden from which men regarding their best interests will flee when the first opportunity is offered.

It is unjust and impolitic; 1st. Because it will not increase the revenue of the colony. The great diminution in the amount of imports into the colony caused by this tariff will diminish the aggregate revenue so much that there will be a large deficit to be made up next year, when the mining population will be so small under the operation of our new taxes that it cannot be collected. No direct importations into the country can prevent this result, even if such importations should enable traders to furnish supplies at the same cost that they could have done under the old tariff.

2d. We believe there are rich deposits of gold in the wildest and most inhospitable portions of the colony. These gold fields are as yet unexplored and undiscovered. It will require men and capital combined to discover and develop them. In many instances large companies have been organized and other preparations made to send capital into the country for the purpose. This tariff discourages and cripples all such operations by an unfair increase upon all the articles and implements required for their work. Prospecting in the colony, upon which so much of our future success depends is thus checked if it is not entirely prohibited.

3d. There are hundreds of men in the colony who have spent all their means and time during the past three or four years without success. Within the small district of one and a half miles on Williams Creek six hundred thousand dollars have been spent during the past season. These men have experience in the country; they are not altogether discouraged and they purpose to get again into the mines with the hope that they will yet be able to get something in return for their lost labor and means. This tariff discourages such men, and will force them to gather up their small earnings for the season and leave the country forever.

4th. The small trader or packer who has invested his means in provisions, and is now on his way, or about to start for the colony will be compelled to seek another market. He cannot pay a double tariff and compete with those traders now in the country. He will find a better and more profitable market in the neighboring gold fields of Washington and Idaho Territories.

It is unjust and inequitable; 1st. Because the increase in the absolute necessities of life far exceeds that on the luxuries, thus making the laborer in the colony bear the main, if not the whole, burden of the taxation. As an instance, the tariff on beans, one of the principal articles of consumption by the miners, is increased from 3 to 20 per cent, while that on ale and porter is only increased from 10 to 40 per cent; the tariff on flour is increased more than three-fold while that on wine is only doubled.

2d. The tariff is made to take effect at once, thus causing a sudden and quick rise in provisions in the mines just as the season begins. By this means the miner will be forced to pay famine prices in the spring, and perhaps be driven by necessity to leave the country before he has had a fair chance to go to work profitably. A reasonable notice for the enforcement of such a measure is as customary in other countries as it is equitable and fair.

III. Resolved: That in our opinion the identical tariff which is now in force, directly or indirectly, in the sister colony, will result in no good to the colony. The legislators in British Columbia cannot control the laws of commerce; such legislation is not more onerous to the consumers of the colony than it is impracticable and futile for the purposes for which it was enacted.

IV. That a copy of these resolutions be prepared for signature, and when signed by the miners and traders of British Columbia now in this city, and by none others, they be forwarded to His Excellency Governor Seymour, who is hereby most respectfully requested to lay them before the hon. Council and Legislative Assembly for their consideration, with this as our prayer, that they will cause the Customs Amendment Act to be revised to suit the circumstances of the colony.

wellfare of the country. All the material requisite for carrying on mining operations should also be admitted into the country at as low a cost as possible. In fact the policy of the legislature should be to lessen the expenses of the miner by every possible means, that he might open up the country, and bring back the good old times of '60-'61 (cheers). The new laws were particularly inopportune, coming as they did at a time when Cariboo stood worse in public estimation than it had ever previously done (applause). He ventured to assert that no people on God's earth paid more taxes to the government than did the mining community of Cariboo (applause), and yet, at a time when they could least afford it, they were required to submit to increased taxation. It was simply offering a bonus to men to leave the country, instead of encouraging population, and reminded him of the old fable of the man who had a goose that laid a golden egg. Not satisfied with one golden egg a day, the covetous man must needs rip the poor goose open to get all the eggs at once (laughter). Now, the government finding that they wanted more golden eggs, were pursuing the same course, and wanted to extract from the hard earnings of the miner, in one year, what their resources could not bear in five (great applause). The legislature should be careful lest they should find that they had added the last feather that would break the camel's back. In conclusion he, for one, would assert, if he did not speak the voice of the people of Cariboo, that none of those who had supported an iniquitous measure that robbed miners of their hard earnings, should ever obtain their suffrages again (immense applause).

Cries of Mr. Orr: Mr. James Orr on ascending the platform was cheered. He said he had only known of the meeting about an hour before and was not aware who had called it or who had framed the resolutions which had been read. He thought however they were rather premature. He agreed with Mr. Garfield on the principle of admitting all articles of consumption and necessity to the mine at as low a rate as possible. He then proceeded to point out instances where he believed the tariff would be found to operate favorably quoting the item of flour to illustrate his argument. He was, however, not altogether in favor of the tariff which he considered was "inopportune" but not "inequitable." It would no doubt bear hardly upon the miners for a few months, but he believed the object and effect of the tariff would be to bring importations direct to British Columbia, and save the miners the additional toll on goods entering the colony by way of Victoria. He saw no objection to the resolution of the miners that

the identical tariff which is now in force, directly or indirectly, in the sister colony, will result in no good to the colony. The legislators in British Columbia cannot control the laws of commerce; such legislation is not more onerous to the consumers of the colony than it is impracticable and futile for the purposes for which it was enacted.

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Mr. Garfield having been called upon by the meeting to propose the first resolution said it was a question of considerable doubt in his mind whether the meeting had acted wisely in calling upon him to open a discussion on a tariff in British Columbia, as he had not given the subject that careful attention which its importance demanded. He would, however, say this, that he gave his most cordial assent to the purport of the resolution, as he considered the new customs tariff most inopportune, unjust and inequitable. He regarded any measure having the effect of increasing the cost of living to the miner as injurious to the best interests of the latter and to the country generally. It served to keep the country in a second-rate condition by destroying private enterprise, robbing the miner of his hard earnings, and robbing the country of its population. The meeting was well aware that for the last two years the miners of Cariboo had had all they could do to meet their own individual expenses. The mines were remote and topographically difficult of access, the country rough, the mines deep, water plentiful, and the labor greater before reaching the auriferous deposit in Cariboo than in Colorado, Nevada, or any of the other mining districts. Numbers of hard-working miners had come back after expending all their labor in Cariboo, utterly ruined. British Columbia was now acting as a kind godmother to them by precluding them from returning (applause). He next denounced the system of levying tolls as most oppressive, and the only redeeming feature that he could see in it was that it would have the effect of driving miners away to other mining countries where they would succeed much better (loud applause). The true object in every system of political economy that he had ever studied was to impose duties on all articles of luxury and exempt, as much as possible, those which added to the cost of living. In the new customs tariff of British Columbia that policy had not been observed; the necessities of life were heavily charged, while the duties on luxuries were comparatively light. The miners would not object to an equitable system of taxation; there would be no objection to taxing liquors; if drinks were \$5, instead of four bits, he for one, would only take one, where he now took ten, and he would be much better off for it, (loud applause). He was firmly convinced that the imposition of taxes on the "beans straight," and other necessities of the miner, was most prejudicial to his interests, and the

which this question touched, that he hardly knew where to begin. The last speaker had felt a deficiency in seconding the resolution, unless the word "inequitable" was expunged, but he felt none, as the resolution had his most cordial support. He did not pretend to command a flow of language, but that was not what was wanted; it was sound common sense, and he would speak his mind on the matter, as he thought every miner who was interested should do (applause). The miners of Cariboo had already built up one city, and they had no desire to expend their hard earnings in building up another, (cheers) nor were they particularly anxious to pay for clearing the stumps at New Westminster (great applause). He considered the recent legislation a manifest injustice to the mining community, and now was the time for every man, no matter where he hailed from, to raise his voice against it (cheers). Miners had worked hard, hoping to be able to obtain material to work their claims, and now it was to be more heavily taxed, which would render their labor fruitless. He could enumerate 20 companies, organized for the purpose of opening up the country, that would contribute largely to the revenue of the colony, and which would be checked by the taxes now sought to be levied on their enterprise. He could instance one company in particular which had been organized last fall, and had come down here for means to carry on their undertaking, but they found that on \$10,000 worth of hardware, steel and gunpowder that they would require, they would have to pay \$2,500 out of their pockets direct to the government. There was the Bed Rock Flume Company, on Williams Creek, which before taking out a single dollar, must expend \$150,000 for the good of the country; this, when complete, would enable side hill claims to be worked, and give employment to 2,000 miners, every man of whom, under this tariff, would have to pay at least sixty dollars, on the very necessities of life. If the miners were only allowed to have a fair show, they would make a country of it. Legislators might try and drive them out of it, and leave the country to Chinamen, but that would not suit men who had their whole stake in that country, and whose success depended entirely upon its prosperity. He concluded by urging upon all miners to come forward and express their views boldly (applause).

The resolution was put by the Chairman, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Butler Anderson came forward to propose the second resolution. He did not know that they had acted wisely in calling on him, but whether or not he had his interest in the colony, and intended to have his little say in the matter. He believed the resolution was the plain, outspoken honest truth. On general principles he was opposed to tariffs everywhere; it was a bad way of getting a revenue. He favored a direct tax. Mr. Orr had said this tariff was for encouraging direct importation, direct importation from anywhere but Victoria. It did not make a particle of difference where the goods came from. The only thing the tariff was intended for was the benefit of certain parties in the colony, he need not say where; but the effect was to raise a large revenue out of the population of Cariboo (applause). It was folly to attempt to control the laws of com-

merce. It could not be done. Mr. Orr said the policy of the tariff was to make merchants import goods direct to New Westminster. He would ask if merchants were any more encouraged to import goods direct to New Westminster under the new tariff than before? If goods could be imported profitably under the new tariff could they not be now profitably imported under the former tariff? (applause). It had been intimated that this tariff had been put on to build up a city in New Westminster. Did any sane man out of New Westminster believe that this tariff would build a city there? (laughter). They had taxed our necessities—our beans and our bacon; our enterprises, our prospectors will be crippled, who know where another tariff of this kind will be put on? The only effect of this tariff would be to make us make all we could out of the country and skedaddle as quick as possible (applause). Mr. Orr had said that any resolutions we might pass here would be of no avail. Well, they would at least show our legislators, whom many of us had elected, the feeling of the people of Cariboo. He hoped when these resolutions were passed that the names of every miner in Victoria would be attached to them, and they would at least show our legislators what we felt in the matter (applause). He could not see because the most of us lived in Victoria during the winter that we were not entitled to have a voice in the affairs of the colony. He himself had every dollar he possessed in the world invested in Cariboo, and he would ask how many of them were not in a similar position? (loud applause). Mr. Anderson concluded a most eloquent and forcible speech by reading again the resolution and sat down amid great applause.

Major Downie next addressed the meeting. He said he, in common with his brother miners, was also deeply interested in British Columbia, and he claimed an equal right to raise his voice against the hasty, ill-advised, unjust legislation in that colony. He knew of men who had made every preparation for taking goods to Kootenay from Washington Territory, but in consequence of the new tariff they had changed their minds and were now going south of the boundary line to Idaho or Boise. He condemned in emphatic terms the duty imposed upon gold and the increased charges on the "beans straight," and other requirements of the miner, the effect of which would be to drive out men who had spent their last dollar in opening the resources of the country. He had himself been seven years in the country, and had helped to develop it; every cent he was worth had been spent in it, and he saw nothing before him now but to take up his blankets and go south of the boundary line (cheers). This was no bun-

legated out of the country by imported legislators, men who were sent out here to make laws for us miners, and don't know a single thing about our requirements or wants. The great aim of these sapient legislators—these wise men of Greece—was to try and make us take a short half-dollar (flour) for a big one! (shouts of laughter). No British colony had ever had such opportunities of becoming a great country, but the system of legislation pursued instead of drawing people into it, and giving encouragement to enterprise, caused it to be avoided. He had observed that the editor of the *Columbian* considered it an admirable, far-seeing, wise tariff. Yes, certainly it was a most splendid tariff, but if they thought it was going to build up New Westminster, they were vastly mistaken (applause). He drew a comparison between the relative advantages and prospects of New Westminster and Victoria, and said they might talk about getting their direct cargoes, but he firmly believed that the whole of New Westminster together could not buy one cargo of goods,—(great laughter and applause). The speaker after alluding to the number of officials in British Columbia whom the miners were called upon to maintain and the advisability of a reduction in the expense which they entailed, concluded by informing the meeting that he should now proceed to Kootenay and prospect there, and if he did not succeed there he should go still further South. He only wished the meeting could have been held in New Westminster instead of Victoria, where they might meet the wisecracks face to face and tell them what they thought of them. (Laughter and great applause).

Capt. Evans, the Chairman, addressed a few forcible remarks to the meeting on the resolution. He said one of the legislators of British Columbia had told him the other day that it mattered nothing to the miners of Cariboo whether they paid two cents or five or six cents of duty on what they used. Now he would ask the meeting if they were of this opinion? Another legislator had told him that there were below Lillooet over 2000 Chinamen mining, who did not contribute a cent to the revenue. The Legislature of British Columbia taxed white men all they could bear, but they allowed these Chinamen to defraud the revenue of over \$11,000 (applause). He did not object so much to the amount of taxation, provided all classes of the community bore their proper share. If, for instance, everybody were caught as was the honorable Treasurer of British Columbia the other day, when he rushed down to Victoria to lay in a supply of *muckamuck* before the new tariff came into operation; the honorable gentleman arrived with his supplies at New Westminster about half-past five o'clock, but alas! the new tariff came in force at half-past three, and just caught him, nicely by two hours (loud laughter). He said the legislators of British Columbia seemed to be trying to see what laws they could enact to injure the miners; no sooner had they passed the tariff, than they proposed a Pound Law, which would inflict a fine on every packer and miner whose animals were found grazing on pre-empted land, whether fenced or not. Animals would therefore have to be led on grain on the way up at great expense. The honorable Mr. Cornwall

had four miles of frontage along the Cariboo road, without a fence on it except round a field or two, and he wanted his lands protected from passing pack-trains. Capt. Evans commented severely on the policy pursued by the Government in regard to the mines, and alluded to his own case, having brought out a large number of miners here at great expense from home, and having expended over \$100,000 on Lightning Creek, and now the Government had broken faith with him in refusing the grant which had been promised him. Capt. Evans invited any miner who felt disposed to come forward and give the meeting his views.

The second resolution was here put by the chairman and carried unanimously.

of the miners to be taken on the point he had previously advanced as to whether the miners would in future return any member to represent them who voted for increased taxation on the miner's labor.

At the suggestion of the chairman this was reserved until the last resolution had been put.

Mr. Garfield then spoke to the third resolution, and said he would do so by asking the meeting first, how an increased tariff was going to promote direct importation? and secondly, how does an increase of tariff in a non-producing country reduce the price of living? (Applause.) How would it affect the aim of its farmers in giving Victoria the go by and building up New Westminster into a city. It was a solecism. He showed the extreme folly of increasing taxes at a time when the country could not afford it. The laws of commerce, like the laws of the universe, were immutable. Commerce collected and flowed in from every rift until it swelled into a mighty stream and flowed into that ocean mart where people congregated for commercial purposes. The Legislature he contended had not the power of diverting the legitimate channels of commerce any more than they could change the laws of creation. The speaker concluded by calling in question a remark which he had understood to fall from Mr. Orr, with reference to increased taxes reducing the price of living.

Mr. Orr said he had been misunderstood, and explained the position he had taken.

Mr. Anderson in seconding the last resolution said the whole purpose of this tariff was to raise more money—more revenue for the Government. He would like to ask what became of all the revenue which was raised from the Court at Williams' Creek. The miners would remember that \$2½, which so many of them had to pay, and that "bit"—they could not forget that "bit" (laughter). The true cause of the want of more revenue was the swarms of officials in the colony (applause). Dismiss three-fourths of all the officials and let the rest of them do a man's work, and this oppressive tariff would be found quite unnecessary (cheers). This resolution was also carried unanimously.

Mr. Garfield then offered the following resolution: Resolved that the miners present will hereafter vote for no man who favors an increase of taxation in British Columbia, believing as they do that the burthens of the people of that colony are greater than they can bear.

He said the miners had partly themselves to blame for the mode in which they were at present over-burdened with taxes, as they had never catechised the candidates or obtained an expression of their sentiments. He cared nothing individually for any squabbles between New Westminster and Victoria. He would like to see both prosper and grow until they became a second London. Nor did he care whether the goods came from Victoria, London, San Francisco, Sandwich Islands, or the Cannibal Islands, what he and the rest of the miners wanted was the best goods at the cheapest rates. (Cheers).

This terminated the proceedings, and Maj. Downie having gone round with the hat to collect contributions to defray the expenses, the meeting, which was one of the most orderly and most unanimous we ever attended, quietly dispersed.

RUMORS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.
A number of men arrived in town on Saturday night from Seattle, who report that telegrams had been received at that place announcing the capture of Charleston, South Carolina, by Sherman's forces. One of the party, Mr. Foster, states that he gathered the above information from the bulletin board of the Seattle *Gazette*. The confirmation or otherwise of the rumor will be anxiously looked for by the arrival of the *Eliza Anderson* to-morrow morning.

ENTERPRISE DISCOURAGED.—The projectors of the Williams Creek Meadows Amalgamation Company have been so discouraged by the recent unwise legislation in British Columbia that they have seriously thought of abandoning the whole scheme. The action of the government in refusing the promised grant to Capt. Evans, after his two years of arduous and expensive labor on Lightning Creek, leads the Meadows Company to fear that a like illiberal policy may be pursued in regard to their contemplated application for similar advantages on Williams Cr. etc.

THE MINERS' PETITION.—The resolutions passed at the meeting of British Columbia miners on Saturday lies at Well, Fargo & Co's Express office for signature.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE LIBRARY.—The Institute has received from Mr. F. F. Davis a donation of fifteen volumes for the library, including Boswell's Life of Johnson, Bibliographical Manual of English Literature, Pilgrim's Progress (illustrated), Fremont's Oregon and California, &c.

merchandise import goods direct to New Westminster. He would ask if merchants were any more encouraged to import goods direct to New Westminster under the new tariff than before? If goods could be imported profitably under the new tariff could they not be now profitably imported under the former tariff? (applause). It had been intimated that this tariff had been put on to build up a city in New Westminster. Did any sane man out of New Westminster believe that this tariff would build a city there? (laughter). They had taxed our necessities—our beans and our bacon; our enterprises, our prospectors will be crippled, who know where another tariff of this kind will be put on? The only effect of this tariff would be to make us make all we could out of the country and skedaddle as quick as possible (applause). Mr. Orr had said that any resolutions we might pass here would be of no avail. Well, they would at least show our legislators, whom many of us had elected, the feeling of the people of Cariboo. He hoped when these resolutions were passed that the names of every miner in Victoria would be attached to them, and they would at least show our legislators what we felt in the matter (applause). He could not see because the most of us lived in Victoria during the winter that we were not entitled to have a voice in the affairs of the colony. He himself had every dollar he possessed in the world invested in Cariboo, and he would ask how many of them were not in a similar position? (loud applause). Mr. Anderson concluded a most eloquent and forcible speech by reading again the resolution and sat down amid great applause.

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Mr. Anderson in seconding the last resolution said the whole purpose of this tariff was to raise more money—more revenue for the Government. He would like to ask what became of all the revenue which was raised from the Court at Williams' Creek. The miners would remember that \$2½, which so many of them had to pay, and that "bit"—they could not forget that "bit" (laughter). The true cause of the want of more revenue was the swarms of officials in the colony (applause). Dismiss three-fourths of all the officials and let the rest of them do a man's work, and this oppressive tariff would be found quite unnecessary (cheers). This resolution was also carried unanimously.

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He said the miners had partly themselves to blame for the mode in which they were at present over-burdened with taxes, as they had never catechised the candidates or obtained an expression of their sentiments. He cared nothing individually for any squabbles between New Westminster and Victoria. He would like to see both prosper and grow until they became a second London. Nor did he care whether the goods came from Victoria, London, San Francisco, Sandwich Islands, or the Cannibal Islands, what he and the rest of the miners wanted was the best goods at the cheapest rates. (Cheers).

This terminated the proceedings, and Maj. Downie having gone round with the hat to collect contributions to defray the expenses, the meeting, which was one of the most orderly and most unanimous we ever attended, quietly dispersed.

RUMORS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.
A number of men arrived in town on Saturday night from Seattle, who report that telegrams had been received at that place announcing the capture of Charleston, South Carolina, by Sherman's forces. One of the party, Mr. Foster, states that he gathered the above information from the bulletin board of the Seattle *Gazette*. The confirmation or otherwise of the rumor will be anxiously looked for by the arrival of the *Eliza Anderson* to-morrow morning.

ENTERPRISE DISCOURAGED.—The projectors of the Williams Creek Meadows Amalgamation Company have been so discouraged by the recent unwise legislation in British Columbia that they have seriously thought of abandoning the whole scheme. The action of the government in refusing the promised grant to Capt. Evans, after his two years of arduous and expensive labor on Lightning Creek, leads the Meadows Company to fear that a like illiberal policy may be pursued in regard to their contemplated application for similar advantages on Williams Cr. etc.

THE MINERS' PETITION.—The resolutions passed at the meeting of British Columbia miners on Saturday lies at Well, Fargo & Co's Express office for signature.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE LIBRARY.—The Institute has received from Mr. F. F. Davis a donation of fifteen volumes for the library, including Boswell's Life of Johnson, Bibliographical Manual of English Literature, Pilgrim's Progress (illustrated), Fremont's Oregon and California, &c.

merchandise import goods direct to New Westminster. He would ask if merchants were any more encouraged to import goods direct to New Westminster under the new tariff than before? If goods could be imported profitably under the new tariff could they not be now profitably imported under the former tariff? (applause). It had been intimated that this tariff had been put on to build up a city in New Westminster. Did any sane man out of New Westminster believe that this tariff would build a city there? (laughter). They had taxed our necessities—our beans and our bacon; our enterprises, our prospectors will be crippled, who know where another tariff of this kind will be put on? The only effect of this tariff would be to make us make all we could out of the country and skedaddle as quick as possible (applause). Mr. Orr had said that any resolutions we might pass here would be of no avail. Well, they would at least show our legislators, whom many of us had elected, the feeling of the people of Cariboo. He hoped when these resolutions were passed that the names of every miner in Victoria would be attached to them, and they would at least show our legislators what we felt in the matter (applause). He could not see because the most of us lived in Victoria during the winter that we were not entitled to have a voice in the affairs of the colony. He himself had every dollar he possessed in the world invested in Cariboo, and he would ask how many of them were not in a similar position? (loud applause). Mr. Anderson concluded a most eloquent and forcible speech by reading again the resolution and sat down amid great applause.

Major Downie next addressed the meeting. He said he, in common with his brother miners, was also deeply interested in British Columbia, and he claimed an equal right to raise his voice against the hasty, ill-advised, unjust legislation in that colony. He knew of men who had made every preparation for taking goods to Kootenay from Washington Territory, but in consequence of the new tariff they had changed their minds and were now going south of the boundary line to Idaho or Boise. He condemned in emphatic terms the duty imposed upon gold and the increased charges on the "beans straight," and other requirements of the miner, the effect of which would be to drive out men who had spent their last dollar in opening the resources of the country. He had himself been seven years in the country, and had helped to develop it; every cent he was worth had been spent in it, and he saw nothing before him now but to take up his blankets and go south of the boundary line (cheers). This was no bun-

legated out of the country by imported legislators, men who were sent out here to make laws for us miners, and don't know a single thing about our requirements or wants. The great aim of these sapient legislators—these wise men of Greece—was to try and make us take a short half-dollar (flour) for a big one! (shouts of laughter). No British colony had ever had such opportunities of becoming a great country, but the system of legislation pursued instead of drawing people into it, and giving encouragement to enterprise, caused it to be avoided. He had observed that the editor of the *Columbian* considered it an admirable, far-seeing, wise tariff. Yes, certainly it was a most splendid tariff, but if they thought it was going to build up New Westminster, they were vastly mistaken (applause). He drew a comparison between the relative advantages and prospects of New Westminster and Victoria, and said they might talk about getting their direct cargoes, but he firmly believed that the whole of New Westminster together could not buy one cargo of goods,—(great laughter and applause). The speaker after alluding to the number of officials in British Columbia whom the miners were called upon to maintain and the advisability of a reduction in the expense which they entailed, concluded by informing the meeting that he should now proceed to Kootenay and prospect there, and if he did not succeed there he should go still further South. He only wished the meeting could have been held in New Westminster instead of Victoria, where they might meet the wisecracks face to face and tell them what they thought of them. (Laughter and great applause).

Capt. Evans, the Chairman, addressed a few forcible remarks to the meeting on the resolution. He said one of the legislators of British Columbia had told him the other day that it mattered nothing to the miners of Cariboo whether they paid two cents or five or six cents of duty on what they used. Now he would ask the meeting if they were of this opinion? Another legislator had told him that there were below Lillooet over 2000 Chinamen mining, who did not contribute a cent to the revenue. The Legislature of British Columbia taxed white men all they could bear, but they allowed these Chinamen to defraud the revenue of over \$11,000 (applause). He did not object so much to the amount of taxation, provided all classes of the community bore their proper share. If, for instance, everybody were caught as was the honorable Treasurer of British Columbia the other day, when he rushed down to Victoria to lay in a supply of *muckamuck* before the new tariff came into operation; the honorable gentleman arrived with his supplies at New Westminster about half-past five o'clock, but alas! the new tariff came in force at half-past three, and just caught him, nicely by two hours (loud laughter). He said the legislators of British Columbia seemed to be trying to see

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1865.

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IMPORTANT MEETING OF MINERS.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF CONDEMNED.

The meeting convened by the miners, packers, and traders of British Columbia at the Theatre on Saturday afternoon, to consider the increased imposts and tolls levied in that colony, was very numerously attended.

On the platform were noticed Capt. Evans of Lightning Creek, Mr. Loring of the Diller claim, Major Downie of the Meadows, Mr. Jenkinson of the Enterprise claim, Mr. B. Anderson of the Jacksonville and Astoria claims, Mr. Garfield of the Eureka and other claims, Mr. Boone of the Eureka, &c., and in the body of the Theatre were numbers of the "bone and sinew" of the sister colony, together with traders, packers, and merchants interested in its prosperity.

At the meeting, Capt. Evans was unanimously called upon to preside, and Mr. Jenkinson to act as Secretary.

Capt. Evans opened the proceedings by remarking that he fully concurred in the object for which the meeting had been called. The miners were seriously affected by the recent duties in British Columbia. They were the men who had made that colony, and it appeared that the legislature now wanted to fleece and bleed them to their utmost capacity. If the policy at present adopted was enforced it would be the sure means of driving them out of the country. (Hear, hear.) The Chairman further said that this was a meeting purely of miners and others interested in mining in British Columbia, and he invited them all to come forward and express their views, proposing to limit the speakers to fifteen minutes each.

The Secretary was then called upon to read the following series of resolutions which had been prepared for the approval and adoption of the meeting:

Whereas; Our honorable Lawmakers have lately passed at Act, increasing largely the duties on imports into our colony, and we the miners, traders and citizens of the colony who have all our interests there and a natural and earnest desire to see it progress and prosper, deem it to be our privilege as well as our duty to consider calmly, deliberately, and most respectfully this action, and to give the full and honest expression of our views on the subject.

I. Resolved. That in our judgment the amended Customs ordinance, 1865, is an act of legislation which is inopportune, unwise, impolitic, unjust and inequitable in its general provisions.

It is inopportune; 1st. Because it largely increases the cost of living in the colony at a time when the mining and trading interests of the country can least afford to bear such an increase. The past season was in every sense an unprofitable one. The miner's labour was, to a great extent, spent in preparing for future operations and his profits were consequently small. The trader shared the small profits of the miner. This has produced a general feeling of distrust and depression in the country. The increased taxation only tends to add to this feeling, and thus deter both men and capital from going into the country.

2nd. Because a gold export tax of 3 per cent has just been imposed on all treasure leaving the colony, which is in itself a heavy increase upon our former taxes. When to this is added a high tariff on all the necessities of life, it becomes a burden from which men regarding their best interests will flee when the first opportunity is offered.

It is unwise and impolitic; 1st. Because it will not increase the revenue of the colony. The great diminution in the amount of imports into the colony caused by this tariff will diminish the aggregate revenue so much that there will be a large deficit to be made up next year, when the mining population will be so small under the operation of our new taxes that it cannot be collected. No direct importations into the colony can prevent this result, even if such importations should enable traders to furnish supplies at the same cost that they could have done under the old tariff.

2d. We believe there are rich deposits of gold in the wildest and most inhospitable portions of the colony. These gold fields are as yet unexplored and undiscovered. It will require men and capital combined to discover and develop them. In many instances large companies have been organized and other preparations made to send capital into the country for the purpose. This tariff discourages and cripples all such operations by an unfair increase upon all the articles and implements required for their work. Prospecting in the colony upon which so much of our future success depends is thus checked if it is not entirely prohibited.

3d. There are hundreds of men in the colony who have spent all their means and time during the past three or four years without success. Within the small district of one and a half miles on Williams Creek six hundred thousand dollars have been spent during the past season. These men have experience in the country; they are not altogether discouraged and they purpose to go again into the mines with the hope that they will yet be able to get something in return for their lost labor and means. This tariff discourages such men, and will force them to gather up their small earnings for the season and leave the country forever. 4th. The small trader or packer who has invested his means in provisions, and is now on his way, or about to start for the colony will be compelled to seek another market. He cannot pay a double tariff and compete with those traders now in the country. He will find a better and more profitable market in the neighboring gold fields of Washington and Idaho Territories.

It is unjust and inequitable;

1st. Because the increase in the absolute necessities of life far exceeds that on the luxuries, thus making the laborer in the country bear the main, if not the whole, burden of the taxation. As an instance, the tariff on beans, one of the principal articles of consumption by the miner, is increased from 3 to 20 per cent, while that on ale and port is only increased from 10 to 40 per cent; the tariff on flour is increased more than three-fold while that on wine is only doubled.

2d. The tariff is made to take effect at once, thus causing a sudden and quick rise in provisions in the mines just as the season begins. By this means the miner will be forced to pay famine prices in the spring, and perhaps be driven by necessity to leave the country before he has had a fair chance to go to work profitably. A reasonable notice for the enforcement of such a measure is as customary in other countries as it is equitable and fair.

II. Resolved.—That in our opinion the idea that such a tariff will encourage direct importations to the colony from distant parts

will result in no good to the colony. The legislators in British Columbia cannot control the laws of commerce; such legislation is not more onerous to the consumers of the country than it is impracticable and futile for the purposes for which it was enacted.

III. That a copy of these resolutions be prepared for signature, and when signed by the miners and traders of British Columbia now in this city, and by none others, they be forwarded to His Excellency Governor Seymour, who is hereby most respectfully requested to lay them before the hon. Council and Legislative Assembly for their consideration, with this as our prayer, that they will cause the Customs Amendment Act to be revised to suit the circumstances of the country.

Mr. Garfield having been called upon by the meeting to propose the first resolution said it was a question of considerable doubt in his mind whether the meeting had acted wisely in calling upon him to open a discussion on a tariff in British Columbia, as he had not given the subject that careful attention which its importance demanded. He would, however, say this, that he gave his most cordial assent to the purport of the resolution, as he considered the new customs tariff most "inopportune, unwise, impolitic, unjust and inequitable." He regarded any measure having the effect of increasing the cost of living to the miner as injurious to the best interests of the latter and to the country generally. It served to keep the country in a second-rate condition by destroying private enterprise, robbing the country of his hard earnings, and robbing the country of its population. The meeting was well aware that for the last two years the miners of Cariboo had had all they could do to meet their own individual expenses. The mines were remote and topographically difficult of access, the country rough, the mines deep, water plentiful, and the labor greater before reaching the arduous deposit in Cariboo than in Colorado, Nevada, or any of the other mining districts. Numbers of hard-working miners had come back after expending all their labor in Cariboo, utterly ruined. British Columbia was now acting as a kind godmother to them by precluding them from returning (applause). He next denounced the system of levying tolls as most oppressive, and the only redeeming feature that he could see in it was that it would have the effect of driving miners away to other mining countries where they would succeed much better (loud applause). The true object in every system of political economy that he had ever studied was to impose duties on all articles of luxury, and exempt, as much as possible, those which added to the cost of living. In the new customs tariff of British Columbia that policy had not been observed; the necessities of life were heavily charged, while the duties on luxuries were comparatively light. The miners would not object to an equitable system of taxation; there would be no objection to taxing liquors. If drinks were \$5, instead of four bits, he for one, would only take one, where he now took ten, and he would be much better off for it (loud applause). He was firmly convinced that the imposition of taxes on the "beans straight," and other necessities of the miner, was most prejudicial to his interests, and the

welfare of the country. All the material requisite for carrying on mining operations should also be admitted into the country at as low a cost as possible. In fact the policy of the legislature should be to lessen the expenses of the miner by every possible means, that he might open up the country, and bring back the good old times of '60-'61 (cheers). The new laws were particularly inopportune, coming as they did at a time when Cariboo stood worse in public estimation than it had ever previously done (applause). He ventured to assert that no people on God's earth paid more taxes to the government than did the mining community of Cariboo (applause), and yet, at a time when they could least afford it, they were required to submit to increased taxation. It was simply offering a bonus to men to leave the country, instead of encouraging population, and reminded him of the old fable of the man who had a goose that laid a golden egg. Not satisfied with one golden egg a day, the covetous man must needs rip the poor goose open to get all the eggs at once (laughter). Now, the government finding that they wanted more golden eggs, were pursuing the same course, and wanted to extract from the hard earnings of the miner, in one year, what their resources could not bear in five (great applause). The legislators should be careful lest they should find that they had added the last feather that would break the camel's back. In conclusion he, for one, would assert, if he did not speak the voice of the people of Cariboo, that none of those who had supported an iniquitous measure that robbed miners of their hard earnings, should ever obtain their suffrages again (immense applause).

Cries of Mr. Orr:

Mr. James Orr on ascending the platform was cheered. He said he had only known of the meeting about an hour before and was not aware who had called it or who had framed the resolutions which had been read. He thought however they were rather premature. He agreed with Mr. Garfield on the principle of admitting all articles at as low a rate as possible. He then proceeded to point out instances where he believed the tariff would be found to operate favorably quoting the item of flour to illustrate his argument. He was, however, not altogether in favor of the tariff which he considered was "inopportune" but not "inequitable." It would no doubt bear hardly upon the miners for a few months, but he believed the object and effect of the tariff would be to bring importations direct to British Columbia and save the miners the additional toll on goods entering the colony by way of Victoria. He saw no objection to the resolution of the words unjust and inequitable were expunged.

He observed that there were so many points which this question touched, that he hardly knew where to begin. The last speaker had felt a delicacy in seconding the resolution, unless the word "inequitable" was expunged, but he felt none, as the resolution had his most cordial support. He did not pretend to command a flow of language, but that was not what was wanted, it was sound common sense, and he would speak his mind on the matter, as he thought every miner who was interested should do (applause). The miners of Cariboo had already built up one city, and they had no desire to expend their hard earnings in building up another, (cheers) nor were they particularly anxious to pay for clearing the stamps at New Westminster—(great applause). He considered the recent legislation a needless injustice to the mining community, and now was the time for every man, no matter where he hailed from, to raise his voice against it (cheers). Miners had worked hard, hoping to be able to obtain material to work their claims, and now it was to be more heavily taxed, which would render their labor fruitless. He could enumerate 20 companies organized for the purpose of opening up the country, that would contribute largely to the revenue of the colony, and would be checked by the taxes and would be levied on their enterprise. He could instance one company in particular which had been organized last fall, and had come down here for means to carry on their undertaking, they found that on \$10,000 worth of hardware, steel and gunpowder that they would require, they would have to pay \$2,500 out of their pocket direct, to the government. There was the Bed Rock Flume Company, on Williams Creek, which before taking out a single dollar, must expend \$150,000 for the good of the country; this, when complete, would enable single hill claims to be worked, and give employment to 2,000 miners, every man of whom, under this tariff, would have to pay at least sixty dollars, on the very necessities of life. If the miners were only allowed to have a fair show, they would make a country of it. Legislators might try and drive them out of it, and leave the country to Chinamen, but that would not suit men who had their whole stake in that country, and whose success depended entirely upon its prosperity. He concluded by urging upon all miners to come forward and express their views boldly (applause).

The resolution was put by the Chairman, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Butler Anderson came forward to propose the second resolution. He did not know that they had acted wisely in calling on him, but whether or not he had his interest in the colony, and intended to have his little say in the matter. He believed the resolution was the plain, outspoken honest truth. On general principles he was opposed to tariffs everywhere; it was a bad way of getting a revenue. He favored a direct tax. Mr. Orr had said this tariff was for encouraging direct importation, direct importation from anywhere but Victoria. It did not make a particle of difference where the goods came from. The only thing the tariff was intended for was the benefit of certain parties in the colony, he need not say where, but the effect was to raise a large revenue out of the population of Cariboo (applause). It was folly to attempt to control the laws of com-

merce. It could not be done. Mr. Orr said the policy of the tariff was to make merchants import goods direct to New Westminster. He would ask if merchants were any more encouraged to import goods direct to New Westminster under the new tariff than before? If goods could be imported profitably under the new tariff could they not be now profitably imported under the former tariff? (applause). It had been intimated that this tariff had been put on to build up a city in New Westminster. Did any sane man out of New Westminster believe that this tariff would build a city there? (laughter). They had taxed our necessities—our beans and our bacon; our enterprises, our prospectors will be crippled; who knows when another tariff of 12 1/2 per cent, more will be put on? The only effect of this tariff would be to make us make all we could out of the country and skedaddle as quick as possible (applause). Mr. Orr had said that any resolutions we might pass here would be of no avail. Well, they would at least show our legislators, whom many of us had elected, the feeling of the people of Cariboo. He hoped when these resolutions were passed that the names of every miner in Victoria would be attached to them, and they would at least show our legislators what we felt in the matter (applause). He could not see because the most of us lived in Victoria during the winter that we were not entitled to have a voice in the affairs of the country. He himself had every dollar he possessed in the world invested in Cariboo, and he would ask how many of them were not in a similar position? (loud applause). Mr. Anderson concluded a most eloquent and forcible speech by reading again the resolution and sat down amid great applause.

Major Downie next addressed the meeting. He said he, in common with his brother miners, was also deeply interested in British Columbia, and he claimed an equal right to raise his voice against the hasty, ill-considered, unjust legislation in that colony. He knew of men who had made every preparation for taking goods to Kootenay from Washington Territory, but in consequence of the new tariff they had changed their minds and were now going south of the boundary line to Idaho or Boise. He condemned in emphatic terms the duty imposed upon gold and the increased charges on the "beans straight," and other requirements of the miner, the effect of which would be to drive out men who had spent their last dollar in opening the resources of the country. He had himself been seven years in the country, and had helped to develop it; every cent he was worth had been spent in it, and he saw nothing before him now but to take up his blankets and go south of the boundary line (cheers). This was no buncombe, but the honest truth (laughter and cheers). He had a strong objection to being legislated out of the country by imported legislators, men who were sent out here to make laws for us miners, and don't know a single thing about our requirements or wants. The great aim of these sapient legislators—these wise men of Greece—was to try and make us take a short half-dollar (hooray) for a big one! (shouts of laughter).

No British colony had ever had such opportunities of becoming a great country, but the system of legislation pursued instead of drawing people into it, and giving encouragement to enterprise, caused it to be avoided. He had observed that the editor of the *Columbian* considered it an admirable, far-seeing, wise tariff. Yes, certainly it was a most splendid tariff, but if they thought it was going to build up New Westminster, they were vastly mistaken (applause). He drew a comparison between the relative advantages and prospects of New Westminster and Victoria, and said they might talk about getting their direct cargoes, but he firmly believed that the whole of New Westminster together could not buy one cargo of goods. (great laughter and applause). The speaker alluding to the number of officials in British Columbia whom the miners were called upon to maintain and the advisability of a reduction in the expense which they entailed, concluded by informing the meeting that he should now proceed to Kootenay and prospect there, and if he did not succeed there he should go still further South. He only wished the meeting could have been held in New Westminster instead of Victoria, where they might meet the wiseacres face to face and tell them what they thought of them. (Laughter and great applause).

Capt. Evans, the Chairman, addressed a few forcible remarks to the meeting on the resolution. He said one of the legislators of British Columbia had told him the other day that it mattered nothing to the miners of Cariboo whether they paid two cents or five or six cents of duty on what they used. Now he would ask the meeting if they were of this opinion? Another legislator had told him that there were below Lillooet over 2000 Chinamen mining, who did not contribute a cent to the revenue. The Legislature of British Columbia taxed white men all they could bear, but they allowed these Chinamen to defraud the revenue of over \$11,000 (applause). He did not object so much to the amount of taxation, provided all classes of the community bore their proper share. If, for instance, everybody were caught as was the honorable Treasurer of British Columbia the other day, when he rushed down to Victoria to lay in a supply of mackinack before the new tariff came into operation; the honorable gentleman arrived with his supplies at New Westminster about half-past five o'clock, but alas! the new tariff came in force at half-past three, and just caught him nicely by two hours (loud laughter). He said the legislators of British Columbia seemed to be trying to see what laws they could enact to injure the miners; no sooner had they passed the tariff, than they proposed a Pound Law which would inflict a fine on every packer and miner whose animals were found grazing on pre-empted land, whether fenced or not. Animals would therefore have to be fed on grain on the way up at great expense. The honorable Mr. Cornwall

had four miles of frontage along the Cariboo road, without a fence on it except round a field or two, and he wanted his lands protected from passing pack-trains. Capt. Evans commented severely on the policy pursued by the Government in regard to the mines, and alluded to his own case, having brought out a large number of miners here at great expense from home, and having expended over \$100,000 on Lightning Creek, and now the Government had broken faith with him in refusing the grant which had been promised him. Capt. Evans invited any miner who felt disposed to come forward and give the meeting his views.

The second resolution was here put by the chairman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Garfield said he should like the sense of the miners to be taken on the point he had previously advanced as to whether the miners would in future return any member to represent them who voted for increased taxation on the miner's labor.

At the suggestion of the chairman this was reserved until the last resolution had been put.

Mr. Garfield then spoke to the third resolution, and said he would do so by asking the meeting first, how an increased tariff was going to promote direct importation? and secondly, how does an increase of tariff in a non-producing country reduce the price of living? (Applause) How would it affect the aim of its farmers in giving Victoria the go by and building up New Westminster into a city. It was a solecism. He showed the extreme folly of increasing taxes at a time when the country could not afford it. The laws of commerce, like the laws of the universe, were immutable. Commerce collected and flowed in from every rift until it swelled into a mighty stream and flowed into that ocean mart where people congregated for commercial purposes. The Legislature he contended had not the power of diverting the legitimate channels of commerce any more than they could change the laws of creation. The speaker concluded by calling in question a remark which he had understood to fall from Mr. Orr, with reference to increased taxes reducing the price of living.

Mr. Orr said he had been misunderstood, and explained the position he had taken.

Mr. Anderson in seconding the last resolution said the whole purpose of this tariff was to raise more money—more revenue for the Government. He would like to ask what became of all the revenue which was raised from the Court at Williams' Creek. The miners would remember that \$2 1/2 which so many of them had to pay, and that "bit"—they could not forget that "bit" (laughter). The true cause of the want of more revenue was the swarms of officials in the country (applause). Dismiss three-fourths of all the officials and let the rest of them do a man's work, and this oppressive tariff would be found quite unnecessary (cheers).

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"Resolved that the miners present will hereafter vote for no man who favors an increase of taxation in British Columbia, believing as they do that the burthens of the people of that colony are greater than they can bear.

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This terminated the proceedings, and Maj. Downie having gone round with the hat to collect contributions to defray the expenses, the meeting, which was one of the most orderly and most unanimous we ever attended, quietly dispersed.

RUMORS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

A number of men arrived in town on Saturday night from Seattle, who report that telegrams had been received at that place announcing the capture of Charleston, South Carolina, by Sherman's forces. One of the party, Mr. Foster, states that he gathered the above information from the bulletin board of the Seattle Gazette. The confirmation or otherwise of the rumor will be anxiously looked for by the arrival of the Eliza Anderson to-morrow morning.

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Spanish Angelos
Peterson, Port Angelos
n, Saanich
e, Jones, Sooke
Nanaimo

19th, the wife of William
inst., the wife of Mr. J.

14th inst., Mary, aged 6
st daughter of G. Promis.
10th inst., Frances Sarah,
pt. J. Swanson, aged 32

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st daughter of G. Promis.
10th inst., Frances Sarah,
pt. J. Swanson, aged 32

OF 1864.

Fort Street.

CO.

SUPPLY RELIABLE
stable and Flower Seeds, of
prices below the San Fran
choice permanent Meadow
in every variety of soil and
quantity of Prime English
life Dutch Clovers at very low

catalogues of seeds and tree
fruit.

A THEATRE.

ay per Simr. Oregon,
APPEAR TONIGHT.

ree Nights Only,
ave for San Francisco on
er the Pacific, to fulfil En-
gements.

day, Wednesday,
ALSO—
ncert, Wednesday
TERNOON.
for the accommodation of
ren, adm'ting all School
free prices on that occa-
sion only.

ago, in Lancashire, England.
d a series of 81 consecutive
comedy of Music, San Fran-
their departure for Europe,
only Blasided Brothers!
OLOGIANS, OR

LL RINGERS,
et Costume Concerts!
ort tour through Oregon, and
e principal Cities and Towns,
engagement in Portland, as
ing 249 Bells,
12 pounds, and the smallest 4
PECT CHROMATIC SCALE of
aves, made by Mears & Son,
London, England, expressly
BROTHERS. The only perfect
Chime of Bells
into the United States.

is assisted by Mr.
LPH HALL,
CLARINET PERFORMER,
dall, and formerly leader of
THE 55 BAND, second in
world, and the best ever
in this Coast.

K MOORE,
FIRST AND CORNET,
erth's Brass Band, New York.

I HAYWARD,
ORITE BALLADIST,
ocalist are too well known in
need any comment

LE CLARA,
VEN YEARS OLD,
and Character Singer.
H "The Pet of the People," in
she appeared, by her wonder-
IRISH, SCOTCH, DUTCH and
TERS in SONG.

Pitt, 50 cents. Boxes, \$5 and
canton Orchestra Chairs, \$1.50.

ic Notice.

HEREBY GIVEN THAT
DAY, 23d instant,
be offered for sale by
AUCTION,
CERTAIN
ases
—OF—
FRONTAGES!
Westminster.

all leases be granted for less than
place in the Court House, New
o'clock, noon.

nd further information apply at
the Office, between the hours of
at the Court House on the day

ARTHUR N. BIRCH,
sionce of the Surveyor General.
15th February, 1865. 1c18

THE POSITION OF THE SOUTH.

No Eastern news. The sentence might be stereotyped. The wires, after having been repaired, were, it appears, blown down by the violence of the wind. A small interim there was in which the electric power disconcerted, but it was only sufficient to let us know that the peace negotiations, which had been distracting the public mind of both North and South for some time back, had completely failed, and that the relative position of the two parties is the same as when the proposition was first mooted. From the tone of the Richmond papers, however, it would appear that the agitation of the question, along with the recent successes of the Federals, has brought the South to look at matters in a very different light from what they did a little while ago. They now discuss the probable results of the war with a kind of reckless indifference—at one time speculating on the terms of honorable peace, and at another on the possibility of an ignominious surrender. The hopes of success are growing day by day more faint, and the desperate idea of making terms with the North and entering into conflict with the rest of mankind, gives a sad indication of that stage which precedes final disruption. "There is no doubt," says the Richmond Enquirer, "if the fortunes of war should go against this country many of its gallant soldiers and officers, deprived of all property by the confiscation of the enemy, would follow the profession of arms for a livelihood. But whether the ranks of the enemy or those of Mexico would receive their services, would depend very much upon the conduct of the United States. So far as this war is concerned, the people of the Confederate States have no reason whatever to help Maximilian nor to give to France or England any sympathy or support. Neither France, nor Mexico, nor England, has extended to this Confederacy any encouragement, and if our cause fall, after every manly effort that we can make in its behalf, then pride as well as interest would dictate that, if we are to be conquered, we should belong to a great and powerful nation. That we should endeavor to extend the power and influence of that nation from pole to pole, and uniting every country of America by alliance, either constitutional or treaty, seek to make this continent a unit against the world."

Of such a tenor are the articles at present in the Richmond papers. The old bold and defiant tone is gone. The dream of Southern nationality is being gradually relinquished, and the mind falls back on the contemplation of living again under Washington authority, and exchanging the stars and bars for the stars and stripes. What an amount of stern hardships and sickening misery must have overcome the proud-spirited people of the South to have brought them to entertain even the idea of submission to the "Yankee!" What a revolution in the past four years. The hereditary rulers of a nation placed almost in the position of supplicants. "How have the mighty fallen!" But the Southern people are sensitive, and in the action of submission, after four years' of valor and self-sacrifice such as no nation has ever excelled if indeed equalled, they see nothing but shame—as if it were disgraceful to acknowledge that they could not perform impossibilities. "To hide this shame," however, a great wrong is to be committed, and a civilized people turned into a nation of filibusters. "In the grandeur and power of such a nation," continues the Enquirer, "with armies such as the United States and the Confederate States have put into the field during this war, united under one flag; with a navy such as the united resources of the two nations could put upon the ocean; with the wealth and population which peace and union would develop in a few years, we might find at least a bidding place for our shame, and perhaps some consolation that America would become the colossal power of the world. Maximilian would not reign in Mexico, nor England hold Canada six months after our conquest. Ireland would call to her rescue the thousands of her sons now awaiting opportunity, and the navy of the United States would give the requisite arrogance to every adventurous spirit that would rush to battle for the freedom of that island."

It does seem strange that a people in the death-throes of rebellion should talk so glibly of waging new wars, and against the greatest European powers. The same idea, however, has been more than once promulgated by the Northern press. To pitch upon England and France was sure to bring out the elements of cohesion in North and South, and cement together the shattered union. When a man and wife quarrel their best policy is to cut their neighbor's throat. There is something, so nearly approaching the demoniacal in this method of healing up domestic dissensions that one is naturally asked to pause before throwing any sympathy on the sufferers in the present contest. We had hoped that the fiery ordeal through which both portions of the Republic have been passing would have eliminated for ever from the national characteristics that filibustering

braggadocio which created so much ill-feeling against the States in days gone by; but if the sentiments of the Richmond Enquirer are to be taken as representing the feeling of the masses of the Southern people, we are afraid that the dreadful, but at the same time wholesome lesson which the war has taught the belligerents will have been promulgated in vain.

THE SASKATCHEWAN DIGGINGS

In our yesterday's issue we gave some extracts from the *Nor-West* in reference to the gold mines on the Saskatchewan river. To-day we give additional information from the same source. We cannot well doubt the reliability of the intelligence; for during the last few years there has been abundant proof of the existence of an auriferous tract of country on the Eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains along the Saskatchewan. The news, however, from the latest adventurers who have returned to Red River is more definite than any yet received, and promises to create quite a *furor* in Red River itself, for we see by the *Nor-West* that numbers of settlers in that region are making preparations to start for the mines the coming spring. The description of the diggings would lead to the belief that they are not only extensive but lasting in their character. Their position is in latitude 53½ degrees north, and 114 west longitude. Fort Edmonton, the centre of the gold district, is about two hundred miles almost due east from the Leather Pass in the Rocky Mountains, and about three hundred miles from Antler Creek. It is possible that some of the adventurous spirits of Cariboo may give these new mines a trial the coming summer, or that some of the Minnesotans or Red Riverites may find their way, the present year, to the Western side of the Rocky Mountains. In either case we shall probably have before the year expires authentic information of our own about these new gold-fields. Should they attract any considerable number of miners, a struggle will have to be made to secure the trade. At present Fort Garry is likely to do all the business that is required, but even this settlement with its many disadvantages of position, is over eight hundred miles from the Saskatchewan diggings; so that we do not fear much competition from that quarter, if the population on the recently discovered gold mines ever reaches a figure large enough to tempt our cupidity.

THE SASKATCHEWAN MINES.

In view of the importance which these mines must eventually bear on the progress of these colonies, we give the following additional news from that section, taken from the *Nor-West* of December 3d:

Late news from the Saskatchewan mines, of a very favorable tenor, has been received in the Settlement, and it comes from such a source as leaves no doubt of its authenticity. It is to the effect that the diggings along that river were proving unexpectedly rich. The miners at work on the North Branch, above and below Edmonton, had done remarkably well during the Fall—some of them realising as high as \$18 to \$20 per day with the rocker. Among those engaged at the diggings there were few who did not seem pretty well satisfied with the prospects, and the probability of making big strikes at these mines is very generally allowed.

This, our readers will observe, is but a continuation of the favorable accounts received from these diggings ever since their discovery. We have seen specimens of the precious dust sent in here from time to time, and know that some of it forwarded to the States' Mint has been highly spoken of. That these mines will turn out to be rich, and pay far better than they have yet done, hardly admits of a doubt, and is so firmly believed by some in this settlement that they are now preparing to go thither next year and try their fortune. Several persons have, we understand, stated their determination to go to the mines in spring, and have ordered some of the necessary mining outfit from St. Paul. It is worthy of note that the "diggings" which are turning out so favorably are those which have, we understand, been already worked and out of which the first gold-seekers made their \$5 per day. Subsequent miners, of greater experience, have worked the bars to much more profit, making three times as much out of them as the first comers. This leads to the very general belief that whenever a thorough working of these mines by machinery is made, they will, in many instances, at least, prove extremely lucrative, and that the Saskatchewan will yet sustain a large mining population.

In anticipation of such a result, we have heard that some Americans are now opening up farms there and are looking forward confidently to a rush of miners next year. This is stirring news—precisely such as we like to give our readers, and such as they will be glad to hear in the present time of depression. Here is another market about opening up, the supplies of which will be mainly received from here and will be paid for in gold. There is every appearance, as we have said, that the mines will prove very rich, and in that event great changes such as the gold discoveries have everywhere worked may ere long take place in this Settlement and Territory. That this may be the case is most devoutly to be wished.

NAVAL.—Commander W. K. Jolliffe has been appointed to the "Devastation," vice Commander Pike, invalided. Surgeon James Farrelly has been appointed to the "Sutlej." Capt. Jolliffe arrived at San Francisco on the Sacramento.

HO FOR CARIBOO.—The vanguard of the Cariboo miners left yesterday morning on the Enterprise for New Westminster.

Arrival of the Eliza Anderson.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—The Wilson and Bulletin libel case is still progressing. Eliza S. Curtis has applied for the benefit of the insolvent act. She has lost about \$14,000 in mining stocks.

James McConnell, a sailors' boarding house runner, stabbed his wife in the throat last evening. The wound is not considered dangerous.

Newhall, Donahew & Pathemus, assignees of McLaughlin & Houston's mortgage on the San Jose Railroad, have filed a declaration that they are holding the property on trust for the benefit of the stockholders, and that all moneys received on said mortgage, by foreclosure or otherwise, will be applied to the payment of the Company's bonds.

Uriah Rogers, the well known fruit vendor, who has lost both arms, was to-day discharged from insolvency.

Ten thousand volunteers were sent through the city yesterday.

The Central Methodist Episcopal Church filed its certificate of incorporation yesterday. Capital not stated.

Peter Glusing was sentenced to \$200 fine or ninety days' imprisonment, for beating his wife.

The jury awarded \$700 damages in the suit of Turner and Webster for false imprisonment.

A merchant from Redwood City was robbed of fifty-three dollars at the West-end Hotel last night. Chloroform was administered while he was asleep.

Col. Drum has telegraphed to Gen. Connor, commanding the department beyond Salt Lake, to offer a handsome reward to any one who will ride an express between Julesburg and Mud Springs, carrying the telegraphic dispatches which have accumulated at each of those points.

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 15, 2:30 p.m.—The weather is stormy. It has been snowing here all day; thermometer 40°.

FORT LARAMIE, Feb. 15, 2:30 p.m.—The mountaineers are moving; they are getting alarmed on account of their stock.

MUD SPRINGS, Feb. 15, 2:30 p.m.—Heator Lithgow, formerly operator in San Francisco, and Thos. Cooper, the operator of Mud Springs, started yesterday morning in a buggy for Julesburg without an escort. It is presumed that they have got through safe.

Lieut. Wm. Ellsworth arrived here from Fort Mitchell last night and sent a messenger to Julesburg this morning with an escort from his command. He reports that he has got two parties out repairing the line, with a sufficient force of poles and wire to complete the line to Pole creek by to-morrow evening or next morning. Capt. Weatherwax, of the First Nebraska, will probably have the line from Pole creek to Julesburg in working order by the same time. Lieut. Ellsworth says that he thinks the Indians have mostly moved north-west, and that there will not be much more trouble to be anticipated from them in the neighborhood of Mud Springs.

CARSON CITY, Feb. 15, 2:50 p.m.—The ten million dollars railroad resolution was considered in the Assembly last night. No action was had.

The bill to authorize the incorporation of Rural Cemeteries and the bill to prevent gambling, have passed both Houses.

A bill for the relief of delinquent taxpayers of the State was introduced in the Senate. Both Houses adjourned at noon on account of the high winds.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—The military beef contract has been awarded to George M. Garwood & Co. at twelve and a half cents per pound in gold.

Michael Hurley has been arrested for violation of pilot laws in piloting a vessel out without being himself a licensed pilot.

Felix O'Byrne has not been mustered into service. He has applied, but was informed nothing could be done until Gen. Mason's return.

Judge Shepherd held Frank Rivers for burglary with \$500 bail to answer before county court.

Telegraphed—ship Sea Serpent ninety-nine days and a half from New York.

The Bulletin libel suit will be resumed to-morrow morning.

Considerable property having been saved from the wreck of the ship Sir John Franklin, the consignees of the ship Chas. S. Pennell have reduced the general average of deposit per bark Knight from 95 per cent to 75 per cent.

The arrival of two fast clipper ships from New York, with a large cargo of fresh and desirable goods has a very stimulating effect upon the market. Jobbers are eager purchasers of candles, rice, Hawaiian sugar and other staples. Bacon and lard are also objects of special interest. Rice market is very active at advanced rates. The stock of pork and bacon is quite insignificant for the supply, while butter, lard, and all salt meats, are daily tending to higher figures. Four thousand boxes of candles, ex Sea Serpent and Great Republic, sold on private terms.

Flour firm at \$12@13 for extra superfine; \$11@12 in half and quarter sacks. Wheat, 25,000 sacks choice \$4@4½; 1800 sacks Oregon, \$4 10@15 per 100 pounds. The bulk of 1400 sacks Chili, sold as is, ex shipment, on private terms. Five hundred sacks California feed sold at \$3 15. Oats 300 sacks at \$2 85.

Arrived—Sea Serpent, 99 1-2 days from New York; Great Republic, 114 days from New York; bark Yankee, 14 from Honolulu. Hector Lithgow, telegraph operator, who started from Mud Springs for Julesburg three days ago, returned early this morning with telegraphic dispatches bearing date of Feb. 1st to the 11th. No news. Reports were brought over that gold had fluctuated between 204@213, and was about 208 at last advices.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16.—The following private telegram was received to-day, dated Chicago, Feb. 4th: President Lincoln and Secretary Seward had an interview with the rebel commissioners which resulted in nothing. The American Flag newspaper, published in this city has received a communication from Secretary Seward, giving the Federal printing to that paper.

BOARDING SCHOOL

FOR YOUNG LADIES.

Mrs. WILSON BROWN,

CHURCH BANK HOUSE,

Victoria, V. I.

PATRONS: DR. HELMCKEN, Speaker House of Assembly; ALLEN FRANCIS, Esq., United States Consul; HENRY RHODES, Esq., H. H. M. Consul; 1615 daw

Sporborg & Ruef, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, Importers and Wholesale Dealers

Groceries, Provisions, Boots and Shoes. WHARF STREET, VICTORIA, V. I.

SEEDS OF 1864.

No. 5, Fort Street.

JAY & CO.

ARE ABLE TO SUPPLY RELIABLE Agricultural, Vegetable, and Flower Seeds, of the growth of 1864, at prices below the San Francisco market. Also choice permanent Meadow Grasses, mixed to suit every variety of soil and climate, and a very large quantity of Prime English Red, Alsike, and White Dutch Clovers at very low prices. Full descriptive catalogue of seeds and trees can be had on application.

AMMUNITION.

TARGET 12 FEET SQUARE. Represents average shooting at 500 yards, with ELEY'S ENFIELD CARTRIDGES.

ELEY'S AMMUNITION

of every description for Sporting or Military Purposes. Double Waterproof Central Fire Caps, Felt Waddings to prevent the leading of Guns, Wire Cartridges for killing Game, &c., at long distances, Breech Loading Cartridge Cases of superior quality for Shot Guns and Rifles, Pin Cartridges for "Lefauchaux" Revolvers of 7, 9, and 12 milligrams.

Jacobs' Rifle Shell Tubes, Cartridges and Caps for Gault's, Deane's, Tranter's, Adams', and other Revolvers.

BALL CARTRIDGES

For Enfield, Whitworth, and Henry's Rifles, also for Westley Richard's, Terry's, Wilson's, Prince's, Deane's, and other Breech Loaders.

Indigestion & Stomachic Weakness.

PEPSINE.

T. MORSON & SON.

Wholesale and Export Druggists, Manufacturers of the far-famed PEP-SINE WAFERS, are enabled to offer the purest and surest substitute for the Gastric Juice. ITS USE IS NOW UNIVERSAL.

Sold in bottles 4, 8, and 16 ozs., and obtainable of all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors.

MORSON'S PEP-SINE LOZENGES, POWDER, PASTILLES, GELATINE, and all GRANULATED PREPARATIONS, &c.

Manufacturers of Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Photographical Preparations.

T. MORSON AND SON, 19 and 46, Southampton Row, London.

Orders (payable in London), are most carefully shipped.

Drugs and Chemicals George Curling & Company, WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS, 16 CULLUM ST., FENCHURCH ST., LON.

The Infallible Remedy.



Holloway's Ointment.

Contracted or Stiff Joints. All the medicines in the London dispensaries would barely benefit, much less cure, any chronic cases of contracted or stiff joints; whereas if this invaluable ointment be effectually rubbed into such parts twice a day, the effects will be immense.

Scorbutic Humours, Scald Head and Skin Diseases. Scorbutic humours arise from an impure state of the blood, and in most cases, the liver and stomach are the organs at fault.

Disorders of the Kidneys, Stone and Gravel. In any of the above complaints more benefit may be derived in twenty-four hours by adopting the following simple means than is frequently brought about in six months by any other treatment.

Diphtheria, Sore Throats, &c. These maladies are of so serious and dangerous a nature that the Ointment would not be recommended unless the Proprietor was sure of its effect. It will cure when every other means have failed, if applied immediately, and not delayed until the patient is beyond recovery.

It is surprising how quickly a sore, ulcer, or wound, deprives the body of strength, and unfit it for the duties of life; but it is no less wonderful to watch the effect of Holloway's Healing Ointment, when it is used according to the printed directions, and assisted by appropriate doses of the Pills.

Gout and Rheumatism. Will be cured with the greatest certainty if large quantities of the Ointment be well worked into the complaining parts.

Both the Ointment and Pills should be used in the following cases: Bad Legs, Ulcers, Glandular Swellings, Sore Throats, Bad Breasts, Chapped Hands, Scalds, Skin Diseases, Burns, Corns (Soft), Lumbago, Scurvy, Rheumatism, Contracted and Stiff Joints, Tumor of the Uterus, Piles, Hemorrhoids, Elephantiasis, Sore Nipples, Chilblains, Itch, Scald Head, Ringworm, and other Skin Diseases.

Sold at the establishment of PROFESSOR HOLLOWAY, 24 Strand (near Temple Bar), London; also by all respectable Druggists and Dealers in Medicines throughout the civilized world at the following prices:—1s, 1½d; 2s, 3d; 4s, 6d; 11s, 2s, and 38s each Box.

There is a considerable saving by taking the largesizes. Directions for the guidance of patients in very disorder are affixed to each Pot.

PICKLES, SAUCES, JAMS &c. &c.

(Free from Adulteration.)

Manufactured by CROSSE & BLACKWELL, PURVEYORS TO THE QUEEN, SOHO SQUARE, LONDON

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S VARIOUS first-class Manufactures are obtainable from every dealer in the Colony. Purchasers should insist on having C. & B.'s goods when they ask for them, as it is not at all unusual for inferior preparations to be substituted. Their Pickles are all prepared in Pure Malt Vinegar, and are precisely similar in quality to those supplied by them for use at

Her Majesty's Table.

C. & B. invite attention to the following—Pickles, Tart Fruits, Sauces of all kinds, Jams, Potted Meats, Durham Mustard, Orange Marmalade, Essence of Coffee, Galf's root, and other Table Jellies, Pure Mushroom Catsup, and numerous other articles, all of which are of the highest quality, and are prepared with the most complete attention to Purity and Wholesomeness; Their Salad Oil is the finest imported.

C. & B. are Agents for L. & PERRINS' GLOBE-BRAND WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE, Carstar's Sir Robert Peel's Sauce, M. Sayer's Sauces, Relish and Aromatic Mustard, Payne's Royal Osborne Sauce, and Captain Whiten Oriental Pickle, Curry Powder and Paste, ad Mulligatawny Paste.

PRIZE MEDAL.

Crinolines and Corsets.

The only Prize Medal for excellence of workmanship and new combinations in STAYS, CRINOLINES, AND CORSETS, was awarded to

A. SALOMONS, 35, OLD CHANGE, LONDON.

The Cardinipus PATENT JUPON Collapses at the slightest pressure, and resumes its shape when the pressure is removed.

Spiral Crinoline Steel and Bronze, For Ladies' Skirts (Patent), will not break, and can be folded into the smallest compass.

SMITH'S NEW PATENT HARBORON CORSET (self-adjusting).

Obtained a Prize Medal and is the very best Stay ever invented.

Castle's Patent Ventilating Corset, Invaluable for the Ball Room, Equine-trian Exercise, and Warm Climates. To be had, retail, of all Drapers, Milliners, and Stay Makers, and wholesale only of A. SALOMONS, 35, Old Change, London.

Tuesday, February 28, 1865.

OUR LO...

I have a piece of news to tell you. I have been able to cause a not uninteresting year gloomily than causes, would to hopes, and is w news to be tro out to be so, univ fail amongst a subjects both at in, and it rests on Queen will open son, and deliver, the throne. Two public touching, which somewhat One was that would be the day day, the 9th, wou sembly of Lor there was much and "wherefore's ports, the inform question at one be the more con business is cono the 9th would b who indeed, on day. You can assemble to wel world, and how ingham Palace with cheers of right thing to d in a manner no whilst they re will welcome w hearts this assu give, that she society once n duties as a Que presence indee ment will be t abandoned her regal duties, b will make the at the head of public rejoicin

THE PRINCE A rumor has that the Prin married an Ec rules and regu Act, which h sorrow and of the House of the Princ two or three tion from a and starts. However, thi since a para the authority clerical new the effect the place. It Marriage a Princess's v since it was, remove all o places in the Royal family marry whom Queen refus cess at onc in the p blessings o where she h she is said time has do sary to a marriage Princess's n from the ei and still be at her s Strelitz. husband h made know

Those v information the last hold. Pre turti out t diphets of had they E Earl Rus in the Ca be an assu ment dat Meanwhil in my la versation. This subje fact is M. compre public rev impossib a large means H. His sche chase a of work that wou impractic would de meditate purpose men u The mo absolute holders, on their average the line calculat not too the line capital expen much n now s is said. mass o experie their e that b those one that b be gal either an int

UNSETTLED POPULATIONS.

The population of the North Pacific are essentially mercantile. Suddenly elated and as suddenly depressed—always hopeful but never satisfied—repudiating the contiguous and enchanted with the distant, they form the most unsettled fraction of mankind that can be met with in any portion of the globe. The history of the past ten years in California is a record of migrations erratic enough to satisfy the most itinerant Arabs. Fraser River and Washoe, Cariboo and Boise, Kootenay and Mexico, are a few of the points to which the centrifugal force of adventure has whirled the population. The disease has, however, not confined itself to California. In Vancouver Island and in British Columbia, in Oregon and in Washington Territory it has spread with amazing effect. If a mining season proves unfortunate, or some unforeseen incident occurs to give a temporary check to the industry of the country, there is a perfect stampede as if its whole latent wealth had become hopelessly exhausted. To say that there is a want of reason in this morbid desire for change is simply to assert a truism, and to point out to the miner that this shiftless, unstable tendency is one which will keep him forever poor is merely to state more clearly the old proverb of "the rolling stone." At present the migratory excitement has almost reached its culminating point both here and in California. From the latter place the population are leaving by thousands—some to Boise, some to Kootenay, some to Cariboo, and a great number to Mexico. The last is probably the most serious exodus of the whole; for while the spring's migration to the mining regions north is only a temporary decrease in the population, as the bulk of the miners return again in the winter, the departures to Mexico are likely to be permanent losses. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the California press should become alarmed, and that all manners of restrictions should be thrown in the way of this southern emigration. Every citizen of the United States is required to take the oath of allegiance before leaving, and every foreigner has to obtain a passport from the Consul of his nationality. This, like obstacles generally, seems, however, only to increase the desire, and so we have at the present time a wholesale emigration from California to Mexico. In this emigration the Confederate portion of the State and the Southern sympathisers generally, it would seem, take the lead, and it requires no extraordinary amount of acumen to perceive that Louis Napoleon is the prime mover in the whole matter—that a large number of the enemies of the Northern Republic are about to go to Mexico in order that Maximilian may be the better able to oppose "manifest destiny" and the Monroe doctrine. The result is in the womb of the future; but we think on no part of the continent, outside the distracted Republic, are greater troubles brewing than in the new Mexican Empire. As a field for the reckless and unscrupulous adventurer, it may possibly present an inducement, but to the industrious intelligent man, who has been accustomed to live in a free country, where the laws are administered with some degree of justice, there is just about as good an opening in the most turbulent of the South American Republics. It is sheer folly to talk of progress where everything is in chaos, and the individual who leaves either California or Vancouver Island for Mexico in the hopes that, by ordinary assiduity and attention to business or mechanical pursuits, he will improve his position, will be most sadly disappointed.

Depression may exist in Victoria; but we question very much whether emigrating at the present time for countries south is not like jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. California certainly presents no inducement. As we have shown, its population is rushing from it by the thousand, and there is in nearly every branch of business, and every skilled as well as unskilled vocation, a general tendency towards the reduction of wages. Everything indicates, indeed, the approach of a pressure that will, the present summer, bring ruin and disaster to thousands. Up till the present month, our own working classes have had a hard time of it, and numbers, we are well aware, have been obliged to leave the country in order to obtain sufficient means to sustain life; but the worst phase of the depression has passed and the mining season is at hand. In a few weeks operations will be carried on at Sooke, and some degree of remuneration will be obtained by those who give the mines a trial. No better opening offers any place for the poorer class of our miners. Cariboo will absorb all those who are interested in its creeks, and who will be able to risk a few hundred dollars; and Kootenay will attract the more adventurous. Altogether we believe there are better prospects, in a mining point of view, before the country than there have been since 1858, and so far from seeing any cause for despondency, we feel convinced the present year will be the most fruitful in its yield of gold of any the colony has yet witnessed.

THE DUTY OF OUR MERCHANTS.

It is only natural for our mercantile class to be indignant at the recent action of British Columbia; but indignation effects but little in itself. When we feel that we are about to be injured the instinct of self-preservation as well as wisdom points out to us the necessity of action to counteract the blow. Matters have come to that crisis which will shortly decide whether we are to continue in possession of the British Columbian trade, or whether we are to lose it. Our merchants are really the most interested in the present state of affairs; and they must see plainly enough that union is our only salvation, and that it must be obtained under all and every circumstance. What is wanted, and what is only wanted, is earnest co-operation on their part. The present is the most opportune period for relinquishing all minor differences, and uniting on a question in which the welfare or ruin of the colony depends.

LETTER FROM COWICHAN.

THE HERMITAGE, SOMERES, COWICHAN, February 14th, 1865.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.
—SIR,—We in Cowichan have watched eagerly the interesting discussions that have taken place in Victoria on the question of Union and Tariff against ruin and free port; and are rejoiced at the progress of the unionists and the development of protection principles amongst the Victorians. Our long preserved silence may have denoted indifference to the important question that has for some time been occupying the attention of our fellow colonists; this is not so, however, and if we have not hitherto raised our voices to support the new movement it is simply because, owing to our limited supply of newspapers and our uncertain communication with town anything we might have to say on the subject, ere it could meet the public gaze, might have been anticipated, and consequently deprived of any interest it might originally possess. Believe me, though, we are far from feeling any indifference on this matter; Cowichan, almost to a man, goes in heart and soul with the movement, and nothing could delight us more than not only to see union amicably achieved, but also to see a judicious tariff imposed at Victoria. I have just had yesterday's paper put into my hand, and am rejoiced to find the union ticket carried by such a swinging majority. It argues well for the agricultural interest. Hitherto, Mr. DeCosmos has seemed to be about the only one in the House that had any rational idea of what could benefit the farmers, or that appeared even to think that it was necessary to recognize those who in every other country are admitted to form an important element in the community. I have strong faith in Mr. McClure from what I have been able to gather from his late election speeches; his sentiments as expressed on the hustings and elsewhere are such as denote him a man of sense; and I trust his career in the House will bear us out in the favorable opinion we have formed of him here. Of his colleague we have no doubt; he has proved himself to be an able politician, and one who has the interest of his constituents and the prosperity of the colony at heart. Dr. Dickson's bill for the taxation of uncultivated lands is a step in the right direction. In Cowichan, large tracts of the best land in the settlement are held by speculators, who at present will neither lease nor sell except at fabulous figures. Those lands idle now might in their productive capabilities contribute largely to the wealth and welfare of the colony; as it is they contribute nothing, they retard the development of the settlement; they hinder where they might aid the progress of the colony. I would say to Dr. Dickson—Good on your head, old fellow; I didn't think you had such a liberal idea in it. I say by all means put on the tax, and then perhaps the speculating gentlemen will think better about keeping their lands in the beautiful primitive state in which they are now lying. And then about the Indian Reserves, what is to be done with them? Why sir, there is as much Indian reserve in Cowichan alone as would if thrown open and cultivated produce as much wealth to the colony as all the Victoria merchants combined. Then why not throw the Indian reserves into the market? Why should men be compelled to leave the country for want of something to do, when they could to some good purpose expend their superabundant energies on the reserves of some quiet place like Cowichan? The Indians don't want the land. They can't, don't, and won't cultivate it; then let the white man have it who can and will make something of it. 'Tis a wealth-producing element, let us have the benefit of it. Throw open the avenue to every field of labor and we have prosperity secured.

M. SMITH.

A BRITISH PEER AND AN AMERICAN STRAIGHT DRIVER.—When Lord Morpeth [afterwards the Earl of Carlisle, who died recently in England] visited us, our railroad system was in the infancy of its present maturity; so that the peer performed a large portion of his journey by stage—a mode of transit always pleasant to an English sight seer. Riding one day on a New England stage, his Lordship had the box seat, and after a time asked permission of the driver to take "the ribbons" and "tool" the concern for a while. The driver refused, observing that his horses were spirited and would not brook a stranger. The passenger assured him of his capacity, and promised to "stand treat" at the next halting place. Handing him the lines, the driver was surprised at the style in which they were handled and the splendid pace at which his team were kept. Looking round, he partly apologized to his fellow whip, saying "I did not know you were a driver; where did you drive?" "Oh," replied the new hand, "I drove a stage in England." The New Englander was delighted to meet a man from the other side of the waters, so he insisted on "standing treat" himself. When informed next day of the rank of the traveler the American whip acknowledged he had met his peer.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 23.

House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, McClure, Dickson, Cochrane, Dennes.

LIQUOR LAW AMENDMENT.

Dr. Dickson gave notice that on Monday next he would ask the House to fix a day to consider the expediency of extending the provisions of clause 3, of the Act to provide for and regulate the sale of wines, spirits, malt and other liquors so as to permit persons without the limits of Victoria and Esquimalt and within three miles thereof, to sell wines, spirits, ale, porter, and cider, by retail, on the payment of \$100 per annum in quarterly instalments of \$20 each.

STATUTES OF THE COLONY.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Monday next he would move for an address to His Excellency to supply the House with printed copies of the Colonial Statutes which had been passed during '63 and '64.

PILOT STATISTICS.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Monday next he would move for returns of statistics as required by the provisions of the Pilot Act.

REIMBURSEMENTS.

The Speaker read a message from His Excellency in reference to the \$34,066 in the Estimates under the head of Reimbursements, explaining the different items which made up that amount—Referred to Committee on Supply.

ESTIMATES RECOMMENDED.

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

WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

School House, Nanaimo, \$800.
Dr. Helmcken said he would be sorry to oppose any Educational vote, but he believed the amount was included in the general vote for Education.

Dr. Dickson agreed with the hon. Speaker and said the sum of \$800 was quite inadequate to erect a school house for 90 children. The money should be taken from the \$10,000 already voted.

Dr. Powell moved that in consequence of the sum being included in the vote for general educational purposes the \$800 be struck out. Carried.

Purchase of buildings at Nanaimo for Court House, Post office, Lock-up and Police quarters, \$1500.

Dr. Dickson opposed, quoting the petition from the inhabitants which was on the table of the House declaring that the vote was wholly unnecessary.

Mr. Franklin argued in favor of the vote, stating that the hon. member for Nanaimo had favored the vote and had shown figures to prove that the buildings were needed. He would like to know where hon. members proposed to locate the Nanaimo officials.

Mr. Dennes said it appeared to him that a dead set was being made against Nanaimo. (Laughter.) The hon. member for the district (Dr. Dickson) was assuming the position of the member for Nanaimo in an unjustifiable manner.

The item was struck out, only Messrs. Helmcken and Dennes voting for it.

Additions and alterations to do—struck out.

Bridge over Millstone river, Newcastle, \$1,000.
Dr. Dickson said this bridge was necessary to connect two important farming districts; on the Newcastle side there were 14 farmers who were now obliged to take their produce down to the seaboard and then ship it up to Nanaimo at considerable cost, whereas if they had the bridge their produce could be taken at once across to the town. The item was voted.

REIMBURSEMENTS.

Reimbursements to Crown Revenue of moneys applied to general purposes \$34,066 20.

The Chairman proceeded to read the communication from His Excellency explaining the different items.

Mr. DeCosmos referred to the dispatch of Mr. Cardwell dated Aug. 1st, 1864, and said he could not see any thing in the dispatch requiring payment of this amount. The words of the dispatch were that the Crown Revenue was to be placed on a proper footing "prospectively" not retrospectively.

Dr. Helmcken would decidedly object to the Executive taking the general revenue to pay out debts to the Crown. The Executive could not touch a penny of the general revenue without the consent of this House, and that consent would never be given to pay one cent of this \$34,000 (hear, hear). This alleged debt was partly incurred when the Hudson Bay Company held the Island, and they had always refused to hold themselves responsible for any debts. The whole matter had already been settled with the Home Government, and the colony could not now be asked to pay this amount, and what was more they would not pay it (hear, hear). It really had never been settled what was Crown Revenue and what General Revenue. If the Crown took all the fines, fees and forfeitures of court it would amount to \$9,000, and although this was claimed by the Government, they would not take it till the expenses of the court, salaries, &c., were paid. He did not think the Government had the slightest claim whatever on these fines, fees, &c. We paid the Chief Justice and other officials out of the general revenue; the only color Her Majesty's Government had for claiming these fines, fees and forfeitures was that they were collected in the name of the Queen.

Mr. DeCosmos would move the following resolution, which he thought covered the whole ground:

Resolved,—That this Committee does not consider the general revenue liable for the payment of the sum of \$34,066 20; that this view of the question is supported in dispatch No. 27, of August 1, 1864, where it speaks of placing the Crown Revenue "on a proper footing prospectively" not retrospectively; and any moneys that have been voted heretofore out of the Crown Revenue have been assigned to by the Governor for the time being and finally by Her Majesty.

Resolution carried, and the amount struck out.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Grant in aid of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, \$500.
Dr. Helmcken said he could take the \$500 and buy a better show complete than the one

last year. The Agricultural Shows here were simply a disgrace to the colony. Mr. Cochrane said the Society was now in different hands, and they hoped for a great improvement under the new management. The amount was voted.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The additional amounts asked for for the crew of the dredger were voted, in accordance with His Excellency's message to that effect.

The committee rose and reported that Supplies to the amount of \$298,618 had been granted.

The House will take the adoption of the Report into consideration to-morrow (Friday) till which time it stands adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 24.

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

OFFICIAL ADMINISTRATOR.

Dr. Dickson gave notice that on Monday next he would ask leave to introduce a bill for the appointment by the Chief Justice of an official administrator, who shall take charge of the effects of all deceased persons who have no legally authorized party to administer to their estate after death. And such administrator shall annually return a true and authenticated account of the disposition made of such effects to the Governor of the colony for the time being.

THE SUPPLIES.

The Chairman of the Committee on Supply reported that the committee had voted the sum of \$298,618 as supplies for the year 1865.

RECOMMITTAL OF THE ESTIMATES.

Dr. Dickson moved for a recommitment of the Estimates on the following heads:

Post Office—Postage stamps \$500; mail bags and all petty expenses \$100.
Judicial—Chief Justice \$5,820; clerk to stipendiary magistrate at Nanaimo \$485.
Police—Superintendent of, \$2,000; Inspector \$1,200.

Conveyance of Mails—Between Vancouver Island and New Westminster \$1000; between Vancouver Island and Washington Territory \$500.

Works and Buildings—Nanaimo Post-office.

Mr. McClure also moved for a recommitment of the Attorney General's salary.

The House then went into Committee on Supply on the above items—Mr. Franklin in the chair.

JUDICIAL.

Chief Justice, \$5,820.—Dr. Dickson moved as a rider to this vote, that the Justice be appointed in pursuance of the "act to appropriate the sum of £1200 per annum from the general revenue of the colony for the salary of a Chief Justice," until such Chief Justice shall arrive—in conformity with the said act the salary of the present Chief Justice shall be subject to the Resolutions of July, 1864, respecting the civil list. Carried.

Police—Superintendent and Inspector of Police, \$2,000.

Dr. Dickson said he had moved for a recommitment on this item to keep the mind of the House. He was of opinion that this salary was much too large, and that the services of the Inspector should be retained. He would move that the salary of \$1200 be voted for an Inspector, and that the salary of the Superintendent be \$500. The consideration of the item was postponed.

NANAIMO POST OFFICE—Clerk for Post office, \$485.

Dr. Dickson said now that the item for a post office was struck out, a vote for a clerk was necessary; he thought however that \$485 was too much; he would therefore move that \$250 be voted.

Some discussion took place on this item when the committee rose and reported progress.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Dr. Powell asked leave to introduce a bill for the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Leave granted.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S FEES.

Mr. McClure moved for returns of all fees connected with the Attorney General's office for 1864. Motion carried.

The House then adjourned till Monday next.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, Feb. 24.

The Council met at three p. m. Present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary (presiding); Attorney General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, R. Finlayson and H. Rhodes.

VICTORIA INCORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL.
The Hon. Colonial Secretary moved the second reading of this bill. He said the bill had been introduced for the purpose of enabling the Corporation to conduct the affairs of the city, which hon. members were aware had for a long time been at a stand still, more particularly in regard to the sanitary condition of the town. If something were not promptly done there was a strong probability of sickness and disease arising. The Governor thought that something should be done to assist the Council in attending to the regulation of the city and the cleansing of the streets. This measure was the result of an opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown: It had been ruled by the Chief Justice that the Corporation had not the power to pass a by-law imposing a tax on trades and professions, and the bill would supply that defect. Hon. members would observe by the provisions it contained that the people as well as the lands were to be incorporated, and that retrospective power was proposed to be given to render valid the past acts of the City Council.

The Hon. Attorney General also explained the defects in the original charter, as to the incorporation of lands and not the people, and according to the opinion of the Law Officers the decision of the Chief Justice had been sustained, and trades and professions could not be taxed except the power was conveyed in direct words to that effect.

Hon. Treasurer enquired if the words "trades and professions" generally were sufficient or whether the trades should not be specially enumerated?

The Hon. Attorney-General and Colonial Secretary thought the words as they stood sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Finlayson asked if the retrospective powers proposed to be given would

enable the Corporation to enforce payment of arrears of taxes during the time they became inoperative, because if so, in view of the present dullness of the times he would oppose it.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary considered that the object of the retrospective power was more to remove any doubt as to the validity of the Act of Incorporation.

The Hon. Attorney General said that certain parties might take it into their heads to sue the Mayor for convictions if he were not protected. There had never been a doubt in his mind as to there being a Corporation, but only as to their powers in certain cases which this act was intended to remedy.

Hon. Mr. Finlayson doubted the propriety of legalizing the collection of taxes which fell due under the by-law during the period in which the Corporation was dormant.

Hon. Treasurer coincided in that view but thought that the previous arrears due by Messrs. Ring and others who had refused to pay should certainly be collected.

The Bill passed the second reading on motion of the Colonial Secretary, and on motion of the Hon. Attorney General standing orders were suspended and the Council went into Committee on the bill, the hon. Attorney General in the chair.

Section I.—Attorney-General moved that the first section pass with verbal amendments. Considerable discussion followed. The Hon. Treasurer reminded the Council that the Legislature had already made a special enactment legalizing the collection of the tax of one-half of one per cent. on real estate, and he thought the taxes should be equalized and no distinction made between real estate and trades' licenses. Many merchants and tradesmen had already paid their trades' taxes, and there was no alternative but to make the Corporation refund to them, which was of course out of the question, or to make the defaulters pay up.

Hon. Mr. Finlayson explained that he was not averse to legalizing the collection of taxes due before the Corporation was declared not to have the power to enforce their by-laws, but simply the taxes accruing in the interval of their abeyance.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes was a strong advocate for equalizing the payment of the taxes so that those who had paid their taxes in good faith should not be placed in a worse position than those who had refused to pay, otherwise the Corporation must refund.

Hon. Colonial Secretary said the only way that he saw of getting over the difficulty was to make the act wholly retrospective. There might be endless law suits against the Council otherwise.

The Attorney-General said he should oppose that as he thought it was inequitable. He reminded the Council of the legal maxim that inadvertence might be excused but ignorance could not.

Hon. Surveyor-General coincided and did not see the advisability of giving the Council so much money to expend.

Hon. Colonial Secretary thought it would be extremely unwise to give tax-payers the power to recover from the Corporation.

The Hon. Attorney General said the law would not allow them to recover.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes agreed and said the House of Assembly had already taken action in regard to the Real Estate tax by protecting that, and he thought it would be most unfair to those who had already contributed to the improvement of the city on the faith that others would do the same if those in arrear of their trades' taxes were exonerated.

Hon. Attorney General thought it would be monstrous and a case of great hardship to those who had stood up for their rights in the first instance when they were proved to be right that they should now be compelled to pay for being right.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes said that was all very well in theory but did not invariably answer in practice. He remembered a case where he went to law with what he thought a very good and just case, and after a few hours in court came out with about \$700 costs to pay.

The section was amended two or three times and eventually, on motion of the Hon. H. Rhodes, seconded by the Hon. Colonial Secretary, passed, with the omission of the retrospective power, it being intended to give the whole bill retrospective effect.

On clause 2 coming up considerable discussion again arose as to the propriety of granting retrospective powers to the corporation.

The Hon. Attorney General again urged his objections to back legislation. He thought it would ruin some tradesmen to demand their half year's arrears of taxes which they had properly refused to pay.

The Hon. Treasurer said the corporation had made one trade assessment and there would only be one year's taxes to claim.

The Hon. Col. Secretary remarked that there was an accumulation of work on hand for the corporation to perform, and it was only right that they should have the accumulated funds to work with.

It was finally agreed that the consideration of clause 2 should be deferred.

Council adjourned to Monday next.

THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE.

FARM COTTAGE, Victoria District, February 22nd, 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST: SIR,—With regard to your suggestion, in your paper of yesterday, that landowners around Victoria should offer a site for the Governor's residence, I for one, willingly offer a choice of several situations with sufficient land attached. I so state publicly as competition for that honor ought to be open.

The amount voted by the House will be sufficient to build and furnish the reception rooms of a dwelling fit for the reception of Her Majesty's Representative, considering the infancy of this colony, if not frittered away in payments for land.

Should the Victoria School Reserve be selected for this purpose, for which it is in some respect adapted, notwithstanding the want of ornamental timber and shade, I should be willing to give an equal quantity of land, or more if thought necessary, for a school in some situation more central as regards the district.

I have the honor to be, sir, Your obedient servant, J. D. PAINBROOK.

[The suggestion of our correspondent, in relation to public competition, is one well worthy of attention, and on the grounds of public economy we would recommend it warmly to the Executive.—Ed. Col.]

The Weekly Colonist. Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1865. THE Estimates the usual Parliamentary reported to-day. tions made in the eoutive will exce pruning that oug stitutional grumb omy, however. There are indeed ductions would gance. We m items which we works of utility a necessary official face of it a reduc be increasing larg country. That se the present Houe tion of economy various necessary misconception of others were retain business in the s lieve; but the fa much with the H of Government, Chamber of the that can afford th mation. As anchievous effect of all the officials i mention the vote salary. This of so largely in fe months of last reached upon in order to red thing like a def figure fixed the no one, howev stances at the l legislators went salary, leaving stood—and giv about £1000 a The amount Executive was not include the which would The sum voted \$298,000, leavi tion of \$142, however we m a large portio was intended desirable ente \$25,000 for st ama, and the f tion. The \$10 and sufficient postal subsidy Francisco, an all a reduction son in the col these enterpri it is the gene a most i the money. struck out w ments. The House concl should have the Home claimed as a Land Fund dicated on the Assembly in having receiv and the Imp far as the p settled. The numbers 350 reduction in immigration trenchment reduction construction and Nanai voted, to trail to Cow reductions, \$90,000. The other and aboli various it works and think the could unde have made in the ab which cau presence of bers in the generally ing with Rocco the New reported treaty, mutually as favora progress o LARGE ments of year 186 the large period. Bristo his lady

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, February 28, 1865

THE ESTIMATES.

The Estimates have at length gone through the usual Parliamentary ordeal, and will be reported to-day to the House. The reductions made in the sums proposed by the Executive will exceed \$140,000—a cutting and pruning that ought to satisfy the most constitutional grumbler. It is not always economy, however, to cut down the Estimates. There are indeed cases where wholesale reductions would prove the greatest extravagance. We might, for instance, abolish items which were intended to carry out works of utility and retain the salaries of unnecessary officials. This would bear on the face of it a reduction, but it would virtually be increasing largely the expenditure of the country. That some of the retrenchments of the present House may favor of this description of economy is possible enough; but various necessary items were struck out under misconception of their character, and that others were retained which have no earthly business in the estimates we can readily believe; but the fault, if there be one, is not so much with the House as it with our system of Government, that deprives the Lower Chamber of the presence of the only source that can afford the necessary financial information. As an instance in point of the mischievous effect of this incongruity of having all the officials in the Upper House, we may mention the vote on the Attorney General's salary. This official has hitherto been paid so largely in fees that we believe in nine months of last year these irregular receipts reached upwards of £500. The Executive in order to reduce the emolument to something like a definite as well as reasonable figure fixed the salary at £600. There was no one, however, to explain these circumstances at the time in the House, and our legislators went to work and reduced the salary, leaving matters as they originally stood—and giving the Attorney General about £1000 a year instead of £600.

The amount placed on the estimates by the Executive was \$390,000. But this sum did not include the item for Governor's residence which would have raised it to \$440,000. The sum voted, including the residence, is \$295,000, leaving therefore an actual reduction of \$142,000. In this "retrenchment" however we must not overlook the fact, that a large portion of that which was struck off was intended to cover the expenses of very desirable enterprises. We had for instance \$25,000 for steam communication with Panama, and \$10,000 for purposes of immigration. The first was reduced for various good and sufficient reasons to \$9,000 to defray the postal subsidy between this place and San Francisco, and the last to \$2500—making in all a reduction of \$23,500. There is no person in the colony but wishes to see both of these enterprises carried out; but we think it is the general opinion that the present is a most inopportune period to vote the money. The next large sum which was struck out was that put down for reimbursements. The \$15,000 for the light-houses the House concluded was an old score which should have been long since wiped out by the Home Government; and the \$34,000 claimed as money paid out of the Crown Land Fund for Colonial purposes was repudiated on the ground that the acts of the Assembly in reference to these appropriations having received the sanction of the Governor and the Imperial authorities, the matter, so far as the past was concerned, was definitely settled. These two items made in round numbers \$50,000—which, coupled with the reduction in the steam communication and immigration vote, brings the amount of retrenchment up to \$73,000—or half the entire reduction. The next sum is \$23,000 for the construction of the road between Gold Stream and Nanaimo. Only \$2,500 of this was voted, to be applied exclusively to the trail to Cowichan. These were the principal reductions, amounting as they did to over \$90,000.

The other \$50,000 was the cutting down and abolishing salaries, and the reduction of various items in connection with roads, works, and buildings. On the whole we think the Assembly have done the best they could under the circumstances. That they have made a few blunders is quite true, but in the absence of that official information which can only be derived from the actual presence of a Government member or members in the House, we think they have shown generally speaking, much prudence in dealing with the estimates of 1865.

RECIPROcity TREATY.—A Committee of the New York Chamber of Commerce has reported in favor of renewing the reciprocity treaty, with such modifications as would be mutually beneficial and just. They regard it as favorable for our lake commerce and the progress of the lake cities.—Flag.

LONGER SHIPMENT OF TREASURES.—The shipments of treasure from California during the year 1864 amounted to \$55,707,201, being the largest sum ever exported in the like period.

BISHOP HULL is expected to arrive with his lady on the next mail steamer.

SUPREME COURT.

BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE CAMERON AND A SPECIAL JURY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 23d, 1865.

LIBEL CASE.

Smith vs. Higgins & McMillan.—The second hearing of this case, which was an action for damages laid at \$10,000, instituted by Horace Smith, late Superintendent of Police against Higgins & McMillan, publishers and proprietors of the Daily Chronicle for a certain alleged libel published by them in the said newspaper on the morning of a certain trial in which the plaintiff was charged with receiving bribes took place yesterday in the Supreme Court. A special jury consisting of the following gentlemen were sworn: A. H. Guild (foreman), Messrs. A. E. Green, Thomas Roper, J. S. Jackson, T. C. Nuttall, John Banks, Michael Moore and Jesse Cowper.

Mr. McCreight, instructed by Mr. Green, of Messrs. Peakes & Green, appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. Ring, advised by Mr. Jackson, of the firm of Drake & Jackson, for the defendants. The circumstances of the alleged libel were fully reported in the Chronicle of Feb. 1. The jury then failed to agree and hence in the present action. There was nothing new in the plaintiff's case as recorded yesterday; the publication of the libellous paragraph on the morning of plaintiff's trial was proved, and not denied by the defendants, but a different line of defence was set up by the defendants, who added a plea of justification to that of no guilty.

Mr. Ring, after giving the jury an outline of the nature of the evidence which he should adduce under the plea of justification, called A. F. Pemberton, Police Magistrate, who stated in answer to a question from Mr. Ring, that if any person had informed the Superintendent of Police that he believed he had a clue to a robbery, it was the undoubted duty of the latter to make immediate inquiries into the matter and to report to him.

Cross-examined by Mr. McCreight. Mr. Smith was a very efficient officer and quick at tracing up offences.

Mr. McCreight—Do you believe from what you know of him that he would be guilty of the robbery?

Mr. Ring objected to the question.

Mr. McCreight—Now, Mr. Pemberton, I will ask you do you believe that a burglary or robbery was committed at Macdonald's Bank at all?

Mr. Ring objected, and the propriety of the question was argued. Mr. Pemberton was at length permitted to proceed, and gave the following astounding evidence in regard to the alleged robbery of Macdonald's Bank. I examined the premises on the morning of the robbery; I went up a ladder which led up to the roof at the back taking two officers with me, and from information which I had received, I was led to believe that I should find evidences of force used from the outside on a trap door on the roof. I examined the same critically but could not discover the slightest traces of external force having been used. There was a bucket and a rope, also some cigars left outside as if to convey the idea that the entrance had been made through the trap, and some persons gone down and robbed the bank, leaving an accomplice up above to pull the trap door. I then removed the trap door. There was a ledge inside upon which the trap rested, and upon examining that I saw a place had been chipped away on this ledge, the chip remaining there, which led me to believe that force was used from the inside and not the outside. There was a ladder placed against the trap door, by which you could descend into the bank. It just fitted the bevil and if it had been an inch shorter or longer it would not have been of any service. It looked as if it had been made on purpose. From these circumstances I concluded that the bank could not have been robbed from the outside. Another circumstance which transpired afterwards was that the back window which had been shown to have been open was then closed. It closed from the inside. There was a box of cigars down below; some of the cigars were lying on the floor and some were on the roof. My own impression is that if any treasure was removed it passed through the window. A deposition was sworn before me that plunder had been removed from the bank.

Alexander Stenhouse, sworn—I spoke to Smith about the bank robbery both before and after his suspension. I remarked once that it was a pity the robbery could not be traced; he then said that he believed he had a good clue to the parties who had committed the robbery, and that he intended to follow the matter up as soon as he was through with his own difficulty (meaning his suspension). I proposed, as a joke, if he could not then follow it up himself he might as well then follow it up himself and I would try to give me the information and I would try to do so and get the reward. I did not expect him to give it to me. He said he would rather follow it up himself. This conversation was about the second day after the bank robbery, and some time after the bank robbery.

Edward Allen, sworn—I returned one day I think in October from Sooke and was following a pigeon belonging to my boy, which had escaped. I came to a stable on Bismarck street, and heard some persons talking inside and on looking in saw two men. One was kneeling. There was a brown handkerchief before him which contained two or three thousand dollars in gold \$20 pieces. There was a leather bag about 6 inches long and as thick as his wrist in one man's hand which appeared to be full of money. They also had a lot of bank notes which I saw one man hand to the other and the latter put them into his breast pocket. When he opened his coat I saw he had a large leather belt on made into a number of compartments with keys in each. I watched them for about a minute and a half until they had put away the money, and I then hastened over to latch Paris Carter, but he was not at home and I went and put on my boots and hurried down to the police office where I saw Mr. Smith. I had observed the two men leave the stable and walk down to the Occidental. This was about 11 a.m. I told Mr. Smith that if he came with me I thought I could point out two men whom I suspected of robbing the bank as they had plenty of money in their possession. Two gentlemen came into the room at the time and said he could not come just then, but appointed 8 o'clock that evening to meet him. I was there punctually but Mr. Smith was not.

Mr. Ring, instructed by Mr. Drake, for Adams. Mr. Ring, instructed by Mr. Drake, for Adams. A rule nisi had been obtained herein to set aside an award made by the umpire, Mr. Edgar. Mr. McCreight shewed cause at great length. Mr. Ring supported the rule. His Honor reserved his decision.

SUPREME COURT.

BEFORE DAVID CAMERON, CHIEF JUSTICE.

In Chancery.

Prindle vs. Adams, Adams vs. Prindle.

Mr. McCreight, instructed by Mr. Dennes, for Adams. Mr. Ring, instructed by Mr. Drake, for Prindle.

A rule nisi had been obtained herein to set aside an award made by the umpire, Mr. Edgar.

Mr. McCreight shewed cause at great length. Mr. Ring supported the rule. His Honor reserved his decision.

THE CITY COUNCIL BILL.

The following is a copy of the bill introduced into the Legislative Council yesterday by the Hon. Colonial Secretary:

A BILL entitled "An Act to explain and amend the Victoria Incorporation Act, 1862."

Whereas, by section one of "The Victoria Incorporation Act, 1862," it is enacted that "from and after the passage of that Act, the tract of land specified in the first part of the first schedule thereto, should be incorporated as a city, to be called the City of Victoria." And whereas it is expedient to confirm and establish the incorporation of the said city, Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly thereof, as follows:

1. The words "tract of land" in the said first section of the said Act mentioned, shall be held to include the inhabitants of the said tract of land, and it shall be held and understood by the terms used in the said section of the said Act that the inhabitants of the tract of land specified in the said first schedule were and are incorporated under the corporate name of the "City of Victoria," and this enactment shall have a retrospective effect and all acts, deeds, matters and things done and performed by any officer or other person in pursuance or in supposed pursuance of the terms of the said act shall notwithstanding the terms used in the said first section of the said act, be valid and effectual for all purposes whatsoever.

2. And whereas by section 24 of the said act it is provided that the Council of the said City of Victoria might subject as thereinafter contained by a by-law passed and confirmed as in the said act is mentioned direct in what manner the funds required for municipal purposes should be raised. And whereas it is expedient by express enactment to point out by what specific means the said funds should be raised. Be it enacted that the said funds in the said 24th section mentioned may in addition to the means referred to in the said 24th section be raised by means of a tax on persons practising or carrying on professions, trades and businesses within the said City of Victoria, so however that in no case any individual shall be taxed to a greater amount than the sum of one thousand dollars annually for the carrying on of any one distinct and separate profession, trade or business.

3. This Act may be cited as "The Victoria Incorporation Act, 1862, Amendment Act, 1865."

4. This Act may be altered or amended by any act passed in the present session of the Legislature of the said colony.

OVER LEGISLATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

We find the following sensible remarks of the hon. member for Yale and Lytton, Mr. Cornwall, in reference to the levying of further tolls and imposts in the said colony, reported in the *Columbian* of Saturday last. Mr. Cornwall rose to oppose a motion of the hon. Mr. Moberly in reference to imposing tolls on all goods, animals and carriages passing over the wagon road between Quenelle Mouth and Williams Creek for the purpose of keeping the road in repair. He said, "when he saw the notice he was surprised to find it came from the hon. member for Cariboo West, who ought to know the feeling of the people in the upper country upon the subject. The Council had imposed a heavy tax upon gold, and had passed a Customs Act imposing heavy duties which he could not see the utility of. The whole colony was dependent upon the mines. New Westminster was supported by them, and Victoria had derived her wealth from them for some years past. Business in this colony was done largely on credit; and when so many tolls and taxes were imposed it required more capital to carry on business. He thought there were already too many tolls without imposing any more."

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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday from New Westminster with forty-two passengers, amongst whom was Chief Justice Begbie. She brought no Cariboo Express.

ROAD TOLLS.

The amount of road tolls collected at the three up-river ports during the year 1864 was as follows:—Yale, £8726 11s 5d; Douglas, £6438 3s 1d; Hope, £359 3s 4d; total, £15,523 17s 10d. This is no trifling revenue to be derived from such a source. But it must be recollected that the above amount by no means represents the aggregate revenue raised from such tolls. A similar tax is collected upon goods leaving Lytton and Lillooet which will produce nearly as much, to say nothing of the bridge tolls, which of course go into private pockets. Is it not wonderful that, in the face of this, the member for Cariboo West advocated in his place in the House, the imposition of a third toll, to be collected upon the road above Quenellemouth.

THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY TRADE.—One happy feature of the new tariff is the provision for levying the tonnage dues upon the trade flowing into this colony across the Southern Boundary. We are at a loss, however, to understand why, in its application to live stock third-rates only are charged. At this port all large animals, such as black-cattle, horses, mules, &c., are rated at half-a-ton, and one dollar and a-half per head charged. This looks very like a deferential duty as in favor of the trade across the boundary. It is claimed by some that an equivalent for the road tolls should also be levied upon that trade. If the present anomalous system of collecting the tolls upon goods which do not touch the roads in respect of which such tolls are collected is to be continued, we certainly think the trade from Washington Territory ought not to form an exception. A petition, numerously signed by merchants and forwarders, has been laid before the Governor, praying that duties equivalent to the Road Tolls be charged upon imports at Kootenay. The petition will be considered in Committee of the Whole to-day. We trust Government will see the propriety of adjusting these points, so as to give the rapidly increasing trade with the country lying upon our southern boundary no undue advantage over that passing through a more legitimate channel.

Customs Receipts for week ending Saturday, February 19, 1865: Duties, £303 15s 4d; harbor dues, £9 13s 6d; headmoney, £19 4s; tonnage dues, £13 19s. Total, £345 11s 10d. Number of passengers entering at this port during same period, 96.

No News.—Dietz & Nelson received an express from Yale on Saturday night and one from Harrisonmouth yesterday. There is no news, however, from the interior.

Imports.—The import value of goods brought into this colony during the quarter ending 31st December, 1864, was \$758,447 7/6.

THE STEAMER HOPE.—Mr. E. T. Dodge obtained formal possession of this steamer from the Sheriff on Saturday evening, and left with her for Harrisonmouth on Sunday.

The Victoria Election terminated on Monday, and resulted in the election of Messrs. DeCosmos and McClure by a considerable majority over their free port opponents. The two members elect took their seats in the House on the following day. The Wharf street merchants celebrated the result by closing their places of business and hanging crapes on their doors. In the course of the contest the free port party bought out the *Evening Express* for \$6,000, which they have amalgamated with the *Vancouver Times*, under the editorship of Mr. Bell. They also paid Mr. McMillan \$3,000 to retire from the *Chronicle* on account of his views being adverse to their own; so that they have now two hired organs with which they vainly hope to bring back popular opinion on the side of their free port notions. While we congratulate the gentlemen who are the fortunate recipients of the cash, we cannot but smile at the stupidity of men who hope to accomplish the object of their ambition by such means. We would remind these gentlemen of the fate of the *London Morning Chronicle*.

Our contemporary is wrong in two of his facts. In the first place the merchants of Wharf street did not close their places of business after the election, though we believe some wags did fasten crapes to the doors of some of the wholesale establishments. In the second place the sum paid for the purchase of the *Evening Express* was, we understand, \$1500 and not \$6,000.—Ed.]

GLORIOUS EMANCIPATION!—One of our New Westminster contemporaries thus grandiloquently glants over the effect of the new customs tariff levied in that colony:—

"Now's the day and now's the hour; See depart Victoria's power; With chains and slavery!"

According to the liberal views entertained by our contemporary (whom through his delusive spectacles fathers himself he can foresee the departure of Victoria's power) the progress and prosperity of that colony and our own are in no way identical but as widely severed as the poles. We have read somewhere of the fate of a house divided against itself. The first fruits of the recent impolitic over legislation in New Westminster would be that numbers of miners who would otherwise have visited Cariboo this season will now seek their fortunes at Leech River or proceed to Kootenay via Portland.

DIRECT STEAM TO NEW WESTMINSTER.—The *Columbian*, speaking of the despatch of Governor Seymour's yacht, the *Leviathan*, to this port to catch the first mail steamer, remarks:—"It is understood that His Excellency the Governor has sent important despatches to San Francisco respecting the proposed line of steamers about to be placed on the route between that city and New Westminster. We believe His Excellency feels the warmest interest in this scheme, and that it will assume a more tangible form in the course of a few days. We speak advisedly when we state that the first steamer may be expected to arrive in the course of next month."

MOUNT BAKER ON FIRE.—During the past few days smoke has been observed issuing from Mount Baker, and several reports similar to the booming of distant artillery have been heard in that direction. *Columbian*

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday, Feb. 24.

THE ROBBERY OF MACDONALD'S BANK.—From the evidence given by A. F. Pemberton, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate, yesterday in the Supreme Court, it will be seen that that gentleman, after a critical examination of the premises the morning after the robbery, swears that he could discover evident traces of force having been used to effect an exit, but none of a burglarious or forcible entry. He further states it to be his conviction, from what he saw, that the bank was not robbed from the outside at all, and that whatever plunder passed out of the building went through the back windows and not the trap door as first appearances indicated. The mysterious evidence of Mr. Edward Allen, though not connected with the robbery of the Bank, nevertheless furnishes material for further speculation.

THE ESTIMATES.—Yesterday the House of Assembly completed the Estimates for the current year. The total amount voted is \$298,618, or, deducting the \$50,000 voted for the Governor's residence, \$141,348 less than the amount asked for, which was \$390,467. The amount voted, less the sum for the Governor's residence, is \$56,661 below that voted for 1864. To-day the Estimates will be re-committed in order to admit of some further alterations which are proposed by honorable members.

MAYOR'S COURT.—The case of Willis Bond, charged with creating a nuisance by obstructing the main thoroughfare with the frame building now in course of removal, came up again yesterday before the Mayor. Bond was fined £5 and costs. Upon the complaint of Mr. Levy, of the Globe Hotel, Bond was mulcted in a further sum of £1 and costs for obstructing the sidewalk leading to his establishment, thereby injuring his business. Should the latter fine be paid before the end of the week the former penalty may be remitted.

CHARGE OF TREASURY.—James Martin was charged yesterday in the police court with feloniously taking a cash box containing money to the value of \$14 and a promissory note for \$50 and other papers. The case was remanded for one day.

ANOTHER ESCAPE FROM GAOL.—Another prisoner made his escape from the jail yesterday, carrying with him, we understand, money and valuables belonging to an official in the establishment. He had been employed as a servant.

THE ENVOY.—This vessel was hove further down yesterday and revealed considerable damage. A good deal of the copper under her floor has been torn off.

THE RUNAWAY PRISONER.—The young sailor lad who effected his escape so cleverly from gaol on Thursday morning, besides appropriating \$90 in cash and some wearing apparel, managed to abstract three or four unclaimed watches that had been looked up in a drawer in the Superintendent's room, one of which, a gold reversible hunting watch, was valued at about \$200. We understand that his period of imprisonment would have expired in two days and the boy probably concluded that he had better make a "raise" and discharge himself. He had been acting as a servant to the Superintendent and was permitted to pass up stairs about 7 o'clock in the morning. Finding his master out, he set to work and skillfully picked the lock of a cash box from which he abstracted the above amount. He then picked the lock of the drawer, removed the watches, and having put up some articles of toilet in a carpet bag, stowed himself in a coat and waistcoat which he found in the room. It is supposed that he then got out of a window on to the roof of the Magistrate's office, from which the descent to Bastion street, particularly to a sailor, is an easy matter, as the height is not more than about fifteen feet, and a water pipe and some boarding would aid him in reaching the ground without any difficulty. His next step probably was to hurry down to Esquimalt and hide himself on board the mail steamer, then preparing to leave. How he would manage the passport, diffidly remains to be seen.

GUILTY.—James Martin pleaded guilty in the police court yesterday to having stolen a cash box containing \$14 and a note of hand for \$50, the property of Frederick Payne. The magistrate remanded the prisoner for further enquiry into his character.

LEACH RIVER.—There have been several heavy falls of snow of late at Leach River; and the snow is now about three feet in average depth, while on Bacon Bar and vicinity it is four feet deep. Mining is consequently at a complete standstill for the present.

GUBERNATORIAL VISIT.—His Excellency Governor Kennedy will go up to New Westminster to-day on the tug Sir James Douglas, on a visit to Governor Seymour. His Excellency will return about Wednesday next by way of Nanaimo.

WILFUL DAMAGE.—An Indian named Charley, hailing from Thompson River, was yesterday fined \$10 or one month's imprisonment for wilfully damaging the property of Mahomet Hassan.

THE SUBMARINE CABLE for the Fraser river arrived in the Pacific last trip, and is now on the Hudson Bay Company's wharf awaiting shipment to New Westminster by the Enterprise.

THIEF.—Skill-gass, a Skidegate Indian, yesterday pleaded guilty to stealing a vest of the value of \$10, from Mr. Braverman and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

Tuesday, February 28, 1865.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, Feb. 28th.
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, McClure, Dickson, Dennes.

HOMESTEAD LAW.

Mr. DeCosmos gave notice that on Wednesday next he would ask leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act exempting Homesteads from sale in certain cases.

LIEN LAW.

Mr. DeCosmos asked leave to introduce a bill to provide for mechanics and others to record a lien on work done by them within thirty days after its completion. It was his intention, should the House grant leave for its introduction, to have the bill properly drawn up by a legal person. The hon. gentleman stated the principles of his proposed bill, which were as follows:

1. Liens may be registered, at the Registrar General's office, by any person, being either a contractor, mechanic, laborer, or supplier of building materials, against houses, buildings, vessels, steamers, bridges, roads, water works, and mining ditches, &c.
2. Liens, to be rated and binding, must be registered within thirty days after the labor is performed or the materials supplied.
3. Labor and building materials expended on property aforesaid by a lessee or sub-lessee without the written consent of the owner or lessor shall not affect the rights of the owner or lessor in such property; but any lien registered shall only extend to the rights of the lessee or sub-lessee, or the party to such property against whom the lien has been lawfully registered, that is, the lessee or sub-lessee, or the party who would have been legally liable to pay for such labor and materials before the passing of this Act.
4. If the owner of any property aforesaid has contracted for and had labor and building materials supplied for such property, a lien may be registered against such property for such labor and materials; and such property shall be liable for the amount of any such lien as may have been lawfully registered; but if any mortgage has been registered against such property before such labor or materials have been contracted for and supplied, such mortgage shall take priority over any lien and be satisfied first.
5. If a mortgage be made on any property which labor and materials are being expended thereon, such mortgage shall not take priority to a lien for such labor and materials, although such mortgage may be recorded first.
6. The sale of property by the owner whilst labor and materials are being or have been expended on such property with his consent, within the time allowed for registration, shall not render such property exempt from liens; but such property shall in all respects be liable to the same extent as before it was sold.
7. All liens, in case of insolvency, shall share equally the proceeds of sales of the property, and shall be satisfied before any debts for labor or materials not registered by lien.
8. No lien shall be registered except on affidavit before a Justice of the Peace or Registrar General in the form prescribed by this Act.
9. All liens may be collected by any court of competent jurisdiction in a summary manner.
10. The Registrar General shall keep a record of all liens duly indexed.
11. The records shall be open to public inspection on payment of 50c.
12. The forms of record shall be prescribed by the Registrar General, and the order necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be prescribed by the Registrar General with the assent of the Chief Justice.
13. The fees for registration shall be such as are now charged at the Registrar General's office on the registration of charges on real property.
14. Penalties for fraudulent liens, &c.
15. Such other provisions as may be necessary to make the previous provisions operative.

Dr. Dickson seconded the motion, speaking briefly upon the advantages of the principle of a Mechanics Lien Law.

Leave was granted to introduce the bill.

Mr. Dennes asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the manner of taking the verdict in civil cases. The law now required a jury of eight in civil cases, and he proposed to allow a verdict to be given by six eighths of the jury, when they could not find a unanimous verdict.

Mr. McClure seconded the motion, showing that with the various interests affecting jury men it was almost impossible to obtain unanimity. A similar provision had lately been made in the United Kingdom, where nine out of twelve were allowed to bring in a verdict in civil cases.

Leave was granted to introduce the bill.

TELEGRAPH BILL.
The Telegraph Amendment Bill came up for a second reading. The bill provides for the repeal of the exclusive privilege granted last session to the California State Telegraph Company.

Mr. DeCosmos said it appeared to him that the bill involved a breach of faith on the part of the House, who had already pledged their word to the Telegraph Company.

The second reading was deferred to enable members to examine the provisions of the bill.

DISTRICT COURT ACT.
This bill, to extend jurisdiction to Justices of the Peace in civil cases, came up in Committee of the Whole, Dr. Dickson in the chair. The bill, which is of great length, was passed, and the committee rose and reported progress.

The following amendments having been introduced:

Mr. Dennes proposed an amendment to clause 2 that the districts of Salt Spring Island and Chemainus should constitute a second Court under the name of Salt Spring Island and Chemainus District. He had been urged repeatedly by his constituents to use his exertions to obtain for the districts mentioned the appointment of a Justice of the Peace, and he thought their interests

really demanded the appointment. The difficulties and inconveniences that were at present experienced were almost intolerable.

Mr. DeCosmos proposed an amendment to the effect that the determining the number and the limits of the districts should be left to His Excellency the Governor, which was carried.

Mr. DeCosmos introduced a clause to the effect that nothing in the Act shall give the Justice of the Peace power to imprison unless fraud is committed or attempted, which was carried.

The House then adjourned till to-morrow (Tuesday) at 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, Feb. 21.
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, Tolmie, McClure, Trimble, Dickson, Southgate, Barnaby, Cochrane, Carswell, Dennes.

THE ESTIMATES.
The House went into Committee on Supply, Mr. Franklin in the chair.

REIMBURSEMENTS.
Reimbursement of half of moiety of £12,943 19s 9d advanced by the Imperial Government for the erection of Lighthouses in Race Straits and Esquimalt harbor, \$15,148 25c.

Dr. Helmcken said his opinion was that we should not pay one single farthing of this amount to Her Majesty's Government—not one single penny. When the lighthouses were built, Her Majesty's Government stated that half of the cost was to be paid by this colony and half by British Columbia. When the matter came up before this House it was decided that it should be charged to the Crown Lands fund, and since then nothing more had been heard of it. The debts of the colony to the Imperial Government had since that time been all wiped out, and this, he considered, along with them. He looked on it as an item which might be allowed to stand on Her Majesty's books to time immemorial, as they could very well afford to give that small sum to the colony.

The vote was negative.

Reimbursements to Crown Revenue of Moneys applied to general purposes, \$34,066 20. Left over.

IMMIGRATION.
Expenses of introducing Immigrants, \$10,000.

Mr. Franklin argued in favor of placing a sum in the hands of the Executive to be used for aiding immigration, especially female immigrants (shouts of laughter). The advantages of female immigration were acknowledged in all colonies, and it had done great good in this colony by creating many more homes.

Mr. Cochrane fully concurred with some of the remarks of the hon. chairman, and if the Government would guarantee the respectability of female and other immigrants (a laugh) it might be of very great advantage. The kind of immigration we wanted was respectable laborers with their families; he was sorry to say that the experiment of introducing female immigration had been a failure (hear, hear).

Mr. Southgate was in favor of assisting the immigration which came here.

Dr. Tolmie said we could easily find work for all who would come this year.

Dr. Helmcken suggested voting a sum for the purpose of sending unfortunate people home who could not get along in the colony (a laugh). However, he thought the House should vote a sum for the purpose asked. A sum of money might be advantageously placed in the hands of the Executive to aid in bringing out the families of men here who were unable to do so themselves. He would move that \$2500 be voted. Carried.

INDIANS.
Expenses connected with Indians, \$2500.

Dr. Helmcken would call the attention of the House to the unusual fact of no sum being placed on the Estimates for the extinguishing of Indian titles to lands. The fact of sums having been voted in previous years was quite as well known to the Indians as to us, and if no sum were voted this year the Indians would doubtless change their policy in dealing with the settlers. The Indians at Cowichan, for instance had been promised remuneration for their land year after year, and the faith of the country should be kept with Indians as well as any one else. Indian wars in all countries had been brought on by this very land question, and the only way to avoid this was to treat the Indians as men of like feelings and passions with ourselves.

Dr. Tolmie said the Indians had certainly been promised payment for their lands, and he knew that the late Governor had only deferred paying the Cowichan Indians because of their bad conduct in murdering some white men. The Indians would expect payment, and he thought the sum voted, last year should be now expended.

The sum of \$1000 was voted.

THE CIVIL LIST.
Treasurer, \$2910.

Dr. Helmcken believed the salary of the Treasurer ought to be voted out of the Crown Revenue. In response to the Imperial Secretary of State for the Colonies the House last year had authorized the Governor to pay the salaries out of the Crown Lands Revenue, and guaranteed him against loss. He thought the same course should be pursued this year. With regard to the Attorney General his salary had been voted, but had been placed on the Provisional and Temporary list, as had been done with the Surveyor General, as it was considered that if a union of the colonies were obtained, only one officer in each department would be required.

Mr. DeCosmos moved that the salary of the Treasurer be subject to the resolution of July, 1864, respecting the Civil List. Carried.

RENT OF GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE.
Rent of Governor's Residence, \$1920.

Mr. Barnaby thought it very poor economy to pay rent of \$2000 for a Governor's house year after year and have nothing to show for it. He would much rather see a sum of money set aside for erecting a suitable residence of a permanent nature.

Mr. Cochrane and Mr. DeCosmos explained that it was necessary to vote the rent for this year as a house could not be built before the end of the year.

Dr. Helmcken said he was of the same opinion as, heretofore in regard to this item, that it should be paid out of the Crown Revenue. He looked on it as a part of the Civil List and he was prepared to vote that

List; in fact we had already voted it all except the Treasurer. He would not however oppose the item; item voted.

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE.
Mr. Barnaby argued in favor of erecting a substantial residence, for economical and prudential reasons. The question to consider was the sum to be voted, and he was disposed to vote a sum not exceeding \$25,000. The procuring of a site was not a matter of any difficulty, as he knew of land owners who would give a suitable site for nothing provided a Government House were built.

Mr. DeCosmos could not see that we would gain much on the score of economy by erecting a Government House. He differed however with the hon. gentleman who had just spoken as to the amount necessary. He believed in erecting a building both ornamental, commodious and useful, and was sure from information he had received from experts that a smaller sum than \$50,000 would not be sufficient, including purchase of land, completing the building, ornamenting the grounds, &c. A suitable site could doubtless be procured on some of the great thoroughfares leading out of the city. Beacon Hill Park was not desirable, nor was there room on this Reserve or on any of the other public squares.

Dr. Helmcken—Put it on Ogdon Point [Laughter].

Dr. Trimble—I won't mind giving five or ten acres. [Laughter.]

Mr. DeCosmos said doubtless land-owners might be found who would give a site gratuitously. The House should be built of Newcastle stone (hear, hear,) and constructed on a plan capable of being enlarged. He would therefore move that \$50,000 be voted for the erection of a suitable gubernatorial residence.

Dr. Helmcken would oppose the vote. He thought a building erected for that sum now would in ten years be a disgrace to the colony [no, no.] It would be much better to erect a cheaper residence for the present, and at some future day we would be able to afford a suitable mansion. He would suggest that His Excellency should be asked to send down estimates for such a building as he deemed fit. As for there being any economy in the saving of rent, he could assure hon. gentlemen that the repairs, &c., about the Government House would be more annually than that.

Dr. Dickson was pleased to hear that the country was now in a state to pay the large sum of \$50,000 to erect a Government House. He had a very distinct recollection, however, of certain hon. gentlemen now present entertaining very different views as to the capabilities of the colony. He certainly opposed the expenditure of such a sum of money in the present state of the colony.

Mr. Cochrane said the House should decide on giving a house to the Governor, and request His Excellency to send down estimates as to the probable cost.

Dr. Tolmie said there were two views to take of this question; one of propriety and one of economy. There could be no doubt as to the propriety of erecting a house for the Governor of the Colony.

Mr. DeCosmos advocated fixing a maximum sum for a residence. He thought it rather a delicate matter to ask His Excellency to name a sum for the purpose.

Dr. Helmcken said he could not see any want of delicacy whatever in asking the Governor to send down estimates. The House was becoming quite too sentimental (a laugh). His Excellency had already on a former occasion informed the House that he had plans drawn up ready for submitting to the House.

Mr. McClure advocated the erection of a good substantial building, which would not require a large annual expenditure for repairs, &c. The hon. gentleman who had just sat down proposed if they had a house at all to have a cheap building, and declaimed against the idea that there would be any economy in changing from the present rental on the ground of the annual expenditure that would be required. But he overlooked the fact that a cheap building was just the thing to produce a large annual expenditure (hear, hear).

Dr. Helmcken's motion—that the House is prepared to receive Estimates for the erection of a Government residence—was lost; and Mr. DeCosmos's motion: That the sum of \$50,000 be voted for the construction of a Governor's Residence, including outbuildings, grounds, furniture, &c.—was carried.

The committee then rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned at 5 o'clock till to-morrow (Wednesday), when the Telegraph Amendment Act and the Land Registry Act will be taken up. The next business will be the Incorporation Act.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22.
House met at 3:15 p.m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, McClure, Barnaby, Dennes.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.
Mr. McClure asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the Registration of Voters Act, 1860, of which he had previously given notice. At the present time, a person arriving here, say in August, could not vote for 18 months. This was a great grievance, and the bill he proposed to bring in would reduce this period to a few months by holding two revisions a year. Another defect in the present Act was that at least one-third of the names on the list were either dead or absent. This was purely a fault of the law, as the only means of remedying it was by complaint of a voter, and no one cared to make himself a common enemy by complaining. Another point he wished to do away with was the \$1 fee, which was not worth consideration as a source of revenue and only tended to keep people from registering.

Mr. Dennes seconded, and leave was granted.

FRANCHISE ACT.
Mr. McClure asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the Franchise Act, 1859. He proposed to reduce the term of residence from six months to three months, in order to render the proposed Registration of Voters amendment workable. He also wished to extend the qualification of members to house property. A third point was in reference to the property qualification of voters' oath at the time of election. At present men were disqualified from voting through changing the character of their qualification. The person who registered on a rental of \$5 a month could not vote on free hold property however high might be its value. It was to remove

such absurdities as these that he desired to introduce the bill.

Mr. Dennes seconded, and leave was granted.

HOMESTEAD LAW.
Mr. DeCosmos asked leave to introduce a bill to secure homesteads to parties registering the same on certain terms. The measure would tend to promote immigration and to keep families in the country. The bill which only applied to married men, proposed to enable parties to register a homestead free from all claims; say to allow a man a homestead of \$800 if he just debts, and so on in proportion up to \$5,000. By this means a married man could make provision for his family and place them beyond the immediate reach of misfortune. The bill also proposed to secure the claim of the wife to the homestead against its alienation by the husband.

Mr. McClure seconded.

Mr. Franklin thought the English Marriage Settlement Act in a great measure met the case, but as a Homestead Law was a very desirable thing in all new countries, and had heretofore worked well in other places, he would support the principle of the bill. He suggested however that other than married persons, widows for instance, should be included under its provisions.

Leave was granted to introduce the bill.

VERDICT IN CIVIL CASES.
Mr. Dennes introduced his bill to amend the mode of taking verdicts in civil cases.

Mr. McClure seconded and the bill was read a first time.

DISTRICT COURT ACT.
The bill granting jurisdiction to Justices of the Peace in civil cases, passed a third reading.

LAW REGISTRY ACT.
This bill as amended by the Legislative Council came up before the House.

The amendments, which were chiefly of a clerical nature, were agreed to by the House, with some trifling alterations, and the bill passed as amended.

INCORPORATION BILL.
On Monday next Mr. DeCosmos's Incorporation bill will come up in Committee; also, the Weights and Measures Bill for a second reading.

House adjourned at half-past four o'clock to-morrow (Thursday) at the usual hour.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
The Council met yesterday at 3 p.m. Present—The Hon. Col. Secretary, Treasurer, H. Rhodes, and R. Finlayson.

THE UNION RESOLUTIONS.
The Hon. Col. Secretary read and placed upon the table by direction of His Excellency the Governor, copy of the resolutions passed by the House of Assembly on the state of the colony.

INCORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.
The Hon. Col. Secretary introduced a bill to amend the Incorporation Act of 1862, and moved that the standing orders be suspended and the bill read a first time.—Carried.

Bill read first time and ordered to come up for a second reading at the next meeting of the Council.

MEDICAL BILL.
The Hon. Col. Secretary moved the second reading of this bill.

On motion of the hon. H. Rhodes, the second reading was postponed in consequence of the absence of the Attorney General.

Mr. Rhodes thought the bill might properly be reduced; it was at present cumbersome and would not work well.

SCHOOL BILL.
This bill came up for the second reading, and on motion of the hon. Colonial Secretary was referred to a select committee of the whole.

CENSUS BILL.
On motion of the hon. Colonial Secretary this bill was also referred to a select committee.

MERCANTILE LAW AMENDMENT ACT.
On motion of the hon. Treasurer this bill passed the second reading.

POSTAL SERVICE BILL.
The hon. Colonial Secretary moved the second reading of this bill, which was, however, postponed, owing to the absence of the Attorney General.

Council adjourned till Friday, at 3 p.m.

THE COMOX MAILS.
VICTORIA, V. I., 18th Feb., 1865.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.
—Sir—The Comox settlement is supposed to have Steam communication regularly once a month. When the Emily Harris had the mail contract she was very irregular, being sometimes eight or ten days late. This we flattered ourselves would be completely remedied as soon as the Fidelity commenced running. We have, however, been grievously disappointed, the steam communication being more irregular than ever. The Fidelity made her first trip to Comox on the 28th December last, and we were notified that she would call regularly on the last Wednesday of each month. Her next trip was made on the 11th January, only two weeks having elapsed, since which time she has not once visited the settlement. On the 31st January, and also on the 7th of this month it was stated by her officers that she would go to Comox. She on each occasion took a mail for that settlement and on the last she also issued Comox tickets to two or three parties. Arriving at Nanaimo the Comox passengers were detained two days and then sent out by the little schooner Shark, she also carrying the mail. On the first occasion the mail was forwarded by the schooner Discovery, which luckily happened to call at Nanaimo on her way up. Now this is a humbugging way of doing things which does not at all suit the people of Comox, nor do we think it will at all suit the Government to pay mail subsidies and allow the proprietors of the steamer to run her at such times only as suit their own whims and fancies. Such irregular steam communication as we have hitherto had is not the least benefit to the settlement, and we hope that the Legislature will take an early opportunity of improving matters in this respect.

We think our correspondent is rather unjust to the Fidelity in the above letter. On inquiry we find that the Fidelity has only had the contract two months, during each of which she made one trip in compliance with the agreement, although the last was not made at the regular time. The other trips, referred to by "Beta" were not required by her contract and were only prevented by the roughness of the weather, and the settlers are indebted to Captain Loudon for his efforts to forward their mails by the earliest opportunity.

SUMMARY COURT.

Before His Honor Chief Justice Cameron.

Harries v. Earles.—Plaintiff sued defendant for \$10 for a lease drawn by him in November, 1862. Plaintiff was sworn and proved his claim; also frequent promises of payment made by the defendant, and rebuked the latter for attempting to mislead the court at the first hearing of this case by grossly misstating the facts. The defendant having been sworn set up a rambling defence and admitted his liability to pay \$5. His Honor sustained the plaintiff's claim, holding the entry made at the time to be conclusive evidence of the true amount charged, and gave judgment for the plaintiff, with costs.

Southgate & Co. v. Roper.—This was an action on an account for goods supplied to the value of \$77. Defendant paid the sum of \$37 into Court and pleaded that out of eleven guns which the plaintiffs sold to the defendant as in good order four were useless and unmerchantable. Mr. Daniel was examined for the plaintiff and proved the sale of the goods, and a French locksmith was sworn to prove that the guns had been repaired. This witness created a laugh by stating in reply to a question from defendant's attorney, that the barrels of the guns in question were "as straight as they usually are with that description of article." The defendant and his brother were heard, the latter swearing that four out of the eleven guns were in such bad order as to be worthless. His Honor gave judgment for the plaintiff, less \$14, being half the value of the guns delivered in bad order.

Watson vs Britannia Quartz Mining Co.—This was an action brought by the plaintiff against the company by summons served on the Secretary Mr. J. S. Willis, to recover \$24 90 and charges for blacksmith's work performed. Mr. Copland appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Green for the defence. It was urged for the defendants that the company had no status in court; that although Mr. Cary then Registrar had granted a certificate of incorporation the company never had been incorporated under the Limited Liability Act, and there was no one to sue. Mr. Copland maintained that as the company had the words limited on their door plate they intended that the public should believe they were incorporated and were individually liable. He would propose to amend the summons and insert the name of Mr. A. D. Bell who was in court therein.

Mr. Green objected to such a course of procedure. Mr. Bell had not appeared in court under any process.

His Honor held that the members of the company were individually liable, and directed the case to proceed.

Mr. Adam Watson was sworn and produced an order from the company for the work which he had duly performed, also a public notice stating that the company had been registered as a limited company.

Mr. Green said he should offer no defence. Judgment was therefore given for the plaintiff with costs.

Burnett vs. Green.—John Burnett claimed \$ from Ashdown Green, wages for work alleged to have been performed by the plaintiff for the defendant at Oudor Bay. Mr. Drake appeared for the defence. It appeared from the evidence that plaintiff had been hired to work on the survey of the Cadboro Bay Estate. The defendant swore positively that he was himself working for Mr. F. W. Green under whose assigned estate he was a creditor, and that Mr. F. W. Green and not he had hired the plaintiff.

His Honor ordered a non suit.

The plaintiff complained of the hardship of the case. He thought at the time that defendant and F. W. Green were partners or he should not have gone to work.

The judge acquiesced in the hardship of the case, but pointed out that the defendant was himself a sufferer by the assignment.

Hibben & Carswell vs. H. Valentiner.—Suit to recover \$109 75. Plaintiffs non suited.

Marvin vs. Hollins.—Judgment for \$7 36.

Mallock vs. Rise.—Judgment for \$8 25.

Zuill vs. Rowlandson.—Judgment for \$150.

Willoughby vs. Mayer.—Judgment for \$60.

Tilham vs. Bond.—Judgment for \$22 50.

JUDGMENTS CONFESSED.—Wilson vs. Pitts, \$4 80; Carswell vs. Williams, \$15; Babbitt & Co. vs. Jacobi, \$46 50; Fellows & Roscoe vs. Bishop, \$34 25; Wilson & Murray vs. Pitts, \$30 87; Hounslow vs. Dennes, \$10; the same vs. Willis, \$41; Backus vs. Williams, \$110 85; Spring Ridge Water Co. vs. Bendixen, \$54 75. Thomas vs. the same, \$21 30.

PORT ANGELOS SHIPPING.
PORT ANGELOS, W. T., Feb. 20, 1865.

DEAR COLONIST.—Having a few leisure moments I will give you a list of arrivals at this port:—Bark Gourelly, 17 days from San Francisco; bark Architect, two days from Victoria; and the bark Glam, Capt. Jimmy Jones, drest in bloomer, two days from Victoria Jail. Jimmy is on hand; he will clear his bark again for your place in a few days. The steamer Eliza Anderson is expected here hourly. I am in haste, and close for this time. Yours, OBSERVER.

LATER FROM CARIBOO.
New Prospects Struck!

A private letter received from Williams Creek, dated February 2d, says: "There have been some new strikes made on the creek. The Pocabontas Company have struck a good prospect, and it is thought that their claim will prove to be very rich. The Elliott group is paying very well, as also the Adams. The Columbia Company have obtained an excellent prospect to a deep channel leading from the old Union Company, and it is thought that both claims will pay well this year. Provisions are plentiful and fully as cheap as they were in the fall. We predict an early spring, and it would be well for miners to be here early, as work will be plentiful."

Bishop of Rupert's Land.—The Nor Wester says information has been received that the Rev. James Oldknow, D.D. Incumbent of Aston, Birmingham, Warwickshire, is to be the new Bishop of Rupert Land.

Tuesday

Europe

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Capt. Corbet King, alias She the Magistrate with having a British subject at the Navy. The case against the vessel to Mad the crew that sh

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The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, February 28, 1865.

THE CARIBOO MINERS.

Above all classes of men in any country, the miners of Cariboo have shown least of that instinct which makes the tax payer an incessant grumbler. It is not, however, because they are any less taxed; for there is not, throughout the civilized globe, any class of consumers that have been obliged to contribute so largely to the Government of the country. Their provisions no sooner enter New Westminster than they pay an import duty; no sooner ascend the Fraser than they are met by tonnage dues; no sooner touch the roads, than another tax appears in the shape of tolls, and from this point until they are deposited in the store at Williams Creek, road tolls and bridge tolls keep the packer's hands in continuous motion to his besieged pocket. It is not, therefore, as we have said, because the miner is any less taxed that he has remained silent; but rather because until the last year or two he has had but a temporary interest in the country. The time has come, however, when he begins to perceive the necessity of extending his range of thought beyond his claim. He has now become a more permanent fixture in the colony. During the years of 1858, 1859, 1860, and 1861, mining was at the best but a fitful occupation, and the miner a kind of nomad, rambling over the country. Since then, however, more stability has been given to the vocation, and large sums have been invested in enterprises, from which a profitable result could not reasonably be anticipated for some years. When men begin to expend thousands of dollars in this manner—when they risk their capital in developing a country's resources, from that moment their interest in the Government commences to increase, and fiscal operations become to them matters of profound concern. It is not surprising, therefore, that the miners of Cariboo should take the present opportunity, when increased duties are being imposed upon them, to protest against the heavy load of taxes they are obliged to bear.

The meeting on Saturday, although held in Victoria, for the very valid reason that a better opportunity presented itself here than even on the mines, themselves of getting together a large body of Cariboo miners and traders, was essentially a Cariboo meeting from beginning to end. The speakers were men largely interested in the mines of the neighboring colony, and the persons who carried the resolutions by acclamation, were the hardy delvers of the auriferous soil. So far as the action of the meeting was concerned it was almost unanimously, and orderly and fastidiously. The resolutions, however, although embodying the substance of the miner's complaint, were rather imperfectly drawn up, and presented a very unfavorable contrast to the speeches which were, on the whole, excellent. We do not agree exactly with some of the ideas or reasoning expressed in the resolutions, but, on the great question of relieving the miner of burdens too onerous for any population to bear, we heartily concur with all that is said; and it would be well for the reputation of Governor Seymour as a statesman, and well for the neighboring colony generally, were this feature in the meeting of yesterday taken more carefully into consideration by those who at present make the laws for British Columbia.

When we consider that it is to the gold of British Columbia, and to it alone, that Victoria owes its present importance, and when we also consider that it is this talisman which has called the various towns on the Fraser, and along the mining route generally, into being, we have said enough, we think, to show how much both colonies are interested in removing restrictions rather than placing obstacles in the miner's way. We do not mean, of course, nor does any intelligent miner mean, that British Columbia should abolish her tariff and reduce the revenue to a Vancouver Island standard, but rather that she should throw as many of her direct taxes as possible into customs, and thus by diminishing largely the number of officials reduce the demands upon the general revenue. At present it would seem the policy of the neighboring colony is to increase the taxation of men in proportion as they penetrate the interior and undergo the hardships of a pioneer's life. If they pitch their tent at New Westminster, and make not the first effort to develop the country's resources, they pay the import duties, which do not really amount to half the aggregate taxation of the colony. If they ascend the Fraser, however, they become to the government what the Christian "barbarians" are to the Chinese in the Celestial Empire—objects of suspicion, and in every forward movement they are met by fresh restrictions. No Japanese Tycoon, or Son of the Moon, could take more effectual steps to preserve the interior of his country from the pollution of the enterprising interloper. As a sample of this species of Oriental wisdom, we have six hundred men on "the Meadows," on Williams Creek, paying to the government \$25,000 a half year, solely for the

privilege of mining, and over \$40,000 taxes on articles of consumption, making in all \$65,000 for the mining season. In New Westminster these men would, during the same period, pay but twelve thousand dollars; yet it is to the six or seven hundred people of the latter place, who do literally nothing for the advancement of the country, to whom Governor Seymour is expected to pander, and to whom the interests of the entire country are to be made subservient. This is not all, however—the six hundred miners of the Meadows—and here we speak of the population on but a mile and a half out of the six miles of this swampy tract of country—expended during the years of 1863 and 1864, no less a sum than \$600,000, and so far, without any profitable result. Now we would ask Governor Seymour in all soberness, and the unthinking Solons of the Legislative Council, if increasing the burdens of these men, is either just or politic? Let us suppose for a moment these miners, and those of the other creeks who are struggling hard against similar great natural difficulties, being obliged to leave the country on account of the onerous nature of the taxation—a misfortune likely enough to happen—where is His Excellency to find a revenue? Where are the two hundred officials more or less to get their salaries? and lastly, where are the ambitious citizens of New Westminster to find customers? It must surely be plain to all concerned, that the colony would, in Major Downie's parlance, suddenly relapse into something like its "pristine grandeur, when the Siwash was the sole lords and masters of the soil."

We have heard of several mining joint-stock companies which were in the way of formation; brought to a stand-still through the recent action of the British Columbian Government. These companies got frightened, not because there was anything very startling about the increase to the tariff, but because they see by it and the export duty on gold a disposition on the part of the Government to increase rather than diminish the burdens of the miner. At present a company is formed to put a bed-rock flume on Keithley's Creek. This operation will cost during the first two years the sum of \$200,000—a large enough outlay truly for any mining company in Cariboo—but this is not the only financial demand: the Government steps in and claims in taxation the sum of \$63,000. Here is a great undertaking, which will in the course of two years afford employment to upwards of two thousand miners, jeopardized by the ill-considered taxation of the country. The Bed Rock Flume Company on Williams Creek is another illustration. This company before it can obtain any returns will have expended \$150,000 and will have paid to the Government in taxation upwards of \$50,000 more—because probably it is, like the others, opening up the resources of the mining region and making the surrounding ground workable for thousands of free miners. The legislation of the neighboring colony is indeed a stumbling-block to mining enterprise, and will, unless speedily amended, reduce the population to a number too insignificant to necessitate even the employment of a Treasurer. If Governor Seymour wishes to make his mark, he will go to work manfully and get rid of at least one-half the officials that at present hang like a millstone round the neck of the country. Simultaneously he might abolish the tonnage dues and all the public road tolls. An increase to the tariff, if then found necessary, will be no cause of dissatisfaction; for the miner will know that he is placed on something like an equal footing with other and less productive portions of the population, and that Lillooet and Douglas, Yale, and New Westminster, will then pay their proper share of the revenue of the country.

A NEW ZEALAND SAWYER'S PHILOSOPHY.—We give the results of a conversation with one of these men, omitting the leading questions we addressed to him: "I have now been knocking about in these colonies for eleven years. I consider myself better off here than at home. In the old country your master will turn you off for a sour look, and when you have once got a bad name it will go hard with you to find another place. Here I am as good as my master, and he knows it; I can turn him off when I choose, and find as good a place to-morrow. I can make as much in a day here as I could in a week in England. I have saved no money; what's the use? I once made £250 at the diggings in Australia, went down to Melbourne and spent it like a gentleman. Ah! it is a pleasant thing being a gentleman; I should like to have nothing else to do. I wore as good a coat as any of your officer fellows, and spent my money quite as freely. It lasted me five months; and it is a comfort to me that I never met a poor pal without standing treat. I met an old chum bound for New Zealand, and came down here with him for a lark. When I have made a little money, I go down to Auckland and spend it like a gentleman. It is not worth while going there with less than £60; that lasts me about a fortnight. Being a top-sawyer at the top of my profession, you know I can make that sum in six weeks. I thus work like a man for nine months of the year, and live the other three like a gentleman. If I meet my master in town I look him fairly in the face; why shouldn't I? Ain't I as good as he? I owe him nothing, and he owes me nothing; I have done his work and he has paid me for it, so there's an end of the matter. What should I do if I were sick? Why, go to the hospital, to be sure. But I never have been sick, and don't intend to be; it's not in our

line. It wouldn't pay on no account. Oh, yes; I suppose I shall die some day; but then I won't make a long job of it. There will be no occasion to call the doctor or send for the nurse. I'll be crushed by a tree, or drowned in the river, the same as other sawyers. Neither my father nor grandfather died in their beds; and I don't expect to either.—When I die my comrades will dig a hole and bury me beneath some tall kauri tree, and the world will jog on as before. I don't bother my head about the rest; I suppose I shall fare as well as the rest. I have lots of poor relations in England, but they have no claim on me. They never did anything for me, and why should I do anything for them? If they want money, let them work for it as I do; the world is wide enough for all. If they choose to stay at home and starve that is their lookout, not mine. I am not such a fool as to be earning money for them. Besides I have always been a friend of peace, and don't wish to have them quarrelling about my money when I am dead.—Fraser's Magazine.

HON. GEO. BROWN IN ENGLAND.—Mr. George Brown, the Canadian Minister, is now in England. He has come here to consult the Home Government with regard to the projected confederation of the colonies of British North America. He finds the English Cabinet entirely sympathetic with him on this great question; and, strangely enough, even those who support the political separation of the Northern and Southern States are agreed as to the expediency of uniting the British colonies under one Government. Mr. Brown has been received with extraordinary distinction by all parties in this country. He has been overwhelmed with calls and invitations; and hundreds of influential persons, who were perfect strangers to him, have taken means to express their sympathy with his mission. He left London to-day on a visit to Lord Palmerston at B. oadlands.—London correspondence of the New York Independent.

TAXING CHINESE MINERS.—A petition signed by eighty-six miners has been presented to Governor Seymour, calling attention to the fact that a large number of Chinamen are employed on the bars of the Fraser and elsewhere who do not pay the mining license of one pound sterling, and nevertheless enjoy all the privileges of free miners, and pointing out the considerable loss to the public revenue by such exemption. The petitioners pray that His Excellency will enact that all Chinamen found mining in any part of British Columbia shall pay the required tax.

LARGE CARGO.—The steamer Oregon on her last down trip took from Portland 500 tons of produce valued at \$30,000, and including 3,500 boxes of apples.

COMMERCIAL.

Wednesday, Feb. 22. STEAMER SAILED.—The Oregon sailed yesterday at 12 o'clock, carrying a good number of passengers from this city and Puget Sound for San Francisco.

FROM THE NORTH.—The schooner Langley arrived yesterday morning from the Northwest Coast with a full cargo of furs, skins, and dogfish oil.

FROM THE SOUND.—The steamer Eliza Anderson arrived yesterday from Puget Sound with 23 passengers and a large freight of cattle, sheep and produce.

Friday, Feb. 24. FOR SAN JUAN.—The schooner Industry sailed yesterday from Kavanagh's wharf, with four head of cattle and a quantity of provisions, etc., for San Juan, whence she will return with a load of lime for this port.

LOADING FOR THIS PORT.—The bark Glimpse and Massachusetts were loading on the 18th inst. at San Francisco for this port, the former consigned to Pickett & Co. and the latter to the Hudson Bay Company.

ARRIVED OUT.—The Chrysolite and Herzog Ernst had arrived at Woosung, China, from Vancouver Island—the former on the 5th and the latter on the 7th November.

FROM THE SOUND.—The sloop Letitia, Capt. Adams, arrived yesterday morning from Seattle with a full cargo of oats, wheat, onions, and hay.

LOADING IN ENGLAND.—The Ann Adamson, at London, and Cyclone, at Liverpool, were still loading for this port at latest dates.

FOR SALT SPRING ISLAND.—The sloop Alarm sailed yesterday for Salt Spring with cattle, provisions, etc.

FROM THE SOUND.—The schooner Flying Mist arrived yesterday from Whidby Island with 40 tons hay, apples, etc.

FOR NANAIMO.—The schooner Goldstream sailed for Nanaimo yesterday with cattle.

Saturday, Feb. 25. FOR NANAIMO.—The bark Knight Bruce left the harbor yesterday in tow of the steamer Diana. She is bound to Nanaimo to load coal for San Francisco, having been chartered by Messrs. Dickson, Campbell, & Co., for that trade for a period of six months.

THE GEO. S. WRIGHT.—The machinery of this steamer has been put in complete repair by Messrs. Spratt & Kriemler, and the vessel has been fitted for the Portland trade. She will probably make a trial trip to-day, and will leave for Portland in a few days.

ARRIVED.—The sloop John Thornton arrived yesterday with a cargo of alder wood to Kavanagh & Co.

FOR THE SOUND.—The steamer Eliza Anderson left early yesterday morning with passengers and freight for Olympia and way ports.

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER.—The tug Diana sailed for New Westminster yesterday morning, carrying Dietz & Nelson's express and a few passengers.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Fidelity arrived from Nanaimo last night with 20 passengers, a small quantity of produce, and a cargo of coal to R. Brodrick.

FOR NANAIMO.—The steamer Fidelity will sail for Nanaimo this morning at 8 o'clock, to take up Mr. C. S. Nicol and family, who arrived on the last steamer from San Francisco.

FOR LONDON DIRECT.—The H. B. Co's bark Princess Royal is advertised to sail for London about the 1st of March. For freight or passage apply at the Company's office.

SAILED.—The brig sheet Anchor sailed yesterday morning for Port Townsend, where she will load with lumber for San Francisco.

FROM NANAIMO.—The schooner Alpha arrived yesterday morning with a cargo of coal.

Monday, Feb. 27. FROM SOOKE.—The schooner Matilda arrived from Sooke saw mills yesterday afternoon, with 40 M. lumber. She reports several outward bound ships in the Straits. The mill at Sooke is now in active operation.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Fidelity returned from Nanaimo last evening at 6 o'clock. She had a very rough passage down, a fresh gale blowing from the south-west. The Fidelity saw nothing of the Knight Bruce, bound for Nanaimo.

VICTORIA MARKETS. FLOUR AND GRAIN.—Trade has been better during the past week. Several lots of goods having been sent to British Columbia, and now the river is open to Yale, large orders are daily expected. Market rates are firm at former quotations, and are as under:

WHEAT—(Superior)—\$1 50 @ \$1 60 do. FLOUR—Extra, \$14 @ \$14 50 per bbl; superfine, \$12 @ \$13 do. OATMEAL—\$9 @ \$10 per 100 lb. CORNMEAL—\$8 @ \$8 50 do. BRAN—(Very scarce)—3/4c @ 1/2c per sack. MIDDLING—3/4c @ 1/2c do. WHEAT—(Scarce)—3/4c @ 1/2c do. OATS—3/4c do. BARLEY—3/4c @ 1/2c do. GROUND DO—1/2c do. HAY—1 1/2 @ 2 1/2 do per bale. POTATOES—2c @ 2 1/2c do per sack. ONIONS—5/4c @ 6c do do. BUTTER—37c @ 40c do per chest. COFFEE—28c @ 25c do per sack. SUGAR—(Raw)—8c @ 10c do per bbl; refined, 14c @ 15c do. RICE—(Scarce)—8c @ 10c do per sack. BUTTER—Best, 45c @ 48c do per case; ordinary, 42c @ 45c do per do. BACON—Hams, best quality—20c @ 25c; ordinary do, 15c @ 20c in moderate quantities. CHEESE—23c @ 25c do per case. CANDLES—22c @ 24c do per box.

IMPORTS Into the Colony of British Columbia, during the quarter ending 31st December, 1864.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes categories like Live Stock, Horses, Mules, Cows, Sheep, etc., with corresponding values.

PASSENGERS. For stmr PACIFIC, from San Francisco—Capt. P. & family, D. Lane, J. Hunt, E. T. Smith, L. Bosworth, Miss S. Jones, Miss S. Adams and 2 brothers, E. Barrington, Kwong Lee and 2 friends, E. Toomey, S. A. Smith, J. Marks, I. Turgu & wife, H. F. Foster, Mrs. Hicks, R. H. Adams and wife, T. Devenau, Mrs. T. Baillie, J. F. Wilson, J. E. Hines, J. A. Lord (W. F. & Co's Messenger) T. Armstrong, J. Roberts, C. Marales, J. Nahl, T. Douglas, J. Larnan, Miss Kate Rauff, J. Rauff, J. Robertson, Miss Lizzie Casper, Miss Lizzie Meekum, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Fitzgerald and 3 children, O. Moses, and 54 chinamen.

Per stmr ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—R. Roe and lady, H. K. Carter, W. Hamilton, Phillips, Lawrence, McGillom, T. Gibbon, P. Highland, W. Edwards, H. N. Steele, Waldron, Jas Fitzpatrick, North, Frost, Wright, Jones, Rothchild, Garfield, Brown, Webster, Kremler.

FRIDAY, Feb. 17. There is a good jobbing trade doing, otherwise business on the wharf is light. Flour and wheat are held with much firmness. There is rather more inquiry for Oats and Barley. Hay is scarce. Potatoes drop a little.

FLOUR.—The Market is higher; sales of Alviso Mills at \$13; we quote Genesee Mills extra, \$13; superfine do \$11 50 @ \$12; sales of Oregon extra at \$11 50; we quote National Mills extra at \$13; Golden Gate do do, same price; 3800 hf sks Chile for export, private.

WHEAT.—The market is firm, with sales of 625 sks at \$4 3/4. BARLEY.—We quote the market dull and nominal at \$3 3/4 @ \$5 for California; 1000 sks Chile, ex Sportsman, resold at an advance. BEANS—300 sks small white flat, 4c @ 1/2 lb. OATS—1500 sks sold at 2 1/2 @ 2 1/2c. BRAN—Sales at \$42 50 @ 4 1/2 per ton. MIDDLING—Sales at \$55 @ 60. POTATOES—Sales at 2 1/2 @ 3 1/2c @ 1/2 lb. HAY—Cargo sales at \$13 @ 30.

SAN FRANCISCO FRUIT MARKET.

[FROM THE S. F. FLAG.] Messrs. Addison & Martin, of the Pacific Fruit Market, furnish the following list of prices of fruit as the ruling rates in our city at the present time: APPLES—per box, \$3 @ 3 75; inferior per box, \$2 50 @ 2 75. PEARS—per box, \$2 15c. PLUMS—Dried, \$7 @ 14 @ 25c. PEACHES—Dried, \$7 @ 10 @ 15c. FIGS—\$7 @ 20 @ 30c. BLACKBERRIES—(D) \$7 @ 35 @ 40c. ORANGES—\$7 @ 100, \$5 @ 25; retail, \$1 @ 25. LEMONS—\$7 @ 100, \$5 @ 25; retail, \$1 @ 25.

GOODS ON THE WAY.

Per GOLDEN GATE, from San Francisco—sailed February 17—5 anchors, 15 bls gunny bags 115 sks barley, 20 bls chick, 174 cases boots and 5 doz brooms, 50 bxs candles, 19 cks castings, 7 cks clothing, 85 bgs 30 cks coffee, 19 cks cordage, 9 cks 3 pgs Drugs, 8 cks dry goods, 2 bls duck, 3 cases fancy goods, 304 bbls flour, 2531 hf sks, 1800 qrs fls flour, 17 pgs dried fruits, 20 cks, 16 pgs furniture, 4 cks 20 cks glassware, 4 pgs grindstones, 108 cks groceries, 5 cks hardware, 2 iron safes, 20 cases macaroni and vermicelli, 5 hds 10 barrels malt liquors, 1 cks matches, 25 pgs Chinese merchandise 49 sks meal, 96 kgs nails, 40 cks coal oil, 60 cases china, 2 cks paints, 2 bbl paper, 10 cks pearl barley, 227 cks preserves, 50 fms butter, 10 cks lard, 40 pgs pickles, 200 bgs rice, 30 gunnies salt, 2 pgs ship chandeliers, 100 bxs soap, 1 cks alcohol, 95 cases liquors, 25 bxs starch, 1 cks stationery, 140 bbls 70 hf bbls 200 bgs 60 bgs sugar, 40 kgs syrup, 45 cks 20 hf do 10 pgs 200 bxs tea, 13 bbls tins, 45 bxs 2 cks 51 bbls 4 bls tobacco, 478 cks 4-1-8th cks wine, 24 pgs window glass, 50 cks 1 bbl yeast powders. Value, \$51,913 75.

IMPORTS.

Per schooner CLANCEY from Port Townsend—5 bxs apples. Per steamer ELIZA ANDERSON from Puget Sound—95 hd cattle and calves, 129 head sheep, 2 coops chickens, 6 bxs eggs, 200 do, 19 sks pigstons, 2 bbls sugar, 30 bxs bread, 1 carcass beef. Value, \$5 847. Per stmr PACIFIC, from San Francisco—17 pgs hardware, 9 do duck, boots, etc., 2 do books and cards 3 do hops, 1 do tops, 28 do clothing, 1 do medicine, 18 do hats, 21 cigars, 1 do hats do medicine, 1 do gold scales, 1 do stationery, 1 do harness, 1 do books and stationery, 65 bbls tubes 10 do drugs, 170 do sugar, butter, etc., 2 do gas pipes, 1 do onion seed, 9 do seeds, 10 do castings, 2 do mustard, 11 do boots, 32 do carriage materials, 4 do dry goods, 124 do mds, 4 do opium, 1 do cheese, 1 do butter, 2 do mds, 2 do windmills, etc, 6 do leather, 1 horse. Value, \$27,000.

Per sloop LETITIA, from Port Townsend—136 bushels wheat, 386 bushels oats, 123 bushels cement, 3 tons hay. Value, \$834. Per schr CAROLENA, from N W Coast B C—Skins and furs; value, \$1,860; oils and Indian goods, \$150. Total, \$2,000.

Per schr FLYING MIST, from Port Townsend—21 tons hay, 109 bush apples. Value, \$310. Per schr WINGED RACER, from Port Angeles—110 coils telegraph wire. Per schooner LORD RAGLAN, from British Columbia—2 pgs furs. Value, \$450.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

ENTERED. Feb. 20—Sip C. S. Kidder, Henderson, Port Angeles. Stmr Oregon, Connor, San Francisco. Sloop W. B. Taylor, Stevens, Barclay Sound. Stmr Enterprise, Hollins, Nanaimo. Stmr Fidelity, London, Nanaimo. Stmr Emily Harris, McIntosh, Nanaimo. Stmr Goldstream, Hewitt, Nanaimo. Bark Knight Bruce, Bryce, Nanaimo. Feb. 21—Sloop Hamley, Dolhoff, Nanaimo. Stmr Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles. Sloop Fashion, Hagley, Port Angeles. Schr Onward, McKay, Nanaimo. Feb. 22—Schr Native, Smith, New Westminster. Schr North Star, McCulloch, New Westminster. Schr Industry, Ogilvie, Orcas Island. Sloop Alarm, Hollins, Nanaimo. Feb. 23—Schr Parmiter, Headlin, Perdrer Bay. Feb. 23—Schr J. K. Thorndike, Thornton, San Juan. Stmr Pacific, Burns, Astoria. Stmr Emily Harris, McIntosh, Nanaimo. Feb. 24—Schr Sweetstakes, Keffler, Saanich. Sloop Letitia, Adams, Port Angeles. Stmr Diana, Wright, New Westminster. Feb. 25—Stmr Fidelity, London, Nanaimo. Schr Alpha, George, Nanaimo. Schr Lord Raglan, Byrne, New Westminster. Stmr Enterprise, Moutat, New Westminster.

CLEARED.

Feb. 20—Stmr Oregon, Connor, Astoria. Sip C. S. Kidder, W. Henderson, Port Angeles. Stmr Enterprise, Moutat, New Westminster. Schr Goldstream, Cauffray, Nanaimo. Sloop Deerfoot, King, Nanaimo. Schr Langley, Menforth, N W coast B C. Schr C. E. Clancey, Robertson, Port Angeles. Feb. 21—Str Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles. Sloop Hamley, Dolhoff, Nanaimo. Sloop Fashion, Hagley, Port Angeles. Sloop Alarm, Hollins, Nanaimo. Feb. 22—Steamer Emily Harris, McIntosh, Nanaimo. Sloop Boz, Dake, Nanaimo. Schr North Star, McCulloch, Nanaimo. Sloop Letitia, Adams, Port Angeles. Schr Carolena, Finch, Port Angeles. Feb. 23—Schr Flying Mist, Thompson, Port Angeles. Stmr Pacific, Burns, San Francisco. Schr Discovery, Rudin, Saanich. Schr Eliza, Carleton, Saanich. Schr Gazelle, Golacar, Fort Rupert. Sloop Thornton, Warren, Lopez Island. Schr Winged Racer, Peterson, Port Angeles. Sloop Eagle, Knight, Saanich. Schr J. K. Thorndike, Thornton San Juan. Stmr Alexandria, Inley, Port Angeles. Feb. 24—Boat Harriet, Dirk, San Juan. Stmr Enterprise, Hollins, Nanaimo. Feb. 25—Stmr Fidelity, London, Nanaimo. Schr Alpha, George, Nanaimo. Slip Boz, Dake, Cowichan. Slip Thornton, Warren, New Westminster. Schr Flying Mist, Thompson, Port Angeles. Boat Harriet, Dirk, San Juan. Stmr Enterprise, Moutat, New Westminster. Slip Eagle, Knight, New Westminster.

MARRIED.

On the 22d inst, at the church of St. Louis College, by the Rev. Father Baudre, President of the College, Alexander Lewy to Louisa McNeal, both of this city. At Christ Church, on Tuesday, the 21st inst., by the Rev. Mr. Cridge, William Parsons, of San Juan Island, to Anne Mellor, of Victoria, V. I. At the residence of his father, James Bay, on the 21st inst., by the Rev. E. Cridge, William T. Leigh, eldest son of Mr. Wm. Leigh, to Miss Helen Vandeleur Holmes, both of this city. In this city, on the 6th inst., by the Rev. Father Siger, at the residence of the Right Reverend Bishop Demers, William McNamee to Ann Jane Irvin, both of this city. At St. Andrews Cathedral, in this city, on the 21st inst., by the Rev. Father Maloney, Mr. Michael Carey to Mrs. Eliza Carroll.

DIED.

In this city, on the 25th inst., Caroline, the infant daughter of David F. and Mary Foe. At San Juan Island, on the 20th of Feb., 1865, Henry, eldest son of Hannah and Henry Myers, residents of Lopez Island, aged 12 years and 2 months. At the residence of M. H. Frost, Mukitilo, W. T., on 6th December, 1864, John Topping, a native of Scotland, aged 28.