



Wednesday March 23, 1870.

The Tax Scheme.

On the 15th February the Government scheme for union with Canada was formally introduced to the public. On the 14th March the member for Victoria District unfolded his in a speech which sorely taxed the patience of the House. With the obvious advantage of having the Government scheme by his side for a whole month, it was not unreasonable to expect that a gentleman of no little research and ambition would have succeeded in producing something which, if it did not absolutely supersede the Government measure, would at least divide the House upon it. There was evident surprise at the result. True, the member for Lillooet, in his accustomed pronounced way, declared that the scheme propounded by his honorable colleague had completely demolished that submitted by the Government. Yet it must be evident from the vote that he was very much alone in that way of thinking for the two solitary votes cast with the political 'Siamese Twins' must be regarded as having been cast against Confederation rather than in favor of the new scheme. It was, indeed, a poor consolation for the would-be leader of the Confederation party to find himself with such a following. It was a doubtful compliment paid to his scheme to find it supported only and solely by the implacable anti-Confederation pair. Let us look at this new scheme in a spirit of fairness; nor should it be concealed that the House was in a temper to treat the scheme upon its own merits and not in a party spirit. The chief objection taken to the Government scheme was that it rested upon a fictitious basis in regard to population; but is not the population basis recommended by Mr. DeCosmos open to far stronger objection? In the Government scheme the population is reckoned at 120,000. It is not pretended that this is the true population; but it is fully explained that upon a careful calculation, it was found that for purposes of Federal revenue, the population of British Columbia, be it what it may, is equal to 120,000 in the Province with which it is proposed to unite, so that if there is fiction in the figures, the facts are fair and just. But what do we find the objector doing? He flies into the opposite extreme and places the population at 40,000. In speaking about the population of this colony figures can only be regarded as approximate; yet it will scarcely be denied that the Indian and Chinese population does not fall short of 45,000, and at no period has the white population been put below 10,000. Here, then, we have 75,000 certain—how many more we will not pretend to say. But it should be remembered that these figures represent the minimum population of the colony at its lowest ebb, and that a fresh current is now setting in. Should the newly discovered goldfields at all open out? Is it no exaggeration to say that the white population will double in two years, nor will we be accused of recklessness in asserting that with union and the inauguration of the great works to follow in its wake, population will pour into this colony from adjacent countries at such a rate as fully to justify the Government basis, regarded in a purely numerical point of view. In any case it is much nearer the mark than the other. The chief difference, however, between the two is that the Government has adopted the leveling-up process, whereas Mr. DeCosmos has adopted the leveling-down process. Yet there is more in this difference than may appear at first sight. The larger standard of population gives us better financial results; but at the same time gives the colony a higher political status. With the population boiled down to 40,000 we could not with any show of reason claim equal representation in the Canadian Parliament, nor five seats in the Senate and three in the Commons, as proposed by Mr. DeCosmos in his scheme submitted to the Year Convention some two years ago. By the plan submitted by the Government, British Columbia will be entitled to a representation of twelve members in the Commons and four in the Senate, and probably two in the Cabinet. The importance of this difference is not easily overestimated. As was very forcibly pointed out by Mr. Barnard, in the course of debate, it might not seldom literally throw the balance of power, so to speak, into our hands. And it is just, as it is important, that a colony possessing so large and valuable a territory and occupying such an important geographical position, should be allowed a potent voice in the Federal councils. But there is yet another important point of difference between the two schemes; and it is here that the one propounded by Mr. DeCosmos completely breaks down. Under the Government scheme the revenue derived from the population is equal to that

of the Dominion Government \$150,000, to be paid back as the population rises over 40,000, at the rate of 80 cents per head—that is to say, in proportion as the \$32,000 increase so will the \$150,000 diminish in like proportion—much upon the principle, in fact, adopted by Pat. who, upon finding his blanket too short, cut a piece from the one end and added it to the other! Now it must be evident that before these sums would be equalized the population would have to reach 180,000 souls. So, whereas, in the one case an increase of revenue in the form of head money would be attained, upon the population exceeding 120,000, in the other it would not commence to increase until the population reached the number of 180,000! With the Government scheme, therefore, we secure much better financial results, and infinitely better political results. Well might the Chief Commissioner remark that a comparison of the two schemes made him more than ever in love with the Government one. Well might the ultra anti-Confederates vote for Mr. DeCosmos' scheme as the most ready means of defeating the measure at the polls!

Legislative Council.

MONDAY, March 14th, 1870. The House went into Committee on the Confederation resolutions. Hon H. M. Ball is the Chair. The Resolution having been read in full, the Attorney General rose to propose the adoption of the Resolution as sent down, to the House having as its object the Confederation of this Colony with the Dominion of Canada. He proposed to consult the wish of the Council as to the particulars, mode in which the Terms should be discussed; whether as a whole, or in detail, paragraph by paragraph; but before doing so he thought it right to make a few brief general remarks on the resolution as a whole. The subject was one of so large a nature, and such paramount importance, so many interests both here and in Canada were at stake, and the issues involved were so extensive, that he sincerely hoped that all hon members would bring to its discussion an earnest desire to combine their individual efforts to work out a successful result, and to throw aside for such an occasion all former prejudices and dislikes, and as we had unanimously affirmed the principle, the House was now committed to Confederation in the abstract, [as I do not from hon's DeCosmos, Wood, Humphreys and Drake.] Well, well, he (the Attorney-General) thought so, and the House would think so too. It had no word. He hoped that they could all now set harmoniously together, and see whether they would not between them find out such a scheme as would effect the desired object and work well in practice; to just and equitable to Canada, who, will certainly be just and equitable to us, and yet so favorable to this Colony as to insure the terms ratification when submitted to the popular vote. All hon members whatever their opinions desired the same thing, to get the best terms practicable to the country, and the scheme contained, he submitted, the best they could devise, and would give the local government as large an annual balance of cash for local purposes as they could venture to ask. Here the hon gentlemen saw danger against which it was his duty to warn hon members. The hon members should be careful in attempting to add anything to the proposals, now before the House, which could not be granted by Canada; and should be particularly careful not to overload it with terms least it should break down by its own weight, or, to take away from it interest by suggesting any other that were not of marked importance. The resolution itself had been framed by the Governor and Executive Council after very long deliberations and anxious care. He (the Attorney-General) had observed a report in a newspaper of the previous proceedings of the Council, if he might be allowed to notice it without producing the paper, in which a hon member was stated to have said, that any amendments of the resolution would be accepted. He (the Attorney-General) thought it right to say on behalf of the Government, that while the Government could not consent to impede the action of their scheme by amendments, they would still be happy to receive and fully consider and would invite hon members to bring forward for the decision of the House all suggestions of a practical and reasonable character, calculated to remove any of its disadvantages and so improve the working of the scheme and insure its more general acceptance. As the majority of the Council were in favor of dividing it into parts and discussing it paragraph by paragraph, he would follow the suggestion. He proposed the adoption of paragraph 1. "Canada shall be liable for the debts and liabilities of British Columbia." These he explained to be actual debts of the colony matured and not matured. He quoted the returns that day sent down by the Governor giving the details of these liabilities and showing that our indebtedness on 15th March instant consisted of the British Columbia and Vancouver Island loans secured by Act—amounting in all to \$1,194,000, against which \$245,820 had been paid and invested in a sinking fund in reduction of loans, leaving a balance of \$948,180 still to be invested, and a floating debt of all kinds of \$319,000, including over \$40,000 savings' bank deposits. This floating debt it is contemplated to consolidate by a statutory loan at a lower rate of interest and to procure the money from Canada, [which, as you are aware is now not] or elsewhere. For that purpose the Governor proposes to submit an Ordinance for the approval of this House conferring the necessary powers. The Attorney-General explained that our first funded loan which fell due on the 1st Jan. 1873

would in fact, owing to the high rate and favorable investment of the sinking fund, be paid off at least a year before its term expired. Regarded as a whole our public debt was by no means an extravagant one, as compared with other countries; but in our isolated position as a young self-dependent colony, it was felt as a very heavy burden. Its assumption by Canada on fair terms will not only relieve us of this but save us a large cash balance for public works to open up the country. The Attorney-General proposed the adoption of paragraphs 2 and 3, which were to be taken together, explained that 120,000 had been taken as the estimated number of the population, because in the absence of actual census and to facilitate financial arrangements it had been deemed best to calculate according to the revenue producing powers of British Columbia compared with Canada. Thus, we had it officially from Canada that her customs and excise produced \$2 75 per head of her population. At the same rate—\$2 75 per head—our customs represented the same present revenue as a population of 120,000 Canadians produce. This estimate of 120,000; therefore, though nominal, was really just and fair—hence 120,000 population has been adopted as the basis of our financial calculations. The \$35,000 in paragraph 3, allowance for the general support of the government, is an arbitrary sum adopted by Canada in negotiating with Newfoundland and New Brunswick. The allowance of 5 per cent interest on the difference between our public debt and that of Canada, is arrived at in this way: We have it officially from Canada that her debt on February 9th—say 1st of March, if you like—amounted to \$22 per head of her population. This would entitle us with 120,000 people to some 120,000 x \$22 = \$2,640,000, which at the time of union would be, say \$1,000,000. The interest at 5 per cent on these amounts would give us the annual allowance of \$82,000 named in the papers before the House. The 80 cents a head on our population of 120,000, is the usual allowance prescribed by the Organic Act of Confederation. The Attorney General then proposed the adoption of paragraphs 1 and 3. The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works said the 120,000 population at first sight might seem extravagant, but any basis on present actual population would not give us an equal advantage with the other provinces. He felt it his duty to tell the Council that in preparing the scheme the government were very much indebted to the hon member for Victoria, and the Council would find him one of the most ardent and enthusiastic in the matter of making good terms. He would explain the reasons upon which the 120,000 population basis was adopted. The people of this colony are a much larger tax-paying people than any other in the Dominion—one man paying as much to the revenue as four on the other side. One dollar here was worth no more than a quarter of a dollar in the eastern provinces. The vastness of revenue in British Columbia was equal to that paid by 120,000 people in the Dominion. The rate at which they pay is \$2 75 per head. Our revenue, being \$230,000, is equal to \$2 75 a head on 120,000 people. He believed it a fair basis for a financial scheme. It was no doubt open to logical objections, but yet it was equitable. This is what the statute is worth as we term it. Canada may manage it differently when she gets it. The debt of Canada amounts to \$22 per head on the population, and on a basis of population of 120,000 this colony is entitled to claim a debt of \$2,640,000. Our debt when we enter the union will be about \$1,000,000 and we are entitled to an additional debt of \$1,640,000. Mr. DeCosmos said he was rising to speak to the resolution which he was about to offer that he probably would be wasting his time, but his duty required him to do so. Confederation must have a money value. No government can move without money. The way, and means must be provided for, and the end to be attained in this resolution should be to secure to the local government of this colony the sum of \$200,000 annually. Such a surplus would be about the correct thing, he did not believe in the scheme as proposed as a matter of finance. He did not see any necessity for assuming a population of 120,000 instead of 40,000—the real number of consumers. We would not meet the object by resorting to fiction. He thought facts were best. The hon gentleman reviewed at great length the scheme proposed by the Government, showing where in it would fail to meet the altered conditions of the colony under Confederation and a different tariff, when there would be a political as well as a financial equalization. He also objected to the proposition to apply the internal resources of the colony to provincial purposes, stating that such taxes were altogether or mainly used for municipal purposes in the provinces. He also instanced, to show the changes which would take place under the equalizing influence of union, the fact that in Canada the tax for a license for selling liquor was \$30 per year, while in this colony it was \$200. He warned hon members against making any mistake as to fact. He then explained at some length a scheme which he had prepared which was not based upon population but upon area of territory. He said when the Confederation delegates first met in London they divided the provinces into three groups—the two Canadas and the maritime provinces. In the Columbia in regard to soil, climate, extent of area and in other resources would hold an equality in the division—with its 220 millions of acres of land it was capable of supporting a population equal to that of Upper Canada. He thought it not at all equal to place the subsidy to this colony as low as that proposed for Newfoundland. It ought rather to be equal to that for Ontario, \$80,000. We should not be put on a par with New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. We should have a larger subsidy and our per capita subsidy should increase until our population reached a million, and we were also entitled to a temporary subsidy of \$150,000 a year, to decrease as our population increased. Dr. Helmeke said as a matter of expediency we want \$250,000 a year. We do not want to be considered to Canada, but Canada wants us. [No, no.] Yes, yes; Canada wants us. The hon gentlemen who had just spoken said Canadian goods will come in from Will Canada, a member of that I in our revenue falls in consequence of goods coming from Canada to this colony free, will

not Canada be compensated by way of having a market for her goods and manufactures? Canada will not look at her terms critically or in a serious manner. We want \$250,000 and Canada would be getting the colony cheap by giving that amount. He thought the population should not be limited to 40,000; it would make our representation in the Commons too small, 120,000 will give us eight members in the Commons. Canada was getting a good bargain. It 1000 voters go to Peace river this year our revenue will increase, and if Peace river is a success Canada cannot get the colony for \$250,000 a year. Mr. Holbrook said he liked the scheme of the government better than that of the hon member for Victoria District. He thought there should be some provision made that we should get back part of our excess of revenue if Peace river turned out well, except the 80 cents per head. He believed that in a short time Canada would draw a million, or a million, and a half dollars of revenue from this colony, and he would like to see some member propose a scheme whereby we could get back a part of the increase of revenue, and he would support it; otherwise he would support the government scheme. Mr. Humphreys said his colleague [the hon member for Victoria District] had completely demolished the scheme of the government. He thought it only to talk about the revenue to be derived from the Peace river mines. The amount of prospecting in that country had been too trifling to afford any data upon which to base an argument in the matter of terms. He wanted to see a scheme proposed that would lay to rest reflections and troubles such as they have had in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Mr. Barnard said he would like to hear the hon member for Lillooet explain the difference between the terms proposed by the hon member for Victoria District and those of the government. Mr. Humphreys—There is a difference. Mr. Wood said our present revenue-paying population might be reckoned at about 25,000 and if it should increase in ten years to 100,000 the revenue to Canada would be enormous. He did not think any facilities for transport could be had to allow the importation of manufactured goods from Canada, and the customs duties would still continue very large. He thought the population of the colony would number 100,000 before it did a million, and when it did a million the revenue to the Dominion would be from a million to a million and a half. The terms only showed a present advantage at the expense of the future. Mr. Robson said he had followed the hon member for Victoria district through his scheme and he would say that he thought none the less of the government scheme. He would, however, congratulate that hon gentleman on the immense stride which he had taken in two years. He then asked only \$142,000 from Canada. He [Mr. Robson] thought the government had hit upon the most sound and statesmanlike basis, and he was glad to hear that the hon member of the Executive for Victoria had added so much to its value. He did not think a basis of 120,000 population an entirely fictitious one. The explanation of the Chief Commissioner was fair and satisfactory. It was more business-like than the scheme suggested by the hon member for Victoria district. It was also a basis of representation. If confined to 40,000 of a population we should have a small representation in the Commons. When we put the population at 120,000, it gives us a status in the Dominion. There is another ground which justifies this basis of population. We are on the eve of changes which give us reason to expect our population to double in a short time. The public works which will commence immediately after union will increase it at once, and it is fair to put our population up to meet the increase. He would assure hon gentlemen that as the population of this colony progressed, the policy of the Dominion government would tend toward free trade, and that the internal would soon exceed the external or import revenue, and the customs revenue of this colony would not increase much above its present standard from the reduction of duties and the importation of Canadian goods. Some gentlemen may look surprised, as this, but he would tell them that there are large houses in Canada now in negotiation with merchants in this colony, and the year that sees union will see cargoes of Dominion goods landed in our ports. In two or three years, under our own customs and revenue will almost come to a standstill, and we shall enjoy all the advantages of that reduction of taxation. The bargain about to be made was a good one. We might strengthen the hands of the government by asking more—but let us do nothing to weaken their hands and compel them to take less. He thought the expenses of the local government could be somewhat reduced, and thereby a saving made to the colony. The subsidy of \$35,000 he thought to small for this colony. He would therefore move that it be increased to \$50,000 and that the limit of representation be one million, instead of 400,000. In regard to the mines of the colony he thought they would be more lasting than some hon members predicted; and he also differed with those who think our prosperity depends altogether on the mines. He believed there might be a million of a population in ten years, and that this colony would become of immense importance. He thought the hon member for Victoria had recognized and established the fact. Dr. Carrall said the policy of the Canadian Government was to change the revenue from import to excise duties and gradually approach the principle of free trade. He thought the importation of Canadian goods would reduce the revenue of the colony, but in any case should a surplus of revenue accrue to the Dominion government in proportion to that of this colony would revert to us and would be applied to local purposes. He would say in regard to the Indian population of this colony, he had learned from good authority that it was full 80,000. Mr. Drake said he thought the subsidy of \$35,000 for this colony when compared with Newfoundland was altogether too small, and he would move that \$75,000 be substituted. The Surveyor-General said he would be glad to assist in any alterations in which he thought we might be successful. The increase of territory would not object to, but would, let it pass to the Executive for reconsideration. It had been said by an hon member that the scheme presented a present advantage to a future loss. We over-look the fact that when we are a portion of the Dominion we participate in its prosperity, and any surplus that might accrue to the Dominion would be equally divided. He [Surveyor-General] had carefully listened to the scheme propounded by the hon

member for Victoria District and he must say he was more satisfied with the government scheme now than he was before. He thought the basis proposed by the hon member for Victoria District defective. We should not depreciate our colony. He thought we were on the eve of prosperity and should Canada gain by our prosperity, we would derive a proportion of that gain. Mr. DeCosmos said he had heard nothing to disturb the solid foundation of his scheme. The whole was a matter of expediency. His scheme gave \$165,000 per annum more than the government scheme. He proposed to reduce the interest-revenue to \$50,000 and increase the subsidies from the Dominion. The hon member for New Westminster says 'I have made an enormous stride.' He had made no stride at all; he had asked \$200,000. He had that pivot he had been revolving and that was the sum which he now proposed by his present scheme. He would therefore move: 1 That the Council recommend to His Excellency the Governor the following resolutions for his consideration: 2 The population of British Columbia shall be estimated at 40,000. 3 The following sums shall be paid semi-annually by Canada to British Columbia for the support of the Local Government and Legislature, to wit—An annual grant of \$30,000 and a further sum of 80 cents a head per annum of the population, both payable half-yearly in advance, the population of British Columbia being estimated as aforesaid. Such grant of 80 cents per head to be augmented till the population shall be shown to be One Million, at which number it shall thereafter remain. Canada shall also pay to British Columbia, in semi-annual advances, the sum of \$150,000 per annum, which shall from time to time be reduced in proportion as the population may exceed 40,000. Mr. Alison said he would support the Government scheme, and he would also support any reasonable amendment. He thought the terms should be based on a real population. He would go for a large subsidy for a few years, in consequence of the increase in our revenue, Canada would have very little to pay. Mr. Barnard said he would support the basis of population as adopted by the government. New Brunswick with a population of 250,000 was entitled to 15 members in the Commons of the Dominion and with 40,000 we would be entitled only to 8. Eight members standing together could have a great influence in the Dominion Parliament. He thought the Indians were entitled to be represented as well as the white population. The resolution of Mr. DeCosmos was put and lost by the following vote: Yea—Drake, Humphreys, DeCosmos, Wood, Noe—Trutch, Hankin, O'Reilly, Saunders, Dewdney, Holbrook, Barnard, Robson, Helmeke, Carrall, Alston, Pemberton, Bushby, Hamley and Crease. The amendment of Mr. Drake was put and carried without a division. WEDNESDAY, March 16th, 1870. Council met at 1 p.m. with business of Minutes of last meeting read and adopted. A RESOLUTION OF MOTION. Mr. Holbrook—To move that Indians receive the same protection from the Dominion as under this colony; and that the local government shall have power over its lands. Mr. Dewdney—To bring in a bill restricting bulls and entire horses from roaming at large. Mr. Humphreys—To move that the Dominion Government maintain the trunk roads and abolish tolls. The Council went into Committee of the Whole on the Confederation Terms and passed clauses 4 5 6 and 7, when the Committee rose and reported progress and asked leave to sit again. Council adjourned till one o'clock on Thursday.

F. DALLY. Desires to inform the Inhabitants of Victoria and its vicinity, that he has returned from the Upper Country with a Choice Collection of New Photographic Views of Mountain Scenery and other highly interesting Subjects. CARTES DE VISITE. The Gallery is situated on Fort street VICTORIA, B. C.

Mineral Boring. THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING HAD many years experience in boring for minerals and enjoyed every facility for acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of the Coal Strata of this Colony, begs to inform parties who are about to prospect for Coal that he is now open for an engagement and holds himself ready to conduct any operation of that nature which may be entrusted to him. MR. J. DICK, Newcastle. Boremaster. Mr. J. Bryden, Manager V. I. C. Mr. Robt. Dunsmead, Manager Harwood Co. dals Boremaster.

Only Silver Medal Awarded, Paris Exhibition, 1867. J. MORSON & SON. PURE CHEMICALS & ALL NEW MEDICINES. 121, 123, 125, Southampton Row, Russell Square, London.

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DELAY. St Paul's say February 18 and Griezels with 200 Cabs. Not such the Fort Bell collect them. Boul his men who while the 6 to Stone Fort patched 100 of Schütz's shot. Another says Buitto not rise, because started Postage, but met by a ph Boulton was shot. A Fort Garry married at OTTAWA, Common, the Govern priation for the Welland said it was Governm eign fisherme It was the in to take step Canadian fis The announc cheers. S R confidential ing between relative to present unli laid before difficulty pre intercourse was ed last night Masonic fra mourning cere arrests were by prohibi permission of the present The Vice to-day den Order in Cu rested for h orders of the in jail. LONDON, Secretary of referring to question, as the Inland Government and other of LONDON, the Inman great many of the City the advance writer: The 'Sat pre-ion of it precede any The Spec the Duke of the torjes in The Tim The attempt the Isthm London, Foot for is cable, small heretofore in the Paris, M the editorial papers have of the Erae (Londn) on ment. In 10,000 franc It is repc the Empero Just, the bir rial. Paris, M writer emp going the Republic, a imprisonment 500 francs. MADRID, penit' arr the city am fog of bells the people. Important in the adm provinces. errors have MADRID, giver of the the Paris jo vantage obtain from the Province, by which the Montpel ovation on t In the Col denied that of the Duke of the Duke should be at He added the central of the State's sea the elect have three in ment. BUREAU, which idic tated, has be

DELAYED DISPATCHES

Hostilities Commenced at Red River... CHICAGO, March 5.—A special from St. Paul says a letter dated Feb. 28, 1870, February 18th, says:—Majors Bouton and Griekel marched on Fort Garry with 200 Canadians, English and militia.

OTTAWA, March 4.—In the House of Commons, last night, Langens said the Government would ask an appropriation for the purpose of completing the Welland Canal. Sir J. A. Macdonald said it was not the intention of the Government to issue any license to foreign fishermen during the next season.

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London, March 3.—John Bright is residing in the mountains of Wales. His health is improved.

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The Seed Store, YATES STREET, VICTORIA.

JAY & BALES Have for Sale Wholesale and Retail an entire NEW STOCK of Island Raised Agricultural, Vegetable and Flower Seeds, GUARANTEED OF THE BEST QUALITY AND TRUE TO NAME. ALSO, Fruit Trees and Bushes, Evergreens And every description of NURSERY STOCK.

CURES AND COMFORT FOR THE RED-RIDDER. Holloway's Ointment.

It cures all sores, wounds, bad legs, ulcers and eruptions of the skin when rubbed on the surface. It penetrates and purifies each pore, its passage, and expels the most noxious humors, restores the natural structure of the skin, and thereby promotes sound and permanent health.

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Victoria Nursery & Seed Establishment

MITCHELL & JOHNSTON, ARE NOW READY WITH NEW SEEDS, PRINCIPALLY THEIR OWN GROWING, For the Farm and Garden. The Superior Excellence of their SEEDS is fully Established. Every requisite for the Farm and Garden at the Store, and

NEW GOODS EX "PRINCE OF WALES."

HENRY NATHAN JR. & CO. Have in Store and offer for Sale The following NEW GOODS!

BLANKETS. 2 1/2 point Blue, 2 1/2 do Black, 2 1/2 do White. Tickling, Blue Cottons, Horrocks' Lion Cloth, American Drilling, Grey Cottons, White Saxony Flannel, Tartan Plaids, Woollen, Knives, Forks, Spoons, Plates, Cups, Saucers, Tea Sets, Coffee Sets, Glassware, Cutlery, Stationery, Books, Maps, Globes, Toys, Games, and many other articles.

SHAWLS. Cashmere, Merino, Alpaca, and other fine shawls. Also, Hosiery, Socks, and other articles.

IN BOND & DUTY PAID. Jamieson's Scotch Whisky, Black & White, and other fine liquors. Also, various other goods.

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The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday March 23, 1870.

Facts and Figures.

Notwithstanding the existence of a deeprooted and widespread consciousness of the fact that the foreign trade of Victoria has suffered materially on account of the abolition of the free port, we are persuaded that but few persons fully realize the extent of that injury. Without complete statistics to carry us beyond the year 1864, and taking that as the initial point, we find that the export of foreign merchandise rose from \$169,977 in 1864 to \$341,918 in 1866, the last year of the existence of the free port. It will hardly be necessary to state that the term 'export of foreign merchandise' is confined to such goods as, having been imported into the colony, were subsequently exported for foreign consumption. These figures show that the export trade was more than doubled during the last three years of the existence of the free port. We leave it to the reader to estimate the probable increase which would have taken place by this time, had the fatal error of abolishing the free port never been committed. It is fair to assume that the ratio of increase would not have been less, inasmuch as the surrounding markets have been rapidly expanding. Nor are we left altogether in the dark respecting the description of goods entering most largely into the foreign trade of that period. In 1865 the item of dry goods amounted to \$59,018; iron, \$30,990; spirits and wines, \$21,012; ale and porter, \$9,552. It would be a great mistake to imagine that these figures represent the whole foreign trade of that period. They represent what might be designated as the wholesale part of it only. We should probably be borne out by the merchants most familiar with that branch of business in asserting that the retail trade amounted to quite as much. Indeed those who remember how largely the people of Puget Sound traded with our retail dealers during the free port days will agree with us that the estimate is a very moderate one. Thus, then, we have \$88,836 as representing the foreign trade of Victoria during the year 1866. Assuming that the same ratio of increase would have marked the three subsequent years, had the free port been continued, the foreign trade of the place would have, by the close of the last year, reached the handsome sum of \$1,367,672. But what is the fact? The same statistics tell us that it fell to \$67,635 in 1869! Alas! What have the Protectionists wrought! The export of dry goods fell from \$59,018 in 1866 to \$7,108 in 1869. But the importance of the free port must not be gauged even by the suppositions figures we have given as representing the increase of our foreign trade, had it been continued. Victoria was only in its infancy as a cheap mart of commerce. It was only beginning to be known as a distance, and would in course of time have become the resort of all the peoples of the North Pacific, as well as of many beyond. Nor should it be forgotten that the amount of goods exported does not fully represent the real value of the trade. Every ship that attracted to our shores left more or less money in the country. Every customer, whether a wholesale or retail purchaser, spent more or less in the place, and in many ways was the colony benefited thereby. Indeed it is the withdrawal of that trade, through the stupid policy of the people, that accounts for the notices 'To Let' which meet the eye at every turn. It is the loss of that trade which causes our merchants, hotel-keepers, tradespeople and mechanics to cry out about 'hard times'. It is the loss of that trade which has, in a great measure, tended to fill every berth in departing steamers. To some the loss of a million and a half of foreign trade may appear but a trifling affair; but to increase the trade of this community by a million and a half would be to cause a return of prosperity. There is this feature about our foreign trade which should never be lost sight of. Domestic trade causes money to change hands. Foreign trade brings money into the country. Is the restoration of the free port desirable under Confederation? If it is, it is not only a more auspicious opportunity for obtaining it, but it is presented to us as we are framing the basis upon which we are willing to become a part of the Dominion!

Express AGES... Navigation... Victoria... Gold Mines... The late storms raged with great fury along the coast of this island. At Cowichan much snow fell. Two men have been sent to the Nugraves copper lead. They sailed in the schooner Alpha, a few days ago. Coast Rovers.—The schooner Caroleus will sail for Skeena River on the 23d. THE PERFECTION OF PREPARED COCOA... MARAVILLA COCOA... TAYLOR BROTHERS... AN UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS... THURSDAY, March 17. The Council met at 1 p.m. Mr. DeCosmos rose to a question of privilege. He said he was sorry that he was placed under the necessity of declaring that the report of his speech on the amendment proposed to be given by the Dominion to this colony was so grossly misreported in the October Standard that it did to himself and the country he was compelled to declare the report unworthy of belief. In a short time he stepped through the press and published to neutralize the falsehoods against himself that the Colonist was engaged in publishing throughout the colony. Mr. DeCosmos then rose and reported progress.

Legislative Council.

The debate in Committee on the Terms of Confederation was resumed. The Attorney General in moving Section 4, after alluding to an attempt to build a dock at Esquimalt which had failed, said that the provision now proposed for this great public work he thought quite ample to secure it. That from the estimates made the sum of £100,000 with other aid that might be obtained would build it. As regarded the selection of Esquimalt all the commanding officers of the navy had reported in favor of Esquimalt, and without the patronage of the Admiralty he thought that it would not be built. It was, therefore, on public grounds he approved the selection of Esquimalt, as being the most proper place. He thought the Great White Elephant could be utilized in this work. He thought no jealousy should be entertained by those on the Mainland on account of this local selection. He thought the railway terminus would be at New Westminster. Mr. Holbrook opposed the clause as being sectional. He thought the locality should be left out and the question decided hereafter. He had been asked by the New Westminster people to move that Burrard Inlet be substituted for Esquimalt, but he would not do so—he would oppose naming any locality. Mr. Humphreys could not understand why there should be opposition to this measure. It was an unobjectionable one. He thought it would be better, however, to leave the question of locality to a committee. Mr. Robeson said he did not intend to let his sectional feelings influence him. He thought it would have been better had the locality not been named. He did not think that naming the port would decide the question of location. The Dock would be built in the most suitable place. Mr. Wood moved that the word 'Esquimalt' be struck out and such place as the Dominion Government may select be inserted. He said the naming of Esquimalt was to give popular favor—a bid for the Victoria vote. The hon. gentlemen, at some length and with considerable warmth, characterized the thing as a political dodge. Several Members—No! Mr. Wood—Yes! He had felt the influence on himself. The people don't want Confederation; they want money, and this is a bid to get their consent. The Surveyor General expressed regret that such remarks should fall from any member as had fallen from the lips of Mr. Wood, not only upon this but upon other occasions. He spared with content such insinuations. The main reason for naming Esquimalt was to secure with the Dry Dock the head quarters of the British fleet. He hoped the assistance of the Imperial Government would be obtained to accomplish this work. He could also give good reasons why Esquimalt was the best place in a commercial point of view. The late Governor and the commander of the fleet had both reported in favor of Esquimalt. He was surprised to see any feeling against the proposition from the Mainland, as that portion of the colony would reap the greatest benefit from the railroad, which he thought would probably come down the Fraser River. Mr. Wood reiterated what he had said in regard to the selection of Esquimalt by the members of the Executive as an electioneering dodge. The Surveyor General would assure the hon. gentleman that had any such motives actuated the Executive they could have prepared a much more palatable and attractive dish. He thought it was the intention and object of the government to do this and on its popularity they based its success. Mr. DeCosmos said he was one of those who thought the clause a proper one. He thought it would have been a great blunder to have left out the word 'Esquimalt'. He condemned the idea of framing the Terms to catch the popular vote. He at some length gave his views in regard to the relative merits of docks and patent slips, and would ask the hon. Surveyor General what description of a dock or slip would attract a large amount of shipping from Puget Sound. The Surveyor General said it was most certainly a matter of consideration as to what description of dock would be most expedient. He thought to build an open one dock at Esquimalt would require a larger sum than £100,000. The advantage there would be in building such a dock, as it would be the only one of the kind in the colony, whereas a patent slip would cause the greatest portion to be expended in England or elsewhere for material. Mr. Drake said the sum named would build a dock at Esquimalt for £100,000. Mr. Wood's amendment to strike out the word Esquimalt lost. Yes—Wood Humphreys.

Mr. DeCosmos said the elected members were as men of straw. Mr. Robeson said he thought the position taken by some members was most unfair towards the members of the government. Any member had the right to make any suggestion and the assurance had been given that the greater consideration would be given by the Government to any suggestions made by the Council. In how many cases were the members of the Executive divided in their votes?—and that he thought was an evidence of their sincerity. No member should suppose that when his resolution failed he was treated with disrespect. He felt fearful for the scheme when he saw too much willingness on the part of the government to accept suggestions from the Council. He felt the danger in raising the expectations of the people too high by whole extravagant terms whereby the whole scheme might be imperilled both with the Dominion Government and at the polls. He would ask the friends of Union to exercise great caution in asking changes in the scheme that would raise expectations too high and cause a disappointment to the people. The clause passed. Clause 6—Provision for Her Majesty's servants in the Colony. Mr. Humphreys said he could understand how a man coming from England under a promise that he should hold office perpetually would be provided for, but he could not understand why men who came to this country as he did, a needy adventurer, should be entitled to a pension. He thought the present officials had had a good thing already, and before a pension was given it should be shown that the person to whom it was given had done the state a service. He knew it was a good thing, but he did not see any man in voting for it without being himself included in its benefits. Mr. DeCosmos said he had now arrived at the true secret of the government opposition hitherto to Confederation. This, however, was a cheap way of getting rid of their opposition, and he would not oppose the measure. Dr. Carrall said the framers of the scheme had two objects in view: first, that the colony should be benefited; and secondly, that no vested rights should suffer. He referred to the provisions and colonies to show how this principle had been adopted by them, and he had as much pleasure in voting for this clause as for any other in the scheme. Carried. Clause 7—STEAM SUBSIDY. Mr. DeCosmos said he considered this a make-weight. It was not an essential condition; it was provided for in the British North American Act. Mr. French said the British North American Act only provided for such a service generally, but it remained for the Provinces such as specify how that service should be applied. This clause, after some slight discussion, passed without a division. Clause 8—CANAL ROAD AND RAILWAY. The hon. Attorney General in moving this clause, said this was the real bond of union, as without direct overland communication there could be no real union between Canada and British Columbia. Mr. DeCosmos said there could be a real union without a railroad. Was there not union between this colony and England as a proof of which he instance the uses of the San Juan difficulty. He claimed to be the honor of building the railroad; he would award to other hon. gentlemen the honor of originating the scheme. A quarrel of a quarter of the scheme of a Pacific Railway was proposed in England. Mr. Waudin's dispatch with Earl Granville's remarks of English statements to show the rapid strides it had taken, and he expected in ten years to take a ride across the continent in a railway through British territory. He thought the provision for a coach road in three years a good one, as it would cause the country to be settled up. He spoke of the valuable country up the Thompson and Kamloops and thought there ought to have been a provision in the scheme to have a railroad through that country. He did not mean that it should necessarily be a part of the great overland road, but that it might be some more address to his Excellency that the construction of a railway from Vancouver to Kamloops and the Fraser river to Kamloops Lake be embraced in the terms of this clause. The hon. Surveyor General said this was a work of such magnitude that he approached it with much interest. The necessity for such a railroad was so apparent that he looked upon it as one of the things that must be done. He considered the route practicable, much more so than the route across the Sierra Nevada. He considered the proportion of cost not more than two-thirds of that of the California road. He knew there was a desire on the part of Canada to forward the measure, but he felt that we could rely on them. He thought, three years as early as the road could be commenced owing to the time necessary to make proper arrangements. He would suggest the manner in which the road would be constructed. He thought it would be by private enterprise, with a guarantee of interest, and the money of England being so clearly expressed in the matter, he thought it would be a good thing to give in the shape of a guarantee. He thought it would have been unwise to have named a shorter period than three years for the construction of the road. Two seasons at least should be allowed for a proper location. The survey of the route as one million was named to be expended annually in British Columbia, and to give the people an earnest that the scheme would be accepted. He thought the expenditure of one million would not be too heavy a burden on the population, and the expenditure being made at such an interval, it would be a good thing to have the road completed that would be formed for settlements throughout the entire length. He felt confident that a much larger sum than one million a year would be spent in this colony during the construction of the road. The cost of the road would be twenty millions sterling, and it might appear that there would be no profit in the enterprise for a number of years. It would, however, develop the extent of the Dominion, and if they value it as we value it they should make an effort to open it at the earliest day. He would say before closing his remarks that there was an intention, though not expressed in the terms, to apply any reasonable amount of land that might be thought advisable throughout the colony to aid the scheme. Mr. Humphreys said that unless a railroad was guaranteed no union could take place. He thought there was no necessity to insert one million to be expended on the road, which would only bring a floating population that we do not want—but if the road was commenced in the centre or agricultural portion of the colony it would cause a permanent benefit. The Surveyor General said he thought it was not well to discuss the details of the scheme—it would only embarrass and retard the whole thing. If the road was accepted he believed the probability was that three times the amount of money named would be expended, and that the road would be built in a shorter time than many anticipated. Mr. DeCosmos asked what was the seaboard—was it Barclay Sound? The Surveyor General—Certainly. He did not know but it might be Bute Inlet or Sentinel Arm. His private opinion, however, was that it would come down the Fraser river. Of one thing he might be certain—Canada will build the road as soon as she can. Mr. Robeson said he had now come to the vital part of the scheme. No real union can exist without a railway, and if this particular clause in the scheme was not carried out he could not believe that any union would take place between British Columbia and the great English-speaking nation. Great haste was necessary—and if that road was not built within ten years there would be no British territory on the Pacific. And in order to sustain British empire on this coast England and Canada must push the road through at once. The one million was a mere nominal figure. Whoever undertakes to build the road will find it to their interest to complete it as soon as possible. The question of route and terminus should be left to the parties building it. No matter where the terminus was, it would be in the colony and the colony would be benefited. Don't let us fall into the mistake of saying where the work shall commence where it shall be located, or where shall be the terminus. He had some doubts about the condition requiring a coach road. The day of coach roads had gone by, and he would rather remove that from the clause if an equivalent advantage could be obtained in some other way. Dr. Holmbeck said Canada wanted this colony so much that she would build a railway and if Canada did not build a railroad no union could be had. He hoped the people would take that stand with determination. Without a railway this colony would be just as isolated after union as at present. We are a colony of England, and he did not object to it; but the people of this colony will never consent to be a colony of Canada. We have the privilege of making our own terms. If we become a colony of Canada the power of making terms regulating our commerce will be taken from us and we will have only the power to make our local laws. And without telegraphic or railway communication, laws might be made in Ottawa, and it would not be looked upon as a paying institution—the great advantage will be by its being the highway to Asia. Canada can influence Great Britain to guarantee the loan, but England will not guarantee the loan for Canadian purposes. The people of England would not tolerate such a thing; but Imperial interests demand the road and such a guarantee will be given. The railroad is an essential condition and without that union must not take place. Why should this colony join with Canada without a mutual benefit? He would sooner stand alone and take the chances rather than risk everything without the guarantee that this colony be to Canada without a railroad. The idea of a railway has come from Canada—it has been used by Canada to promote union, and we should demand it, and if that union was not spent we should require that 10 per cent. of that amount should be forfeited to the local government of this colony. In his opinion there was more likelihood of the people of British Columbia cheating themselves than that they should be cheated by the Dominion. A wagon road would be an immediate benefit and would benefit those who do not reside on the coast. Dr. Carrall briefly replied to the hon. member for Victoria and said that a union could exist without a railway; that it had existed between San Francisco and the United States for twenty years. He regretted that the Crown lands of this colony had not been embraced in the scheme for the construction of the railway. The committee then rose and reported progress.

From the Mainland. The steamer Enterprise, Capt Swanson, arrived at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon from New Westminster bringing as passengers Chief Justice Begbie, Hon. F. J. Bernard, G. A. Pooley and wife, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Ballinger, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Thibault, Mr. Pagden and several others. Mr. Harrett has made a critical examination of the Howe Sound Copper lead, tracing up the old vein and discovering a new vein nearly twenty feet in width. The Mainland Guardian says a Harbormaster is needed for Burrard Inlet. The weather was warm and very little snow or ice remained at New Westminster when the Enterprise sailed. Mrs. Woodman, a much respected resident of New Westminster, died on the 12th inst at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. J. Cunningham. Mrs. Woodman was a native of Oxfordshire, England, aged 69 years. The Guardian gives a kind word, and says it neatly, upon the departure of Chief Justice Begbie for the Island. From Nanaimo.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Capt. Clarke, arrived at 5 o'clock last evening from Nanaimo and way posted, bringing a few passengers and a quantity of freight. Among the passengers was a Mr. Gray, sent to the Hospital from Nanaimo for treatment. The ship Shooting Star has arrived at Nanaimo in 8 days from San Francisco. The ship Atlanta will sail on Monday for San Francisco with a full cargo of wool. The storms of wind and snow which prevailed here for a week were not felt at New Westminster at all. Passengers hence by the Enterprise on Wednesday found no snow at New Westminster; but discovering a quantity in the steamer's hold they prepared a number of snowballs and peeped the New Westminsterers, who approached the wharf, without mercy, much to the amusement of all parties concerned. The warm rays of old Sol yesterday dispelled the snow and put an end to sleighing for the season. The bullocks, which just before the cold snap in ceased to croak, recommenced their aqueous concert last night. For Kitchin's Hat.—H. M. Sparrowhawk, Captain Mint, sailed yesterday morning for a trip along the East coast of the Island and to Keight's Tule, on the Mainland, where there were murders and piracies by natives took place in 1868. Coastward.—The steamer Ocer sailed at 7 o'clock yesterday morning with 15 passengers for Skeena river and 14 for Queen Charlotte Island, and a small number for way ports. She also carried a full freight. Snowfall.—A young man has been summoned for palting a citizen with snowballs. The Police have also in their black-book for future reference the names of many lads and men who gave a practical illustration of the fable of the boy and the frogs. St. Patrick's Day.—Yesterday every town on the Island's coast appeared on the streets with a bit of green leaf in his hat. Services were held at the Catholic Cathedral in the morning. The late storms raged with great fury along the coast of this island. At Cowichan much snow fell. Two men have been sent to the Nugraves copper lead. They sailed in the schooner Alpha, a few days ago. Coast Rovers.—The schooner Caroleus will sail for Skeena River on the 23d.

THE PERFECTION OF PREPARED COCOA... MARAVILLA COCOA... TAYLOR BROTHERS... AN UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS... THURSDAY, March 17. The Council met at 1 p.m. Mr. DeCosmos rose to a question of privilege. He said he was sorry that he was placed under the necessity of declaring that the report of his speech on the amendment proposed to be given by the Dominion to this colony was so grossly misreported in the October Standard that it did to himself and the country he was compelled to declare the report unworthy of belief. In a short time he stepped through the press and published to neutralize the falsehoods against himself that the Colonist was engaged in publishing throughout the colony. Mr. DeCosmos then rose and reported progress. The Council met at 1 p.m. Mr. DeCosmos rose to a question of privilege. He said he was sorry that he was placed under the necessity of declaring that the report of his speech on the amendment proposed to be given by the Dominion to this colony was so grossly misreported in the October Standard that it did to himself and the country he was compelled to declare the report unworthy of belief. In a short time he stepped through the press and published to neutralize the falsehoods against himself that the Colonist was engaged in publishing throughout the colony. Mr. DeCosmos then rose and reported progress.

Two Years Rigorous Imprisonment... SELLING SPURIOUS ARTICLES... TWO YEARS RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT... CAUTION—Anyone selling spurious... STORES, under Cross & Blackwell's name, will be liable to the same punishment, and will be rigorously prosecuted. The Committee rose and reported progress. Council adjourned to meet on Friday at 1 o'clock.

