



The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, January 26, 1864.

Arrival of the "Pacific."

American War News.

LATER FROM EUROPE, MEXICO, CANADA, &c., &c.

The steamer Pacific, Capt. Burns, arrived from San Francisco direct on Wednesday at 2:30 p. m., bringing despatches as under:

News to January 11th.

The Times' despatch says the Canadian reciprocity treaty got its first notice yesterday by a resolution introduced into the Senate to terminate it.

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The "Chesapeake"

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Reinforcements for

EUROPEAN, JAPAN, NEWS.

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New York, Dec. 26.—The new steamer Pacific, extended to foreign vessels, communicated to the British day. The English bark Gau yesterday under suspicion and many arrests made.

A Washington special had a protracted interview of State to-day. The Ohio likely to prove a troublesome ally.

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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

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POLICE COURT.—Kook-yah, alias Charley, the Hyah Indian, charged with assaulting another Indian named Nags, alias Charley, with intent to kill, was yesterday remanded for a week. John Dougherty charged with cutting and wounding the drayman Hobbs, was remanded to the 15th inst. Elijah Kemp, marine, was committed to prison for 84 days, with hard labor, by virtue of a warrant issued on board Her Majesty's ship Camelion.

DEPARTURE.—Robert Burnaby, Esq., M. P., took his departure this morning for England by the steamer Oregon. A large number of Mr. Burnaby's friends accompanied him to Esquimaux.

GAOLERS REPORT.—The number of persons in gaol yesterday amounted to 38. Inmates, 5; on bail, 3; debtors, 3. Total, 49.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20.

WHAT ARE DISORDERLY HOUSES.—The case of Thos. B. Williams charged with keeping a disorderly house by wilfully harboring persons of notoriously bad character against the terms of his license and contrary to the form of the statute, was yesterday gone into in the Police Court before Mr. Pemberton. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Wright appeared on behalf of Mr. Williams. Sergeant Hill, for the prosecution, stated that on New Year's Eve he heard music, singing and dancing in a room adjoining the Royal Exchange Saloon, which was kept up until a late hour. Mr. Bishop said that the evening on which this occurrence took place was New Year, and some gentlemen were enjoying themselves by a little dance. He did not mean to contend that some of the females present enjoyed the best reputation, but it would, he thought, be a hard doctrine to lay down that women of that class could not assemble anywhere for the purpose of dancing or singing as long as they did not misconduct themselves. Mr. Bishop quoted from Burns' Justice of the Peace to show that the alleged offence was not indictable; and also referred to no less an authority than Smollett, the historian, to substantiate his arguments. He said he wished the court to decide the question involved, and he would not therefore go into technical and other objections, which he otherwise could. In answer to the bench, the Superintendent stated that Mr. Williams had previously been told that if he allowed such a thing to take place, it would be upon his own responsibility, but there was nothing against the character of the house. Mr. Pemberton said that the court had always held that the assembling of such characters together where drinking went on, tended to promote immorality, and had a "mischievous tendency." He was willing to suppose that Mr. Williams entertained the idea that he was not acting unlawfully, and would therefore postpone the case for one month, and if in the meantime there was reason to believe that the practice was not to be repeated, the charge might be allowed to fall to the ground. Mr. Bishop asked his Worship to pronounce an opinion at once on the legality of the charge. Mr. Pemberton declined, and said he had already rendered his decision.

THE CHARGE OF COW STEALING.—William McNeil and Edwin Kitson appeared yesterday on remand, charged with stealing a cow of the value of \$86, belonging to William Mann. The evidence previously taken was read. Chas. Page was examined, who deposed to having purchased the carcass of a cow on the 12th November last from Wm. Ross. Kitson had previously been to him, telling him they were going to kill a cow, and wishing to borrow \$5 upon it. There being nothing to criminate McNeil, he was discharged and placed in the witness' box and stated that Wm. Ross and Kitson had applied to him for block and tackle, and he told them to take it. He afterwards saw the hide and head of a cow lying in his barn. Ross owned no such cow to his knowledge. Officer Curry deposed that he arrested Kitson January 2d on Discovery Island, and after giving him the usual caution he said he had killed the cow, but Ross had paid him \$5 for doing so. The further hearing of the case was adjourned to Friday next.

CHARGE DISMISSED.—Morris E. Dobrin, trader of Johnson street, was yesterday brought before Mr. Pemberton upon a charge of having received a silver watch, the property of one Wm. Proud, knowing the same to have been stolen. Mr. Ring appeared for the accused. Proud was examined, and deposed to the loss of the watch, and its subsequent discovery in Dobrin's shop window. Sergeant Ford proved that he went to Dobrin's premises with a search warrant, and found the watch. Dobrin said all the property in the shop belonged to him. Mr. Ring called a man named Williams, who stated that he was present when an Englishman about 30 years of age, of medium height, entered the shop, and offered to sell the watch, which Dobrin purchased for \$4 50, and a pair of pants, exposing it to view immediately in the window. The man said the name on the back was his name. Case dismissed.

MR. MEIGGS NOT DEAD.—We are glad to learn that the report of the death of Mr. G. A. Meiggs, of Port Madison, W. T., is contradicted by the Sound papers. The Overland Press says Mr. Meiggs visited Olympia on Friday last, on his steamer Resolute, in good health.

THE U. S. STEAMER NARRAGANSETT left Esquimaux yesterday for the Sound. We understand that she will not again visit this side of the Straits.

His Excellency the Governor proceeded yesterday to New Westminster by the steamer Enterprise. He will preside over the opening of the first session of the Legislative Council of British Columbia on the 21st inst.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21.

DROWNED.—A man named William Arden who was in the employment of the Messrs. Muir, at Sooke, was found drowned in the inlet on the 18th inst. He had gone up the inlet in a skiff to assist in bringing down a raft, and must have fallen out of the boat, as it was picked up, with the oars in it, a short distance from where the body was found. The deceased was a native of Whitehaven, England. His friends, when last heard from, were residing in Manchester. An inquest was held on the body on the following day by Mr. John Muir, senior.

SKIDGATE COMPANY.—Yesterday four assays were made of the Skidgate Bay Copper Mining Co's ore, when a result of 25 per cent. was obtained. This must be most encouraging to the fortunate shareholders in the Company, whose pluck and firm determination upon the mine at Salmon Bay deserves the greatest praise. We understand that men are working night and day at the mine, and that a ship load of ore may be expected in a few days. The stock is daily on the rise, and well it may be.

THE JOE LANE.—This revenue cutter came over from Port Angeles yesterday morning, having just returned from a cruise off Barclay Sound, in search of the bark Narasimam. The Joe Lane encountered a terrific gale on Sunday last, and was blown off Nootka Sound. She lost her boats, and nearly had her decks swept. Lieut. Salden says he never before encountered such severe weather on this coast.

POLICE COURT.—An Indian named William or Billy, was charged yesterday with stabbing another Indian named Jim, on Kanaka Road, and was remanded until Monday next. Two parties named Preston and Thompson, were fined \$15 and \$10 respectively, for assault.

DEATH OF HOBBS.—The colored drayman Hobbs, who was stabbed by Dougherty in the affray on St. Ours' wharf last week, died last evening at 7 o'clock. Dougherty is still lying at the Hospital.

FRIDAY, JAN. 22.

US "CHRISTIAN" LIKE CONDUCT.—A meeting of the creditors of the late firm of Christian & Zadetzky was advertised to be held yesterday at Mr. Wright's office, a very large number of creditors attended, but Mr. Christian, the surviving partner, did not put in an appearance; it is supposed that he has left the country. The debts of the firm amount to something like \$20,000, and the assets consist of the same number, only some of the creditors are secured by mortgage. The majority of the creditors seem determined to make Mr. Christian a bankrupt. A proposition was made to wind up the affairs of the firm under inspection, but this did not meet with the approbation of the majority. Some of the unsecured creditors expressed their intention of instructing Messrs. Peakes & Green to present a petition in bankruptcy at once.

A DECEASED FIREMAN.—The flags of the fire companies were yesterday half-masted as a tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. Augustus Osborne, a pioneer settler, and formerly a member of the Tiger Engine Company of this city, who recently expired at New Westminster. The members of the Hyack Company, of New Westminster, displayed a friendly and brotherly feeling in accord with the same obsequies to the deceased as if he had been one of their own number.

INQUEST.—The Coroner held an inquest yesterday at 4 p. m., at the Boomerang, upon the body of the colored man George Washington Hobbs. A jury was empanelled, of whom Mr. John Wilkie was chosen foreman and having inspected the body of the deceased, the inquest was adjourned until Friday, the 29th inst., at 6 p. m. It was stated that Dougherty was lying himself in a somewhat precarious state at the hospital.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23.

THE COW STEALING CASE.—Edwin Kitson was brought up on remand yesterday before Mr. Pemberton, charged with stealing a cow belonging to Mr. William Mann. Mrs. Mary McNeil was examined and proved that on the 10th Dec. last, Wm. Ross and the prisoner came to her house and asked for a rope, witness told them that her husband was away, and she did not like to lend it. They came a second time, and she then told the prisoner to take the rope. He said they wanted to catch a horse with it. Wm. Ross brought it back again that evening. Witness identified an axe produced which had been kept in her husband's room. Wm. McNeil was recalled and questioned as to the date. Officer Curry said he found the axe covered with blood lying in McNeil's barn, also the rope and tackle produced. See Long, a Chinaman, was sworn and deposed that he was hired by Kitson to drive a cart with some meat in it, about a month ago from McNeil's house to a butcher's shop at the corner of the Kanaka Road, the butcher paid him \$2 for carrying it. Another Chinaman was examined, but threw no additional light upon the case. Kitson was asked, after being duly cautioned, whether he had anything to say in defence, but replied in the negative, and the magistrate fully committed him for trial.

THE LATE ARRIVALS.—The recent arrivals from England and California cause our wharves to present quite an animated appearance. Many such scenes do the rule and not the exception.

THE SOCIAL PARTY.—The social gathering at the Colonial Hall on Thursday night, was one of the most successful reunions which has ever taken place in this city. The number of persons assembled at one time during the evening, could not have been less than six hundred. The most harmony prevailed, and young and old appeared to enjoy themselves to their hearts content. Dancing was maintained with spirit long after the "winking hour of night," when weary editors and reporters had sought their downy repose. We understand that the proceeds of the entertainment will amount to over \$1500, and we congratulate the worthy Bishop Demers and his congregation upon this considerable augmentation of the fund which is destined to rear a spacious and handsome cathedral in our city.

ROYAL HOSPITAL.—We learn that Mr. Jackson, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, has been appointed Superintendent of the Royal Hospital. Mr. Jackson came out as surgeon of the ship Cyclops, and has excellent testimonials as to character and ability. The Hospital Committee also received a number of applications for the position of nurse and cook, and selected three or four from among them; one of whom will be appointed.

BUTE INLET ROAD COMPANY.—We observe that an extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of the Bute Inlet Wagon Road Company has been called to meet at the Union Hook and Ladder Company's rooms, at which meeting we hear that Mr. Waddington will propose to wind up the affairs of the Company.

SUIT FOR WAGES.—Kelly v. Cleal.—Plaintiff sued defendant yesterday in the Police Court for \$28 25 for wages alleged to be due. Mr. Wright appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Bishop for defendant, and after hearing evidence, Mr. Pemberton dismissed the case.

HORSE RACE.—A match will be run on the Beacon Hill course on the 1st February, for \$150 a side, between Dr. James' Sorrel horse "Sir James Douglas," and Mr. Fitzpatrick's "Valissee." Distance, one mile. One hundred dollars forfeit have been deposited with Mr. Davies, Star and Garter.

FOR THE NORTH.—We understand that the Queen Charlotte Copper Mining Company will immediately dispatch the schooner North Star to their mines to convey stores, and bring a return cargo of ore.

THE WRIT AT LAW.—The writ for the election of a member to fill the vacant seat has at length been issued. The nomination takes place at 11 a. m. on Wednesday next, at the old Fort Yard.

MONDAY, JAN. 25.

WASHED OUT.—The heavy fall of rain on Friday and Saturday was very nearly the means of causing serious damage to residents on Johnson street above Douglas street. The swamp on View street overflowed, and the culvert which leads to the ravine being insufficient to carry off the immense body of water, the whole neighborhood was flooded. One family near Bunster's Brewery, on Johnson street, was literally washed out and had to beat a retreat. At one time the premises attached to Bunster's Brewery, in which a quantity of grain, etc., was stored, was threatened with inundation, but fortunately this was prevented by the timely services rendered by a party of men engaged by the City Inspector, acting under instructions from the City Council, who cut an outlet for the water through Johnson street and caused it to be diverted into the ravine. We may remark en passant that the existence of a Mayor and Council can be most conveniently ignored for the evasion of taxes or other purposes, but in an emergency of this sort no hesitation or compunction is shown in seeking the assistance of the city fathers, nor are any doubts entertained by any one of the propriety of their disbursing the contingent expenses from the City Treasury.

ACCIDENT.—On Saturday night Mr. Townsend, one of the actors at the theatre, met with a serious accident. During the representation of "Jessie Brown" or "the Siege of Lucknow," Mr. Townsend, who was personating the character of "Achmet," attempted to leap from the balcony of Mrs. Campbell's residence, in doing which he missed his footing and came in contact with the sharp edge of one of the wings, inflicting a deep cut on his forehead and cheek and his right eyelid. Dr. Dickson attended and sewed up the wound, and Mr. Phelps having apologized for the non-appearance of Mr. Townsend, the rest of the part was represented by Mr. Lorimer.

HURRAH FOR SEARBY!—We like the way in which Mr. Searby's Committee are going to work. Quietly, calmly, and resolutely, like men fighting for a principle and not a faction, they are exerting themselves, and the result already is that they can count a most undoubted majority of reliable votes, which can easily be swelled, as election day approaches, to the largest number ever polled for any city candidate. There is not the slightest doubt of Mr. Searby's triumphant return.

LABOR MARKET.—We notice that several recent English papers have copied the letters which we lately published from the London Times. The Dispatch heads the extract by observing, "That so much interest is felt in this young and rising colony that any information respecting the advantages it offers to enterprising settlers must be welcome."

VIEWS OF GOLD STREAM.—Mr. W. T. Coleman has shown us several sketches in water color of scenes at the Gold Stream Diggings. Although rather highly colored, the views are correct in outline, and might prove very useful for engraving from, in some future description of the colony.

DIRECT STEAM COMMUNICATION

The following is the prospectus of the West India and Pacific Steamship Company (limited), to which we briefly alluded in our last summary of English news:

West India and Pacific Steamship Company (limited). Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1862, by which the liability of each shareholder is limited to the amount of his shares. Capital £1,000,000, in 20,000 shares of £50 each, with power to increase. Deposit on application, £1 per share; on allotment, £1 per share. A first call of £3 per share. Subsequent calls will not exceed £2 per share, and will not be made at intervals of less than three months from the date of a prior call.

DIRECTORS.—Messrs. Anderson, Thomson, & Co., London. Thomas Martin Blythe, Esq. (Messrs. Moore & Co.), Liverpool. P. N. Bernard, Esq. (Messrs. Wm. Burnley Hume & Co.), London. Francis Anderson Clint, Esq. (Messrs. Clint & Co.), Liverpool. Arthur Bower Forwood, Esq. (Messrs. Leech, Harrison, & Forwood), Liverpool. Thomas Harrison, Esq. (Messrs. L. & J. Harrison), Liverpool. Messrs. Kendall, Esq. (Messrs. Kendall Brothers), Liverpool. George B. Kerferd, Esq. (Messrs. G. B. Kerferd & Co.), Liverpool. Frederick Lyon, Esq. (Messrs. E. Lyon & Brothers), Liverpool. Joshua Radcliffe, Esq., Director of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, Manchester. John Ravenscroft, Esq., Chairman of the North and South Wales Bank, Liverpool. Samuel Stitt, Esq., Director of the British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company, Liverpool.

Branches.—The London and County Bank, London; Messrs. Leyland & Bullis, Liverpool; Messrs. Haywood, Brothers, & Co., Manchester; the Mercantile and Exchange Bank (limited), Glasgow; the branches of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, Ireland.

Brokers.—Lewis H. Haslewood, Founders' court, Leithbury, London; G. & T. Irving, Fenwick street, Liverpool; Kerr, Anderson, & Brodie, Glasgow.

Solicitors.—Haugh & Deane, Liverpool; Cotterill & Sons, London.

Temporary Offices.—Exchange court, Exchange street, near Liverpool; No. 2, Cowper's court, Cornhill, London.

WEST INDIA AND PACIFIC STEAM-SHIP COMPANY (LIMITED). The objects of the proposed company are: 1st. The working and further development of a line of steamers, already established between Liverpool, the West Indies, and Colon [Aspinwall], the eastern terminus of the Panama Railroad Company.

2d. The employment of branch steamers in the West Indies, to bring the main line into communication with the various West India Islands, Venezuela, and Mexico. 3d. To organize other lines of steamships on such routes as shall from time to time offer the most advantageous, more particularly a service of steamers between Panama, New Zealand, and Australia.

The trade between Great Britain and the important countries on the eastern side of the Isthmus of Panama, which it is proposed to connect with the West India and Pacific Steamship Company, amounted, in 1861, to £12,000,000 in value. For the whole of this large trade only 20 steamers, equal to 10,269 tons, entered and cleared for the various British ports, while for the Mediterranean trade, amounting in the same year to £30,000,000, 765 steamers of 534,000 tons, were entered and cleared.

The rapid and great development in every branch of business produced by steam facilities is also well illustrated by the statistics of the Mediterranean trade, the increase in 10 years being £29,000,000 in value, and 624 steamers, representing a tonnage of 468,000. The wonderfully rich and fertile country of Mexico has been hitherto almost closed to commerce by its prohibitive tariffs, customs regulations, and unsettled political state. A new order of things is, however, likely to arise in the country from the French intervention, and a large and lucrative trade opened to the commerce of the world.

The Panama railroad is becoming every day more recognized as the principal highway between Europe and the great producing countries on the Pacific Ocean, and there is every prospect of increased facilities being shortly obtained for the transmission of goods between the eastern and western coasts of Central America, which will largely extend the present trade. The success which has attended the employment of steamers in the value of the shares of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, being now worth over 50 per cent. premium.

The route from Australia and New Zealand via Panama would, it is anticipated, be preferred by passengers before that via the Isthmus of Suez, the overland journey and frequent change of conveyance being thereby avoided.

The establishment of the Australian line will bring the proposed company in direct intercourse with the three great gold-producing countries of the world—Australia, British Columbia and California—and add another and most important link to the chain of rapid communication so desirable for them to possess in the transmission of their treasure.

The directors believe that the time is not far distant when the teas, silks and other products of China will be conveyed by steam to England, and that by a service of large and economical steamers between China and Panama, they could be delivered in less than 60 days, thus securing a large and highly remunerative trade.

Experience has already demonstrated that, in the latitudes proposed to be traversed by the fleet of this company, vessels may be constructed of adequate speed, with such moderate propelling power as to ensure regular passages, and yet not encroach too much upon the large space necessary to be reserved for cargo.

A private company, having an established line of steamers from Liverpool to the West Indies and Colon, and contracts for the conveyance of passengers and merchandise with the Panama Railroad Company, and the steam companies engaged in trade with the various ports on the Pacific shores of America, have arranged for a transfer of their business to this company. In addition, the services of the managers (who have taken a large interest in the proposed undertaking) have

been secured, thus affording to this company those advantages of direct personal supervision and economy of management which have made the Cunard and Inman steamship companies so successful.

The company will thus be able to enter upon the West India and Colon branch of the trade at once, and it is expected that in the aggregate calls of £10 per share will suffice to bring it into the full occupation of a route already producing a large revenue. Prospectuses and forms of application for shares may be had at the bankers, brokers, or temporary offices of the company.

Our Commerce with Central China.

Captain Bowers, who has just come down the Yang-tse from Hankow, in a British ship of 1,000 tons, drawing 19 feet of water, and full of tea, has sent an interesting letter to the Times, from which we make the following extracts:

The approach to Hankow, which in past years, before the rebels descended the river, was marked by a forest of masts lining both sides of the Yang-tse-Kiang, here about a mile wide, is now discerned by the long and imposing range of English hongs and warehouses, extending about half a mile above the river Han, and three quarters of a mile below it, quite overtopping all the native houses in the vicinity, and affording a most refreshing prospect after coming so many hundred miles from the sea. The important city of Woohang, the capital of Hoe-Quang, and seat of the Viceroy, is immediately opposite. There are now established at Hankow about 30 British firms, including all the leading names in Hong-Kong and Shanghai, three American, and three or four German and French houses, and one Russian hong.

The most anxious care is now requisite to select a fitting anchorage, which in the summer months is no easy matter; the strength of the current and the chow-chow water render a safe berth, where cargo may be loaded and shipped, very difficult to find. Lucky, indeed, is the vessel that escapes without the loss of more than an anchor and cable, for broken windlasses and hawspears are among the disasters attending the anchorage opposite to Hankow. From information received from the captains of one of the gunboats, the anchorage opposite Han-Yang appears to be the best; there the bank is more gradual and the water more shallow. Han-Yang is on the right bank of the Han river, a narrow stream of about 120 yards in width, and is preferred by some of the residents as being more healthy than Hankow; the land is higher, the air purer, and having to pass over a dense Chinese town during the summer months; and, above all, the anchorage is safer. The French Consul has taken up his consulate here, and a suspension bridge to connect the two towns has been projected, as a means of bringing into closer connection the warehouses above the Han with the native shopkeepers and hongs below. There is every probability of sailing vessels taking away first teas direct in future, no less than four of large tonnage having sailed for England this season, and it is only reasonable that the Chinese authorities should facilitate as much as possible any measures which are calculated to render the navigation or anchorage safer or more convenient for the receipt and despatch of cargo. The Langhsan crossing is the only point of danger in the navigating from Woohang to Hankow, but notwithstanding this, the voyage is not attended with greater risk than the navigation of the Hoogly at the present time. The British concession at Hankow covers an area of about 90 acres. The allotments have the advantage over those at Shanghai of being held by titles direct from the British government. From 15 to 20 British hongs are now in course of erection, and the municipal council are engaged in bunding and laying out roads. A large piece of land has been presented by the British government for a church, the plans of which are before the community, and a club-house has been contracted for; in short, the most indifferent observer cannot be otherwise than impressed with the conviction that Hankow is destined to become the Kiachang of Central China, and the most important of any of our seats of commerce in that most interesting country.

"A WORD TO THE WISE." EDITOR COLONIST.—Sir:—Will you permit me, through the medium of your paper, to address a few remarks to Mr. A. J. Welch, one of the gentlemen who announce their intentions of offering themselves for the vacancy in the city representation?

Mr. Welch, Sir:—I have known you since your arrival in the colony, and have no hesitation in giving you credit for more than a moderate amount of acuteness. Now I would ask you, what is your object in persisting in coming to a poll (if you are still determined on that course)? You are too sensible a man to imagine that you can be successful, and too old a politician not to know that your persistence must have the effect, to some extent, of injuring Mr. Searby. You profess liberal principles—is this the mode you take of showing them, by indirectly doing all in your power to secure the election of the opponent of these principles? I have already heard it hinted that there is a secret understanding between you and Mr. Franklin, but I hope and believe it is not the case; beware, however, of giving cause, by a factious opposition, for such damaging surmises, and of thus alienating forever after, the confidence and support of that party whose principles you profess to advocate.

Yours, as you behave yourself, A VOTER.

THEATRE.—The charming Fanny again bewitched her delighted audience on Saturday night, as "Nell Gwynne," the lovely light-hearted actress who turned the silly head of Charles II. It is needless to enter particularly into the merits of her acting in this character—it was simply perfect, leaving nothing to be desired. Miss Howard is also deserving of special praise, as Mistress Stewart, which she rendered in admirable style. Mr. J. H. Taylor, as Duke of Richmond, was excellent as usual, and Mr. A. R. Phelps as the plotting Puritan, Master Williams and Mr. Myers as the chattering old secretary, Samuel Pepys, filled their respective characters admirably. Mr. Townsend as Duke of Buckingham, was also very meritorious. "Belief of Lucknow" wound up the evening's performance. To-night is "Ralph Phelps' benefit," and the house is expected to be crowded. The play is "The Willow Copse," and "Griat to the Mill."



The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, January 26, 1864.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, JAN. 19, 1864.

House met this day at 3:15 p.m. Members present, Messrs. Young, DeCosmos, Forster, Trimble, Tolmie, Foster, Duncan, Dennes, Bayley.

HARBOR DEFENCES.

Dr. Tolmie would ask the House to request His Excellency to appoint a committee of three to draft a petition to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle on the Harbor Defences of Victoria and Esquimaux.

Mr. Young was glad to hear the statement of the hon. member for Esquimaux; but he must state that the Colonial Government had no information of the kind.

The Speaker appointed Dr. Tolmie, Col. Foster and Mr. Street as a select committee on the subject.

GOOD TEMPLARS' PETITION.

The chairman of the committee on private bills reported that the Lodge of Good Templars had not complied with the standing orders of the House.

WRIT FOR NEW ELECTION.

Mr. Dennes moved that a writ be issued for the election of a member in the place of Mr. J. G. Ridge, resigned.

Col. Foster said that Mr. Ridge's resignation made a vacancy in the Private Bills Committee.

The Speaker appointed Mr. Dennes to fill the vacancy.

Dr. Tolmie called the notice of the Speaker to the fact that Mr. Ridge was also on the Crown Lands Committee.

The Speaker appointed Mr. Dennes to fill this vacancy also.

LAND DUES.

Dr. Tolmie asked when information would be laid before the House as to the amount of instalments yet due on public lands.

Mr. DeCosmos asked, when an answer would be returned to a motion made some time ago, inquiring the exact date when a certain hon. gentleman was sworn in as a member of the Legislative Council.

The Speaker said the Governor had referred it to the Council, who had not yet returned an answer.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. DeCosmos asked leave to postpone his motion in regard to the right of the House to originate money votes.

The Speaker said the Governor had referred it to the Council, who had not yet returned an answer.

BANK NOTE BILL.

Dr. Powell introduced the following amendments to Mr. Dennes's bill to restrain the unauthorized issue of bank notes and paper currency.

That the words "and paper currency" in the preamble be omitted.

That all after the word "act" where it first occurs in the first clause be expunged, and the following words substituted:

It shall not be lawful for any banker not having a Royal Charter or not being authorized by an act of the Legislature of Vancouver Island and its dependencies to make or issue any bank note or bill in the form or nature of a bank note payable on demand and purporting to be or intended to pass as money.

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of himself or his chief cashier; and thereupon the Auditor General shall proceed to examine the necessary books of the bank, and if the monthly statement shall be found to be correct, shall certify the same and cause the certified statement to be published in the manner before mentioned.

Class 3. If the weekly average circulation of any banker issuing notes under the provisions of this Act, shall at any time exceed the amount which such banker was authorized to issue and to have in circulation, such banker shall in such case forfeit a sum equal to the amount of such unauthorized excess, and if such banker shall neglect or refuse to render such account in the form and at the time required by this Act, or shall at any time render a false account, such banker shall forfeit the sum of one thousand dollars.

Class 4. Provided nevertheless, that no issue of bank notes by any bank not having a Royal Charter or Act of the Legislature of Vancouver Island, shall continue under the provisions of this act after the first day of January, 1865.

Class 5. That it shall be lawful for the Auditor General to receive the sum of one hundred dollars for every certificate granted under this act to authorize an issue of bank notes, and for every monthly inspection of the bankers' books necessary to verify the statement of average issue, a further sum of ten dollars, such sums to be payable by the banker; and further, that the certificates of the Auditor General shall be published at the expense of the banker.

Class 6. The terms "Notes," or "Bank Notes" shall be deemed to apply to any promissory note or notes for money payable to bearer on demand. The term "Banker" shall include any individual partner or co-partnership carrying on the business of banking.

Class 7. That it shall be lawful for the Auditor General to receive the sum of one hundred dollars for every certificate granted under this act to authorize an issue of bank notes, and for every monthly inspection of the bankers' books necessary to verify the statement of average issue, a further sum of ten dollars, such sums to be payable by the banker; and further, that the certificates of the Auditor General shall be published at the expense of the banker.

Class 8. The terms "Notes," or "Bank Notes" shall be deemed to apply to any promissory note or notes for money payable to bearer on demand. The term "Banker" shall include any individual partner or co-partnership carrying on the business of banking.

Class 9. The terms "Notes," or "Bank Notes" shall be deemed to apply to any promissory note or notes for money payable to bearer on demand. The term "Banker" shall include any individual partner or co-partnership carrying on the business of banking.

Class 10. The terms "Notes," or "Bank Notes" shall be deemed to apply to any promissory note or notes for money payable to bearer on demand. The term "Banker" shall include any individual partner or co-partnership carrying on the business of banking.

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ENGLISH SUMMARY.

The papers contain very little news, although much that is of general interest; the European Congress and the Crawley Court-martial are the most engrossing topics.

The Times of the 20th Nov. publishes the correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and that of the Emperor of the French upon the former subject, commencing with the letter of the Emperor to the Queen, and concluding with a despatch from Lord Russell to the English Ambassador at Paris, in which the probable results of such a congress as proposed, are fully discussed.

The main question that appears to have presented itself to Her Majesty's Government for consideration is, whether the mere request of the congress would have any effect upon Russia, supposing it were to be hostile to the interests of that power to comply with it, and as they appear to have decided against the probability of such being the case, and being unable to discern the likelihood of the beneficial consequences which the Emperor expected, Her Majesty's Government feel themselves unable to accept His Imperial Majesty's invitation.

According to sketches of the despatch more or less official, they admitted the excellence of the Imperial intention, but doubted the expediency of discussing the subjects named. As to Italy the Catholic world was not prepared to recognize the Italian king, unless to improve them, no argument about Schleswig Holstein could produce an agreement more binding than the treaty of 1852; to urge on Russia the liberation of Poland would be only to afford her a new opportunity of insult; and as to the Principality, that point was not yet "up." It is understood, we perceive, in Paris, that Russia has also refused, and Austria has been waiting some time to be guided by the English resolve. After these refusals the adhesions of Spain, Italy, Sweden, and Denmark do not matter much.

Diplomacy is busying itself with the question of Schleswig Holstein, but no agreement seems as yet to have been attained. It seems certain that King Christian claims Holstein under the treaty of 1852, and that the Germans outside the two great monarchies, intend, so far as they can, to resist his claim, but the decision of Kaiser and King remains still uncertain. It was stated that that they had both objected to Duke Frederick as the child of amorganatic marriage; but this has been denied. Count Bismarck has promised to state the views of the Emperor's Government to the Reichstag as soon as "a diplomatic document" has been received from Paris, and the Prussian King awaits the result of a debate in the Chamber.

The Liberals have proposed resolutions which if carried, amount to a vote for the election of the Duke of Anglterburg; but the King may still consider himself bound by his old agreement. Meanwhile, the most probable statement is that if Holstein and the little Princes attack Denmark, King Christian will take care of himself, but if Prussia strikes to be made, he will ally with Louis Napoleon.

The intelligence from New Zealand is stated in the English papers to be very favorable. There had been no further engagement, but it now appears that there is a considerable English party among the natives, and that the English soldiers were coming in in large numbers to join the defensive force, on the conditions imposed on the applicants for confiscated land. The natives had fortified an exceedingly strong pass, and General Cameron was waiting for adequate reinforcements to attack it.

A statement had gained ground in political circles to the effect that Lord Russell was about to retire from the Cabinet, and was to be succeeded by Lord Clarendon. This, however, is contradicted by the Ministerial organs.

Messrs. Bright and Cobden have been speaking at Rochdale on American and English affairs. Cobden condemns the conduct of the Southern Confederacy in strong terms and seems inclined to blame Her Majesty's Government for want of sympathy with the Northern cause. Bright spoke in the highest terms of the "instructed democracy" of the North. He patronises Earl Russell and his foreign policy, but is unusually pointed in his animadversions upon the Tories.

Public feeling still seems to be decidedly against the Admiralty on the Japan question. Lord Clarendon, Fagot defended the conduct of Admiral Kuper in a late speech at Dalhousie. As the Secretary to the Admiralty has taken this ground we may suppose that Government will support the destruction of Kago-sima in Parliament. A Frenchman having been killed in Japan, further difficulties are expected, and it seems probable that the whole will end in a joint war by France and England against Japan.

The Crawley Court Martial drags its slow length along; an immense mass of evidence has been taken, and it is expected to last for some weeks.

A prospectus has been issued of the West India and Pacific Steamship Company, with a capital of £1,000,000, in shares of £50. The object is to take over an existing line of trading steamers which run from Liverpool to the West Indies and Australia, and to extend its operations by branch vessels to Venezuela and Mexico, and ultimately in the Pacific South and North, to Australia and to British Columbia.

The Directory is most influential and powerful, including the members of some of the best city firms. We propose publishing the prospectus in a future issue.

Mr. Bonamy Dobree, the head of the firm of Samuel Dobree and Sons, and one of the senior directors of the Bank of England, who had been in the city for many years, died after an illness of only a few hours. Not only in his position at the Bank, but universally among the merchants of London, Mr. Dobree was held in high esteem.

The report of the Hudson's Bay Company recomposes the payment in January next, an interim dividend of 5s. per share, being equal to the rate usually distributed at that period, the regular accounts not being made up till the 31st of May in each year. The dividend is so far as the results can be ascertained, has been more than ordinarily favorable, the construction of a line of telegraph from Canada to British Columbia has been found to be perfectly practicable, and the requisite negotiations on the subject are in progress with the home government as well as with the governments of the two colo-

nies; a mineral survey of the company's property with reference to the fact of gold having been found within its limits is hoped to be effected within a moderate time; and, finally, it is announced that the government of the United States have manifested a disposition to deal fairly and promptly with those large claims which the company possess under the Oregon treaty.

The Times of the 21st says: Although the whole of the fresh arrivals of bullion have been taken for export purposes, and although nearly £340,000 in gold has been withdrawn from the Bank of England, the present week's return is somewhat favorable. The increase in the stock of bullion is only £41,163, and the reserve has increased by £286,192. The Directors have, therefore, made no further change in their minimum rate for accommodation. In the open market, however, the lowest quotation for money is 6 per cent, with an active inquiry.

On the 20th the following is the statement. The demand for money, both at the Bank of England and in Lombard street, has fallen off, and the supply of capital on offer in the general discount market has increased. The minimum quotation for accommodation in Threadneedle street is unaltered; but "out of doors" money is a shade easier than last week, the best thirty days' paper having been done at 5 1/2 to 6 per cent. The bank statement, although it shows a slight falling off in the stock of bullion, is favorable. The reserve has increased by £240,990.

There has been a large fire at Lisbon, the damage done is almost incalculable. Lord Powis has been installed as Lord High Steward of Cambridge in succession to Lord Lyndhurst.

There seems to be a great dearth of political news and no great events. Guildford, long celebrated for its disgraceful doings on the 5th of November, regained its character for rowdiness as soon as the soldiers who had been ordered down for the protection of the people were withdrawn; a considerable amount of property was destroyed by the mob.

LIGHTNING CREEK.—From private sources we learn that one half share (50 feet) in the Alden & Co.'s claim, Lightning Creek, was sold recently in San Francisco for the sum of \$4,000 each. This fact speaks well for the faith entertained in the richness of this creek, and the mines of Cariboo generally, in California.

Opinions of the London Press upon Benson's Great Clock and Watches in the Exhibition, 1862.

"As a sample of English clock-work on a large scale, this is a fine specimen of the art. It is a watch of the kind that have never been seen in this country. No other watch could be fitted with more perfect accuracy and beauty, and if it were to be made, it would be a great credit to the watch trade of London."

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