

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 11. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1870. NO. 11.

THE BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED DAILY BY
DAVID W. HIGGINS

TERMS:
One Year (in advance) \$12 00
Six Months do 7 00
Three Months do 4 00
One Week do 0 25

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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.
The figures opposite the address on each wrapper indicate the date of expiration of the subscription.

The Conditions.
Public Opinion in this colony appears to be still very erratic, unreasonable and unformed upon some subjects of cardinal importance. The present writer was the first to take a firm stand upon the subject of the immediate construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway as an essential element in the successful extension of Confederation to the Pacific. The position was derided as Utopian and impracticable. The scheme is now, by general consent, admitted not only to be necessary but to be perfectly practicable. In fact, it is now known that, both in England and in Canada it is regarded as a national necessity, and the scheme for the advocacy of which we were long the subject of jest and ridicule, appears in the list of the official conditions of union. The present writer was also the first to take the position that the construction of that portion of the railway lying West of the Rocky Mountains should be undertaken simultaneously with that on the Eastern side. That, too, was regarded as impracticable; but that, too, has been made one of the official conditions. Now, however, we find public opinion, in some quarters at least, rushing into the opposite extreme; and not only recognizing itself to be the practicality of what it derided a short time ago, but demanding what is really impracticable—demanding that the work of constructing the Pacific end of the railway shall be actually commenced within one year from the admission of British Columbia. And it is a coincidence worthy of notice that this unreasonable demand, emanates from the additional quarter where the whole question of the construction of the railway was ridiculed only a few months ago. It would be little better than a work of supererogation to prove the unreasonableness of this demand. Even the most superficial mind must be convinced that it is utterly unreasonable to expect much more to require as a stipulation of construction, that a work of such magnitude shall be begun with such unprepared haste. Indeed, it would appear impossible that the work of surveying and adopting the route, and giving out the contracts for the various sections, could be completed within the year. Where, to begin with, a wide selection of routes, reasonable time must be allowed—say, in such matters, thirty or forty days, in such matters, thirty or forty days, in such matters, thirty or forty days.

Going Away.
The next steamer leaving for San Francisco will carry a way from our shores a family whose departure will create a blank in this Colony, and especially in this community, not soon to be filled. A blank in the Church, in the philanthropic associations, and efforts of the Colony, in the social gatherings, on every making occasions, in associations for intellectual improvement and amusement, in efforts for industrial progress, in everything good and laudable. To a Colony young with society still so unformed, the departure of such a family is a public loss. But in the departure of the Needham family is involved a loss of yet another character. Coming here in 1855, Chief Justice Needham has discharged the important duties of his high office with an evenness of temper and a purity of purpose eminently becoming the ermine he wears with so much grace. During that period it has frequently fallen to his lot to deal with important and intricate issues, and through all he has held the scales of Justice with steady and impartial hand, displaying an amount of forensic acumen not often found in a new country. To please all would be obviously impossible; but, in seeking to deal out evenhanded Justice, without fear, favor or affection, he has been more than ordinarily successful in inspiring in the minds of the many that reverential respect for the Bench which we are apt to regard as peculiar to British communities. Some of Chief Justice Needham's judgments have commanded respect and evoked eloquent praise beyond the boundaries of British Columbia. During his five years of his administration, it has frequently been his lot to discharge, at once, the most solemn and terrible duty that can devolve upon any man; and there can not but be some gratification in the reflection that, in every instance the dread sentence pronounced by his lips found, cumulative justification in subsequent confession of guilt. While the departure of Mr. Needham's services to his gain, the appointment to the Chief Justiceship of Trinidad must be regarded in the light of promotion; and while we do but give expression to general sentiment in regretting the departure of Mr. Needham, and his estimate of his family, at the same time, can offer our congratulations to them and to that community to which they will prove so valuable an acquisition.

Legislative Council.
Monday, March 7.
COMMUNICATION.
A communication from His Excellency containing a bill for the appropriation of \$340,105 75 for the Estimates of the current year.
The bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday.

General Information.
The hon. Surveyor General replied that he did not know any particulars about a survey from the Dominion to British Columbia, the matter not being within the limits of his department.
Mr. Helmecken moved that His Excellency be respectfully requested to furnish returns of the exports during the past year (1869) from British Columbia. Carried.

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Mr. Drake asked leave to bring in an Ordinance to amend the County Court Ordinance, 1867. Leave granted.

SCOTTISH DISTILLERIES.
The *Scottish Standard* of 28th December contains a long and interesting description of the Leith Distillery, owned by Messrs. Bernard & Co. The establishment is of the most extensive character, and besides long rows of buildings devoted to the production of the celebrated brand of whisky, the firm have extensive export and bottling warehouses. They also maintain a huge piling establishment and a steam sawmill and cooperage constantly engaged in the production of material for casks. The same paper contains an elaborate description of the Caledonian Distillery at Edinburgh, owned by Messrs. Meuzies, Bernard & Co. Messrs. Sproat & Co. are the British Columbia agents for these celebrated whiskies.

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FOR THE ANTHRACITE COAL MINES.
The steamer *Oster* has been chartered to proceed to the Queen Charlotte Coal Company's mine at Skidegate Bay and carry thither several of the directors' workmen and supplies. The work will be pushed vigorously during the approaching season, and it is highly probable that before the middle of May we shall have the pleasure of announcing the arrival of at least one large cargo of the valuable fossil fuel of San Francisco. After leaving Skidegate the *Oster* will run across to the mouth of the Skeena with any Onimbeculous passengers who may feel disposed to tackle the terra incognita of the coast route.

THE TARIFF PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR THE ABOLITION OR REDUCTION OF THE DUTY ON BITUMINOUS COAL OF THE DUTY ON FISH. It provides that five animals per 20 per cent ad valorem, one-half cent per bushel, and 30 per cent, potatoes 15 cts per bushel, sawed spruce, hemlock and basswood, \$1 per thousand, pine and all other kinds of sawed lumber \$2 per thousand, pickets and palings \$1 per thousand, pine and spruce clap boards 30 per cent, lime, limestone and crude gypsum 10 per cent, ground gypsum 25 cents per 100 lbs, building stone \$3 per measured ton.

COMMUNISM IS MONOPOLIZING LABOR IN CALIFORNIA—in some farms white men receive \$30 per month and Chinamen \$50. The woolen mills have discharged all their white hands at \$3 per day and taken on Chinamen at \$40 per month.

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himself and his constituents to a false and ridiculous position. New Westminster, in common with the rest of the colony, has much to gain by immediate Confederation upon fair and equitable terms; and New Westminster can no more than other parts afford to delay the inauguration of the great public works waiting upon that change, by insisting upon unreasonable and childish conditions. The Canadians are prepared to act not only justly but liberally towards this colony; but if our people take them for fools they will find themselves greatly mistaken. Those who would raise local issues now which must look for a solution from a higher than a local standpoint, and those who would seek to trammel the negotiations

light of mere obstructionists. The commencement of those great works to which all look forward with so much earnest and just expectation will be most surely and effectually expedited by facilitating that political change upon which they necessarily hinge; and it will not only be true patriotism but it will be self-interest to approach the subject of Confederation in that spirit of fairness and enlarged reason and commonsense which its nature and importance so clearly demand.

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Mr. Alston asked leave to bring in a bill relating to common schools. Leave granted.

Mr. Ring asked that a day be named for the consideration of the petition of Alex. Watson. Mr. Alston moved as an amendment that it be referred to the whole house. Carried. The Attorney General moved that it be referred to a select committee. Carried, and the following gentlemen were appointed as said committee: Messrs. Ball, Ring, DeCosmos, Robinson and Sanders.

Mr. Ring asked leave to bring in a bill for the incorporation of the town of Nanaimo. Leave granted.

Mr. DeCosmos moved for a return of loans and funded debt. Carried.

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Hayti—The Trial and Execution of Salnave.

New York, Jan 28.—At the trial of Salnave in Hayti, the Deputy Marshal read the charges to the prisoner, which occupied some time, the most important being that he annulled the Constitution and named himself Emperor of the Republic; that he associated himself with depraved characters and held on to the government by fraud and force, therefore Sylvan Salnave is accused of high treason, desecration, pillage with arms, committing assassination, and is now amenable for these crimes.

Salnave said he was not capable of the acts of which he was accused. His counsel made a strong appeal, and made every effort to destroy the accusation, quoting frequently the position of Jeff Davis in the late rebellion in the United States.

You have just been condemned to pain of death. Entreat you to be firm and courageous. Salnave replied—

my affairs in order. This request was granted and he was engaged for a short time in writing a letter, which he sealed and placed in the hands of the President. Immediately after this he was pinioned and taken from the court, attended by two clerks, to the place of execution. He was then led to a post placed for the occasion and a solemn silence ensued. The firing party was then drawn up and Gen. Cabral said to Salnave: You are going to be executed as a traitor; Viva la Constitution!

The words, which were the signal for the deadly volley, were taken up by the people and amid the shout of "Viva la Constitution," Sylvan Salnave ceased to exist. His body was then put into a cart among the felons.

Jamaica.
Dr. Alexander Fiddle, the distinguished Surgeon, died suddenly on Christmas day. He died while making his will, and hours he could sign it.

Mr. Rushworth, the Financial Secretary, presented his financial statement to the public on Friday 31st December. A surplus of £68,896 is shown.

The Bahamas.
It is rumored here that His Excellency Governor Rawson has been recalled to England, and that Sir Benjamin Pine of Antigua, is to take the command of the Windward Islands as Governor in Chief. The cause of Mr. Rawson's removal is said to have been occasioned by legal proceedings instituted in England against him at the instance of the late Colonial Secretary, the having been dismissed the service of the Bahamas, charging His Excellency with being guilty of certain unlawful acts whilst holding Her Majesty's commission as Governor of the Bahamas.

Trinidad.
Private letters, received by the Mail, from influential sources in England, state that Governor Gordon will go to the Mauritius and Major Mansel to Trinidad.

The ship *Wilebra*, from Calcutta, arrived on the 20th December with 806 Chinese immigrants for the plantations.

St. Lucia.
The Government have in contemplation the offering of a premium for the destruction of serpents, as they are becoming so destructive to human life in St. Lucia.

Canadian Mail Summary.
Our dates are to the 16th February. The General of Lieut. General Sir Chas. A. Wyndham, Commander of the Forces, took place at Montreal on the 22nd. The body was deposited in the Mount Royal Cemetery; but this was only temporary, preparatory to removal to England. The ceremony was a very imposing one. Prices Arthur, accompanied by Col. Hamilton, walked in rear of the funeral cortege. A. Matheson, D. D., Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, died on the 14th, aged 75 years. The Reifeinstein examination before the Police Magistrate, had at last come to a conclusion, and the subject of it was committed for trial at the next sittings, on charges amounting to the aggregate of \$14,000. On the 10th Lieut. Governor Wilnot opened the Legislature of the province of New Brunswick. The following passage occurs in his speech:—

Never has the public mind of Britain been so agitated as at present upon the important subject of emigration to the British colonies. Tens of thousands of men and women are willing to work and who are to a certain extent a burden upon the charities of the mother country, could in many portions of our Dominion, at once earn a comfortable subsistence, and within a few years become truly farmers as thousands have already done, and add materially to the strength of the Empire. Governor Bill opened the Newfoundland Legislature on the 3d. He congratulated the House upon the numerous tracts of land taken up, the number of mining licenses taken out and the fact that the revenue of the past year exceeds the estimates, notwithstanding a remission of 20 per cent on import duty. The speech after alluding to Confederation and Lord Granville's dispatches, concludes as follows:—

The views of a eminent British statesman, and of the highest authority on colonial affairs, held no advancement from me—but it is quite clear that the current of opinions and events has strongly set in towards union. I firmly trust that nothing will occur to check our onward march from gliding onwards, and that the advances already made will be continued until this colony joins the Dominion, thus completing the great and so anxious desire of the Imperial Government. In Prince Edward Island, Confederation was steadily gaining strength, and the feeling that the destiny of the Island was to become a Province of the Dominion was growing. It was thought improbable however, that the terms offered by the Dominion Cabinet would be accepted, as the Islanders appeared to conceive themselves entitled to better terms.

The town of Santa Marta, on one of the Ionian Islands was destroyed by an earthquake on the 29th December.

RRINS' SAUCE
The wrapper, label, and stopper, are supplied with the name of the proprietor, and they have furnished to their own inferior factors and vendors, which their rights, and see Name of Proprietors, Worcester, Mass., U.S.A.

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Responsible Government.

On Wednesday the question of Confederation is to be discussed in the Legislative Council. All must feel that this forms the most important question of the session...

rest. To enter the Dominion with the constitution proposed would be to enter upon a fresh political agitation more bitter than any previous one.

Legislative Council.

Saturday, March 5. FRIDAY, March 4, 1870. Council met at 1:30 p.m. PETITION. Mr Drake presented a petition asking government aid for a steam engine for Deluge Company...

THE ASSAY OFFICE DISCUSSION.—In the Legislative Council on Thursday Hon Mr Holbrook rose to a question of privilege. He said he was reported to have stated that 'except Mr Claudet there was not another man in the colony who could give a correct assay.'

SEVERE.—The shock of earthquake felt at San Francisco February 18th appears to have been of unusual severity though of short duration. It lasted seven seconds and occurred at 22 minutes past 12 m.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AND SPARTAN PLUCK. As Williams' bus was riding along Government street yesterday morning, a little boy, aged 6, son of a widow named Martin, jumped on the step for a ride and to steady himself put one of his hands upon the wind-spring.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP CALIFORNIA.—The S S California, Capt. Rogers, arrived at midnight on Thursday bringing forty passengers among whom were Mr F M Bates and Company, Capt. Lewis and wife, Mr F Wellier and Miss Parsons.

THE CAMILLA UREO CONCERTS.—A series of Grand Concerts in aid of the Mercantile Library Association, are in process at San Francisco in an immense pavilion. The Concerts are given under the auspices of a little Italian lady named Camilla Ureo.

NEW MUSIC.—We have been favored by Mr F Busbell, the well-known musician and composer, with a copy of the 'Evening Star Waltz,' just composed by him and sent to San Francisco to be printed.

Exports from the Colony of British Columbia for the year 1869.

Table with 3 columns: Country to which Exported, Value of Domestic Produce or Manufacture, Value of Foreign Produce or Manufacture. Includes entries for United Kingdom, British Possessions, New Zealand, etc.

Table with 4 columns: Articles, Value, Articles, Value. Lists various goods like Wheat, Flour, Sugar, etc. with their respective values.

Telegraphic Communication.—The Feeling at Lytton.

Lytton, B. C., 24th Feb, 1870. To the Honorable Legislative Council, per the Hon F J Barnard, Victoria: At a public meeting of the inhabitants of Lytton, called together on the evening of the 23rd inst. (the Rev J B Good in the Chair and Mr L D Loring, Secretary.)

That we have heard, with feelings of great alarm and regret, that the M. Island telegraphic line of communication between our interior and sea coast may at any time be discontinued, owing to the cessation of Government in accepting the offer of its present owners to transfer all their interest in the same from Swidomish to Queensland.

That, having a practical knowledge of what they are now saying, this meeting would respectfully state its conviction that the line in question has been most inefficiently kept up, most unsatisfactorily worked, and a tariff maintained of so high a value as practically to shut out the public from a general and inexpensive employment of this speedy, popular and simple mode of communication.

That, in the event of the government assuming control thereof, putting the line in good repair—for doing which it has many facilities not available to the old company—connecting it with the postal service so as to make it the easiest and least costly mode of transmitting intelligence, and opening the line throughout from Swidomish to Barkerville, the general receipts would, we confidently believe, exceed any present calculations and render the line to a much greater extent than is now anticipated a self-paying institution.

That, in consequence, we feel we are representing the sentiments of the majority of those residing inland in urging upon the honorable Council the duty of encouraging the government to undertake the support of the line, and that considering the amount of revenue derived from this Mainland section of the B. C. R. Co. the small amount recently expended in our behalf in the shape of public improvements, we consider we are deserving of a slight effort being made in our behalf in a matter of such great moment to our interests as is the maintenance of telegraphic communication, and that we shall deeply appreciate an effort to save us from experiencing the shame and loss incident to such a step of colonial retrogression.

European Mail Summary.

DATES are at hand to the 1st of February. In Ireland there has been fresh instances of warning threats in connection with the occupation of land, and the indisposition to pay rents is widely spread in some counties.

It is threatened against the return of Mr. Greville Nugent for Longford. A sharp contest is expected at Malton where Major Knox the Conservative candidate is opposed by the extreme Nationalists, who are strongly opposing Mr. Waters as a Government candidate.

Lord Cairns has temporarily resumed the Opposition leadership in the Lords, and will receive a party of Conservative peers at dinner prior to the commencement of the Session. The resignation of Colonel Wright, the Conservative member for Nottingham, is expected shortly, and Mr. Baillie Cochrane is mentioned as a probable candidate for the seat.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the copy-right in the heretofore existing between James McIntosh and William Fortune of Inverclyde, British Columbia, millwrights, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent.

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 in readiness to conduct any operation of that nature which may be entrusted to him.

The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday March 9, 1870.

Immigration.

There is one item in the Estimating which cannot fail to impress the holder. We allude to that of five thousand dollars under the head of Immigration. It might be supposed this amount is designed to be employed in promulgating information in view to promoting immigration, small as is the sum, if judiciously expended in disseminating information respecting the colony in the nearer or of population it might be productive of no inconsiderable benefit. However, is not the intention. Inclusive as it may appear, it is not proposed to enter the great home of Emigration with this princely and assist agricultural laborers, & to come to this colony! Just imagine British Columbia standing alongside California with its hundred million Australia with its ten millions Canada with its millions, girdling thousand dollars in its breeches pocket and bidding for immigration! Contrast thus presented would certainly be striking. It would be amusing but people would be amused at our expense. In truth it would be difficult upon a cheaper and more effective mode of advertising the poverty of British Columbia. Let us, with coming gravity enter upon a calculation to how many immigrants the world bring to our shores. At present a head, it would bring five persons—provided incidental expenses could be met in some other way. Twenty-five, (that is present death did not thus their ranks of passage) immigrants imported from England, and set down here, what the Government do with them? Their shift for themselves? What they should we have against seeking employment in a neighboring Territory? The fact of the matter we are not in a position to become porters of men and women from land just now. The cost of the article together beyond our means, as a colony is wholly destitute of the necessary provisions and appliances for retention and civilization. We look for population from no mart than England. Ten dollars a head would bring men from California,—men whose experience would render them all the better to work their own way in the colony. By and by we shall have a steady stream of the home article flowing in. To bring it round Cape Horn would be as unwise as impracticable. Do not, then, let us incur a liability by strutting into the home market with the bare bones of twenty-five men and women. Let money be employed in making the undoubted resources and advantages of the colony, rather than in verifying its impotency. Once immigration is accomplished, the little need of importing population for the first few years at all. Proper steam communication between here and San Francisco, and the demand for labor caused by the works will bring population as fast as we want it. Let not, then, the five thousand dollars set down under the head of Immigration be thrown away, and then thrown away, at a time when it could be so well used for pressing needs. There is one of the 'Sisters' to be removed; but there is no one to be removed who would do it. This five thousand would do it. Is the Telegraphic system of the land to be maintained; but there is money. This five thousand would nearly suffice. There are thousands of those already in the colony to be catered; but there is not enough money. This five thousand would about make up the deficiency. It would be easy to multiply instances where the sum proposed to be voted away could be employed to great advantage. Employed Immigration and general information Agency at San Francisco, it would suit in bringing twenty immigrants every one it would bring from England. There are other items of expense scarcely more justifiable, to which might allude did space admit.

The Estimates.

On the 23d day of February the Legislative Council went into Committee of Supply. It is not yet out nine days. A nine days' worder; not a nine days' wonder, but a nine days' farce. The Estimates might as well have been disposed of in as many minutes. It was all very well to play the Estrener, by a pretence of reducing a variety of trivial items; but everyone must know that under the present system the House is utterly powerless to effect any change. There are twenty-two members in the House, only nine of whom are independent. The Executive Government prepares and adopts the Estimates, and submits them pro forma to the Legislature; but to attempt to change or reverse the Executive decision is a House so composed is to attempt something very like an impossibility. In truth, even were the votes of a minority potent, it would be an exceeding difficult task for outside members to take up Estimates carefully prepared, dovetailed and interwoven by the Executive and make any considerable reduction, without disturbing more or less the harmony and efficiency of the whole superstructure. As one member remarked, it would be very little better than an attempt to save a few bricks by pulling one here and there out of a wall. The bricks would be saved, but the wall would be impaired. This difficulty has during every session presented itself to the minds of those attempting to deal with the Estimates in a spirit of economy. Thus we find in the session of 1868 Mr DeCosmos joining in placing a formal protest upon the journals of the House, in which the following passage occurs:— "Therefore that it is to amalgamation of offices and a reduction of the Civil List, a saving must be looked for. That such amalgamations and reductions must necessarily be the work of the Executive Government and not of the Legislative Council, after the printed Estimates are submitted to the latter in detail. Here we have the whole difficulty fully recognized; and it is greatly to be regretted that Mr DeCosmos did not, in accordance with his protest of two years ago, and join with Messrs Barnard, Drake and Robinson in their efforts to reach the wren by the only means it is possible to reach it under the present system. The Crown Salaries, or in other words, the Civil List, is, as most of our readers are doubtless aware, carefully kept out of reach of the Council; and the only means of getting at the bare end of expenditure is, therefore, by asking the Governor to send down a bill repealing the Act or Acts under which these salaries are protected. The House has no power under the Constitution to initiate such a bill. It must come down from the Executive. This Mr Barnard's resolution aimed at; but here, again, certain members refused to join with him, preferring to make a show of doing what they well knew to be constitutionally impossible. But it must be pointed out clearly to all that, whatever reduction may be attainable by a repeal of the Crown Salaries Act, or Act which throws its protection on all the 'fat' salaries, it is a change of the entire system of conducting the business in the public departments that the people must chiefly look for any very large reduction of the expense of conducting the Government. If we are to believe the reiterated assertions of the heads of departments, and there appears to be no reason for doubting them, the enormous and complicated system of transacting the public business entails a very large amount of unnecessary work, thereby rendering a double set of clerks and clerks indispensable. It is all very well for the Colonial Office to adopt a unitary system of accounts for the Crown Colonies; but when that system comes to be so applied to the condition of this colony it is not well. British Columbia has been made to walk alone as a unitary system, and it is not only a unitary system, but it is most unjust for the Imperial Government to place a burden on its back so entirely disproportionate to its strength. In this enormous and complicated system, must, for Imperial gratification and for a love of red-tape, be forced upon us, let Imperial cash meet the differences between the expense of that system and a simple and economical one adapted to the circumstances of the colony. To spend the colony on the one hand, to must every item of expenditure, and to apply it on the other hand, to carry out a prodigious millstone about its neck, and to have a very small quantity of the arbitrary and irresponsible expenditure which the House was required to make bricks in Egypt, and permitted to send our commiserate with its necessities, it is no exaggeration to say that public affairs might be efficiently administered for one-half of what the people are at present required to pay. The resolution moved by Mr Barnard on Monday aimed at immediate relief from this Imperial burden; and here, again, certain elected members, with an amount of perverse inconsistency perfectly inexorable, were found in the official rank and file. Now that the annual farce is over the people are left to look solely to Ottawa for relief; and if they are only true to themselves, and are not befooled by unprincipled and unscrupulous political aspirants, they will not look in vain. It is at a time when all hope of relief from other sources has been cut off that every thought should be directed towards the one great and over-riding duty of rendering our Government conductive, in the highest possible degree, to the general wellbeing and prosperity of our Western Home. To this end the people must have power to manage their own local affairs as fully as the other Provinces comprising the Dominion enjoy that power.

Legislative Council.

THE DAY, March 1.
NOTICES OF MOTION.
Mr Humphreys would ask the Attorney General if it was the intention of the Government to bring in a bill respecting the water rights of the farmers in the upper country.
Mr Woods—To ask for information respecting schools.
Mr DeCosmos moved that the petition of Wm Harrison be referred to the committee on schools.
The Council went into Committee of Supply.
and passed the following items of the Estimates:—Works and Buildings \$9000. Roads \$3400. Bridges \$59300. Miscellaneous \$13400.
Resolutions were passed asking His Excellency the Governor to place on the Estimates the following additional sums:—
By Mr Downey—\$2500 for repairs of trail to Kopyax.
Mr Robinson—A sufficient sum to complete the sleigh road from Yale to New Westminster.
Mr Ring—\$5400 for a road from Victoria to Nanaimo, and \$300 for Comox.
Mr Carrall—\$1000 for the Fire Brigade at Barkerville.
Mr Robinson—\$250 for Fire Department at New Westminster.
Mr Carrall moved that the Council recommend that the Government take the telegraph line on the Mainland as proposed by the W U Telegraph Company, and that 2 per cent be added to the amount paid as Customs revenue to meet the expense thereof.
During the debate on this resolution the Committee rose and reported progress.
Council adjourned to meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday.
Tuesday, March 1.
ASSAYS OF MINERALS.
Hon Colonial Secretary said for the past year the receipts of the office at New Westminster had been \$555 03, and from the office at Barkerville \$1701, the latter being the receipts for about six months. The expenses of the two offices were the salaries of the two assayers, \$485 each.
Mr DeCosmos said the assay office at New Westminster was a sinecure and was kept up at a loss of \$2000 a year to the colony without any commensurate good. He would therefore move that the office at New Westminster be abolished and the office be compensated, or that his services be amalgamated in some other office.
Hon Surveyor General said the office was useful to the colony for the purpose of assaying and analyzing minerals, not so much for gold as for other minerals such as were found on the coast. He had often thought that the services of the office should be utilized in some other office, but the thing was not practicable.
Mr DeCosmos said the office was of no public utility; assays of minerals on the coast could be made at Victoria.
Hon Attorney General said there was not another man in the colony except Mr Clouston who could give a proper assay of minerals and give the true quality and quantity.
Mr Holbrook opposed the closing of the office and said to other men in the colony would give a correct assay.
Mr Drake supported the motion and said the maintenance of the office was an absurdity.
Mr Downey said the maintenance of the office was a waste of money, and if the office was of so much value he might be sent to Cariboo, as one office was quite sufficient for the colony.
Mr Holbrook said he did not think the office at New Westminster worth the cost. He did not think it was justified in retaining the office in the country at a large salary for the accommodation of a few persons. He thought it would be so difficult in assaying minerals, to Omineca for assays, and he should vote for the abolition of the office at New Westminster.
Mr Humphreys did not see why the people of the colony should be taxed to keep up such an office for the interest of a few men's notions.
Mr Carrall said that while he was now speaking the telegraph line was being opened up, and the entire telegraph line would be taken from us forever, which we could retain for the mere cost of keeping it in repair. He was satisfied that the Governor was anxious to have the line kept open, although he had not placed on the Estimates any sum for that purpose. He thought the telegraph line was of the utmost importance to the colony, and it and the telegraph line should be kept open and maintained at all costs.
The Council adjourned to meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

The Emigration Movement.

With a view of assisting the working classes to settle in the colonies, the Emigrant and Colonist's Aid Corporation [Limited] has been formed in England. It proposes to start with a capital of £200,000, in shares of £1 each, of which £10 is to be paid on application, and the remainder on allotment. The Duke of Manchester is the chairman, and among the trustees are Lord Bury, Mr R B Torrens, MP, and Mr R N Fowler, MP. The object of the society is not only to provide passage for approved emigrants and their families, but also to procure for the settlers a suitable reception in the colony they may select, or, in other words, to forward them from their port of departure in England to their new homesteads. To this end, the society will purchase or otherwise, on terms which will enable the corporation to make grants to settlers gratuitously or on easy terms.
An Electric Explosion.—The discussion evoked by Dr Carrall's resolution, proposing a tax of two per cent upon the Customs revenue for the purpose of maintaining the telegraphic system on the Mainland, was one of the most interesting of the session. It occupied the whole of yesterday's sitting. The general sense of the House was clearly in favor of maintaining the telegraph, but against the imposition of a tax on the Customs revenue for that or any other purpose, and although the matter is to be referred to the Executive with the tax as a dernier resort, it is well understood that other provision will be made, and that the tax will not be levied. The Governor will be advised to that effect, and we predict the defeat of any measure proposing an increase of a class of taxation already bearing most injuriously upon the commercial interests of the colony.
A Moral Improvement.—We are glad to note a marked improvement in the moral tone of our evening contemporary. So long as it—or rather the honorable member under whose control the third page has lately passed—was allowed to criticize, abuse and caricature the acts of all the members of the Council, even two—himself being one of the favored two—the News sailed along at a lively rate; but the moment the friends of the public assailed, in a spirit of fair play, take up the pen and turn the tables upon the News, it becomes as respectable as a Parish beadle and as dumb as a fish—we beg pardon!—oyster. Next, we shall hear a plaintive cry that if our honorable chief engineer is being persecuted by the Colonist. When that cry is heard we shall meet it with a choice nosegay culled from the News' own collection of rare exotics.
Unauthorized Expenditure.—The Governor has forwarded to the Legislative Council a bill authorizing expenditures incurred in the years 1868-9 which was not covered by the Appropriation Ordinance for those years. The unauthorized expenditure of 1868 was \$123,367 74; in 1869, \$75,217 30. The total amount paid in the two years as compensation to officers for loss of office was \$9515 95; the removal of the seat of government cost \$4129 10; removal of a day office at Cariboo, \$2521 87; the funeral expenses of the late Governor \$2067 77. His Excellency says the bill authorizes no fresh expenditure and is simply an indemnification for necessary disbursements beyond the annual vote.
County Court.—Yesterday, Levy & Bradley—Judgment by default for amount of goods furnished. McTeigh v Bryant—Suit brought to recover \$68 for wages alleged to be due defendant's son or plaintiff. Judgment for defendant. Court adjourned till to-day at 11 o'clock.
The Coast Route.—A Word of Warning.
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I have seen a statement to one of your late files that several parties of miners are organizing in Victoria, with the intention of making their way to the new mines via the Skeena River. I feel convinced that this is a fool's experiment; because, though doubtless the mines may be reached by this route, the miners will not be able to arrive at Omineca with little or no provisions.
The Skeena is navigable for canoes a distance of about 170 miles; but the river for the upper half of this distance is very rapid and the danger is increased by the frequency of large boulders in the bed of the stream. However, from Victoria to Kopyax the head of canoe navigation on the Skeena, the journey is comparatively easy and both provisions and tools can be transported to that point; from there on the real difficulties occur.
A miner starting from Kopyax with a full load might carry enough to take him through—but it is a rough country and the distance to Vital's creek can scarcely be under 200 miles. It may be proposed to pack Indians from Kopyax, but in the Spring of the year food is very scarce with all the interior tribes, and if they packed they would require to be fed, which would come to much about the same thing—as not packing them at all. The Indians of the upper Skeena are not particularly well disposed towards the whites, probably they will make no open outbreak, but I must confess that I should not feel very safe if traveling through their country with a full party.
I know that neither dangers nor hardships have much, if any, effect in deterring miners, and the great drawback resides itself into the impossibility of getting supplies to the mines by this route. Of course I am aware that it is shorter than by the Fraser, but it is also without any practical value. A few miners may struggle through to Vital's Creek by way of the Skeena—all material and provisions must be transported via the Fraser.
If heretofore parties of miners should be discovered to the north, east of Lake Tatalah, I am not alone in thinking that the chances are in favor of such a discovery being made—it would be well worth while to open the Skeena route. So far as Omineca is concerned, at any rate, until the mines have been proved to be extensive, the advantage would not be commensurate with the cost.
I remain, sir,
ONE WHO KNOWS THE SKEENA.
The Enterprise will not resume her semi-weekly trips until the river boats recommence their trips.
The death of Mr Barlingame—the chief of the Chinese Embassy—is as unexpected as the loss is severe. Mr Barlingame was sent to China by President Lincoln as a Minister. After residing at the Court of the Flower Kingdom several years, the Emperor's commands were issued for a special envoy and plenipotentiary to civilized powers. Accompanied by a number of Chinese of high rank, Mr Barlingame returned to the United States in 1867 and has since visited all the principal countries of Europe, making treaties whereby China agreed to throw open her ports and commerce to the free intercourse of the world, in return for certain privileges guaranteed Chinese subjects in foreign countries. Mr Barlingame appears to have fallen a victim to the rigor of the Russian climate. His death will prove a severe blow to the advancement of civilization in China.
The Gravim Dock.—The apparent necessity which exists for HMS Carybdis to go to San Francisco for repairs, renders it almost certain that in favor of the construction of a graving dock at Esquimaux.

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The Concert.

The proudest result of the concert last evening must have been gratifying to the Trustees of St Paul's, while the artists were in the highest degree satisfactory to all who enjoyed the pleasure of listening to it. The entertainment opened with a piano duet by Miss Neudham and Miss Pitt, and was followed by a vocal trio from Mr Babbey, Mrs Rhoads and Miss Neudham. The 'Song of L V' was sung by Miss Neudham—accompanied by Miss Pitt on the piano and Mr Babbey on the violin—with much sweetness, and was enthusiastically encored. A piano solo by Miss Pitt was performed with exquisite taste, with immense applause and was repeated. Mrs Kent, accompanied by M. Powell, sang 'Native Scenery' most sweetly and was encored. One of the fine vocal efforts of the evening was Mr Babbey's 'Le Quema de Paraiso,' which he sang in a full, rich tenor. The vocal duet by Mrs and Miss Rhoads was delightfully rendered and a repetition was demanded and accorded.
In the second part Miss Palmer won an enthusiastic and deserved encore in 'I've been ever my Senses Swailing.' Mrs Powell sang 'Bravi,' by Verdi, and a repetition being insisted on favored the audience with a ballad. The piano solo by Miss Blum was the best performed instrumental piece of the evening. In the duet, 'Take thy Banner,' Chief Justice Begbie's bass and Mr Babbey's tenor were enthusiastically encored. Miss Neudham in her clear soprano, sang 'Home, Sweet Home,' in a charming and tasteful manner; and when, in response to a rapturous call, she again appeared and sang 'The Englishman,' cheer after cheer arose and the audience were not again content when she came forward and sang a third time. Miss Neudham will not again sing in public before taking her departure. The 'Lobely Bird' duet, was sweetly sung by Mrs Powell and Miss Brant, and upon unanimous demand of the audience, was repeated. The vocal duet and trio, it may be proper to remark, we well delivered, but the choruses with the exception of 'The Gipsy,' were feeble. The entertainment was under the able direction of Mr F J Austin.
ACCIDENTS.—H. M. S. CHARYBDIS.—H. M. S. Charybdis, Capt Lysons, returned from the East Coast quite unexpectedly yesterday morning, having met with a serious accident by striking a sunken rock at the entrance of Plummer Sound, some 32 miles distant from Victoria. The accident occurred on Saturday last at 5 o'clock, p.m. The ship started out of Rensselaer Harbor, San Juan Island, in the morning and was entering Plummer Sound, when the ran on the rock. The ship was fortunately under sail and was running a long before a light breeze. The masts in one gale were comparatively light although considerable water was made and the pumps have to be kept going to keep her free. The ship remained on the rock until 10 o'clock, the same night, when she floated off and came to anchor in the Sound. Yesterday morning she was steamed back to Esquimaux where an examination of her injuries will be made by divers. It is feared she will have to go to San Francisco for repairs. It is said that the rock on which the Charybdis struck is not down on the chart.
'AN OLD FISH'—In the News of last evening Mr DeCosmos, in the course of a long editorial written by himself, in defence of his awful flop on Mr Barnard's retrenchment resolution, says:—
'Mr DeCosmos saw through the plot at a glance—he was too old a fish to be caught with such a bait.'
So! Mr DeCosmos who has always been regarded as a sort of modest Titus Oates in scientific plots and con-jurals, turns out, upon his own confession, to be only 'an old fish'! We might have ventured to assert that the honorable gentleman is better acquainted with Billingsgate than with Lord Chesterfield, but we should certainly never have ventured to even intimated that he is 'an old fish' in appearance or habits. After this frank confession of what he is Mr DeCosmos' flip into the Government's snare is easily accounted for, although we should scarcely have expected so 'old a fish' to display so much agility.
THE RED RIVER DISCOVERY.—We learn from Canadian exchange—a large and important meeting—a more detailed account of which we propose to give to-morrow—had been held at Fort Garry at which very satisfactory explanations were made by the Hudson Bay Company authorities and others. Donald G Smith, the Commissioner, read his instructions and addressed the meeting. His address addressed the meeting. It was decided to elect 140 representatives to consider the propositions. The most friendly feeling prevailed, all appearing to understand that it was by peaceable means the rights and interests of the people would be best attained.
DEATH OF EX GOVERNOR MOORE.—Ex Governor Moore of Washington Territory died at Olympia on Sunday morning last. The deceased gentleman was the eldest and best man Washington Territory has had to provide for her duties. He was Brigadier General in the late war and received two gold medals through his long and distinguished services, the desperate character of the war, he survived them all six years. The Governor last year was a few years older.

Free Port and Protected Industry.

It has been fully demonstrated in Canada as readily as in the States, among us the highly favored commercial position of Victoria, under free trade, and the great advantage which would be secured to the Province and to the Dominion by the establishment of a free port here. We never sought to conceal the fact that free port scheme is not without its dangers; nor can it be denied that the objections urged are entitled to grave consideration. The chief objection to a free port is found in that the entire island would be thereby thrown open to foreign goods. This, it is asserted, would prove highly detrimental to agricultural interests. We are by no means of the opinion that this is the correct view. Victoria will never owe its greatness to agriculture. Its great application, magnificent harbors, excellent coal-stores and its iron and mines would all appear to point to its greatness as a commercial and manufacturing port. To the development of these interests a free port must contribute. To become commercial we must become commercial. Victoria has to undertake other duties; and she can alone do so by opening her gates wide open to commerce. To become great in manufacturing must have large communities at labor. 'Ah!' says one, 'but we have protection, too. You cannot want us to do without protection. United States? Is not the most protection against their manufactures found in cheap labor, and the signs of a large home demand? As we are dear labor caused by their ruinous labor system? For agricultural this island would it not be in more benefited, taking the large amount of the creation of a great harbor, the infusion of labor and than by being walled in by a restrictive system? It must be remembered that the true interest of the agriculturist is inseparably connected with the general prosperity under a protective system, and that the farmer will only be protected from the face of the earth—or, at all off the Island of Vancouver. At one point which the farmers are very apt to overlook in dealing the question of free trade protection. There is a disposition to look margin of profit enjoyed under a protective tariff, and overlook the question of taxation such protection. But let the farmer sit down so long after supper and carefully what this protection costs him. Let him subtract that from his gains by it, and we appreciate will need to put on his spectacles to see the remainder. He will pay fifteen to twenty per cent on every imported article, and he will pay more for labor; and we will ask him if it does not turn out a careful calculation, that, on an average of our farmers on the island they are paying more for their goods than it brings to them; too, altogether apart from that protection is killing off and keeping away population, questions by the larger proportion of development, certain to result from free port, under Confederation, will be better for all classes and than a sickly, debilitated protection. But, should it be otherwise, there appears to be nothing inconsistent in the idea of trade in all we want to import, or protection to all we want to export. For this purpose, no Customs would be needed. Such articles destined to protect could be made landing warrant, imposing a duty would at once act as a protection to the home producer, and a purpose might be deemed desirable. There appears to be no such difficulty in the way of such a policy. Indeed it was in former times, under the system. But we are apt to such protective imposts would be retained. All would be convinced that free trade would be a policy that shall wait the nation to our inviting should this policy for Vancouver. Canada sees it. The Mainland will Victoria be the last. This is to become the Western America, and that gate must wide.

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Free Port and Protected Industry.

It has been fully demonstrated that Canada can see as readily as the shrewdest among us the highly favored commercial position of Victoria, under Confederation, and the great advantages which would be secured to the Province and to the Dominion by the establishment of a free port here. We have never sought to conceal the fact that the free port scheme is not without its objectors; nor can it be denied that some of the objections urged are entitled to grave consideration. The chief objection to a free port is found in the fact that the entire island would be free, and therefore, thrown open to foreign productions. This, it is asserted, would prove highly detrimental to agricultural interests. We are by no means certain that this is the correct view. Vancouver Island will never owe its greatness to agriculture. Its geographical position, magnificent harbors, enormous coal-stores and its iron and copper mines would all appear to point to its greatness as a commercial and manufacturing center. To the development of both these interests a free port must contribute. To become commercially great we must become commercially free. Victoria has to undertake other obligations; and she can do so by throwing her gates wide open to commerce. To become great in manufactures we must have large communities and cheap labor. 'Ah!' says one, 'but we must have protection, too. We cannot keep your oak and eat it. Against whose manufactures do we want protection?' The United States? It is not the most healthy protection against their manufactures to be found in cheap labor and the creation of a large home demand. Against the dear labor caused by their ruinous protective system? For, agricultural on this island would it not be in reality more benefited, taking the larger view, by the creation of a great home demand, the infusion of labor and capital, than by being walled in by a narrow restrictive system? It must be remembered that the true interest of the agriculturist is inseparably connected with the general prosperity. If, under a protective system, commerce languishes, and population decreases, the farmer will only be protected off the face of the earth—or, at all events, off the Island of Vancouver. There is one point which the farmers and others are very apt to overlook in dealing with the question of free trade protection. There is a disposition to look at the margin of profit enjoyed under the customs tariff, and overlook the margin of taxation such protection costs. But let the farmer sit down some evening after supper and carefully calculate what this protection costs him every year; let him subtract that from what he gains by it, and we apprehend he will need to put on his 'specs' in order to see the remainder. He not only pays fifteen to twenty per cent upon every imported article consumed or used on his farm, but he pays that much more for labor; and we are greatly mistaken if it does not turn out, upon a careful calculation, that, taking the average of our farmers on the Island, they are paying more for protection than it brings to them; and this, too, altogether apart from the fact that protection is killing commerce and keeping away population. Unquestionably the larger prosperity and development certain to result from a free port, under Confederation, would be better for all classes and interests than a sickly, deboned existence under protection. But, should it be thought otherwise, there appears to be nothing inconsistent in the idea of free trade in all we want to import, and protection to all we want to produce. For this purpose a Customs tariff would be needed. Such articles as we desired to protect could be met with a landing warrant, imposing a tax that would at once act as a protection to the home producer, and create a fund which would be available for whatever purpose might be deemed most desirable. There appears to be no insuperable difficulty in the way of adopting such a policy. Indeed, it was adopted in former times, under the free port system. But we are apt to think that such protective imposts would not be long retained. At all events, we become convinced that free trade, free as the winds that shall waft the ships of all nations to our inviting shores, is the true policy for Vancouver Island. Canada sees it. The Mainland sees it. Will Victoria be the last to see it? This is to become the Western gate, so to speak, of the Greater Britain of America, and that gate must be opened wide.

It has been definitely settled that the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railway shall be at Portland, Oregon, instead of at Seattle, Washington territory. The new opposition steamer Tacoma, now building in Puget Sound is intended as an opposition boat to Victoria.

Legislative Council.

WEDNESDAY, March 2.

DEBATE ON THE SUBSIDY TO THE V. U. TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Dr. Helmecke said it was hard to know how to deal with this question. The benefit to be derived here so small a proportion to the vast expense about to be incurred that he thought little argument was required to induce the Council to reject the proposition. He looked upon the thing as a luxury, not as a necessity, nor of any great use. The telegraph wires have been down for some time. Has anyone complained or have any suffered here? Is the country any worse off? No doubt it will be asserted that the absence of telegraphic communication shows a decadence of the country, but it shows nothing of the kind. It only shows a failure of the overland scheme to Asia. British Columbia would never have had this work were it not that many supposed the Atlantic cable would be a failure and that an overland line and cable to Asia would be a paying concern. The line has never paid since its commencement and if it were likely to pay the offer now made would not have been made to this colony. We are told that the line cost \$150,000. It may have done so, but to the company it is worth very little, and to the country it is worth very little. It would fetch nothing if sold. The extravagant sum we are asked to vote for this luxury can be applied to a much more useful purpose, leaving out of the question the objectionable means by which it is proposed to raise it. Now, what are the terms? It will be seen that the government has to keep the line open and in repair. It is not a free gift, for if the government do not fulfil their contract the company resume possession. In relation to this matter, he said, a resolution was made of an extraordinary character. \$4500 per annum had been expended in wages, say vote of the Council. He then revised at length the statement of Mr. Lamb and the proposition to pass over the line to the government, showing that the estimate of cost for putting the line in repair was very much too low, and the statement showing the receipts for the past year was too favorable, giving a statement of summer months in lieu of winter months, estimating the loss which the company would sustain annually to be about \$8000, and if the line was taken 400 miles farther there would be an additional expense. He thought the population of Cariboo would be decreased this year and the revenue of former years would be a poor criterion for this. He believed the loss to the colony when put down at \$20000 per annum is too small. The expense will be greater, the income will be less, particularly if the line is carried to Cariboo or further south. In addition to this, he said, we are to believe that the government officials are to be taught telegraphy. Can everybody learn this? He thought not. It would require also a number of men to keep the line in repair. The constant cry is, we have too many officials—too expensive a government, and yet many more desires of rearmament will vote for this as for the assay office. The cry of rearmament is a humbug, it is only a cloak for further extravagance. He would rather do away with the telegraph altogether, even to England, than vote this sum. The people are to be additionally taxed for the purpose and yet members are ever calling out that the people are too heavily taxed. What is all this only for? A government luxury, a piece of almost unmitigated extravagance. He was surprised that the government should desire to carry out this work. They will certainly be abused. The very people who vote for it now will be the first and loudest in complaining. They may be lambent now, they will throw off that skin ere very long. \$7000 per annum might be applied to a more useful purpose, for instance, to bring out 200 productive settlers. What use, he would ask, is the telegraph? Is it needed for anything? The best proof of its not being essential is the fact that it has been a failure. A loss, a vehicle but little used. The mercantile portion of the community do not want it at the price, and particularly wish its discontinuance. He said that he was not an opponent of the telegraph, but he was an opponent of the subsidy. He would object to this money being squandered in this manner. Year after year it will be going on, out-leaving not a trace of any permanent improvement in the country behind. We have too many of these unproductive items upon the list already, put more on and add to it further permanent and reproductive improvement. It is all very well taking this mode of raising money, but what will we do when the revenue of that will be taken by the Confederation, as hon. gentlemen suppose it will be ere long? Is the \$7000 to be supplied from the funds of the local government? He would ask the gentleman of the Council not to be deceived by the flattery value of the property—the first cost. Behold the dredger! Behold the assay office! It is an elephant that will cost much to feed and be of no use or ornament.

and the estimate which the [the Commissioner] had arrived at, was that for one year you will have to pay \$7000. To prove the correctness of his estimate it is only necessary to point out the fact that the company offer to keep the line in running order for \$6500. He did not think the opinion of the hon. member for Victoria worth as much as the opinion of those who had been over the ground. The hon. gentleman had told you that the poles rotted off in two years—what is the fact? The poles were set in 1864 and are standing yet. There was one point which he thought would touch the hon. gentleman: He voted for a subsidy of \$4500 for the line between Victoria and Portland. Of course he can advance a good many arguments for the subsidy, but he cannot see any advantages to the people of the upper country in the other line. [The Commissioner] would ask the hon. gentleman to revise his judgment and see if he could not discover some advantages to the interior in the present proposition. The line is valuable to the police force in a way that you could not obtain with four times as much as this will cost. You are asked to allow the government to try the experiment one year. At the end of that time or sooner he, for one, would advocate the discontinuance of the line if it did not prove advantageous. He always tried to be on the safe side and thought that instead of \$7000, not more than \$6000 would be called for. Two per cent on the Customs revenue fully meets the expense. The people on the Mainland would feel exceedingly aggrieved if the line was not maintained. Shall we let it be known to the world that we are willing to pay \$4500 for a line to Portland, and are unwilling to support the line in the interior? Dr. Helmecke said rather than vote for this he would vote to strike out of the Estimates the \$4500 altogether. The Governor did not want to put this on the Estimates. The Colonial Secretary said the Governor was not only willing but desirous to keep the line, provided the Council would only find the means. Mr. Robinson said the bill for him to perform had been rendered as easy one by the hon. the Chief Commissioner. He had been surprised at the line of argument adopted by the hon. member for Victoria, city. Would that gentlemen inform the House whether the human faculty was really any better or better in this age of steam and electricity than in the former one of stage coaches, mud roads and canals—for that was really where his theory would bring in. [The hon. gentleman] quoted from the British North America Act, 1867, showing that under Confederation the telegraph would be at once assumed by the Dominion. This was so late to abandon a telegraphic system, which would be rendered both necessary and imperative by impending changes, and which could not be replaced for less than \$150,000. But while advocating the maintenance of the telegraph, both on the grounds of justice and policy, he felt that he must strongly oppose the means by which it was proposed to make provision for its maintenance. It was at all times undesirable to tinker with the Customs tariff, and especially was it undesirable to increase it at a time when all felt that it was much too high—grasping the commercial interests of the place. He would oppose that mode of raising the necessary revenue to maintain the telegraph. Such a tax would probably be the most odious and injurious which could possibly be devised. Hon. Collector of Customs said if the line was taken over he thought there should be some other way provided for raising the money. The tax would be levied heavily on a few persons. There was one firm who paid about \$50,000 a year into the revenue, and the duty now on flour was \$22,000, and the duty would have to pay an additional tax of \$140. The first change he hoped to see in the tariff would be a reduction instead of an increase. Mr. Barnard said he thought it very strange that in 1870 it was necessary to get up a defence of a telegraph system. The hon. member for Victoria City says nobody upon the mainland has asked for the line. It was well known that the wires were down or the people in the upper country would soon be heard from. He did not have any reason to suppose there would have been any opposition to this measure there would have been a petition here as long as the petition on the capital question. The people on the mainland are getting the impression that Victoria is trying to gobble up everything. They find no fault with the grant of \$4500 to subsidize the line from Victoria to Portland but they expect to have an equal telegraphic privilege extended to them. The hon. member for Victoria represented the statement of Mr. Lamb in saying the poles would rot in two years. How could the repeating every two years. How could the maintenance of Victoria reconcile his inconsistency in voting for the subsidy for Victoria and Portland line and refuse to vote for this? He (Mr. Barnard) believed that the figures represented more than would be required, but he could not agree with the mode proposed in the resolution for raising the money. Mr. Ring said when he was told that the people on the mainland were indifferent and when he saw all the members from the mainland advocating it he was astonished. He thought to allow the line to go down would be disastrous. Mr. Holbrook, in moving his amendment, called the attention of the Council to a dispatch from the Home Government to the Governor of this colony asking for a subsidy of \$50,000 for a telegraph from British Columbia to Vancouver. He said the company had worked the line at a loss, but he would now relieve them from a further loss. He said the most of the business was done through the telegraph and it was also very useful in the detection of crime. In regard to the mode of raising the tax he said it was not the merchant who paid it, it was the consumers. He would not say how the sum should be raised. Mr. Drake said he could not let the resolution pass without his opposition. All that had been said about the telegraph being a quill was a humbug. The accommodation was too very low. He was not aware that before we had the telegraph line crime was rampant or that it cost the country more from crime than it does now. He thought it unwise and unfeeling to put the people on the mainland on the same footing as Victoria by voting a small sum to keep up communication between Swinovich and New Westminster. Mr. DeCosmos said with respect to the line from Swinovich to Cariboo, he thought every body would like it, but the question was, could the country afford it? He thought it could not. The two lines would cost \$11,450, and he thought as practical men we should not meet the expense objectionable. He also thought to subsidize the line between Victoria and Portland unjust to the mainland without granting them an equal privilege. He would therefore move that the Government be re-

commended to grant a sufficient sum to keep the line up from Swinovich to New Westminster. Mr. Alston said he did not undervalue the advantages of telegraphy, but he thought the country could not bear the expense. He also thought the means proposed to raise the money objectionable. He would oppose the resolution, but would support the amendment of the hon. member for Victoria District. Mr. Humphreys said he thought the scheme ill-considered, ill-managed and attendant with all the ills imaginable. He said the people of the mainland were in no sense benefited by the line. The W. U. Telegraph Company had attempted a speculation and failed, and now wanted aid from the government. They put this line up for their own interest and not for the interest of the colony. In making some allusion to the member for Yale Mr. Humphreys was called to order by the chair as being personal. He (Mr. H.) denied being personal. He did not wish to offend any member. All this talk about the line was humbug. He should support the last amendment. The Attorney General said he thought it was the desire to maintain telegraph communication within the colony with fairness to all. He did not think the mode of raising the sum as proposed in the resolution was a good one. He should propose in a resolution that this council should express the desire that telegraphic communication should be kept up within the colony, and ask the Governor to send down a bill proposing to arrange the taxation fairly over the whole community. Dr. Helmecke said he thought twenty-two people could better decide upon a bill than the Governor. He denied that from Victoria to Cariboo was the whole colony. Mr. Carrall said that three things had cropped out during the debate. First, it was conceded pretty generally that we want the telegraph; second, that we are not able to pay for it; and thirdly, that the hon. member for Victoria City should make a visit to the mainland. He thought to display such ignorance and affect to it was a crime. He thought it very difficult to discriminate between a luxury and a necessity. A man could live on a clam-bud, but he did not think it a very extravagant luxury should he indulge in a little bread and butter or a fish occasionally. Postal communication was a necessity and so was telegraphy. He thought the tax proposed was equitable, the consumer paid, not the merchant. The community on the mainland pay their proportion of the \$4500 subsidy for the line from Victoria to Portland. The expense of keeping up this line would not be great. The officers of the government would in fact keep the line in operation. Only a few outside would have to be employed. At the first he felt some great reluctance to propose the mode of raising the means, but now he would press his resolution in its entirety. He was one of those sanguine individuals who believe that if this item was in the estimates next year it would be very much less. The Commissioner of Lands and Works said he looked upon it as an established fact that the telegraph was very much required, and it would be a great loss to the colony if it was done away with. If there had been any doubt in the minds of the people that the line would be sustained petitions would have been abundant. The hon. member for Victoria City said the Governor did not desire the line. The remark was not just. His Excellency did not feel justified in placing it on the estimates without consulting the council. He would not adopt the amendment of the hon. Attorney General. The mode proposed for raising the tax was vague and indefinite. The question was, are we willing to adopt the tax in the way proposed by the mover? Is the game worth the candle? He thought it was and moved the following amendment: 'That this council, impressed with the conviction that the disestablishment of the telegraph line between Victoria and Cariboo will prove detrimental to the mercantile and other interests of the colony as well as injure our prestige abroad, respectfully recommended His Excellency the Governor to take measures to secure the continuation of such telegraph service during the present year; and if provision cannot be made for this service from existing sources of revenue, to send down to this council a bill imposing an additional Custom duty of 2 per cent on the Opium Revenue to meet the expenditure that such telegraph service may require.' A long discussion took place as to which motion should be first put, there being four amendments to the original motion. The Chairman decided that the last amendment should be put, and if carried, all other amendments and the original resolution were lost. An appeal was taken from the decision of the Chair and the Chair was sustained. Several motions were made to rise and report progress, and for the Chairman to leave the Chair, which failed to carry, and the amendment of the Commissioner of Lands and Works was put and carried by a vote of 13 to 6.

Mr. Robson moved that the item of \$5000 for immigration purposes be struck out and appropriated to the Telegraph subsidy. Mr. DeCosmos moved as an amendment that the sum be applied to assist emigrants already in the Colony in engaging in agriculture. Amendment and resolution both lost. Mr. Robson moved that the item be struck out. Lost. The Committee rose and reported progress. Adjourned to meet on Friday at 1 p. m. Friday March 4th. Upper Country News.—We have news from William Creek to the 19th ult. Although occasional falls of snow were experienced, the weather was comparatively mild and the sun shed a kind of spring like warmth upon the otherwise wintry landscape. The bed-rock drain was still found to be so choked in some places as to (after an obstacle) to the progress of work on several of the claims above Barkerville. The Foster Campbell and Birker companies were preparing for work. In the Chipps and Cariboo claims the ground improves in appearance. The Independent company, at the lower end of the creek, were doing well and the Ballant's company had resumed work and were pushing the drain ahead. On Stott's claim a good prospect was found on the high bed-rock on part of the Taldive ground, through which the Jenkins company had been allowed to run a drift for prospecting purposes. The discovery is of very great value, as a considerable bench, hitherto deemed worthless as mining ground, will be entirely worked and is likely to prove rich. It will also indicate the course of the lead, which hitherto, had not been satisfactorily defined. On Conklin gulch the Felix Co. washed up 35 oz for the week ending Feb. 13, and the McDowell Co. 44 oz for the same time. O'Connell's claim the Victoria company have reached bed-rock, but found nothing, they are going to open up an upper stream. There was no news from Peace River when they were left. Partitions are moderate in price and plentiful in supply. Boats are still being built at Quatsnooth for the Peace River diggings. The roads are in fine order; there is good sleighing to the junction, though rather slow in some places. Mr. Pearson the sledge, had just recovered from an accident. The river was entirely clear from all obstructions. Lower River News.—The steamer Enterprise, chartered from New Westminster at 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon, bringing Hon. Mr. Ball, Mr. Newton, Mr. and Mrs. T. Ball, Mr. H. Nelson, Mr. Cloutet, and Capt. Sabiston. Coal has been struck near the Chilliwack river. Mr. Carey, of New Westminster, was thrown from his wagon and had two ribs broken, on Thursday of last week. A public meeting was held at New Westminster on Tuesday last, when the member for the district was instructed to vote for certain alterations in the Terms of Confederation. A petition signed by 150 persons, calling for the extension of telegraphic privileges to the Mainland, has been forwarded to His Excellency. Double the quantity of wheat will be put in this year than last. The people of Burrard Inlet and New Westminster have petitioned for a trail from the B.C. & Y. Mill site to New Westminster. Owners of lots at New Westminster who have not paid the Municipal rates are informed that the sale of their property to satisfy the arrears will take place on or about the 17th inst. No notification has been served on Victorians who own property as New Westminster nor has any been published in this city. If property owners don't look out they will lose their lots. PISCATAWAY.—We learn that the Hon. A. DeCosmos has instructed his Solicitor, Mr. Courtney, to bring an action for damages against J. E. McMillan, proprietor of the News for libel; in that the said J. E. McMillan, in the said News, did assert that the said A. DeCosmos was an 'old fish' etc. From appearances we should say that the News has 'foundered' into 'trouble' with the piscataway illustration. NICHOLAS LAKE VALLEY NEWS.—A train load of Red wheat has been received at Mr. Fortane's mill on the Traskville River, from Nicholas Lake Valley. It was raised by the Moore Bros. farmers, who represent the valley as an excellent grain growing locality. DELBERT ENGINE COMPANY, No. 1.—The annual election of officers for this company took place last evening at the Biggie House. Mr. Geiger was unanimously re-elected Foreman. Mr. Crother was elected First Assistant, Mr. Finlayson Second Assistant, Mr. J. Davis Secretary, and Mr. Bent (re-elected) Treasurer. NEW SIDEWALKS.—The Corporation are rigidly enforcing the By-law. THE GOVERNMENT ASSAY OFFICE.—Card from Mr. De Cos.

