

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, April 25, 1868

The Limitation of Actions' Bill now before the Council seems to have been carefully remodeled in all its principal features, and left in a condition which fails to challenge opposition. The obnoxious provision, reviving and retaining the debts of the unfortunate for a period of six years over him, has been expunged altogether; and the more reasonable one of the limitation law of the country in which the debt was contracted substituted. This is a wise alteration, for there could be no justice or sense in holding a debt over a man in this Colony after its collection was barred by the laws of the country he emigrated from. This provision, as it stood, stultified the bill. The Limitation of Foreign Actions' Act of 1860 is repealed, provided it does not prejudice any rights or privileges hitherto acquired under that act, all such rights are to be held and construed as if no such repeal had taken place. That is, in future, in case of action or suit instituted against any person resident in this Colony the party sued has only to plead the expiration of the Limitation Act of the country in which the debt was contracted as a bar to the suit, and there the matter ends. Evidence, however, of that expiration is demanded, but any authorized printed copy of the foreign enactment is to be taken in our Courts as prima facie evidence of that expiration, so that the debtor, if legally liberated from his indebtedness, will have no difficulty in proving the fact. The Bill as it now stands altered and amended is rational and just; and in its assimilation with all foreign laws of the same character deals out full and perfect justice to all parties who may hereafter be involved in such suits. We presume some action will be taken during the week upon the Investment, Saving and Loan Societies Bill. The only objection we have yet heard against the necessity or usefulness of this measure is that the community at present is so small as to depress that there is really no one to save, no one to loan, no one to invest. Such an objection, however, is easily disposed of. If these co-operative societies are useful and beneficial in rich and populous communities (and no one can deny that fact) they must of necessity be the same in poor and limited communities. What difference can there be in the benefit derived by the individual, whether he invests to advantage the small savings of a small income or the profuse surplus of a large one? Whether the investment is made fifty or five thousand times during the year? The principle is the same throughout the world. It might, perhaps, be stated with propriety that the occasion for such societies is really greater amongst poor and limited than amongst rich and populous communities. In the latter a man enjoys endless opportunities of investing his savings or surplus, which he can only enjoy in the former by means of societies such as we are advocating; because the inducement to save and invest can be offered by no other means to the same extent. To redeem a home from mortgage, to create a farm for final settlement in life, to obtain furniture to begin housekeeping, to secure a certain provision for old age, are all matters of grave importance in life, and yet they have all been wonderfully aided throughout the whole world during the last thirty years by the means of Mutual Aid Societies. This Colony is precisely the place for their establishment and where their happiest effects would be felt. People unacquainted with the progress of San Francisco of recent years have no idea of the extent to which she is indebted to the Building and Loan Society for the comfortable and beautiful homes possessed by her middle and lower classes. Thousands have been created which could not have existed by any other means, and yet how humble and doubtful was the origin of this corporation, which now owns one of the best buildings in the city and controls a paid up cash capital of \$1,000,000. It was all accomplished in a few years and by the efforts of one man. Had a similar resource been available here in the hour of need during the same period, scores of families, now gone perhaps forever, would never have been compelled to leave. There are many things in life we only learn the value

of in adversity. Let it, then, be our duty now not only to retain the population still amongst us, but to provide them, if possible, with the means of rendering the present profitable and the future secure—and that can be done far more extensively than supposed by the establishment of these co-operative and mutual aid societies.

Hon. Walkem said one of the reasons advanced for the establishment of a Free Port was his principal reason for opposing the motion. It would go forth to the world that this House was prepared to favor smuggling. The only goods that could be disposed of at such a station would be hardware, dry goods and liquors. Hon. Helmecken presumed that the hon member preferred that Victoria should be the smuggling port in lieu of the one he suggested, for it would apply as much to Victoria as to the other. But that was beside the question. There was no intention of creating a port for smuggling, the intention was only to allow such goods to be so dealt in as would answer for barter with the Indians. He was much surprised to hear hon members talking about honor as if they were the only ones practicing that virtue. He presumed that virtue was more widely spread than the hon members supposed. The question was simply, were we going to drive our people to Alaska or were we going, by the establishment of such a Free Port, to secure to this Colony its manifold advantages. He trusted that the Council would not allow a measure involving the material advancement of the Colony to be refused.

Hon. Helmecken presented a petition from a large number of settlers in North and South Saanich, praying that the Government would grant them \$5000 for construction of a road to Spanich Bay, the cost of which was estimated at \$10,000 for construction, the additional \$5000 to be provided by themselves. To be considered to-morrow. Hon. Wood brought in a petition from the Property-holders and Insurance Companies of Victoria, praying that Coroners may be empowered to hold inquests on fires. The system had been followed in the United States with marked success, and would be equally advantageous to this Colony. Laid over for consideration to-morrow. Hon. Walkem gave notice of motion to inquire if the Government intended to introduce amendments in mining laws. Hon. Young gave notice that he would be prepared to lay the estimates for 1868 before the Council on Monday next. Hon. Helmecken moved "that the progress and prosperity of the country would be promoted were a portion of land conveniently situated upon the northern extremity of the North-west Coast marked off, dedicated and devoted to the prosecution of Free Trade in certain articles required by and suited to the nature of the commerce of that section of the Colony. That this Council earnestly recommends the Executive to carry out the spirit and intention of the above resolution in such manner and under such conditions as may seem most advisable or expedient." He requested there were so few members present to consider a measure having such an important object in view as that of establishing a piece about Fort Simpson or elsewhere on the North-west Coast, in order to secure for British subjects the advantage of the fur trade in the Russian territory, to which they were entitled. Since the acquisition of that territory by the Americans, and the Union of these Colonies, the duties levied on British goods were so heavy that it was quite impossible to compete with the Americans, the result would be, the entire loss to us of that profitable trade. With a Free Port at a point such as indicated, we should be enabled to barter our goods with the Indians for their wares. It was not done it would force British subjects to reside in American territory, in order to avail themselves of this trade. It was well-known that the portion of our territory adjacent to the newly-acquired territory of the United States, abounded in the precious metals; our settlement would, therefore, be a quest whence exploring parties could start in quest of new discoveries. The American soldiers would have considerable money to spend, and we should, in the event of creating such a port, derive the advantages from its outlet. Hon. Hamley conceived that the establishment of such a port would only result in benefiting a few traders without conferring any advantage on the Colony at large. It would be literally paying a bounty to a few merchants at the expense of the rest of the community. It would require the proper number of officers to attend to such an establishment, entailing on the Colony an expenditure four times as much as would be gained by the trade. He could not see his way to any practical working of such an affair, and trusted the Council would not consent to the introduction of such a measure.

Hon. DeCosmos had had considerable experience in Free Trade, and had assisted in banishing it from Victoria; but the present was a matter of expediency. If it could be established at some rocky point, where there was no agricultural land, in China, they created certain small pieces of territory into Free Ports; such a station might be formed on Dundas Island, near Fort Simpson. The Americans would have a long line of coast for fishing stations and the fishermen would draw all their supplies from us. There was also a large quantity of valuable timber, known as white cedar, in that vicinity, which would create for us a lucrative trade in that article. There were valuable seams of copper and silver in British Territory, and the establishment of such a port in the vicinity would lead to their early development. In order to make such a station as that in question self-supporting special taxes might be levied on the traders resorting there, so that no expense would accrue to Government. The idea was not a new one; such a place had been created on Lake Superior by the Canadians, and the Americans had complained about it, because the inhabitants in the vicinity bought British goods and smuggled them into the neighboring States. Such facilities to our neighbors he did not think were morally wrong, and thought this measure should be considered on the ground of expediency. Hon. Hamley was convinced the gain would be more than counterbalanced by the expenditure, and hence could not see the advantage of such a station. Hon. Robson really felt disposed to agree with the hon Collector of Customs. If arbitrary taxes were exacted such a Free Port would prove a losing concern—expenditure would exceed income three or four times over. The hon member for Victoria had let the cat out of the bag; he proposed to commence a smuggling trade at Alaska, which was carrying the matter a little too far. The station in Canada to which the hon member had referred was given up so much because it was a failure as from the complaints at Washington. In the present case there could be no advantage, because the Americans would convey their bonding system to Alaska. There was another reason, however, for objecting to the consideration of such a step. The Americans had not paid for the territory and he doubted very much if the purchase would be completed.

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Slip. ... It appears resolved to borrow of constructing have been well if making this step had the public in the learn, the general favor of a slip be to the Corporation th it. ... jurisdiction of a control of highways, of ferries and which the right, citizens are con- and where can patent slip, why ships may be more present; Then why yard, to utilize or corporation meat yery. A very few would suffice, and could undertake the ed charge. ... general question and ing the Corporation der to carry out a there is the ob- borrowed exceeds, est estimate for a any vessel likely that is to be done council propose to e city, and if so, at et to obtain the ded to ask the to guarantee re- farmers of Comox, Westminster to hat would benefit T. A. ... IN MOBILE. ... by the Teeth of er. ... February 23th, of wild excitement b, under horrible awking Burd, by a known in that city rd, who fell a vic- me was a rising and a native of acquired a nat- he was improving me time past been just succeeded in ion by climbing himself finding himself feet from the e leap, and red- in reaching in where, unfortun- is family, Thomas watching him and on his misfortune, to come in direct victim had often sh Mr Burd were his vengeance. ... the doomed vic- a pursuer sprang ving no weapon, inflicting most ont one eye and in such a fright- expired almost ... orrible to relate, with that crime, and commenced at the bloody re- east in time to tim from furnis- murderer. Kette mped over a wall, n escaping. The ore a full suit of the white around in the neigh- ptonships, and often the night by the metimes of love, ... TCHEES, ... ally arise from Bristol's Sarasap- purifiers of the falling detergent occasional doses of Era at same time, tions, insuring a 684 ... where I ... drawing-room, her ball or opera, on a lady requires as ent and fashiona- and of the genuine WATER. ... counterfeits, always pared by the pro- York. 688

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As it is probable the Estimates will be brought before the Legislative Council to-day, and such reductions made compatible with the effective working of Government...

It often occurs that the miners of Cariboo require an immediate assay, in some cases to determine the real value of their claims...

Our cotemporary of the News is really assuming assinine proportions. Yesterday he says the Colonist "knocked Mr Waddington's line of road into a cocked hat by deciding the road shall go by Leather Pass..."

The Legislative Council, last session, passed an act amalgamating the Legal Professions throughout the Colony.

No matter how able, successful or

respectable the Solicitor, the Barrister, content to divide with him the profits of both professions, reserved the privilege of advancement for himself.

Good Sign.—From a private letter we find the steamer Onward brought down a quantity of Timothy hay to New Westminster on her last trip...

Monday, April 20th. RETURN OF H. M. S. SPARROWHAWK WITH ADMIRAL HASTINGS.

FROM NANAIMO.—The ship Shooting Star was towed down from Nanaimo yesterday by the Isabel.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—A meeting of this body will be held at noon to-day in the Colonist Building to discuss the propriety of resigning in consequence of the hostile attitude of the Government towards Free Secular Education.

SUMMER SIGNS.—The large flocks of cranes flying northward the last day or two, and the beautiful light suits just received by Wm. Wilson are well known signs of the coming summer.

THE ORIFLAMME sailed for Stellacom on Saturday. She will take aboard the U. S. troops and supplies there, and proceed on to Forts Wrangel and Tongas.

THE STEAMER ENTERPRISE arrived at 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, bringing a few passengers. The news from the upper country was anticipated.

THE BARON OF BUDBERG, the Russian Ambassador to Paris, while passing through that city on his return from a visit to St. Petersburg...

OVERSTOCKED.—The labor market in California is overstocked. A railroad company advertised for 500 men at \$25 per month to open a line of road...

THE FREIGHT OF THE STEAMSHIPS.—The freight brought by the Oriflamme was all landed on Saturday morning at Esquimaux, and brought around to this city on the steamers Fly and Emily Harris.

THE BANK ZEPHYR, after parting with her deck-load of 15,000 feet of lumber, got safely off the Spit at Boundary Bay on Friday.

THE NON-ARRIVAL of a Cariboo express and mail on Saturday evening, has been the occasion of remark.

SURVEY.—H. M. S. Beaver leaves this morning for Frasermouth, where soundings and a survey of the sandheads will be made.

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George Francis Train has again been arrested. He had advertised that he would lecture March 3d, at the Rotunda, in Dublin...

The English people are taken by Diarrelia success. The politicians call to mind that thirty years ago Lord Melbourne—who then controlled a powerful party—noticed Diarrelia's exertions and inquired of him what official position he intended to achieve...

Another of the old London landmarks, so many of which have of late been destroyed to give place to modern improvements, is doomed to immediate demolition.

Sir William Shea expired, on Wednesday morning, at a few minutes past 8 o'clock, at his residence in Sussex-place, Hyde-park-gardens.

Sullivan, of the Dublin Nation, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment; and Pigot, of the Irishman, to twelve months' imprisonment.

There are still thirty-three members of Parliament who held seats in the House of Commons thirty-five years ago in the Parliament after the first reform bill was passed.

Mr J. A. Blake, M. P., has published a pamphlet on the Irish fisheries, in which he laments their decline, and says, "the whole capture of fish on the coast of Ireland (under £350,000 worth a year) would not supply London for one month."

ONE OF KING THEODORE'S PRISONERS. The French papers contain an article written by M Adolph Fergeau, who has been given up as dead by his relatives for many years, but who, it appears, has been a prisoner of King Theodore.

REMARKABLE TRIAL.—An extraordinary trial has taken place at Prague. Antonia Schwalina was the wife of a shoemaker, who, through disease in his eyes, had to give up his trade and take to begging...

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A pedestrian match took place in Boston, on the 2d ultimo, between Mr Osgood, of Ticknor & Field's publishing house, and Mr Dolby, Mr Dickens' agent.

LORD BROUGHAM, who is now residing in Cannes, France, is represented to have lost the power of speech and the use of his limbs.

Another of the old London landmarks, so many of which have of late been destroyed to give place to modern improvements, is doomed to immediate demolition. The Sarsaparilla advertisement follows.

AYER'S Sarsaparilla FOR PURIFYING THE BLOOD. For the speedy cure of the following complaints: Scrofula and Scrofulous Affections, such as Tumors, Ulcers, Sores, Eruptions, Pimples, Eruptions, Itchings, Boils, Blains, and all Skin Diseases.

By Electric Telegraph

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. NEW WESTMINSTER, April 24 3 o'clock. Fourteen members of the Legislative Council were present.

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 24. Cosmos gave notice of an Ordinance relating to the division of the Cariboo, and of an Ordinance to amend the Act for the Incorporation of the Sisters of St. Ann.

Long discussion ensued on the Courts Bill, the Attorney General proposing to reconsider the old bill.

CHICAGO, April 16.—The last train on the Erie railroad were down an embankment of 75 or 100 feet over and upon jagged rock bottom.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—Senator Cameron has written a letter to Senator Cass, expressing his opinion that no consideration can be given to the duties of the Treasury.

CHICAGO, April 16.—The Democratic Convention yesterday at Springfield elected John R. Eden for Governor.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 16.—The mixture bill has passed both Houses, and it prohibits persons from drinking of a mixture of negro blood from any source.

