

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

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THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

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MR. SPROAT ON VANCOUVER ISLAND POLITICS.

In our evening contemporary of yesterday appears a rather remarkable communication from Mr. Gilbert Malcolm Sproat. "Having spent this Saturday," says Mr. Sproat, "in inquiry, I find that the merchants and traders do not recognise Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Finlayson as the representatives in the Council of their opinions on the question of Union, or annexation, or call it what you like,"—the conclusion naturally to be inferred from which is that Messrs. Rhodes and Finlayson have been expressing views contrary to the opinions of the merchants and traders of Victoria. Now, after the recent expression of public sentiment in this city, it savors something of a joke in Mr. Sproat telling us that Union, as it is understood in the Assembly or the Council, is not desired; but waiting this point, we would like to know what the merchants and traders of Victoria have to do with the nominees of the Upper House? No one ever asked the "merchants and traders" to have "their opinions" represented in the Council. There is a properly organized body called the Legislative Assembly, for the expression of the opinion of the mercantile as well as the mechanical and agricultural classes. If Mr. Sproat's coterie of "merchants and traders" are too small or too unimportant to have their ideas impressed on the action of this body—if they are outvoted by those holding more expansive and less visionary views, how can they reasonably expect unofficial members in the Upper House to stultify themselves and become the mouthpiece of an unpractical minority. The position taken by both Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Finlayson on the Union question is one maintained by certainly three out of every four of the inhabitants of Vancouver Island. The Union resolutions passed the Assembly before the recent election by a vote of ten to five. The return of Mr. McClure to the House makes the position of parties at present eleven to four; yet, in the face of this condition of affairs, Mr. Sproat expects the gentlemen who were nominated to seats in the Upper House to accept the views of the small minority—to speak the sentiment of four men who, were they out of the House to-morrow, could not get returned by any constituency or constituencies on the Island.

Starting from a false basis, it is not surprising that Mr. Sproat should continue to blunder. "Considering" says this gentleman, "the fundamentally diverse systems of government and taxation in the two colonies, which systems the boldest political quacks among us have not ventured to suggest any way of amalgamating, yet which they seem to think the Secretary of State will cheerfully undertake to compound and unite without any hint of our wishes or expectations, and notwithstanding the opposition of British Columbia," &c. Now we know the free port "political quacks" have asked time and again for this "amalgamation" of "diverse systems of Government and taxation in the two colonies"—we know they have demanded a union that would preserve to them their beloved free port; but this is the only party on the island—the only "quacks" in politics who have promulgated such an absurdity; and Mr. Sproat is, unconsciously it may be, bestowing the "unkindest cut of all" on his own friends, when he brings the circumstance forward. The resolutions of the House placed no diverse schemes or systems before Mr. Cardwell; on the contrary they removed every element of antagonism by leaving no free port restrictions in the way. And so far from any party not having

LAND TAXATION.

To the Editor of the British Colonist, Sir.—The outcry about the unequal burden of the Land Tax arises from the speculative value attached to property, whereby lots of land of an unimproved description are, in populous localities, greatly overvalued, and, on the other hand, lands in rural districts are paying little or nothing to the revenue. In theory a tax of one per cent on the bona fide value of property cannot be regarded as a very great burden, but the inequality of the present mode of assessment makes the tax unpopular, and at the same time comparatively unproductive.

A land tax, properly considered, should be the Government rental of the land simply, and not an increasing annual tax on the improvement of the land. Improvements, of whatever description, necessarily tend towards the progress of the country by the settlement of population and capital.

If taxation is to increase in the same ratio with speculation, there is an end to progress, for capital will never settle in the country, and the revenue to be derived from such a tax will always be precarious. The idea of exacting a progressive revenue from the improvement in the value of land is fallacious.

In civilized countries men generally invest their accumulated means in real property, for the reason that it is the most substantial form of investment; and by this means transmit to their children the savings of a life time.

But, let me ask, who would thank his ancestors for an inheritance the rental of which might be absorbed by taxes? According to our present system there is no guarantee that the taxes will not outride the rental, because the Assessor's idea of value follows that of the speculator rather than that of the bona fide proprietor. Real estate in cities should be taxed at a fixed rate per foot or per lot, irrespective of improvements, and rural property at so much per acre irrespective of locality or improvements.

In order to determine the respective classes of property there might be a periodical adjustment, say once every ten years, or any other number of years which may be considered commensurate with colonial progress and development. Some such arrangement would give a reliable character to real estate which it does not now possess. City improvements would progress and agriculture would likewise be stimulated. It has been proposed to impose a special tax on wild lands. Such a measure would be ill advised at the present time. The principle of forcing a population into agricultural or any other description of pursuits by legislation has long since been proved to be fallacious. And most inopportune would such a measure be at the present time when the great obstacle in the way of the agriculturist, namely, the want of labor, cannot be remedied.

The objects of the special tax referred to would be brought about in a more natural way by the imposition of a fixed rate of so much per acre irrespective of improvements. Such a mode of levying the tax would not, I think, be productive of loss to the Government.

\$5 a lot on city property would yield \$36,360
And twenty-five cents per acre on rural property would yield \$38,286
Annual revenue from land 74,645
Present assessment 65,311
Gain to the revenue 9,335
I am, sir, your obed't. serv't.
Crisis.

TARIFF CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor of the British Colonist, Sir.—I find very little to answer in Mr. C's letter of this date. His position is to prove the justice of the late changes in the British Columbian tariff. Mine and the miners' generally is, that in the face of the facts referred to in my last, and also those of Mr. B. P. A. any additional duties on the staple articles of consumption at the present time is both impolitic and unjust. Mr. C's letter of Wednesday last attempts to prove that when the wagon road is completed freight will fall from one-third to one-half.

We will now come to books. I say it cannot and will not unless from competition, to wit: The bulk of the freight from Yale and Douglas to Soda Creek in the most favorable part of the season, when the load on the road was most abundant, cost 18 cents per pound; and for the remaining 90 miles per pound by steamer to Quesnelle Mouth 2 cents per pound. The charges by the steamer do not amount to one-half the proportion per mile charged by the teamsters.

Again, it will be admitted that the road was open for teaming all last year the entire distance to Soda Creek so that the distance up to that point cannot be done for less than last year. In this view of the case, if Mr. C's view of the problem is correct, in saying that owners of teams, after paying good wages and interest on their capital etc, can deliver goods from Yale to Williams Creek for 19 cents per pound "average," one-half of that being profit, I say we have been robbed during last summer, in being obliged to pay within one cent of that sum only to Soda Creek. The odds of proving this desirable change falls upon him, as the road to that point will not be improved this year, whatever the revenue may be. It is evident the cheapening of transit to Quesnelle Mouth must be caused by something else than the completion of the road. How then can we save from 10 to 20 cents per pound when the 30 miles from Cottonwood to Williams Creek is finished, as we shall then have all the distance connected either by wagon road or steamer. One mistake in my view of the case has been in not applying the amount expended in constructing the road from Soda Creek to Alexandria, to complete the connection from Quesnelle Mouth to the mines in the first instance, allowing that from Soda Creek to remain until we were in better position, since we were not able to complete the whole connection at once. It must not be

HOME MANUFACTURE.—If any person is desirous of ascertaining what home industry can produce, let him call at the corner of Wharf and Fort streets, and taste the bitter beer last brewed at the Lion Brewery from Island grown barley and English hops. We should not deem it necessary to point out to our readers any particular place where a good article can be had, but for the fact which we learned on enquiry that until this season the brewers have had to get the whole of their supply of grain from California, and often found it most inferior. Last year, however, Messrs. Elliott & Stuart imported a supply of seed barley from England which was sown on the Island and their last superior brew is the produce of it. This spring that enterprising firm, who certainly deserve great credit for thus seeking to stimulate home production, have made arrangements for having from 400 to 500 acres of barley sown purposely to supply their brewery. The value of the growth at present rates would amount to about \$21,000. We are glad to find that our colonial beer is appreciated in foreign markets. The Oregon took down on her last trip to San Francisco 15 hogsheads and from Honolulu large orders have been lately received.

COMPLEMENTARY DINNER.—The members of the Victoria Rifle Corps on Friday evening gave a farewell dinner to Mr. C. W. Allen late of the Evening Express, on the occasion of his leaving for England. Mr. Allen was one of the originators and most active members of the Corps.

THE SHIP FRIGATE BIRD.

Teeklet, W. T., Feb. 25, 1865.

To the Editor of the British Colonist, Sir.—I crave the insertion of the following in your columns. Your readers must be familiar with the troubles of the above ship, so I need not trouble you with them. Mr. Hamilton, the chief officer, who has been in charge since the death of the late Captain Watt, left here for Victoria on Monday last on some business matter connected with the ship. Much to the surprise of all here, a report reached us the other day that he has been incarcerated in your gaol. I venture to state that an opinion exists here almost to a man, that he is a very superior officer and that he has acted most honorably during the misfortunes of the above ship, and with praiseworthy efforts on behalf of the owners. It is much to be deplored that there are those who for some end or other have been base enough to calumniate the character of a man who to the utmost of his ability has endeavored to perform the duties of his difficult position. We wish him well, feeling in our conscience that through no fault of his, he has been treated most harshly. Victoria already possesses a not very enviable notoriety for the facilities afforded of thrusting persons into gaol, and the oft repeated saying on this side of the Straits of Fuca is, "that in Victoria there is a great deal of law, but not much justice." I hope the contrary is the fact and that we shall see justice awarded Mr. Hamilton.

Think sir, would it not be a serious check to a young colony were a belief to become general that private influence could mar the ends of justice?

Yours,
A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

Victoria, March 31.
[We think the British Columbia tariff has been now sufficiently discussed by its opponents and upholders for all public purposes. The strongest argument of all that can be brought to bear against the recent attempt to fleece the very men who have been the life blood of the colony, will be the monster petition that will go forward in the course of a few days, bearing the signatures of about as many miners, traders, packers, and others interested in British Columbia, as there are men, women, children, officials, and stamps in New Westminster. We understand that the miners have it in contemplation, since the meeting of the 26th ult., has been designated in New Westminster a Victoria meeting instigated for political purposes, to convene another meeting to consider the question of union of the colonies, and to follow it up by similar meetings at the various up-country towns that must inevitably suffer by the exclusive legislation at New Westminster. —Ed.]

MR. SPROAT ON UNION.

The following letter from Mr. Gilbert Malcolm Sproat to our evening contemporary we republish for general information:

To the Editor of the British Colonist, Sir.—Having spent this Saturday in inquiry, I find that the merchants and traders do not recognize Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Finlayson as the representatives in the Council of their opinions on the question of Union, or annexation, or call it what you like.

Bearing in mind the heavy debt of British Columbia, the necessarily expensive government of that colony, its small settled population, the apparent exhaustion already of its tax producing powers; looking also to the inevitable heavy future expenditure to be met only by fresh loans for roads to reach new mining districts which must be discovered and opened up very soon or the colony will be bankrupt; considering further the fundamentally diverse systems of government and taxation in the two colonies, which systems the boldest political quacks among us have not ventured to suggest any way of amalgamating yet which they seem to think the Secretary of State will cheerfully undertake to compound and unite without any hint of our wishes or expectations, and notwithstanding the opposition of British Columbia, I say, bearing these things in mind, the merchants and traders in Victoria and many others pent since the late Saturnalian election now firmly believe that it would be inexpedient to barter the certainty and the advantages of our present position for the uncertainty and the hazards of unconditional union.

The general opinion is that Mr. Rhodes, able and sincere as his friends know him to be, has had his eyes dusted by the Machiavelian Tolmie and is now expected to pull ropes for the Union and Tariff party; that party whose statesmanship consists in irritating those who must in the end be conciliated, and whose opinion on a Tariff is a question of longitude, for they denounce tariffs at New Westminster and uphold them here, at least did so a fortnight since!

The resolution of the Council to let things alone is the first gleam of common sense in the late management of our affairs, but it comes unfortunately, after the community has been discouraged, after the circulation of money has ceased after investments have been transferred, after credit is "played out" and our commerce brought to a stand still.

Your obedient servant,
GILBERT MALCOLM SPROAT.

The following is an extract from the log book of the pirate Florida: Of the Port of Bermuda: Heard from our agent that any salute fired in honor of her Majesty the Queen by the Florida would be returned gun for gun. At 1:30 fired a salute of twenty-one guns, with the English colors at the fore. The commander of the fort returned the salute gun for gun. This is the first time since the war that the Confederate flag has been saluted by a foreign nation.—American paper.

SENTENCED.—William Harris was sentenced on Saturday to four months' imprisonment with hard labor for stealing five dollars from the till of Burns' Saloon.

A PRECOCIOUS YOUNG SCAMP.

A few days ago a certain young gentleman, pupil at one of our principal schools, went to a livery stable in this city and asked for a saddle horse for a day's excursion. He was accordingly supplied with a good "mount," and cantered gaily off into the country. Evening came on, but the youth did not return; next day came and went, and still the caballero made not his appearance; at length, towards the close of the third day, the owners of the horse heard that a young man had been offering one of their horses for sale at Saanich. One of the partners of the firm immediately went out to hunt for the truant and, by good luck, arriving at the settlement, covered into conversation with one of the residents on the matter. While thus engaged who should dash up but our hero, mounted on the runaway charger. After stabling his horse the youth sauntered up and joined the group, not knowing that one of them was a partner of the man from whom he had hired the horse, and after a few moments' conversation he actually offered to sell him his own horse!

This exactly suited our liveryman, who at once entered into the trade, asking his price. "Well," said our fast young friend, "I'm laid up for money and I'll let you have him cheap; you can have him, saddle, and bridle, for \$50." A bargain was at once struck, and the purchaser said he would take the horse back with him to Victoria. This seemed to suit the youth, who forthwith became very friendly, and volunteered to accompany him to town, kindly offering him a large bowie knife to protect himself with on the way home. At the same time, ostentatiously pulling out a "six-shooter," two barrels of which were still loaded, he coolly asked if they were likely to see any Indians on the way to town, as he should like to "pot" two or three before he returned. "I've potted many of the redskins in California," laughed he. This rather alarmed the owner of the horse, who began to suspect he had a rather dangerous companion, and thinking the revolver would be safer in his own hands, he proposed that he should carry the pistol. Our youth, however, declined, saying he "could not part with his old and tried friend in that way." The horse was now trotted out, but on seeing him, the owner at once claimed him as his own property, and threatened to take the young scamp to Victoria for horse-stealing. It was now our hero's turn to be alarmed; he however went into the house and loaded the remaining chambers of his revolver, muttering to himself, "I'll shoot that fellow on the way in!" The threat was overheard by a by-stander, and conveyed to the ears of our liveryman, who deeming that the sooner he placed a safe distance between himself and so truculent a customer the better, put spurs to his horse and dashed off towards Victoria, bringing the missing charger along with him, and every now and then glancing backwards for fear the revengeful pursuer should be on his trail. He, however, reached the city in safety, and at once conveyed the above information to the master of the school, who proceeded to Saanich in a buggy and brought back the truant, and it is to be hoped administered a caning to the precocious young scamp sufficiently vigorous to cure him of his silly and criminal bravado.

FROM BARCLAY SOUND.

The sloop W. B. Naylor arrived from Copper Mountain, Barclay Sound, yesterday morning, bringing the workmen, five in number, from the Copper Mountain mine, with their tools and a small quantity of the ore. The men had been employed in running a tunnel into the vein, and have completed their contract. The specimens of ore brought down are very satisfactory. The captain of the Naylor reports the Indians very saucy and troublesome; they complain about something in reference to Mr. Hankin, the Police Superintendent, but our informant did not ascertain the particulars.

On Tuesday, the 21st inst., Frigate, William Parsons, of Saanich, and Mellor, of Victoria, V. I. I. of his father, James Bay, on the Rev. E. Cridge, William T. Holmes, both of this city. On the 5th inst., by the Rev. Father of the Right Reverend William McNeill to Ann Jane city. Cathedral, in this city, on the Rev. Father Maloney, Mr. Mrs. Ellen Carroll.

On the 25th inst., Caroline, the David F. and Mary Cole, Island, on the 20th of Feb., son of Hannah and Henry Lopez Island, aged 12 years. of M. H. Frost, Mukilteo, W. 1894, John Topping, a nat-

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 7, 1865.

Arrival of the Anderson.

WAR DATES TO 22d.

FAILURE OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Evacuation of Mobile!

Wilmington Reported Captured.

CAPTURE OF CHARLESTON CONFIRMED.

COLUMBIA TAKEN!

AUGUSTA PROBABLY TAKEN!

Later from Europe, Mexico, California, &c.

PEACE CONFERENCE AT FORTRESS MONROE.

CITY POINT, Feb. 1.—Yesterday a flag of truce appeared in front of Petersburg, asking permission for Vice President A. H. Stephens and Senator R. M. T. Hunter, Peace Commissioners, to visit Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The rebel Peace Commissioners have arrived at Fortress Monroe, and the President and Secretary Seward have gone there to have a conference with them. The House passed the Illinois and Michigan ship canal bill.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 3.—The rebel Peace Commissioners had an interview with the President and Secretary Seward on board a steamer to-day.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—It is said the President and Secretary Seward have agreed upon a general exchange of prisoners, which will forthwith take place.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The President and Secretary Seward have returned to Washington. The peace conference was without result.

STATE OF AFFAIRS AT MOBILE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—The Commercial's special dispatch says officers from the fleet of Mobile report great activity in the removal of torpedoes and other obstructions in the harbor. It is confidently expected that the rebels will evacuate the city. The fleet is working its way up the harbor.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—The Herald has an account of the situation of affairs around Mobile up to Jan. 8th. The city was then surrounded by a strong string of earthworks, and besides these, it was defended in the harbor by water batteries, sunken obstructions, torpedoes and gunboats. In and around the city were about nine thousand troops, of whom three thousand were white militia, under Gen. D. H. Maury.

SUCCESSFUL ADVANCE ON PETERSBURG.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Quite a severe engagement took place at Hatcher's run, resulting in a considerable advance of our lines in that vicinity.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The late fighting at Hatcher's run resulted in advance of five miles on our left south of Petersburg, which is to be held.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The army of the Potomac holds its newly acquired ground on Hatcher's run, on which very strong earthworks have been erected.

The Petersburg Express says the fighting on Monday was very severe. The timber and undergrowth were utterly cut to pieces by balls and bullets. The ground was fought over four times, in consequence of the arrival of reinforcements to either side. The charge which broke the Yankee lines late in the day is said to have been one of the grandest charges in military annals. The Yankees lost between 1,500 and 2,000 killed, wounded and prisoners.

SHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS.

The World's Hilton Head correspondent, writing under date of the 8th, says: Reliable information has been received here that Sherman's army is already marching on the Edisto river—that a portion of his troops are beyond the Georgia and South Carolina Railroad, and have erected defenses preparatory to a future march.

The enemy disappeared rapidly before the advancing of our troops. They have manifested a purpose to evacuate nearly all their strongholds, and retire further north.

This purpose has been the result of Sherman's tactics; that they will be slowly but surely followed up, admits no question. Our troops are known to extend over a distance of forty miles, and for several days past have been occupied in destroying all the railroads connecting with the Gulf and Northern States.

The object seems to be to isolate Branchville, Augusta and Charleston, from all possible aid or reinforcements, in order to capture the garrison of each city. Some of our troops are north of Charleston, which is cut off from reinforcements. A corps is moving simultaneously on the line of the Edisto.

The towns passed through have been deserted by a number of their inhabitants, who forced all able-bodied negroes to leave with them, in order that they may not aid our army.

Hamburg, Aiken and Orangeburg, near Branchville, are reported captured.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The Tribune's special dispatch says: It is generally credited to-night, in official circles, that Branchville, S. C., is in Sherman's possession, and that Charleston is being evacuated. It is expected that Richmond and Wilmington will be evacuated also—that the rebels will make a desperate attempt to concentrate their entire

forces and endeavor to crush Sherman while he is in the interior. There is no doubt that stores, etc., have been removed south from Richmond lately, and this indicates its abandonment at no distant day.

The Post's special dispatch says: Richmond papers of Saturday 11th, admit that it is probable that the rebels are evacuating Charleston.

The Times' Washington dispatch says: The latest Richmond papers received here, stated on Friday last, the 10th, that Sherman had encompassed Brownsville, S. C., and was within four miles of that place. It is understood that the papers of Saturday, the 11th, made a definite announcement of its capture, and General Grant stated that it was a positive fact.

The Richmond papers also confirm the statement of the evacuation of Charleston as a military necessity.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 14.—The Bulletin has the following from Washington: Richmond papers of February 12th announce the tapping of the railroad by Sherman north of Branchville, and between Kingsville and Branchville, thus destroying every road entering at Branchville.

SHERMAN STILL UP AND DOING.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The World's special says: A special messenger with dispatches, who left Sherman's army ten miles from Branchville, had arrived when he left. Sherman was easily overcoming all obstacles in his way. On Friday last, Schenckelmeier, with a small force from Folly Island, crossed over to James Island and captured some rifle pits and took quite a number of prisoners after a brief skirmish. At the time that the Arago passed Charleston a vigorous cannonading was going on, but the character had not been ascertained.

The Herald's special says: The Richmond papers of the 15th announce that telegraphic communication with Charleston was broken, and that Sherman's cavalry was operating on the railroad from Charleston via Raleigh and Wilmington, thus cutting the last line of communication between Virginia and the South.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15.—A special to the Evening Bulletin says: The Richmond papers of the 15th indicate that Sherman's cavalry was actually as far north as Florence, and had secured the important railroad junction on the borders of North Carolina. They also announce that all telegraphic communication and railroad connection with Charleston had been destroyed, thus showing that Sherman's left column must have struck the northwestern railroad running from Charleston to Florence.

WITHIN TWO MILES OF CHARLESTON.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Sherman's left wing was on Monday fifteen miles north of Branchville and within fifty miles of Columbia. His right was in front of Charleston, two miles distant, threatening it. On the next day—Tuesday last—it was indicated by the Richmond papers that his cavalry had reached the northeastern railroad, thus severing the last remaining link between Charleston and the rebel capital. His troops are also believed to be in the vicinity of Florence, an important point for the conveyance of communication between South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia, thereby the papers admit there is nothing to stop Sherman's advance, and expect that the national flag will soon be floating over Charleston, Augusta, Columbia and Raleigh.

BRANCHVILLE OCCUPIED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—All doubts respecting the occupation of Branchville by Sherman seem dissipated by a despatch from the Herald's Fort Fisher correspondent.

The announcement of its capture on the 4th, after three days of hard fighting, was brought to Smithville, N. C., on the 13th, by Conner, who at great peril rode across the country with a despatch from Sherman to Porter.

Wilmington papers say that nine refugees who reached Smithville confirm the statement.

Richmond journals of Wednesday last, say that the War Department had an official announcement of the evacuation of Branchville which was consequent upon the occupation of Orangeburg, north of it on the railroad leading to Columbia, by a large force of Sherman's infantry, but do not mention any fighting in the vicinity. They report, however, that Kilpatrick had reached a point within one hundred miles of Augusta, February 10, and was attacked by Wheeler and driven three miles with considerable loss. On Tuesday last, they state, there was a Union column within a few miles of Augusta, and more important still, they state that on Wednesday Sherman's advance reached the south bank of the Congaree, within five miles of Columbia, which is situated on the north bank of that river, to which side the rebels had fallen back. A battle was considered imminent.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The Herald's special dispatch says: Richmond papers of Monday the 13th, concede that Sherman had flanked Branchville above and below, and that Hardee's force had evacuated the place. They also state that a Union column had reached Orangeburg on the Columbia road. All the railroad communications with Charleston are cut off, except by the road via Wilmington, N. C. By these operations communication between Virginia and the South is entirely cut off, and rebel authority over the Southern States cannot longer be enforced.

DARING RECONNOISSANCE TO WILMINGTON.

The Herald's Fort Fisher correspondent says that on the 8th with about 50 men Lieut. Cushing captured the town of Shalotte garrisoned by 100 rebels, and held it for several hours, during which he destroyed large stores of army supplies and provisions, and about 80 bales of cotton, and escaped without loss. On the night of the 10th, he made a reconnaissance up Cape Fear river actually penetrating up the wharves of Wilmington, where he remained long enough to gain much valuable information. He discovered the rebel private Chickamauga sunk in the channel of the river. The next night with four boats' crew, he went up to the rebel Fort Anderson, and managed to get close enough under its walls to hear an officer, supposed to be Gen. Bragg, haranguing his men on the last ditch, and the last stroke for Southern Independence.

SCHOENFELD BESIEGES WILMINGTON.

The World says: Information has been received in this city to the effect that Schoenfeld's corps landed at Masonboro, thus putting it beyond doubt that Wilmington is by this time closely besieged, if not already in the hands of our forces.

Various rumors were current yesterday touching the evacuation of that city, but no confirmation has yet been received. By landing at Masonboro Schoenfeld avoided the necessity of marching up the peninsula.

SHERMAN TAKES COLUMBIA.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Richmond Examiner states that a dispatch has been received from an official of the Treasury Department at Columbia, to the effect that Sherman's advance was so near Columbia that the Home Guards and citizens turned out to aid in rescuing the city, and that skirmishing had commenced.

CITY POINT, Feb. 18.—The following is taken from a Richmond dispatch of to-day: Sherman took possession of Columbia yesterday. The intelligence was communicated yesterday by Beauregard in an official despatch. Columbia is situated on the north bank of the Congaree river, below the confluence of the Saluda and Broad rivers. From Beauregard's dispatches it appears that on Thursday evening the enemy approached the south bank of the Congaree and threw a number of shells into the city. During the night they moved up the river. Yesterday morning they forded the Saluda and Broad rivers, and whilst they were crossing these rivers, our troops under Beauregard evacuated Columbia. The enemy soon after took full possession. The fall of Columbia necessitates the evacuation of Charleston, which we think likely is already in process of evacuation.

CHARLESTON EVACUATED.

CITY POINT, Feb. 20.—To Stanton: The following dispatch has just been received to-day says: Charleston was evacuated on Tuesday last, Feb. 14th.

(Signed) WEITZEL, Maj.-Gen.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22.—The following telegram has just been received: CHICAGO, Feb. 22, 11 A. M.—Charleston and all its defenses, with 200 cannon, supplies and ammunition came into our possession on the morning of the 18th. All the cotton was destroyed by the rebels.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—A respite has been granted in the case of the Lake Erie rebel private Capt. Bell, and he won't be hanged on Governor's Island to-day, as was at first decided.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The Tribune's Army of the Potomac dispatch says the railroad is being extended to the position now on the left of the fifth corps. A large force of men are now employed on it. Numerous wagon roads are also being constructed.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—During a recent debate in the Senate, the food question came up, when it transpired that the vast yield of the valley of Virginia which had in former years been always secured, last year fell into our hands, and that this was the result of calling into the armies the details for gathering it. It also appears that thousands of soldiers' families have not tasted meat for the last six months and are living on a short supply of bread alone, and that the soldiers themselves have also been without meat for a long time.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Information from the Army of the Potomac as late as yesterday morning, reports all quiet.

Deserters are constantly coming in, and are more numerous than they have been for a long time. They have averaged over twenty a day for the past week. Among them were several officers.

The utmost despondency has prevailed in their ranks since the last fight. They seem determined to keep the field no longer, as they see they can never gain their independence, and see no reason why they should remain and be killed.

Desertion is so general near our lines that Lee has issued an order for the arrest of every man found a half mile away from camp or post.

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—The Herald's correspondent says: There are renewed indications of the evacuation of Richmond. It is believed the rebels contemplate a concentration in North Carolina.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—Maj. Gen. Schofield has assumed command of the Department of North Carolina. This places him at the head of all the military forces operating in the vicinity of Wilmington.

Advices from Cape Fear river to the 9th represent all quiet.

The Commercial's Newbern correspondent says: An expedition is preparing to start which in all probability will make an advance on Goldsboro. If captured, this will give the United States all of Louth-eastern Carolina.

The World's Washington correspondent reiterates his former statement that the rebels will soon evacuate Richmond and the Atlantic coast, and fall back to the mountains in the interior. He now says that Lee and Beauregard will command two grand armies, and that preparations are making for an overwhelming attack on Sherman.

FROM RICHMOND PAPERS.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18.—The Bulletin's Washington special says, the Richmond papers of the 16th announce that Sherman's main column had reached Kingsville Junction, communicating with Florence on the Manchester and Florence Railroad.

Beauregard is reported as being on the north bank of the Congaree river. Kingsville is on the north side of the Congaree, forty-one miles north of Branchville and twenty-five miles southeast of Columbia.

The Richmond papers of the 16th say no official report was received from any part of South Carolina yesterday. At last accounts the enemy held Orangeburg on the Columbia branch of the railroad. Our forces are falling back towards Columbia. Our troops abandoned Branchville last Sunday night. Wheeler last Friday attacked and whipped Kilpatrick at Aiken, ten miles northeast of Augusta, and drove him back five miles in the direction of Branchville.

The Augusta papers of Wednesday state that at that time Slueman was at Windsor, ten miles east of Aiken, advancing on Augusta, his right flank being protected by South

Edisto and his left by Kilpatrick's cavalry. Two days after this Kilpatrick was whipped by Wheeler. Slueman has with him the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Twentieth Corps. They comprise the forces operating against Columbia and Charleston. This corps of Sherman's army is unaccounted for. We presume it has been left at Savannah.

S. D. Lee and Wade Hampton, recently appointed Lieut. Generals, have been confirmed by the Confederate Senate. The promotion of Hampton makes him rank Wheeler and puts him in command over the cavalry now operating against Sherman.

The Examiner of the 10th says that at Kingsville, Sherman would be able to destroy the Columbia and Charlotte and Wilmington and Manchester Railroad.

The Sentinel of the 10th says: The Union forces are making raids in Florida, and were at last accounts advancing on Rich Bluff in unknown force.

The Augusta, Ga. Constitutional says: The appointment of Dick Taylor to command the rebel army of Tennessee had inspired the troops with fresh hopes. They were all in excellent condition.

The Richmond Enquirer says: Submission, the abolishment of slavery and reconstruction were the only terms that could be got out of the Lincoln Government.

The Enquirer of the 14th says: Grant appears to be preparing to push forward his lines still further, having by the recent movement advanced them three miles further to the west of Petersburg.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The Petersburg Express says: Grant has thoroughly fortified himself in the rear. He is now nearly as strong on that quarter as in front. This is done in order to prevent raids similar to the Hampton cattle expedition. Every road is strongly barricaded, and heavy lines of works extend in almost every direction.

Breakridge has been installed as Confederate Secretary of War.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The Richmond papers of the 14th show that the question of arming the slaves has been temporarily laid aside in the rebel Congress.

Late rebel papers present some very curious and interesting disclosures regarding financial and military matters in Jeff. Davis' dominions; the new currency is now considered of less value than the old. There is no money even of this worthless character in the treasury to settle the immense outstanding account, and taxation is declared as heavy as the people can stand.

The proposal to conscript the negroes by the wholesale having received an adverse decision in the rebel Congress, the scheme of organizing into volunteer service is now being warmly discussed.

Hardee, telegraphed from Charleston, on the 11th, that the rebel pickets were driven in on James Island on the night of the 10th, but the lines were re-established next day. The Yankees are still in strong force on the island, however, with an increase of eighteen steamers off the bar.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 14th says: All communications with Charleston and Augusta are cut off. Nothing is known of the situation in those places.

LATEST.

[Special Despatches to the Pacific Tribune.]

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—The City of Charleston was evacuated on the night of the 17th instant by the enemy, leaving the fortifications around the city entirely unharmed. Besides three hundred guns which they had spiked.

The evacuation was first discovered at Fort Moultrie. On the next morning part of the troops on James Island crossed over in boats and took possession of the city without opposition.

Previous to the enemy's evacuating they fired the upper part of the city and destroyed 60,000 bales of cotton.

A fearful explosion occurred at the Wilmington depot by which several hundred citizens were killed and wounded, including old men, women and children.

Dahlgren ran to the city at two o'clock; Gilmore followed after and had an interview with General Schenckelmeier, who commands the city for the present.

The remains of two ironclads were found, which the enemy had blown up. The blockade runner Cyrene, just from Nassau, fell into our hands.

All the houses in the lower part of the city are completely riddled by our shot and shell. The wealthy portion of the populace have left the city. The poorer classes, consisting chiefly of old men, women and children, remain in a suffering condition for the want of food.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 18.—Charleston and all its possessions fell into our hands this morning. The enemy commenced evacuating their works last night.

Gen. McBeth surrendered the city to Gen. Schenckelmeier.

All the cotton warehouses, arsenals, quartermasters' stores, bridges and ironclads were burned by the enemy. Some of the vessels in the shipyards were also burned.

(Signed) GILMORE.

The same flag which Major Anderson hoisted nearly four years ago now waves over Fort Sumter.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 26.—Gold 199 to 200.

Private telegrams of the 24th say Wilmington is ours.

PARAGUAY AND BRAZIL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—The Herald's Buenos Ayres correspondent says: Paraguay, the ally of Uruguay, has declared war against the Brazilian government.

PANAMA.

The government of Bogota has issued an order prohibiting the passage of foreign troops across the Isthmus in future. An exception is made in regard to the United States troops, owing to the situation of their territory on the Pacific.

CANADA.

QUEBEC, Feb. 18.—The House in committee last night adopted the appropriation of \$50,000 for the expenses of volunteers sent to the northern frontier to prevent raids upon the United States; and also the appropriation of \$50,000 to make good the money improperly returned to the St. Albans raiders.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The Saxonia, from Southampton on the 8th, reports that Parliament was opened by royal commission on February 5th. The speech said Her Majesty remains steadfastly neutral between contending parties in America, and would rejoice at friendly reconciliation. The Queen has had great satisfaction in giving her assent to a conference and meeting of delegates assembled at Quebec, and the resolutions which were adopted for a closer union of those provinces under a central government, and if approved of by the Provincial Legislature, a bill will be laid before Parliament for carrying this important measure into effect.

The Confederate Loan was 55 to 57. Peace rumors had gained such credit at Frankfurt that United States bonds had advanced to five per cent, above New York prices.

A Paris telegram says: The news of the cession of Mexican territory to France is wholly unfounded.

The French papers confirm the report that the steam ram Olinda, recently off the coast of France, is a Confederate cruiser. A large number of cases had been transferred to her from an English steamer.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The Herald's Paris correspondent says he knows positively that formal propositions have been made to France and England by the rebel authorities with the object of securing recognition on the basis that slavery shall be abolished and advantageous guarantees. These propositions have not yet, and from present appearances will not, be accepted.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—The foreign mails contained the following: The Nord says: There was a meeting of the Privy Council on the 11th, in Paris. We are informed that the affairs of America, and the connection they may have with the Mexican empire, were the principal subjects of discussion at the meeting.

France is not without uneasiness as to the attitude the United States may assume toward the new empire, when the conclusion of the war has placed at the disposal of the republic a large trained army, with numerous and skillful officers.

Four years of war have changed a state, hitherto exclusively devoted to commercial affairs and internal industry, into a military state disposing of an immense force.

Nevertheless, according to our correspondent, the discussion in which the Privy Council was engaged, ended in this resolution:

"That it would be wrong to give way to exaggerated fears; and that in the face of the pacific and conciliatory assurances which American diplomacy continues to give, the best course to adopt is to abstain provisionally from all movements without, however, including in a false security."

The great trotting match in Paris between the American horse Shepard and the French horse Express, resulted in the victory of the American horse, the latter winning by upwards of one hundred yards.

Reinhold, the defendant in the Pagin pirate Rappahannock case, has been acquitted on all counts.

Cardinal Wiseman is reported as rapidly sinking. Victor Emanuel is on a visit to Florence, where he received a most enthusiastic reception.

Turin was in a considerable state of excitement, though no disturbance had occurred.

The Herald's special says: Our Consul to London has informed the Government of the sailing from Kings Island of the steamer Ajax, which is intended for a rebel private. Her armament has gone or would go out on a sailing vessel. Notwithstanding the fact that she is small it is thought she will be able to do much damage to American shipping. It is thought she would go to Nassau before taking on board her guns.

WEST INDIES.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The steamer Corsica, from Havana, brings dates to the 11th. The blockade runner Col. Lamb was obliged to return from an attempt to run into Galveston Harbor. Maximilian's Consul at Havana has not yet been able to secure the Mexican archives in that city. No news from Mexico.

DULL TIMES AT NASSAU.—A correspondent of the Herald says: The closing of the port of Wilmington has been a sad blow to Nassau. All is stagnation there. According to the Herald, on the 3d there were there over 30 steamers and 100 sail recently engaged in contraband trade. The warehouses are filled with goods. The pirate Tallahassee, now called the Chamoleon, was there on the 3d of the month, and the attention of the Government was called to the fact by our Consul. Our gunboat Honduras arrived there on the 31st, and asked permission to anchor in the harbor, but was refused.

PORTLAND.

The steamer Pacific is expected this evening, February 24th. Flour advanced considerably yesterday in consequence of a rise in the San Francisco market. We quote Imperial Standard Magnolia and Standard at \$11, country brands, \$9 50@10 50 per barrel.—Or. 24.

THE PASSPORT SYSTEM TO BE ABOLISHED.

The Oregonian thus incidentally refers to the contemplated abrogation of the present obnoxious passport system: We are gratified to notice by a late telegram that, in consequence of the energy displayed by the Canadian officials of late in preventing raids into the Northern States, Secretary Seward has in contemplation the abrogation of the passport order—a consummation most devoutly to be wished for.

HOGS.—The steamer Senator last week delivered a number of hogs of choice breed, in this city for transportation to Victoria, for parties who are about entering upon the hog culture for Vancouver Island and British Columbia. We understand the species are selected from the fields of Mr. Cross of Marion county, and comprise some of the best varieties on the coast.—Oregonian.

HEAVY SNOW STORM.

On Sunday morning it commenced snowing in New Westminster, and in four hours' time the ground was covered to an average depth of 9 inches, while in places it was from 15 to 20 inches deep. The Sir James Douglas encountered very rough weather coming down the Fraser.

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 7, 1865.

TAXATION IN

It is rather amusing and evening to distort the requirements into an taxation. The hundred other character, which mining assembly mark as if they erig, or a camp miners of British denounce the pry to insult the who puts pick of meeting was against the reeve of the neighbor taxes at a time able to bear it—duties. We do denounce this the foremost op and the export men who are fr union of the t lumia as well grave difficult increased the certificate, or have heard as than those as increased duties sumers the doll by direct taxat as the pursuit acter than any ing sums at a greater. The insurrection, one that would residents of the fore, becomes tax gold count to the di is that he is of the revenue the munity. We ally as well as Cariboo pay while the san would only of the former in its absurd

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The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday March 7, 1865

TAXATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It is rather amusing to witness our morning and evening contemporaries endeavoring to distort the recent meeting of the Cariboo miners into an expression against indirect taxation. The "anti-tariff meeting," and the hundred other nomenclatures of a similar character, which they have applied to the mining assemblage, are about as near the mark as if they had called it a "Fobian gathering, or a camp meeting. To say that the miners of British Columbia met together to denounce the principle of a tariff, is certainly to insult the intelligence of every man who puts pick or shovel in Cariboo soil. The meeting was called together to remonstrate against the recent action of the government of the neighboring colony in increasing the taxes at a time when the country was least able to bear it—not a crusade against import duties. We ourselves were about the first to denounce this false step of our neighbors, and the foremost opponents of the increased tariff and the export duty on gold, are the very men who are firm in their convictions that a union of the two colonies and a common tariff is the only policy to save British Columbia as well as Vancouver Island from grave difficulties. Had Governor Seymour increased the road tolls, the price of the miner's certificate, or the recording fee, he would have heard as great, if not greater complaints than those at present made against the increased duties; for of all classes of consumers the gold miners are the most annoyed by direct taxation; for the simple reason that, as the pursuit is more fluctuating in its character than any other, the difficulties of paying sums at stated periods are necessarily greater. The license in Australia caused an insurrection, and the tax was abolished for one that would bear more indirectly on the residents of the gold fields. A tariff, therefore, becomes the most legitimate means to tax gold countries. There is another objection to the direct tax on the miner, and that is that he is obliged to pay a larger quota to the revenue than other members of the community. We alluded yesterday to the anomaly as well as injustice of six hundred men on Cariboo paying in a given period \$65,000, while the same number in New Westminster would only contribute \$12,000—not a fifth of the former's taxation. This is too glaring in its absurdity to require comment.

What is wanted in British Columbia is simply a system of taxation that will bear more equally upon the inhabitants—not a scheme that will increase the burdens of either a class or a whole. The revenue that was obtained the last year, or the two years previous, was in all conscience, large enough for the Government of any colony of six or seven thousand people. Sixteen or seventeen pounds sterling a head per annum cannot certainly be called inefficient taxation. Levied on the inhabitants of Great Britain it would pay off the national debt in less than two years. Yet it appears this taxation is too small for British Columbia. Probably if the revenue were doubled the result would be the same; for there is an astonishing elasticity and power of accommodation in the governments of such countries. They abhor surpluses to such an extent that they believe always in making their expenditure cover a little more than their income.

We are well aware that British Columbia is a rough country; that it must, like other countries, have roads; and that the inhabitants, like other inhabitants, must be taxed to some extent for their construction; but it should only be to some extent: for posterity, that will reap the principal benefit, should share the bulk of the responsibility in paying the expenses. This policy, unfortunately, cannot always be carried out; British Columbia is today a debtor to the amount of a million of dollars, and it is not likely she can obtain in the London money market capital at her beck and call. The question, then, for the Governor to consider is how to raise sufficient revenue without crippling the industry of the country. If he looks around he must see that he has taxed the colony to its utmost capacity, and that therefore increased taxation must not be thought of. There is but one resource left, and that is retrenchment—on the principle of the domestic proverb that a penny saved is a penny gained. All works that are not urgent, should be stopped; at least one-half of the official staff should be lopped off, and every measure adopted to cut down the extravagant government expenditures. If this were only done, Governor Seymour would have abundant means to open up available routes to Kootenay, or any other gold field. At present, it would seem by the supineness of both colonies, the Oregonians will beat us out of the trade of the mines in our own territory. In another column it will be seen that a steamer is being already built on the Columbia river above Colville, and is expected to navigate a stretch of water two hundred and fifty miles in extent, so as to shorten the travel between Portland and Kootenay. We have every advantage in distance and topography over our neighbors, but through the isolation of both colonies, their want of concerted action and united energy, the most valuable trade the

country has yet had an opportunity of obtaining is allowed to slip from our fingers. And all this while, when both countries should be working in harmony to accomplish great results, the wretches of the British Columbian Legislative Council are fighting amongst themselves to see in what manner they can best hurt the trade of Victoria. If these men had the true interests of the country at heart they would use their utmost energies to obtain a union of the colonies, and thus, by reducing the expenses of the government machinery in both countries, and directing power, that is now either acting in conflict or divided, in one channel, give something like vigor to the road making policy of the country. We should then hear no more of miners protesting against increased taxes or impediments thrown in the way of gold field enterprise.

CITY COUNCIL.

Monday, Feb. 27. The Council met this evening at 7:15. Present: His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors McDonald, Fell, Munro, Smith and Jeffery.

CITY INSPECTORSHIP.

A communication was received from Mr. Forre, applying for the office of City Inspector. Ordered to be placed on file.

WADDINGTON ALLEY.

Leave was given to Thomas Mann, contractor, to take up and replace new planking in this alley.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

Considerable discussion took place relative to the course the Council should pursue with respect to the renting of the city offices, and it was finally agreed, on motion of Mr. Fell, seconded by Mr. McDonald:

"That a Committee be appointed to confer with Mr. Trowce with a view to obtaining the Council Chambers for the next three months at a rent not exceeding \$25 per month, and if not, that the Council adhere to their resolution of 19th December last."

Messrs. Fell and Munro were placed on the Committee. Council adjourned to Monday evening next.

THE MINERS' MEETING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST. Sir,—At the meeting held at the theatre on Saturday last, the new British Columbian tariff was denounced as "inopportune, unwise, impolitic, unjust and inequitable." Waiving criticism on this display of epithets, I simply affirm that they are undeserved, and beg to give my reasons.

Upon a careful survey of the tariff I find the actual addition to the cost of the necessities of life is less than one cent per pound. Flour at its present high price would be increased in cost just half a cent. But when it falls to its usual price of \$7 or \$8 then the additional duty will only be a fourth of a cent per pound more than the late duty.

On bacon the increase is not more, on the average. On beans the increase is from a half to one cent. On butter the increase is not more, on the average. On sugar the increase is not more, on the average. On tea the increase is from 0 to 5c per pound.

And so on, except on luxuries, on which the increase in duty is in larger proportion. This is all. No man can make more of it. Now I ask the miner in all common fairness if the addition of from 1/2 to 1 cent per pound on the cost of the goods he consumes in Cariboo is of any consequence to him compared with having a wagon road made to Williams Creek, which, as soon as finished would reduce the cost of living there from 1/2 to 1 what it is at present. I appeal to the plain, common sense of the Cariboo miners; when flour is 40 cents, beans 50 cents, sugar and bacon 75 cents, butter \$1.25, of what consequence is it to you if you have to pay an extra one cent per pound?

The whole of it would not increase the cost of living in Cariboo as much as 2 per cent. Is it not then perfect nonsense to make such a hubbub as some men are making out of this matter?

I admit the British Columbian Government would not be justified in making every increase of duties without good reasons. But, the reasons are the very best that can be. It is most evident that this tariff has been framed with the best interests of the miners held clearly in view.

Roads cannot be constructed without money. None know better than the miners that if a wagon road were finished all through to Williams Creek the cost of freight would be reduced 1/2 or 1/3 of its present rates, and that flour instead of 40 would sell at, from 20 to 30 cents per pound and that the difference in other things would be still greater.

Nothing can develop the wealth of Cariboo until they have cheap provisions. The high price of food has driven thousands upon thousands out of Cariboo and prevents her being worked by 20,000 miners to-day. The only possible way to cheapen provisions is to complete the wagon road, so that a man with a wagon and ox-team can load up at Yale and drive through without unloading once. In a word the finished wagon road is the one indispensable thing for Cariboo, and of course for the merchants of the country, as well as the miners.

The B.C. government want to finish the road to Cariboo and make another to Kootenay. But they have no money. Governor Seymour, in his address to the Council, told them that he tried to borrow in England and could not borrow. In this case what was the B.C. government to do. The miners and the merchants, and every class of the communities of the two colonies, have been urging the government to open the road to Kootenay. And as soon as that government adopts the only means within its reach to get the money necessary to make the roads, the very classes most interested rush together to denounce the measure.

I beseech the miners, before signing the address and resolutions which it is proposed to send to Gov. Seymour, to give this subject the sober, second-thought. They will find

the meeting of Saturday a great mistake, and that instead of the B.C. tariff being calculated to increase the cost of living to the miner, it is intended and it must result in reducing greatly the cost of provisions in Cariboo and Kootenay.

If the merchants of Victoria understand their own true interests they will strengthen Governor Seymour's hands in this matter instead of weakening them. The cheaper provisions are in the mining districts the greater the consumption. The quicker the road is made to Kootenay the quicker will our merchants control that trade. Yet how can Governor Seymour make the roads without money? How absurd it is then for our merchants and miners to ask him to rescind the tariff. It is simply asking him to let the roads alone, to let Cariboo die of high prices, and to give Kootenay to the Oregonians.

J. P. O.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST: Sir,—The late tariff of British Columbia seems to meet the approbation of your correspondent "J.P.C.," and he writes a shrewd letter to prove that the mining population of the country ought to be satisfied with it. His article is filled with that sophistry which characterises all arguments in favor of high tariffs on the necessities of life. As an instance: he argues that because the tariff is only an increase of from a quarter to 1 per cent. per pound, the miner can bear it easily. That this is an unfair statement, it is only necessary to consider a moment, and as "J.P.C." says, "take a careful survey of the tariff." Such a survey will show us that the tariff on the staple articles of import is from 20 to 100 per cent. higher than it was. The trader in the mines will be perfectly justified in adding from 50 to 200 per cent. to this. So that the miner will have his "grub" increased in price in consequence of this tariff, not less than 60, and perhaps not more than 50 per cent. This will be the practical operation of the tariff, and no one knows this better than Mr. "J.P.C." Yet he asks, "of what consequence is this?" small (b) increase to the miner? His ideas seem to accord perfectly with those of the legislators of British Columbia. Unfortunately the miners of the country differ widely with "J.P.C." and his friends in New Westminster on this subject.

But our friend "J.P.C." adroitly dodges the main question at issue on this tariff, and attempts to conceal the dodge by some elegant "bancombe" on the roads. We are to have a road in to Williams Creek, and for this we ought to rejoice at the privilege of paying this increased tariff. Do we not pay now 2 1/2 cents per pound on all the freight in bulk, which passes over these roads, on the boxes, bales, ropes, and packing material as well as on the goods? Is not this enough for the road privilege? Do any people on earth pay such prices for road privileges? And this too, is in addition to all the other tariffs of the country. Such a dodge will not do. The real issue is that our mines and mining interests are not now in a condition to bear any further taxes than we have, and we do not feel that it is right or just for us to pay all the expenses of the government. Just now, the mining and trading interests of the upper country are depressed. The present prospect before us is dull and uncertain in the extreme, and as the past season was unprofitable, our principal hope in future is in new discoveries. It will require renewed efforts and heavy outlays to make these discoveries. Our means are small, and our credit is at a low ebb. These are unpleasant reflections, but nevertheless true. Is it the part of wisdom to add to our burden of taxes while in this situation? And especially is it wise to do this while there are classes of property owners in the country who do not share the burden with us? Will "J.P.C." and his friends think of that pertinent truth spoken at the miners' meeting, that "it is the last feather which breaks the camel's back"? Surely the increase of a tariff in the smallest degree cannot be justified in reason at this time.

The reasoning of "J.P.C." to prove that an increased tariff will lessen the price of provisions in the mines is too fallacious to require notice. The true policy on the subject of roads is to endeavor to open and make such roads as the country requires, and nothing more. No wise government will attempt to build railroads or macadamised roads into a wild unexplored country and make the pioneers of the country pay for it before the road is built. To let the mineral resources of Cariboo at least, be discovered before you tax the discoverers the full cost of the best road, would be the proper policy for our government. That those resources may be discovered and developed, hold out some other inducement to enterprising men besides a continual and rapid increase of their taxes. The present road to Williams Creek is the best that was ever opened into a wild country, and the miners have paid and are now paying more for it than any other people ever paid for roads. As a body they are broke—they have exhausted their means in endeavoring to find the rich deposits of gold believed to be in the country; and they will not be willing to pay any more for roads until they find something more in the country, to enable them to do so. Of this "J.P.C." and his friends in New Westminster may fully assure themselves by consulting the "sober, second-thought" of every real miner in the country.

B. P. A.

February 28, 1865.

EXPLORATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Hon. Mr. Moberly gave notice in his place in the Legislative Council of British Columbia, on Friday last, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Homer, "That the Government be respectfully requested to appropriate a sum of money to be expended in opening some pack trails through the interior of the colony, by such lines as may be most advantageous and practicable, to enable miners to prospect that section of the country extending from the most northerly point of the Columbia river to the head waters of the North Thompson river, from Cariboo to the same point, and from thence via Fort Isaac Cache to the valley of the Peace river. There being considerable opposition shown, and the Hon. Colonial Secretary having intimated that a certain amount for exploration would appear in the Estimates, the resolution was withdrawn."

TAKING MINERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST. Sir,—May I be permitted to offer a few remarks upon Mr. Cranford's letter in your issue of this date.

That letter would make it appear that we as miners are not competent to feel the weight of our own burden, but were passing resolutions affecting our vital interests by a "display of epithets undeserving of his criticism" and uttering "perfect nonsense."

Allow me to say that he who bears the burden is the miner and the proper party to speak. If he is crushed what becomes of our farmers, merchants, mechanics, &c.?

We are told the extra duty is so trifling as not to be felt, and that it is imposed for our benefit. If so trifling then it will not accomplish the purpose for which it was intended—that of enabling Government to complete our roads. If, on the other hand, it should amount in the aggregate to something considerable, out of whose pocket does it come?

The following will show how it affects our staple articles:

The present market price of flour runs from \$11.50 to \$14.50 per barrel; take the average, say \$13, subject to duties under the old tariff of 75c, under the new \$1.95, or an increase of duty of 160 per cent. Beans, say \$3 per one hundred pounds, duty under the old tariff 30c, under the new 60c, increase of one hundred per cent.

Bacon a-d ham, from 15c to 25c per lb; duty under the old tariff 2c per lb, under the new 3c per lb, or an increase of 50 per cent. Other items could be enumerated, but this will sufficiently show that the duties on the common necessities of life are on the increase.

We miners as a body are not averse to a heavy duty being imposed upon luxuries, but it is very wrong at the present time to increase the duty upon necessities. Mr. C. seems to lose sight of the fact that this is done simultaneously with the creation of a tax upon gold. Personally, I approve of the principle of this tax, as it falls on those who have the money, and the nearest to a just tax of any that falls upon the miner. If it is true that from three to four millions of dollars came down through one bank last year, and allowing that in private hands to increase the sum to five millions, that tax alone would bring to the Treasury \$150,000; add to that what we lose by allowing Chinamen to mine without licenses or paying for records—also reduce our officials, who are numerous enough now even were our population 100,000, and have a little better supervision in the expenditure of money under the head of road making, you would find the government in a position to accomplish what is necessary without heaping on taxes on those least able to bear them, while the resolutions passed the other day would amount to something else than the nonsense Mr. C. would have them to be.

Roads, I admit, are wanted; but see how that department has been managed. A wagon road has been made up to Alexandria; can any man in his senses inform me of what earthly use it is from Soda Creek to that place while the remaining portion to Quesnelmouth is unaccomplished? Whose benefit was consulted in making a road from Quesnelmouth to Cottonwood before completing that below the Mouth?

If the true interest of the miner is the chief object of anxiety, what about the opposition to the Bute Inlet road? Mr. Waddington told me he had offers from responsible persons, so soon as the trail was opened, for packing all the goods from head of navigation to Mouth of Quesnel for 14 cents per pound, and from Victoria to head of navigation for \$5 per ton or 1/2 cent per pound, and when the wagon road was completed by the above route, the cost of transit could be reduced by nearly one half, as it was intended to make a tram way for the first thirty miles, the entire distance being 215 miles. I would like to ask whether at the present time, after the expenditure of so much money on two routes by way of the Fraser, either one or the other are calculated to compete in the transit of goods to Cariboo with the route in question? In the place of this, whose interest is kept in view—the mines, or that of New Westminster?

We find that Governor Seymour is averse to allowing the traction engine to come any lower than the 93 mile post. If it be so, would it not be a good plan for the promoters of that scheme—unless that again clashes with private interests—to make arrangements for taking the coast route, thereby securing a shorter road to the mines, and ultimately benefiting the miner.

I hope the miners, &c., will not delay signing the resolutions now lying at Wells, Fargo & Co.

JOHN EVANS.

Victoria, V. I., Feb. 27.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND MR. RING.

Saturday, Feb. 25th.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST. Sir,—That august assembly, the Legislative Council, having (as reported in your paper) thought it to allow my name to be introduced in their deliberations yesterday upon the Corporation Act allowed me to remind the Public of the real question as far as I am concerned.

It is, whether or not, a subordinate body like the Corporation could have been invested by the House of Assembly with an unlimited power of raising any amount of revenue by their by-laws which their wisdom or exigencies might dictate. Now since all the Legislative, Executive, Judicial, and Ministerial Powers of the colony combined together have no such power simply because such power would be directly subversive of the constitutional laws of England; they could not give that which they themselves do not possess. Soon after the passing of the Act of Incorporation a case upon the structure of it, was submitted by the Corporation to my opinion jointly with that of Mr. McCreight, and seeing that in all sound taxation there must be a distinct and definite monetary limit assigned to each specific subject of taxation, and that the act was deficient in this respect we advised that Body to apply to the Legislature to remedy the defects of the bill, by not only neglecting to pursue our advice, but while I filled the office of Acting Attorney General made up their minds to test against myself in a court of law the soundness of that opinion, and shortly after attempted to enforce against me, their assumption of an illegal power. The court's decision against the Corporation and their by-laws, and I affirm that until the Legislative authorities of this colony shall have received the power of replicating the various litigants and criminals of the past, who have appeared in our courts, in their original position in which they stood before trial, they can have no authority to alter (by assuming the functions of a Court of Ap-

peal) the considered recorded judgments of the Chief Justice of this colony, which it appears the Bill now before that wise and learned Body, the Legislative Council in effect attempts to do.

Only think, sir, of a bill before the Houses of Lords and Commons of England to reverse the judgments of all the Judges from the days of King Alfred down to the present time!

To speak of me as "Ring" and others refusing to pay taxes is to put me in a most false and injurious light. I never refused to pay taxes; taxes are a legal imposition. I bow to the laws and uphold them.

I resisted upon public grounds only the exaction of an illegal, unconstitutional and revolutionary power and thus lent my aid to uphold the laws, and I am here compelled to say, in consequence of the repeated calumnious imputation that I refused to pay taxes, that I was not only not to more inconvenience and loss of time through the obstinacy of the Corporation than four times the amount of a falsely called taxation upon myself could measure, but that I also refused to allow the Corporation to be mulcted in the costs of their abortive suit against me. Moreover I told the Mayor that if the Corporation wanted a contribution to help them out of their difficulties I was willing to give one, but that I would never sanction by my name and particularly as Acting Attorney General a grossly illegal impost.

I am sir, obediently yours,

D. BABINGTON RING.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—B. P. A. in his strictures on my letter says that in consequence of the increase in the British Columbia tariff and the additional profit to the trader "the miner will have his grub increased in consequence of this tariff not less than 60 and perhaps not more than 50 per cent."

I understand B. P. A. is a lawyer, but I think it would puzzle a Philadelphian lawyer to ascertain the meaning of the above. Does B. P. A. mean to say that because the duty on flour is increased from 1/2 to 3/4 of a cent. per pound, and that the trader adds as B. P. A. says he is "justified" in adding 200 per cent. on this increase of duty, making, if I know what figures mean, from 1 to 1 1/2 cents, that therefore flour will be raised from 40 cents per pound to 60 or 64 cents?

Or does he mean to say that because there is no increase of duty on sugar, and that the trader is justified in adding 200 per cent. to that nothing, that therefore sugar will rise from 75 cents to 112 1/2 per pound. For shame B. P. A. In this case dodging is no where. It is straight forward dodging. My ground is this and it is impregnable. B. P. A. has not and dare not attack my facts, which are: That the cost of the necessities of life to the miner is not increased, on the average by this tariff as much as one cent per pound, and that when flour is 40 cents, beans 50 cents, sugar, bacon and coffee, 75 cents, and butter \$1.25, the addition of one or two cents per pound is of slight consequence compared with the completion of a wagon road which would reduce the cost of freight 1/2 or more, and the price of these necessities from 10 to 25 cents per pound.

Some gentlemen object that I claim too great a reduction of freight on the completion of the wagon road—I think not. The rate of freight last year from Yale to Williams Creek ranged from 27 to 40 cents, average about 33 cents per pound. My statement is that if the wagon road is finished freight will fall from 1/2 to 1/3 or range from 16 1/2 to 22 cents, say an average of 19 cents per pound, and I prove it thus:

A practical man starts from Yale with 6 or 7 yoke of oxen, 2 wagons, and 10,000 pounds of freight. He takes 600 or 800 pounds of hay to feed his oxen for a few days, after which he will find natural pasture all the way to Williams Creek. His outlay is:

Seven yoke of oxen @ \$200.....1400
Two wagons, at Yale.....800

Total.....\$2200

He makes the round trip to Williams Creek and back in 60 days. He makes three trips in a season with the following expenses per trip:

Interest on \$2200 outlay @ 2 per cent. per month for 60 days.....\$ 88
Wear and tear of wagons 10 @ 2 cent 80
Shoeing oxen.....70
Hay.....22
Wages and grub @ \$160 per man 320
Incidentals.....20
Tolls 2 1/2c per pound on 10,000 pounds.....250

Total, per trip.....\$2850

Three trips @ \$850 each.....2550
Cost of wintering oxen.....150

Total Expenses for the year \$2700.

In the three trips he carries 30,000 pounds, so that including liberal wages if just costs 9 cents per pound. Now if his oxen cost 19 cents, he makes the snug clean profit of \$3000 out of his season's work over and above good wages.

Such a practical man might still further increase his profits by selling 8 out of 12 of his oxen on the creek for beef.

I repeat the gentle impeachment of having written "elegant bancombe" about the roads. I deal in facts and their legitimate deductions, and I maintain that the roads are of the first importance in cheapening goods in the mines. It is too evident B. P. A. and "his friends" like the gaps and the transhipments and the plunder generally made by steamboat owners and others on freight to Cariboo. The present road suits him and them to a dot; therefore he declares it "to be the best road ever opened in a new country," which it would be were it finished. B. P. A. does not want it finished but I and the miners do.

My position then is, that merchants and miners are interested in having goods carried to Cariboo at the lowest possible rates—that so finish the wagon road is above all things necessary—that inasmuch as the British Columbian Government could not borrow the money required they were justified in raising the duties; and that the miner had better pay one or two cents per pound more for his "grub" for one year if that cost of freight is thereby lowered from 10 to 20 cents per pound for ever after. Let B. P. A. shake his position if he can. B. P. A.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHEWST.

Among the cadets nominated by the Secretary of State for India at a recent examination held at Chelsea Hospital we notice the name of J. J. Mallandaine—brother of Mr. Edward Mallandaine of this city—who in the number of marks obtained ranked as the fifth of seven competitors.

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 7, 1865.

THE NEWS.

We are at length, after an interim of several weeks, placed in possession of telegraphic news from the seat of war. During the disruption of communication great events have been occurring on the other side of the American continent. Battles have been fought and won, cities taken, and strongholds evacuated. Charleston, after a successful resistance of four years—after receiving the iron storm of Dahlgren and the Greek fire of Gilmore—making in fact one of the most memorable defences in the history of the world—has at last succumbed to Federal arms. Sherman has added another city to his long list of conquests, and the community that first lit the torch of war has been made to feel the bitter pangs of submission to the foe it despised. With the intelligence of the occupation of Charleston comes the announcement that Mobile has been evacuated and Wilmington surrendered to the Federals. Whatever truth may be in the latter statements, of one thing we may rest assured—at no time since the commencement of the civil war has the Confederate cause sustained such disaster. Besides the loss of moral prestige which the evacuation of Charleston has entailed on the South, the possession of the city by the Federals, with the firm hold which Sherman has got of the interior of South Carolina, with its network of railways and rivers, will render Lee's position at Richmond quickly untenable. If Wilmington has really fallen, as the telegrams assert, the railway communication of Virginia, so far as supplies from the more southern States are concerned, will be speedily and effectually cut off, and Lee will have no recourse but to evacuate Richmond. This, however, is more easily said than done; for Grant with a superior army opposes his march southward. And here again the fortunes of the past few weeks are shown to have been sadly against the Confederates; for Grant after severe fighting, has pushed forward his lines in one direction closer to the Southern capital, and in another has occupied a position three miles further west in the vicinity of Petersburg. By the latter movement he more than ever checks any operations of Lee to the South.

The result of the Federal victories will be to render further action on the part of the fleet almost needless. The coast is entirely in the hands of the North, and blockade running has run its fast and profitable race. There will be no more need for the blockading squadron, and Nassau and other places that were rushed into temporary greatness through an illegitimate trade will speedily collapse to their former proportions. Foreign supplies to the Confederacy of munitions of war will cease, and the South will be thrown back upon the few and inefficient foundries that are still left her. This will be a most serious blow to the Confederates; for any large diminution in the armaments will reduce their fighting power to a minimum that can only prove disastrous in conflict. In all this there is but one great hope that presents itself, and that is peace. At no time since the first Federal defeat at Bull Run, has the North been more ready to make terms with the South. It is sated with war and satisfied with victory. On the other hand the Confederacy has nothing before it but further ruin and further bloodshed. Its cause is perfectly hopeless. Every day it is obliged to consign gunboats to the bottom, or cotton to the flames. In the evacuation of Charleston upwards of 60,000 bales of the latter commodity was destroyed—a loss amounting to something in the vicinity of \$20,000,000. All this continued destruction of property and wasteful loss of life is sickening even to the casual reader. Yet one word would stay the progress of the horrors—and the South will have to speak it. Lincoln has distinctly declared that slavery must be abolished, and that the South will be forgiven if she only returns to her allegiance under the new order of things as laid down in the new Constitution. That we shall shortly hear, despite all the peace failures, of amicable terms having been arranged between the conflicting parties to this effect, we have not the slightest doubt. The Confederates have now everything to gain by approaching the Washington authorities. They can stay the carriage and save what property, outside the slaves, is left. Let them, however, continue obstinate and every day will make their position worse and worse. We express the hope again, that we hazarded before, that as Lincoln's first inauguration saw the civil war commence, his second may witness its final close.

CONUNDRUM.—A relative of Artemus Ward wants to know why the House of Assembly deserve the sympathy of the whole community. Ans.—Because they have lost their "casus." For particulars apply at the Legislative Council.

COLD COMFORT.—The thermometer stood at 15° Fahrenheit in the ball room at New Westminster on Tuesday night last. Iced wines, &c., were consequently supplied to the guests ad libitum.

CALIFORNIA NEWS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 20.—A telegram from Lone valley, Amador county, reports that Herman Wohler, Esq., of this city, was shot last night while lying in bed, the assassin firing through the window. The ball passed through his right arm and entered the right breast below the nipple, inflicting a serious but it is thought not fatal wound. Deputy U. S. Marshal Swain, with a company of troops, was enforcing an execution of judgment in ejectment in favor of the owners of the Arroyo Seco Rancho, and Mr. Wohler was on the ground to receive possession, and it is therefore supposed that the would-be murderer was a squatter.

The following private telegram has been received: New York, Feb. 14.—Gold, 208; sterling 108 1/2 @ 108 3/4. 13th—gold, 203; sterling, 108 @ 108 1/2. 13th—gold, 206 @ 200.

A telegram from Senator Conness, dated Washington, February 16, to James DeFremery, President of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, says that the China Mail Steamship bill passed the House on that day, and has now become a law.

The rifle matches for \$250 each, between Joseph Hug and Palmer, at Bay View Park, were all won by Hug.

Michael O'Bryan of the Washington Market, and somewhat known in sporting circles, died yesterday morning.

All banking houses will be closed on the 22nd.

Attachments to the amount of \$14,540 were issued against Marcus Levy to-day.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—Several sailors from the ship Great Republic entered complaints before the U. S. Commissioners this morning, charging Capt. Paul, Chief Mate Webb, Boatswain Howard, Second Mate Coe and boatswain with extreme cruelty; knocking down with handspikes and belaying pins tying up and flogging with knotted ropes ends, kicking, beating, bruising, maiming and everything but killing their men, is charged against them. All the officers except the captain, who is sick, have secreted themselves.

The submarine telegraph cable was laid across the Golden Gate to-day, and was a complete success.

The crew of the ship Arabia mutinied this morning and refused to do duty. The U. S. cutter Shubrick laid alongside, arrested them and placed them in irons. They allege that they were shafted on board.

D. Lander, who was charged with an infamy crime, was allowed to plead guilty to the charge of assault and battery, and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the county jail.

Henry Howard, Boatswain, and William Ross, Acting Boatswain, of the Great Republic, were held in \$250 bonds each, to appear before the Grand Jury.

To-morrow will be very generally observed as a holiday by business men. All the banks and public offices will be closed.

The steamer Sacramento will take only about 50 passengers.

The addition of Arizona and Southern California to the military department of the Pacific has made the creation of a sub-department necessary.

The command has been tendered to and accepted by Provost Marshal General Mason.

Telegrams from Lone City report that Mr. Wohler's wound is not considered dangerous although the ball has not yet been found.

Currency Exchange, 90; coin bills, 2 1/2 @ 2 1/4. Legal Tenders, 50 1/2 @ 51 1/4.

There was quite a movement in butter last evening resulting in free sales and establishing a firm market with a rising tendency. Flour, best city, extra jobbing prices, \$12 @ \$14. Wheat, 4 1/2 @ 4 3/4. Barley, 2 1/2 @ 3. Oats, 1 1/2 @ 1 3/4. Gold yesterday, 199.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

New York, Feb. 18.—Further details received by last arrival from Vera Cruz, show that fighting between the Juaristas and Imperialists was being actively carried on in the interior of the country. The friends of the former state, that Gen. Pattona has taken the town of Eguera and shot Francisco Vega, the head of the Imperialist movement in that vicinity. The Juarist force is approaching Ellorrial. The Juarist guerrillas intend putting to death every French soldier they may catch, on the plea that any one fighting for or holding office under Maximilian, is a traitor to Mexico and Mexican liberties.

Many other movements in the interior are named which show the activity of the National party.

The campaign at Oaxaca, however, gives rise to undignified anxiety. Oaxaca is now defended by Gen. Diaz, while Gen. Dazino, in person, is leading an expedition against it. His vanguard had been defeated. It is said that the deficit in the Treasury of the Imperial Government of Mexico is over twenty millions. The Emperor has a personal allowance of two hundred thousand dollars.

A new order of knighthood, of the Mexican Eagle, is to be established by Maximilian.

A Spanish journal published at Matamoras says: Maximilian has created an order entitled the Mexican Eagle, of which Grand Marshal Alvarado is appointed Grand Bachelor. The order comprises an unlimited number of Knights, two hundred officers, one hundred commanders, and fifty grand officers, twenty-five of whom are grand commanders and twelve grand cross with collars. The following sovereigns have been awarded the grand cross with collars: The Emperors of France, Prussia, Austria, and Brazil and the Kings of Belgium, Italy, Sweden and Norway.

Maximilian has appointed Gen. Mejia Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Army. General Cortinas left Matamoras Jan. 25th, with a brigade on a campaign against Carranza Medez. General Marquez is to go on an important mission. Maximilian has appointed a new Council of State, with Jose Maria Sanchez as president. Prince Polignac, Major General in the rebel army, was in Matamoras three weeks ago on his way to France on an extended furlough.

The Tribune disbelieves the report that rebel refugees have been sent back from Matamoras to Texas and that Canby is to retaliate. The story is probably a canard.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, March 24.

The Council met at 3 p. m. Present: Hon. Colonial Secretary, (presiding), Attorney General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, R. Finlayson, and H. Rhodes.

INCORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Attorney General said he had obtained copies of the City Assessment Rolls and it appeared the Gas Co. and others had not paid the first assessment, and the second had been repudiated by a number of rate payers. He would therefore move that the Council go into committee again to reconsider the wording of the bill in respect to its bearing on past assessments.

The Council went into committee of the whole on the bill, the Hon. Attorney General in the chair, and clause II. was amended so as to meet all cases.

The chairman then reported the bill complete.

THE STATE OF THE COLONIES.

The Hon. R. Finlayson rose to introduce the consideration of the following resolutions: 1st. That Her Most Gracious Majesty be requested to annex the Colony of Vancouver Island to that of British Columbia.

2nd. That Her Most Gracious Majesty may be pleased to direct the passage of an Act of the Imperial Parliament to provide a constitutional mode of Government, with representation on the basis of population, for the British possessions in the North Pacific.

The Hon. mover remarked that he had used the word "annex" in those resolutions, because it was the word used in the Imperial Act. When Vancouver Island was first founded, the H. B. Company obtained a settlement from H. M. Government, and Vancouver Island and British Columbia were joined. The first settlers had purchased land on the understanding that the British Possessions north of the 49th parallel were to be one. In '58 the two colonies were separated in consequence of complications arising out of the Company's grant, and they had continued ever since. He thought the present the most opportune time to advocate their reunion.

The Hon. Attorney General thought the word "annex" should not form part of the resolutions. It implied some degree of inferiority. The question if propounded at all should be that of union between two colonies of equal importance to H. M. Government. He was afraid such wording might imply the giving up of any individual advantages in the way of legislation which this colony possessed. With respect to the second resolution he confessed that he hardly understood what was meant by representation on a basis of population. Population would include natives.

Hon. Mr. Finlayson said Indians had never taken part in our colonial representation.

Hon. Chairman.—They are British subjects though.

Hon. Mr. Finlayson said he had not contemplated including Indians or Chinamen in the resolutions.

The Hon. Treasurer agreed with the previous speaker, and would go further. He thought it very desirable that the Hon. mover should be induced to withdraw the resolutions. He did not see that the precise word used would affect the determination of the Home Government, nor was there any necessity to explain the resolutions of the House of Assembly. If union was to be brought about, and he was not prepared to say that it was altogether desirable as it might work injuriously in some respects, there was no necessity to introduce such a word as "annex." It should be left quietly for the Imperial Government to arrange the terms of union. He thought the second resolution the first step towards universal suffrage which he did not think at all desirable.

Hon. R. Finlayson said he had no objection to withdraw the resolutions if they did not meet with the approbation of the Council.

The Hon. Chairman said there was no motion yet made that he should withdraw the resolutions.

Hon. H. Rhodes thought the word annex had unnecessarily frightened the Hon. Treasurer, and the idea of universal suffrage had also caused undue alarm. He thought the sooner that the present agitation which was doing harm and no good to either colony was settled the better, and as the Hon. mover had only introduced the word in order to follow the wording of the Imperial Act and as it meant union and nothing else, and was not in his view a passport to universal suffrage, he would second the resolutions.

The Hon. Mr. Finlayson said he should like to see the resolutions considered and adopted if the Council thought that they covered the ground better than those passed by the House of Assembly.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary said the resolutions of the House of Assembly had been sent in by His Excellency only for the information of the Council.

The Hon. Mr. Finlayson said he had no objection to the House of Assembly's resolutions being adopted, as his sole object was to obtain union, and as Hon. gentlemen objected to the wording of his resolutions, he would withdraw his own and move the adoption of those passed by the Assembly.

The Hon. Chairman said this was out of order.

The Hon. Treasurer moved an amendment seconded by the Hon. Surveyor General, "That this Council regards it as undesirable to express an opinion as to the expediency or otherwise of union of the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia."

The Hon. Mr. Rhodes said this was a most important matter upon which the public mind had been much agitated by circumstances beyond control, and was now quite made up. He thought it highly necessary that the matter should be settled forthwith, and he therefore opposed the amendment.

The Hon. R. Finlayson agreed with the previous speaker, and thought that His Excellency should be respectfully requested to forward the resolutions to the Home Government as soon as possible.

The amendment was then put and carried. Content.—The Hon. Attorney General, Treasurer and Surveyor General.

Non-content.—The Hon. R. Finlayson and H. Rhodes.

CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

The Hon. Col. Secretary introduced the report of the Committee on the Census bill and gave notice that he would move its adoption. He upheld the report being of opinion that the requisite machinery was not in existence for carrying such a bill into effect. As to the question of which he should introduce the resolution of which he had already given notice, as he thought from what had fallen from hon. members in Committee the Council were of one opinion as to the necessity for collecting reliable statistics.

The Hon. Attorney General did not see the necessity for either a census bill or statistics; the first would be a cumbersome, expensive undertaking, of which there was at present not sufficient need and we had means now available for collecting such statistical information as would answer all present requirements. With a larger population these matters would become more essential.

THE UNION RESOLUTIONS.

The Hon. Mr. Rhodes said the action of the Council debarred the union question from being again brought up, and he wished to be informed whether there was any mode in which it could be made known to the Imperial Government, when the Resolutions of the House of Assembly and the refusal of the Council to consider these resolutions went home, that the official members alone had declined to consider the question, but that the commercial members were desirous that the subject should be considered. He thought the voice of the minority should be heard.

The Hon. Col. Secretary said the only way that he knew of approaching His Excellency on the subject was by an address to him through the President.

The Hon. Mr. Rhodes said that he did not agree, because, supposing the official members of the British Columbia Council felt the same delicacy in expressing their opinions what would the effect be? The voice of commercial members could not be heard and would not reach the Imperial Government.

The Hon. Mr. Finlayson said the resolutions of the House of Assembly would now go home without any expression of opinion on the part of the Council and the views of those who had desired to express their opinions in the Council would not be made known.

The Hon. Treasurer suggested that the minority might cause a record of their dissent to be made on the minutes.

The Hon. Mr. Rhodes would like the views of the minority to be expressed in the form of a petition to accompany the resolutions if it could be done.

The Hon. Attorney General said the Hon. gentlemen might record a protest stating their reasons for dissenting.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary said he would pledge his word that their views should accompany the resolutions to England.

The matter here dropped.

POSTAL BILL.

The Council resumed the consideration of this bill in Committee the Hon. H. Rhodes in the chair, commencing at clause VII and at clause XIII the Chairman reported progress.

INCORPORATION ACT.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Rhodes the Victoria Incorporation Amendment Act passed the third reading.

Council adjourned to this day at the usual hour.

FRIDAY, March 3, 1865.

The Council met yesterday at 3 p. m. Present.—The Hon. Attorney General (presiding), Treasurer, and H. Rhodes.

THE STATE OF THE COLONY RESOLUTIONS.

The minutes of the last meeting were amended on the application of the Hon. H. Rhodes with reference to the protest which he proposed handing in against the decision of the Council on the Union resolutions.

The Hon. Treasurer rose to a question of privilege. In the report of the proceedings published in the BRITISH COLONIST newspaper the Treasurer is reported to have said that he was not prepared to say "that Union was altogether desirable as it might work injuriously in some respects." What he did say was this (speaking of the resolutions of the House of Assembly) "That the request by the representatives of the people of this colony would no doubt receive the earnest consideration of Her Majesty's Government. But it was not for him to say that Union, however desirable or otherwise, could be granted by Her Majesty's Government. That it is quite immaterial whether we have union or annexation, as in either case our political privileges would be regarded in the joining together of our political institutions; and that in the event of Her Majesty's Government being unable to bring about the amicable union sought by the House of Assembly no doubt annexation would be the next step." The Hon. gentleman concluded by saying that such was the substance of what he said, or intended to say, and in bringing this matter forward he had no intention to censure the newspaper but simply wished to record the correction on the minutes that the proceedings might appear in their true light.

The Chairman said he would leave the chair for a moment to say that he rather concurred in the remarks of the Hon. Treasurer. He thought that when only a small analysis was given of what hon. gentlemen said it was only fair that it should be given correctly. He had himself reason to complain of the report of what he had said on the subject of the Census and statistics. The hon. gentlemen here entered into an explanation to show that he had not expressed the views attributed to him, and remarked that he should not have so much objected to that had not an article been based upon the report which was somewhat of a personal nature. He considered it was like the Devil quoting scripture to suit his own views and afterwards writing a homily from his own texts. It was not necessary to give the precise words of the speaker, but it was not asking too much of the Press that the spirit of the remarks should be given. He considered the motion of the Hon. Treasurer well timed, and the error should be noticed.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes said he was very much

pleased to see the report. The Attorney General had not as he understood him remarked that statistics were not necessary in a new country like this.

Attorney General.—Quite the reverse, Mr. Rhodes.

Mr. Rhodes.—The statement in the report is dogmatical. If I understand English I understood the Hon. Attorney General to say that he objected only to the machinery, and that he thought the Blue Book which His Excellency was now causing to be prepared would furnish all the available statistical information and save expense.

The Hon. Treasurer's correction was ordered to be recorded on the minutes, and the Council adjourned to Monday next.

ESCAPE OF JEMMY JONES FROM VICTORIA PRISON.

We are indebted to Mr. John Arnoup, who is at present in Washington Territory, for the following amusing narrative as related to him by the Captain of the Jenny Jones:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST, Sir.—At the suit of Spratt & Kriemler, of Victoria, I was arrested and put in Victoria gaol on Thursday, the 16th February. I had a fellow prisoner for company, but this by no means reconciled me to my position, for companions in misfortune do not, after all, make one's position a comfortable one, and I determined the first opportunity to make my escape. In doing this I had no desire to run away from the responsibility of my debts. My imprisonment could not and would not benefit my creditors while it would inflict an injury on myself. I considered it was my duty to get away and I knew it was the duty of the prison authorities to prevent me from doing so, as far on so I laid my plans. Observing that a policeman came round every night to see if I was in bed, previously to locking me up, I first of all attempted to deceive him by placing a dummy in my bed, which I constructed with the hair from my bed and my shirt. I made this as near as I could like the human shape and covered it very carefully and tenderly with the bed clothes and put on it my hat and also necktie. There lies, thought I, a second Jemmy Jones, the best I can construct, and I was sorry I could not give it the power of snoring, as then my escape by means of this would be certain. However such as it was I thought it as a work of art well calculated to deceive. A little before six o'clock on the night of February 21st I slipped out of the room and secreted myself in a small building in the prison yard. Shortly after as usual a policeman came to an adjoining building and observing that there was some one without a hat and supposing it was I he went back to the debtor's prison, and as I afterwards learned, in touching my work of art ruthlessly tore off what was intended for a head. He immediately came back for the real Jemmy Jones and demanded that I should proceed at once to my bed, at the same time saying, it was of no use for me to joke there as there were smarter men than me in that prison. I said I am not smart; I am a fool. I was reported to Mr. Hankin, the Superintendent, but I observed to him that I was joking. Orders were then given that my liberty should be restricted and that for no purpose was I to be absent from my room more than three minutes. I still determined to escape, but this time by a bolder and more straightforward method, and I resolved to go out by the same door as I entered. On the Saturday following at 3 o'clock in the afternoon the passage from the outside to the inside was being cleaned; now, thought I, is my time, and the only obstacles were the two policemen on guard, one armed with a double barreled shot gun, and the other with a revolver. I made a spring and passed the first man without being touched, the second made a grab at me, but I knocked him aside and ran past the Boomerang Inn and made the best of my way up Yates street, several policemen following, and I think Tam O'Shanter and his grey mare "Meg" were not more anxious to escape from the witches, than Jemmy Jones and his legs were to outstrip the policeman.

My position was by no means a safe one, but though a short man I managed every minute to increase the distance between me and my pursuers, and by turning a corner "jinking" I was enabled to conceal myself. I will not say where, nor for how long. Suffice it to say I was resolved to cross over to Puget Sound, but how to go abroad without being observed and captured puzzled me for a short time. I disguised myself in female attire and afterwards inspected myself in my glass and was perfectly satisfied with my personal appearance. I also tried the "ahem!" lest I should be spoken to. I thought in this character I could deceive any one. Now, how I proceeded to the water, and in what company, and what little incidents occurred, I would rather not now relate for the sake of my friends in Victoria. I do not wish to boast, but I think I fairly earned my liberty. I am Jack Sheppard, for I escaped in broad daylight, by the aid of my own legs. I am Jemmy Jones, who will now make an effort to pay my debts, and I ask for the confidence of my creditors in Victoria!

ENTERTAINERS AT NEW WESTMINSTER.—The ball given by the members of the Legislative Council at New Westminster on Tuesday night was attended by over one hundred ladies and gentlemen, amongst whom were Governor Seymour and suite, Governor Kennedy and family, the members of the Legislative Council, several naval officers, and all the leading inhabitants of New Westminster. The Council Chamber was most tastefully decorated, and no exertions were spared in ministering to the comfort and enjoyment of the guests. The only drawback occurred through circumstances which could not be foreseen. The night was intensely cold, almost defying the efforts of the stoves to diffuse genial warmth. The ardour of the dancers, however, in no way abated, and dancing was maintained until sunrise. On the following evening another grand ball took place at the Vice-Regal residence, which was numerously attended and passed off most delightfully. The Enterprise took a number of the guests round to the camp.

Mr. DeCosmos Liens to Mechu was read a first printed.

The House of Estimates, Mr. F. Magistrate's Dr. Dickson's itans of Nanaimo they deemed the He had it on un there was not a paimo magistrate Dr. Helmsken where there was there should be a magistrates had Besides the clerk taking the place when he was abs being one case t in three weeks, there were no p haps if we had beneficial results Mr. Franklin Mr. DeCosmos ion that the stipe all the duties per As to the new J contained a prov to dispense with pared to vote the magistrate could tailed on him.

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Dr. Dickso

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 7, 1865.

HOUSE.

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The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 7, 1865

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, March 2.

House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Franklin, McClure, Tolmie, Dickson, Burnaby, Duncanson, Deanes.

LIEN LAW.

Mr. DeCosmos introduced a bill to secure Liens to Mechanics and others. The bill was read a first time and ordered to be printed.

THE ESTIMATES.

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

Magistrate's Clerk at Nanaimo, \$485.

Dr. Dickson said the petition of the inhabitants of Nanaimo to this House showed that they deemed the clerk wholly unnecessary. He had it on unquestionable authority that there was not a police case before the Nanaimo magistrate once in three weeks.

Dr. Helmcken would support the vote, as where there was a stipendiary magistrate there should be a clerk, more especially as the magistrates had now to deal with civil cases. Besides the clerk might be very useful in taking the place of the stipendiary magistrate when he was absent [laughter]. As to there being one case before the magistrate's court in three weeks, probably that was because there were no police there [a laugh]. Perhaps if we had no police in Victoria like beneficial results might follow [laughter].

Mr. Franklin spoke in favor of the vote. Mr. DeCosmos said he was firmly of opinion that the stipendiary magistrate could fulfil all the duties perfectly well without a clerk. As to the new Justice of the Peace Bill, it contained a provision enabling the magistrate to dispense with a clerk. He was not prepared to vote the salary, believing that the magistrate could easily do all the work entailed on him.

Mr. Burnaby said the stipendiary magistrate was the only officer at Nanaimo representing the Government, and had consequently a great deal of duties to perform. The new District Court Bill would also add greatly to his duties, and he (Mr. Burnaby) therefore thought the salary was necessary.

Mr. McClure thought one of the great faults of the House was voting money to clerks without proper consideration. We had heretofore in the colony too much dignity among our officials and too little work [hear, hear]. We had heard a great deal about the extra labor to be caused by the new District Court Act, but it was time enough to provide for that when the bill passed.

Mr. Duncanson said the province of this House was to legislate according to the well understood wishes of the people [hear, hear]. Looking at the petition before the House, he thought the proper course was to comply with the request of a majority of the inhabitants of the town. He was totally opposed to the voting of the salary.

Dr. Tolmie asked how many voters were among the petitioners? He thought the numerous duties of the Nanaimo magistrate required that he should have the assistance of a clerk, and he deprecated the action of the House in throwing out one day what they voted a previous day.

On a vote being taken on the item a tie resulted, when the chairman (Mr. Franklin) gave the casting vote for the salary, remarking that although the chair throughout the debate had always leaned to the side of economy [loud laughter], still he thought in this case the sum asked for was necessary.

Superintendent of Police, \$2000.

Dr. Dickson strongly opposed striking out the salary of the Inspector. He considered the sum of \$2000 for Superintendent was altogether too large. It was an increase of \$500 over last year. He would move that \$500 be voted to the Sheriff of the Police Magistrate as Superintendent.

Dr. Tolmie asked if the hon. member could state that the magistrate would accept the position?

Mr. DeCosmos said we could not regard the sheriff as the governor of the Victoria gaol. The ordinary rule was certainly that the sheriff was the governor of the county gaol, but Victoria prison was really a penitentiary, and such institutions always had a governor. In the present case he did not see how we could, without a great loss of time, shape the arrangement differently from the course proposed by the Executive. As to the salary, if the superintendent received any fees, he thought \$1500 was enough; but if not, the salary of \$1940 was not too much. As to the Inspector, he (Mr. DeC.) looked on that officer as merely a head sergeant. The Superintendent was the man who was expected to do the work, and not to sit in his office and smoke cigars, (hear, hear,) and he should be paid accordingly.

Mr. Burnaby said the last speaker had expressed similar views to those he himself had previously advocated. He supported the voting of the salary.

Mr. Duncanson advocated doing away with the Inspector as a needless officer, and giving the Superintendent \$2500. The Superintendent should be paid well and made to do the work. The late proceedings in Victoria gaol showed the necessity of there being proper officers, who should be well paid. He must however call attention to the fact that we were now without a Superintendent—that officer being off at New Westminster assisting at the ball. He must condemn severely this state of affairs as highly improper. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Dickson withdrew his motion, and moved in amendment that the salary be \$1600.

Lost; and the original motion for \$2000 was voted.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, \$2940.

Mr. McClure said he had moved for the recommission of this item expecting that the returns of fees moved for in the House would have been laid before them. This however had not been done and he was consequently in the dark in the matter.

Dr. Dickson had made inquiries and had found that the fees under the former Attorney General had never exceeded \$900.

Mr. Burnaby objected to an official and expert information being made use of in the House on this question. The House could only deal with official information in such a matter.

Dr. Dickson maintained that he had a per-

fect right to obtain and use any information he could get.

Mr. Burnaby reiterated his objection.

Dr. Dickson would not be put down by the hon. member. The hon. member had indignantly repudiated information he (Dr. Dickson) had on a previous occasion laid before the House, and he (Dr. D.) would not submit to it again.

Mr. Burnaby said the hon. gentleman had given it as official information.

Dr. Dickson begged the hon. gentleman's pardon; he had not done so.

Mr. Burnaby would leave it to the House. Mr. Duncanson said hon. members of the Imperial Parliament had sometimes 20 or 30 clerks obtaining all kinds of information for them, and what good would that do if they could not be allowed to use it. Joseph Hume had 15 clerks employed getting information for him, and if he were allowed to make use of such information he could not see why the hon. member (Dr. Dickson) should be debarred from the same privilege. (Hear and laughter.)

Mr. Burnaby said the question before the House was a point of order.

Mr. Duncanson said he was speaking to the point of order. (Laughter.)

The Chairman (Mr. Franklin) vainly tried to restore order, saying there was no motion before the House.

Dr. Dickson again rose followed by Mr. Burnaby, and the highly amusing although discursive debate continued for some minutes amid the general laughter of the House when Mr. McClure said, in order to terminate what he considered a purposeless debate, and because no official returns of the Attorney General's fees had been laid before the House, he would ask leave to withdraw his resolution. (Hear, hear.)

Leave was granted, and the question of order fell to the ground. The original salary of the Attorney General—\$3000 and fees—was then passed.

The Committee then rose and reported the Estimates complete and the House adjourned till tomorrow when the Supply Bill will be read a first time after which the Incorporation Bill will be resumed in Committee.

FRIDAY, March 3rd.

House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, McClure, Tolmie, Southgate, Burnaby, Deanes, Trimble, Dickson.

CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT.

The bill to amend the Victoria Incorporation Act, 1862, came down from the Legislative Council. The first reading was fixed for Monday next.

THE ELECTION PETITION.

Mr. DeCosmos for the Committee on Elections reported that the petition of Mr. C. B. Young against the return of Mr. McClure had complied with the formalities of the House, and ought to be received. His own opinion, however, was that such was not the case, as he could not find anything in the Rules of the House which would allow rogues and scoundrels to be set aside and money paid.

SUPPLIES FOR THE YEAR.

The Committee on Supply reported that the sum of \$298,618 25 had been voted for the year, and on motion of Mr. Burnaby seconded by Mr. DeCosmos, the Supplies were granted.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Franklin, DeCosmos and Dr. Dickson to bring in the Supply bills into the House.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Mr. Deanes asked leave to bring in on Monday next a bill regarding the law of imprisonment for debt.

INCORPORATION BILL.

The House went into Committee on the Incorporation bill—Mr. Deanes in the chair.

Clause 11, declaring the disqualifications of voters was passed, the portion disqualifying those who had sworn allegiance to any foreign power, unless allegiance had been sworn to Her Majesty within three months of the election, being struck out.

Clause 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, regarding the election of mayor and councillors, were held over.

On clause 17, providing that the voting for mayor and councillors shall be open and no person shall vote by proxy.

Mr. McClure moved in amendment that the vote shall be by ballot. The hon. gentleman argued that the gross bribery and corruption at the late election demonstrated clearly the great necessity of the ballot being adopted.

Dr. Helmcken said he totally disagreed with the hon. member that there had been any bribery and corruption at any municipal election. The trouble at the last election had been to get anybody to vote at all.

Mr. DeCosmos believed, from what he had seen of the working of it, that vote by ballot was the best means of recording the suffrages of the people. The system would, however, require some further machinery to carry it out.

Ayes—McClure, DeCosmos, Dickson, Noss—Helmcken, Powell, Trimble, Southgate.

Clause 18, providing that the Mayor and Councillors shall be elected for one year, and that they shall be disqualified from office by holding any Corporation contract, and unless they resign within two weeks after taking such contract they shall be fined \$500, and lose all interest in the contract, was passed.

Clause 19, fixing the nomination day for the first Monday in January in each year, was passed.

Clause 20 to 31 inclusive, regulating the routine of the election proceedings, were passed with verbal amendments.

Clause 32 to 34, providing for the administration of the usual oath to voters and candidates were passed, the oaths of allegiance being struck out.

Clause 35 to 40, regulating the duties of Returning Officers and Poll Clerks, were passed.

Clause 41, providing for the taking of the usual oath by the Mayor and Councillors, was passed.

Clause 42, providing that if the electors neglect to elect a Mayor and Councillors, they may be appointed by the old Council, was passed.

Clause 43, providing that seats in the Council shall be vacated by insolvency, felony, or three months' absence without leave, was passed.

Clause 44 to 47, providing for new elections in case of a vacancy, were passed.

Clause 48 to 50, in regard to contested elections, were passed.

Clause 51 to 52, fixing the mode of procedure in the trial of the validity of contested elections, were passed.

Clause 53, appointing the Council Chambers, caused some conversation. Messrs. Trimble, Helmcken, and DeCosmos being in favor of the Police Court being used.

Dr. Trimble said an office for the clerk could be obtained up stairs.

Dr. Helmcken suggested that the Chambers should be at the Police Court or such other place as His Excellency may be pleased to appoint.

The suggestion was adopted and the clause passed.

On Clause 54, providing that the Mayor shall be Justice of the Peace and shall have precedence in all places in the city.

Dr. Helmcken objected, saying that it was giving the maker of the law the power to execute it. As for the Mayor taking precedence over the Stipendiary Magistrate he was totally opposed to it. The Stipendiary Magistrate was far superior to any Mayor he had yet had at least.

Mr. DeCosmos said the Mayor of Victoria had already been decided to be a Justice of the Peace. The bill did not propose to give the Mayor exclusive power to adjudge; any other Justice of the Peace had similar power.

Mr. McClure agreed entirely with the clause as in the bill. The only way to induce our best citizens to come forward for the office was to make it respectable. The system proposed was the one in force in England and throughout the colonies generally, and he was wholly in favor of it here.

Dr. Helmcken moved that the clause be struck out.

Ayes—Helmcken, Trimble, Noss—DeCosmos, McClure, Mr. Deanes gave his casting vote in favor of striking out the clause.

The committee rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned at 5 o'clock till Monday next, when the Legislative Council's Amended Incorporation Bill, and Mr. Deanes' bill to abolish imprisonment for debt, with other important measures, will be taken up.

THE JENNY JONES.

POST ANGELES, Feb. 15.

EDITOR COLONIST:—Seeing an article in the Victoria Chronicle of the 11th inst., regarding the sailing of the Jenny Jones, which I deem derogatory to my character, I beg to contradict each statement, as there is not the least semblance of truth in it. As the circumstances of this case have been placed before the public with a design to injure Captain Jones, I feel it my duty to give a plain statement of facts, and not allow the public to be misinformed through the audacity of an editor who has evidently given publicity to an article from mere rumor, circulated by malicious persons.

On Wednesday morning, the 8th inst., an officer came on board the United States mail steamer Jenny Jones on behalf of the sheriff, and posted a notice of seizure on the mainmast, and told me his deputy had charge. I accordingly acknowledged his authority, and considered the vessel under arrest, until Wednesday evening, when the Sheriff came on board and took the aforesaid notice down, and told me the matter was settled. I being at that time Chief Officer in command, deemed it my duty to prepare the vessel for sea, which I did. The American Consul then came down and informed me that he had examined the matter and was satisfied, bringing at the same time the U. S. mails, which he had taken from the steamer Eliza Anderson, stating that he would deliver it to the Jenny Jones, as she was the authorized U. S. mail steamer, which he did. He also notified me that the Jenny Jones was cleared and ready for sea, and that Captain Jones had all the necessary papers for her departure. Under these circumstances I felt justified in facilitating our despatch, and was proceeding to do so, when, to my astonishment, a self-constituted authority came on board and undertook to establish an authority, which, in his estimation, was paramount to all law and custom which govern the maritime service; and as I am a law abiding man, I felt it my duty to repel an effort which I considered illegal.

Captain Jones was, in the meantime, detained in transmitting some business on shore. I now found it necessary to sail, as the time for the delivery of the United States mails is very strictly specified. I accordingly engaged a party to tow the vessel out of the harbor, as a portion of her machinery was defective. After clearing the wharf, I observed several officers on board, and as I thought they had no authority to detain a duly cleared vessel, especially when she had the United States mails on board, I politely requested them to go ashore. Seeing the justice of my demand, they readily acceded to my request, got into my boat and went ashore. There was no force or violence used whatever. The crew consisted of but seven men, and the immense amount of guns and pistols, the Chronicle asserts as having been displayed to intimidate the officers, consisted of two mops, two brooms and one fact. The two former, I am willing to admit, might prove formidable if not dangerous weapons in the hands of infuriated women.

Now, Mr. Editor, this is about the substance of the matter, in a plain, unvarnished statement, and if you have any regard for your profession, you will have the kindness to show to the public your aversion for that contemptible style of collecting news—regardless of truth—whereby the interests of innocent people are endangered, and the confidence of the public abused.

Yours respectfully,
Chief Officer U. S. Mail Steamer JENNY JONES.

LEACH RIVER.—Snow now lies so deep on the trail that sleighing goes on as far as Kibblewhite's at Goldstream. A party of about eight went off in one sleigh yesterday. Miners generally, though they grumble, feel increased confidence in the prospects of the coming season. One man entered a store on Kennedy Flat the other day and offered to sell 80 ounces of dust that he had washed out of his claim this winter.

British Columbia.

The steamer Enterprise returned on Friday from New Westminster having been detained one day in order to bring back a number of guests who attended the vice-regal ball on Thursday evening. Amongst the passengers were His Excellency the Governor and family.

The weather had been extremely cold and much snow had fallen. The navigation of the Fraser to New Westminster was still open although there was considerable ice up river.

[From the Columbian.]

NEWS FROM THE INTERIOR.

The steamer Hope returned from Harrison mouth on Saturday, bringing a number of passengers, amongst whom were Mr. Marston and Mr. Wilson of Lytton. These gentlemen inform us that although there is a great depth of snow in some places between Lytton and Yale yet foot travelling is good and the road has sustained no injury from slides.

Mr. Spence's bridge across the Thompson was about completed, and it was his intention to open it for traffic on the 28th ult. It is described as an excellent piece of work, and the plan of building upon piles appears to answer admirably.

Horned cattle had suffered grievously upon the winter ranges of the Bonaparte. Mr. York has lost 65 out of his drove of 200 head. Horses and mules have, however, wintered tolerably well.

There is an unusual dearth of news in the interior, and business is everywhere dull. There is a good deal of mining going on upon the bars of the Fraser, but we are without any definite information as to the result.

COMMUNICATION WITH KOOTENAY.—We understand Mr. Lader has made a proposition to the Government by which he undertakes to complete a trail from Hope to Princeton of a character suitable for a pack trail in summer and a sleigh-road in winter, and have the whole completed by the 20th prox., for the sum of \$7000. This, at first sight, appears to us to be a most favorable offer; and unless the Government is aware that better terms could be made, we hope the matter will be gone into at once, as time is now a most important consideration.

ADVENTURE WITH A BOA CONSTRUCTOR.

Captain Speke, the celebrated traveller, gives the following graphic account of an adventure with a boa-constructor:

At the earliest possible moment after our camp had been pitched a hunt was set afoot, and Captain Grant, myself and some attendants were soon making our way to "the patch." There were no animals there when we arrived, except a few hippopotami, and we were, therefore, obliged to await the coming of some more palatable game. Our patience, however, was severely taxed; and after long delay we were about to "bag" a hippopotamus, when one of our attendants, perched in a tree about half-a-mile distant, began waving his blanket. This was a signal that game was approaching. We immediately drew into cover and awaited the coming of the latter.

We were not delayed long: for presently a long column of animals, from the elephant to the booby, appeared in view, trotting at a good pace to the river. Their flanks were soon presented to us, and each, selecting his object, fired. McColl shot a fine young buffalo cow, whilst Captain Grant was equally successful with a "booby" and several spears, cast by our attendants, stopped the career of two different animals of the herd.

At this juncture, however, occurred an unexpected adventure that finished our sport, at least for that day. I had sprung forward, immediately after firing, in order to obtain a fair shot at a huge elephant that I wished to get the desired aim and pulled the trigger of my second barrel. At the moment of my doing so a wild cry of alarm, uttered by one of the blacks, called my attention. Glancing around, my eye chanced to range up into the foliage of the trees, beneath which Captain Grant and myself had lain for several hours previous. My feelings may possibly be imagined as I beheld an enormous boa-constructor, whose hideous head and neck protruded some distance into view, showed that he was about to make a spring. His direction was certainly toward me; and as he flashed from his position like a thunderbolt, I gave myself up for ere it could reach me, I had after all fled into a monster would have crashed my frame into a quivering pulp. I fell, seemingly caught in a whirlwind of dust, and a strange, indescribable scuffle ensued. In the midst of this terrible strife, I suddenly became conscious of the presence of a second victim, and even after the time that has elapsed since then, I still recollect with what vividness the thought shot across my mind, that this second victim was Captain Grant, my noble companion. At last after being thus whirled about for several seconds each second seeming to be interminable, there ensued a full, stillness of death, and I opened my eyes, expecting to look upon those unexplored landscapes which are seen only in the country beyond the tomb. Instead of that, I saw Captain Grant leveling his rifle toward me, while, standing beside and behind him, were the blacks, in every conceivable attitude of the most intense surprise.

In a moment I comprehended all. The huge serpent had struck a young buffalo cow between his jaws, and him I had unluckily placed myself at the moment of firing upon the elephant. A most singular good fortune had attended me, however, for instead of being unfortunate, my left forearm had only been caught in between the buffalo's body and a single fold of the constrictor. The limb laid just in front of the shoulder, at the root of the neck, into which it had been jammed, as it were, by the immense pressure of the serpent's body, that was like iron in hardness. As I saw Grant about to shoot a terror took possession of me, for if he refrained might possibly escape after the boa released his folds from the dead cow. But should he fire and strike the reptile, it would, in its convulsions crush and drag me to pieces. Even as the idea came to me, I beheld Grant

pause. He appeared to fully comprehend all. He could see how I was situated, that I was still living, and that my delivery depended on the will of the constrictor. We could see every line on each other's face; so close were we, and I would have shouted, or spoken, or even whispered at him had I dared. But the boa's head was reared within a few feet of mine, and the wink of an eyelid would perhaps settle my doom, so I stared, stared like a dead man, at Grant and at the blacks.

Presently the serpent began very gradually to relax the folds, and after re-tightening them several times as the crushed buffalo quivered, he unwound one fold entirely. Then he paused. The next iron like band was the one which held me prisoner; and as I felt it little by little, little by little unclasp, my heart stood still with hope and fear. Perhaps, upon being freed, the benumbed arm, uncontrolled by my will, might fall from the cushion-like bed in which it lay, and such a mishap might bring the spare fold around my neck or chest, and then farewell to the sources of the Nile. O! how hardly, how desperately I struggled to command myself! I glanced at Grant, and saw him handling his rifle anxiously. I glanced at the negroes, and saw them still gazing, as though petrified with astonishment. I glanced at the serpent's loathsome head, and saw its bright deadly eyes watching for the least sign of life in its prey. Now, then, the reptile loosened its folds on my arm a hair's breadth, and now a little more, until half an inch of space separated my arm and its mottled skin. I could have whipped out my hand, but dared not take the risk. Atoms of time dragged themselves into ages, and a minute seemed eternity itself! The second hold was removed entirely, and the next one was easing. Should I dash away now, or wait a more favorable moment? I decided upon the former; and, with lightning speed, I bounded away toward Grant, the crack of whose rifle I heard at the same instant. For the first time in my life, I was thoroughly overcome; and, sinking down I remained in a semi-conscious state for several minutes.

When I fully recovered, Grant and the overjoyed negroes held me up, and pointed out the boa, who was still writhing in his death agonies. I shuddered as I looked upon the effects of his tremendous dying strength. For yards around where he lay, grass and bushes and saplings, and, in fact, everything except the more fully grown trees, were cut clean off, as though they had been trimmed by an immense scythe. This monster, when measured, was fifty-one feet two inches and a half in extreme length, while around the thickest portion of his body the girth was nearly three feet; thus proving, I believe, to be the largest serpent that was ever authentically heard of.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Saturday, March 4.

CAPT. MOORE IN NEW WESTMINSTER.—Captain Peel of the sloop Tibbals, now in this port, informs us that on Monday last he conveyed Captain Wm. Moore and family, with their household effects, to New Westminster, where he intends to fix his residence for the present. Captain Moore thinks himself a very ill-used man in the transactions regarding the Alexandra, and intends publishing all the letters and documents in his possession connected with the affair, for his own justification.

ACCIDENT ON THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The second mate of this bark had his hand very severely bruised yesterday by a heavy billet of wood falling on it from the upper deck. He was sent to the hospital.

THE SLOOP DEERFOOT, formerly belonging to Brookie Jack and his companions, was yesterday sold at auction for \$190.

Monday, March 6.

THEFT.—Hydad Joe, a regular jail bird, was found guilty on Saturday of stealing a pair of boots the property of Mr. F. Beagan, and further of willfully damaging the windows of the police barracks, and was sent to occupy his customary position in the chain gang for six months.

TALES OF A HAUL.—BY GRAB.—Last night the police made a descent upon a house occupied by Chinamen on Cormorant street, and arrested the whole of the occupants, thirty-two in number, on a charge of gambling. They were all lodged in Limbo. Mr. Bishop will appear this morning for the accused.

DARING BURGLARY.—The room of a lodger in Lang's large building, Herald street, was entered on Saturday night while the occupant was asleep, and between \$30 and \$40 abstracted from the pockets of his trousers. The thief got off without being discovered.

CHARGE OF ROBBERY.—James McGilveray was charged in the Police Court on Saturday with robbing Thomas McDerby of \$270, and was remanded until this morning.—Mr. Copland defended the prisoner.

LECTURE.—Rev. James Nimmo lectures tomorrow night in the Lyceum Hall on Mormonism. The subject is an interesting one, and will doubtless draw a full house.

THE FLORIDA BULLYING BRAZIL.—A diary kept by Charles Quinn, chief engineer of the Anglo rebel pirate Florida, has lately come to light. It embraces the period between Jan. 16, 1863, and March 17, 1864, and reveals many curious and important facts. Here is a brief entry in it, which shows how confidently and with what success these rascals rely on the power of impudence to overcome the scruples of weak kneed officials in foreign ports.

OFF PARRAMARIBO, May 9, 1863.—Got permission from the President to remain only twenty-four hours. When that time had expired we were not ready to leave. Thereupon Captain Maffit wrote a letter to the President, telling him if he compelled us to leave when we were not ready, that as soon as the war was over with us and the Yankees, our Government hearing of the insult, would send back for satisfaction. Thereupon the President added three days to our stay in Oregonian.

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 7, 1865.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Monday, Feb. 27. House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, McClure, Tolmie, Dickson, Dennes.

ELECTION PETITIONS. The Speaker announced that he had received a petition against the return of Mr. Leonard M. Clure, Esq. The 14 days during which petitions may be presented had elapsed but a further period of several days must be allowed for the presentation of the petition before the matter can be referred to the Election Committee.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR. Dr. Dickson asked leave to introduce a bill to enable the Chief Justice to appoint a public administrator to take charge of the effects of deceased persons. The great necessity of an appointment of this kind must be apparent to every hon. member of the House—Leave granted.

STATUTES OF THE COLONY. Mr. DeCosmos moved that the House be supplied with printed copies of the Statutes of the colony for the years 1863 and 1864—Agreed to.

PILOT STATISTICS. Mr. DeCosmos moved for Statistics in accordance with the provisions of the Pilot Act. He believed that the returns had been handed in to the Pilot Commissioners, and they should be laid before the House—Motion agreed to.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS. The House went into Committee on the money clause of the bill respecting Marriages, Births and Deaths, Dr. Dickson in the chair.

Dr. Powell, in introducing the bill, read the provisions of it, which were for the appointment of salaried Registrars in the different districts, also compelling clergymen to send in reports of marriages, births and deaths to the Registrar General.

Mr. DeCosmos agreed with the principle of the bill, but, looking at the whole country from Nanaimo round to Sooke as only one county, he thought the whole matter might be managed by the Registrar General. Dr. Powell said so far as marriages were concerned this might be practicable, but as to births and deaths the case was different; in regard to deaths for instance, the bill proposed to allow no burial to take place without a medical certificate that the death was a natural one, and if this could only be obtained through the Registrar General it might cause very great inconveniences.

Dr. Helmcken agreed with the principle of the bill, and said a similar bill had once passed the House, but had been rejected by the Council. He disapproved, however, of the appointment of salaried Registrars. The duties of Registrar in the country districts could easily be filled by the Justices of the Peace, or the School-masters, and they should be paid wholly by fees. Registration should be compulsory in all cases. The bill must necessarily be imperfect in a new country like this.

The bill was reported, read a first time and ordered to be printed.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. This bill was read a second time, and ordered to be sent to committee.

INCORPORATION BILL. Wednesday next (tomorrow) will be devoted to the consideration of the Incorporation Bill in committee.

House adjourned till to-day (Tuesday) when the Estimates will come up for recomittal.

WEDNESDAY, March 1st. House met at 3:15 p. m. Members present—Messrs. DeCosmos, Powell, Franklin, McClure, Dickson, Dennes.

ELECTION PETITION. The petition of Mr. C. B. Young against the return of Mr. Leonard M. Clure as member for Victoria was ordered to be referred to the Election Committee.

LAND REGISTRY ACT. This bill, as amended by the Legislative Council, came before the House. The amendments which were of a trivial nature were agreed to and the bill passed.

INCORPORATION ACT. The House went into committee on the Incorporation Act, a motion of Mr. Franklin's to postpone it for one week to await the result of the bill now before the House resting a second.

Mr. DeCosmos said he considered this bill was calculated to advance the best interests of the city. The bill had three principles—territory, authority, and responsibility. The main points of argument on the bill would be on the first two points. As to territory, that was a point which could very readily be settled, whether the territory be great or small. Clause 1 proposed to repeal in toto the old Incorporation Act, and commence de novo. The old by-laws would not be repealed, however, but their validity would be tested as if the Act had not been repealed.

Clause 2, provided for the Incorporation of the city, and for the transfer of the rights and liabilities of the old Corporation to the new one. Dr. Helmcken objected to passing the clause, so far as regards Schedule A, which enlarged the limits of the city, and included many persons who objected to be so included, as they had already paid large sums from their private funds for roads, &c., and did not wish to be taxed for city improvements in addition. He believed if the people outside did not wish to be included they should be left out. He himself, however, was in favor of a large Corporation, and believed that those outside people would long petition to be admitted into the corporation. A second point was that giving power to collect the debts of the old corporation. He thought it better to let these debts go, and begin de novo.

Mr. DeCosmos said by passing this section the House did not pass the Schedule fixing the boundaries. The Schedule would be considered in detail.

The clause passed.

thought that the \$600 proposed by the bill was just \$500 too much. There were many men who were not possessed of this qualification, but who would make good and efficient public servants. Mr. McClure said if we gave the people power to govern themselves we should allow them to elect whoever they thought fit. If Councilors did not regard their solemn oath to do their duty the possession of \$500 would not make them more efficient or trustworthy. In a small community like Victoria it was absurd to place such restrictions on the actions of the people. The choice of Municipal representatives was already sufficiently limited.

Mr. Franklin said both voters and representatives should have a stake in the country. Mr. DeCosmos said the proposed qualification was the same as had been in force for the last three or four years. Mr. Dennes said if he had not been in the chair he would have proposed to expunge the clause altogether. At home no qualification was required, and the man of the best character was the most suitable man.

The clause was carried by the casting vote of the chairman.

The word Councilor was made Councilman by the same vote. Clause 8, declaring the disqualifications of Mayor and Councilmen, was passed as in the printed bill; also Clause 9, declaring who shall be exempted from serving.

On Clause 10, declaring the qualifications of voters to be, being British subjects resident in the colony for three months, and being ratepayers. Dr. Helmcken moved that "British" be struck out. Those who had to pay the taxes, whether they were British or foreign, ought to have the right to vote. He believed that it would do a great deal of good to the Corporation, and would not affect the loyalty of the population at all.

Mr. DeCosmos objected to any other than British subjects being allowed to vote. Foreigners were not to be admitted to the franchise, and as they paid taxes to the general government they might just as well be allowed to vote at general elections and also to represent the electors themselves. That would be the effect of the hon. gentleman's principle if carried out.

Mr. Franklin had at one time fought with his honorable colleague that foreigners should not be voters, but now he thought it would be a wise policy to interest foreigners in public affairs, particularly in municipal matters. He certainly would support and advocate the admission of foreigners as voters, and the day might come when they would be allowed to obtain the further privileges alluded to by his honorable colleague. In British Columbia, by Her Majesty's Order in Council, foreigners were allowed to vote, and he believed that one honorable member was elected by a majority of Chinese.

Mr. McClure said the honorable gentleman's speech showed that this was an age of revolutions. It was but a short time ago that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Franklin) was perfectly horrified at the thought that a Chinaman might vote at municipal elections (laughter). The hon. gentleman had advanced the best argument against his position by admitting that the foreigners did not desire the privilege. They were not allowed this privilege in any other colony but British Columbia, nor were British subjects allowed to vote in foreign countries. In California no British subject could vote in municipal or any other affairs. There might be no injury at present in the amendment; but he could foresee a time when candidates for municipal honors would be pandering to a foreign element in order to secure their election (hear, hear). It was a source of astonishment to him that gentlemen who were so ready to hamper the privileges of British subjects should be anxious to extend these privileges to foreigners.

Dr. Helmcken repudiated the stigma that candidates might be found pandering to a foreign element, and said the British people were not in the habit of pandering to any one so far as he was concerned he had never attempted to hamper the privileges of British subjects. He did not intend to create a debate on this point, but he must reiterate that he was strongly in favor of foreigners being allowed to vote in municipal matters.

Dr. Powell said a little more than a year ago this very question created a great excitement, the point then being that voters should be "British born," he was glad to see that so much more liberal views were now entertained in the House. He favored the amendment of the hon. member for Metehoon.

Dr. Dickson strongly opposed allowing foreigners to usurp the privileges of British subjects. He would, however, suggest that the question should be postponed till a larger attendance of honorable members was present.

Mr. McClure looked on the question as a great innovation, and supported the postponement of the clause.

The postponement was lost by the casting vote of the Chairman, and the words "British subject" were also struck out by the same vote.

Mr. McClure said the clause as amended would allow Strangers to vote (laughter).

The Committee then rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned at 5 o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, Feb. 27. The Council met at 3 p. m. Present—The Hon. Col. Secretary (presiding), Attorney General, Surveyor General, H. Rhodes and R. Finlayson.

THE INCORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL. The Council went into Committee on this bill, the Hon. Attorney General in the chair. The Hon. Colonial Secretary said since the Council last met he had made enquiries into the effect which the retrospective powers would have, and he had in consequence arrived at the conclusion that it would be impolitic to pass the bill with retrospective power. He found on enquiry that there was an assessment in April '63, and the taxes so assessed were for the most part paid. In October of the same year there was another assessment. An objection was then taken to the act which was upheld, and only about one-fifth of that assessment was paid. He thought it would be hard to make the four-fifths who had objected to the tax now to pay up what they were not then required to pay, and he should therefore recommend that the bill should be so worded as to cause the Council to commence de novo from the passing of this act.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes said he had favored making the act retrospective because the Hon. Colonial Secretary had said that it would be better to let by-gones be by-gones. He thought the right of those who had paid in good faith should be protected.

Hon. Attorney General said he thought that those who had protested against the payment should be protected, but not others.

Hon. Mr. Rhodes said it was not everyone who would have taken the same precaution as he had done. He was especially urged to pay at the time by one of the city officers when the Corporation was in full working order, and did so under protest; but he afterwards found out that the very officer who had urged him to pay had not paid his own taxes (laughter). It was not on public but on private grounds that the tax was resisted.

Hon. Attorney General—Certainly! Mr. Rhod, however, declared that he resisted on constitutional grounds alone.

Hon. Colonial Secretary said it would occasion great trouble and perhaps involve the city in much litigation to enforce payment of the tax from four-fifths of the rate payers. About \$15,000 was paid in the first assessment, and only about \$3,000 on the second.

The Hon. Attorney General suggested that as this was a private bill they might ascer-

tain first whether the Corporation would be prepared to refund to those who had paid. The Hon. Surveyor General said it would be better for the Corporation to refund honorably than to fight nearly every tax payer in Victoria.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary remarked that the money had all been expended. The Corporation was at present wholly without available funds.

Considerable discussion followed as to whether the taxes should be refunded, or otherwise in what manner protection could be given to those who had already paid, in the course of which the Hon. Mr. Rhodes referred the Council to the Legislative Enactment of 26th May, 1864, which exempted those who had previously paid real estate taxes in similar manner, and it was thereupon suggested that the bill now before the Council should be so amended as to meet the present case.

Sec. II then passed with literal amendments. Sec. II passed on motion of the Hon. Mr. Rhodes, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Finlayson in an amended form limiting rates levied by way of per centage on professions, trades and businesses to \$500 on fixed rates and one-half of one per cent. on transactions.

Sec. III was introduced as a new clause on motion of Hon. Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Hon. Colonial Secretary exempting all those who had already paid under the City Assessment of October, 1863, from contributing a like amount under the next assessment.

The Hon. Attorney General dissented on the ground that the clause indirectly had retrospective effect to which he had already given his objections. The remainder of the clauses were then passed and the bill reported complete. The Council then adjourned to Wednesday next at the usual hour.

Wednesday, March 1st. The Council met yesterday at 3 p. m. Present—The Hon. Col. Secretary (presiding), Attorney General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, R. Finlayson and H. Rhodes.

CENSUS BILL. The Hon. Colonial Secretary presented the following report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the above bill:

"Your committee have considered a bill to provide for taking the census of the Colony, and for obtaining other statistical information, and are of opinion that in the absence of any sufficient machinery which would be provided by the creation of Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages, it is not at present practicable to carry out the provisions of the proposed bill, and that therefore it should be postponed.

"Your Committee beg further to report that being impressed with the importance of collecting statistics at an early period, they are of opinion that His Excellency the Governor should be requested to take such steps for that purpose as he may deem desirable, pending legislation on the subject."

INCORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL. The consideration of this bill was resumed in Committee and after considerable discussion the third reading of this bill was deferred to the next sitting of the Council.

STATE OF THE COLONIES. The Hon. R. Finlayson in pursuance of notice of motion handed in a series of resolutions on the state of the colonies.

The Chairman stated that the hon. gentleman was out of order, inasmuch as he had given notice only that he should introduce the consideration of the resolutions of the House of Assembly, and this House was not prepared to discuss another series of resolutions without due notice.

The hon. mover then gave notice that he would, at the next sitting, introduce the resolutions which were in favor of Union of the Colonies, praying Her Majesty's Government to base representation on permanent population.

POSTAL BILL. The Council went into committee on this bill, the Hon. H. Rhodes in the chair, and reported progress at Clause VI, when the Council adjourned till three p. m. to-day.

SUMMARY COURT.

Before His Honor, Chief Justice Cameron. Monday, Feb. 27th, 1865.

His Honor took his seat at 10 a. m. McKay vs. Wallace—John G. McKay of Bastion street sued Alex. W. Wallace of Bentinck street for \$212 for goods sold and delivered, &c. The case was partially heard at the last sitting of the Summary Court. The defendant pleaded a set off.

His Honor disallowed the set off and gave judgment for \$200 and costs remarking that he contemplated supplying a desideratum by introducing a system of weights and measures into the Legislature.

Cary vs. Victoria Water Works Co. limited—Defendants did not appear. The plaintiff was sworn and proved his claim and His Honor gave judgment for the amount claimed—\$68 82.

Cary vs. Victoria and Esquimalt Railway Co. limited—Defendants were sued for \$230 and not appearing the plaintiff was heard and judgment given for the amount claimed.

F. H. Gardner vs. Martin and Dennes—The plaintiff sued defendants jointly for \$30 claimed as and for rent due by the defendants to whom he had jointly leased the premises on Broad street. For Mr. Dennes it was pleaded that the premises were hired by Martin with whom he had settled. The case was only partly heard.

Lavery and Beddard vs. Oldham—This was a summons to recover \$38 for goods sold and delivered. Defendant did not appear and judgment was given for the amount claimed.

Mining Case. Thomas vs. Milton—Plaintiff Harman Thomas sued Washington Milton for \$72 due upon a promissory note made by the defendant in his favor.

Mr. Green appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Drake for the defendant.

The defence set up was want of consideration. Plaintiff was sworn and produced agreement between the parties in April, 1864 wherein the promissory note was alleged to be given by the defendant to plaintiff in settlement of the purchase of an interest in a mining claim. Plaintiff further stated that he was settling up his affairs at the time in order to proceed to Cariboo and it was at the defendant's own request that he took the note upon which he now sued.

Mr. Drake cross-examined the witness minutely on the registration of the mining claim in question with a view to establish the fact that the claim was at present registered in the name of the plaintiff.

Witness replied very candidly to the questions and explained that he registered the claim last year in his own name in consequence of the defendant not being a free miner and not being in Cariboo. He had derived no benefit from the claim.

Mr. Alexander proved the signing of the agreements both of which were written by the defendant and purposed to be true copies. Mr. Drake for the defence called the defendant who stated that his deceased brother had been a mining partner of the plaintiff, and the latter came down to make arrangements with him for continuing it. Defendant paid plaintiff \$164, and produced written agreement whereby plaintiff engaged to work and if possible to sell the claim and forward the share of proceeds to him, and in any case to have the interest registered in his name before October. The share had never been so registered nor had he received any benefit therefrom.

In answer to Mr. Green witness said that he had never tendered a transfer of the share for plaintiff to sign. He was not a free miner. He had heard plaintiff and Alexander say that the two agreements written by him were signed at the same time and were said to be exact copies. Could not remember if such was the case.

Mr. Drake and Mr. Green addressed the court and His Honor after commenting on the discrepancy in the agreements said he would reserve his decision.

Higgins & McMillan vs. Rise—Judgment for \$18.

Curtis & Moore vs. Tiedeman—Judgment for \$13.

Gilmore vs. Martin—Judgment for \$35.

SUPREME COURT—Cary vs. Wood—The libel suit instituted by Mr. George Hunter Cary against Mr. Thomas Lett Wood, Acting Attorney General, to recover damages laid at \$5000, was heard yesterday before Chief Justice Cameron and a special jury consisting of Messrs. H. Nathan, (foreman), A. H. Guild, (apt. Nagle, J. Langley, B. P. Griffin, Thos. C. Nuttal, N. J. Newstead and J. Todd. The alleged libel arose out of the assertion and publication by the defendant that the plaintiff had undertaken the recovery of debts at a specified percentage, and also that he had received fees contingent on the success of his clients in certain civil suits. The defendant pleaded not guilty, partial justification, and that the alleged libel arose out of judicial proceedings then pending in the law courts of British Columbia. The plaintiff and defendant conducted their own cases, the former being advised by Mr. Bishop and the latter by Mr. Green. The defendant called Martin Raby, of the Raby Claim; Mr. James Wilcox, of the Moffat Claim, and other witnesses and himself gave evidence at some length, denying in most positive terms that any percentage or contingent fees had been received by him as charged. After hearing the evidence and the arguments of counsel, his Honor sent the case to the jury, who after about a quarter of an hour's absence, returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages \$400. Mr. Wood desired the judge to request the jury to state on what grounds they had found their verdict. His Honor asked them to say whether the affidavit filed was in course of a judicial proceeding, to which they replied that it was not.

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LOOK—Drawing Room, Dining Room, Bed Room Library, Hall, Staircase, Parlor, Corridor, China, Musical, Astronomical, Church, Turf, Stable, Railway, Post-office, Shop, Wash-house, Office, or Counting House, from 1,000 guineas to 21s. each.

Table with columns for Watch types (Patent Lever, Jewelled, etc.) and prices in Open and Closed cases.

Benson's Illustrated Watch Pamphlet will be sent Post Free for Six Copies, containing the History of Watchmaking, with description and prices of every kind of Watch now made, and from which merchants and others can select, and have their orders sent by Post to the Colonies, or any part of the world.

Postoffice Orders, Bankers' Drafts, or Bills upon London Houses, must be made payable, and addressed to JAMES W. BENSON, WATCH AND CLOCK MANUFACTURER, 33 and 34, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON. ESTABLISHED 1740.

Tuesday, THE BRITISH COLONIST.

Our New Westminster Columbian, like many of our pet schemes, has not yet been put on foot.

Advocacy of the neighboring colony "Victoria Press" feels almost shocked.

Journalism in Vancouver is a serious business, and the "British Columbian" is a serious business.

Of the greatest character that anything having to do with the progress of the colony can be.

Something so utter that our New Westminster almost apologises for being so in the way.

New Westminster sentiment—sorry which has found other civilised colonies from the banks of the may get rich by honest industry only of its neighbors.

The world becomes in the welfare of America is a rival but let her be earth-to-morrow, and why of the very nations in commerce and most intense suffer the picture the injury, always injures of despotisms, their own greatness neighbors; but a any kind cannot rivals perish.

Columbians, the the injury which "Tariff" might in proportion will Columbia, we are in very easy of either cause direct New with the gation difficulties, merits direct wents by way of Commerce comp ment, &c., of Westminster at would go but a additional risk.

To put the mat cost the Victo the lowest com New Westminster trader would be while the We pay duty on the numbers, \$110 would pay \$22 same goods w Victorian merc including the &c., cost in B those of the would cost \$1 15 per cent of export wo both ways the Now what w Why, that as brought the shipment paid cost more the Westminster, encouraging t would occur i would have to onal taxation, the colony at food on the therefore, take that direct sh the revenue an goods to the n large amount further over t rary we are s blunders. A will make a d portations for ster of 50 pe pared with v of goods via dry goods v tation, be la per cent. ch they were u with a ven saved on a cent. is save might readi so gross a b the pen, bu absurdity th

The Weekly Colonist.

Tuesday, March 7, 1865.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN ON THE VICTORIA PRESS.

Our New Westminster contemporary, the Columbian, like many enthusiastic admirers of pet schemes, has allowed his usually correct judgment to be very easily warped in his advocacy of the late fiscal changes in the neighboring colony.

He feels almost shocked at the inconsistency of journalism in Vancouver Island. As a specimen of these defects he selects from the Columbian the assertion that, while the new tariff is a serious blow aimed at the commercial supremacy of Victoria, it is also injurious to British Columbia.

This is a contradiction of the greatest character. How it is possible that anything having for its object the injury of Vancouver Island could by any means retard the progress of British Columbia is something so utterly incredible and absurd that our New Westminster contemporary almost apologises for not doing it.

We would be sorry indeed to think that this was either New Westminster logic or New Westminster sentiment—sorry to think that the truths which have found a resting place in every other civilized country should be repelled from the banks of the Fraser.

The footpad may get rich by robbing the traveller, but honest industry only increases by the prosperity of its neighbors. The more progressive the world becomes in the aggregate, the greater the welfare of individual nations or countries.

America is a rival of England and of France but let her be blotted from the face of the earth to-morrow, and what would be the result? Why of all the countries in the world the very nations that are competing with her in commerce and manufactures would be the most injured sufferers.

Were we to reverse the picture the result would be the same— injury, always injury. It may suit the views of despots, thirsting after power, to raise their own greatness on the ashes of their neighbors; but commerce or industries of any kind cannot afford to have even their rivals perish.

When we tell the British Columbian, therefore, that in proportion to the injury which the "New Westminster Tariff" might inflict upon Victoria just in proportion will that injury react on British Columbia, we are making an assertion which is very easy of proof.

The new tariff will either cause direct shipments or it will not. Now with the present limited capital of the New Westminster merchants and with navigation difficulties, it is evident that shipments direct will cost much more than shipments by way of Victoria.

tion, we would advise him, before taking upon himself the task of censor of the Victoria press, to give the articles heartily to criticize more careful consideration, and bring to his own productions more matured thought.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, Feb. 28.

NATURAL CURIOSITY.—Our readers will probably remember reading in the Colonist of January 31 a description of a mammoth egg weighing 5 1/2 ounces and measuring 4 inches in length and 1 1/2 inches in diameter, laid by a hen at San Juan Island.

A DARING ATTEMPT AT BURGLARY was made at the Registrar's office, Government Buildings, yesterday morning. Some second-class entered the office through one of the windows facing the House of Assembly, and proceeded with the aid of a crow-bar to break through the brick wall of the fire proof vault containing the books and papers of the department.

MECHANICS' LECTURE.—The Readings and Recitations before the Elocution Class in connection with the Mechanics' Institute, attracted a considerable number of spectators to the Debating room last evening. Mr. Haskinson occupied the chair. The exercises delivered and the various comments and criticisms thereon excited a good deal of interest in the audience.

A CASE FOR THE CHARITABLE.—Some members of the St. Andrew's Society and others are kindly endeavoring to collect sufficient funds to enable the unfortunate lunatics now confined within the precincts of the gaol to be sent home to their friends. A dollar or two from every one who can spare it will be well spent in aiding the good work.

FINED FOR ASSAULT.—A Fort Rupert Indian named Charley, was yesterday fined \$20 for an aggravated assault upon a Timpanean woman, and an additional \$10 for damage to property.

BAIL FORFEITED.—John Campbell was charged yesterday in the Police Court with committing a violent assault upon a Fort Rupert Indian named Peter, and failing to appear his bail of \$25 was forfeited.

LEECH RIVER.—Mr. Barnett, the indefatigable Leech River Expressman, came in from the mines last evening. The weather has been very severe, the snow being in places 4 1/2 feet deep, and the frost the most intense that has been experienced on the Creek this season.

THE SHOOTING CASE.—Further evidence was taken yesterday in the Police Court on the charge of shooting and wounding preferred against the half-breed Lazar. An Indian woman deposed to having seen the prisoner load his gun with ball and as he threatened to shoot her she made off and hid herself.

FOR QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLAND.—The Queen Charlotte Copper Mining Company yesterday despatched the sloop Eagle to the island to bring down the men now at the mine, and also a load of ore. Owing to the schooner Onward, which had been sent up by the Company, having been refused a clearance from Burnard's Inlet, the Eagle will endeavor to proceed to New Westminster clear, but it is doubtful if she will succeed as the present cold snap will probably close the river should it continue for a few days.

THE HOE NUISANCE.—Messrs. Jay & Co's Nursery, Grounds on Cook street, suffered much damage on Monday evening from some hogs that effected an entrance and destroyed thousands of valuable tulip and other choice flowering bulbs. It is time the Corporation or some other power caused this increasing nuisance to be abated, or the country will be overrun with "porkers." Let the cry be "root hog and die!"

HARD FROST.—On Monday it blew a gale of wind from the westward, with occasional snow squalls, and during the night the wind veered round to the north and became piercingly cold. A keen frost set in, the sharpest yet experienced this winter, liquids being frozen solid even in warm kitchens, and despite the attempts of old Sol to diffuse warmth it froze hard all day yesterday.

Thursday, March 2. A DARING ATTEMPT AT BURGLARY was made at the Registrar's office, Government Buildings, yesterday morning. Some second-class entered the office through one of the windows facing the House of Assembly, and proceeded with the aid of a crow-bar to break through the brick wall of the fire proof vault containing the books and papers of the department.

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AMMUNITION. TARGET. ELEY'S AMMUNITION. Double Waterproof Central Fire Caps, Felt Wadding to prevent the leading of Guns, Wire Cartridges for killing Game, &c., at long distances.

ELEY'S AMMUNITION. of every description for Sporting or Military Purposes. Double Waterproof Central Fire Caps, Felt Wadding to prevent the leading of Guns, Wire Cartridges for killing Game, &c., at long distances.

PRIZE MEDAL. Crinolines and Corsets. The only Prize Medal for excellence of workmanship and new combinations in a corset.

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PICKLES, SAUCES, JAMS. C. & B. invite attention to the following—Pickles, Tart Fruit, Sauces of all kinds, Jams, Potted Meats, Durham Mustard, Orange Marmalade, Essence of Coffee, Galfs, and other Tobaccos.

PROTECTION FROM FIRE. Prize Medal 1862. Prize Medal 1863. BRYANT & MAY'S Patent Special Safety Matches.

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DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S Chlorodyne. CHOLERA, DYSENTERY, DIARRHOEA, GRAMP, AGUE, FEVER, RHEUMATISM, CONSUMPTION, ASTHMA, COUGHS, &c.

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W. BENSON'S PATENT MANUFACTORY. PATENT MANUFACTORY, STATE HILL, LONDON.

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To the Editor of the British Colonist.—Sir, Your composition printed "60" instead of "10" in my last letter, and J. P. C. makes this small error the basis for nearly one-half of another long communication. It cannot be possible that J. P. C. was so obtuse as not to see the error. It would do him great injustice to even make the insinuation. He says the little error plainly; but being afflicted with cacothia scribenda, it afforded him a fine opportunity for a momentary relief from the disease, and he availed himself of it. Unfortunately the effectual cure of J. P. C. would not alter or modify the unpleasant fact that the miner will have his grub increased in price in consequence of this tariff, not less than ten, and perhaps not more than fifty per cent. Nor will his figures, made out to suit himself, make any one more reconciled to the payment of this tax or fifty per cent. advance. These such an advance will be made, we have only to look over the prices current of Williams Creek for a week after the passage of the tariff act reaches there or to consult any honest trader on that creek.

J. P. C.'s "snug" little illustration on teaming is funny—decidedly funny. Like the proposition of the mouse to "bell the cat" it would do well enough if the thing could be done. The seven yoke of oxen and two wagons can be readily had at Yale for \$2200; but after this, practice knocks J. P. C.'s "snug" theory into the regions of air castles at once. And why? 1st. Interest on the money is worth more than two per cent. in the country; 2d. Wear and tear of the wagon would be nearer twenty than ten per cent.; 3d. Shoeing oxen for the trip would cost not less than \$130; 4th. Hay and feed required from Yale to Williams Creek and back for seven yoke of oxen would cost about ten times the amount here given; 5th. The wages and grub of two men would be fully double what it is here put down; 6th. Incidentals for the trip would depend entirely upon the good fortune and management of the driver; 7th. The road toll alone is 2 1/2 cts. per pound, and there are three crossings where the toll is a 1/2 cts. at each; 8th. No ox team that ever hauled a wagon will be able to make three trips to Williams Creek and back to Yale in one season; 9th. The cost of wintering a team will depend entirely upon the severity of the winter; 10th. No seven yoke of oxen will ever haul loads of ten thousand pounds each over that road—an average load will not exceed 7000 lbs. Then if our practical (?) friend J. P. C. will undertake to put into operation his snug little theory, he will do like many other unfortunate teamsters have done in that country, and be most fortunate if he escapes the custody of a bailiff in the fall. So much for J. P. C.'s theorizing. In your next suppose you show us, Mr. J. P. C., by your arithmetic, how snugly the trader can make 150 or 200 per cent on his goods in the mines with the tariff, tonnage dues, road toll and freight added in. On that subject you can speak from experience, perhaps, and when you get through we may be able to see how snugly the miner can pay all these snug little profits and not feel the weight of the increased tariff.

Now a categorical answer to your summing up, which is really the substance of all you have written, and I have done: 1. We are all interested in having goods carried to Cariboo at the lowest possible rates. 2. We do not believe the finishing of the "wagon road" is above all things necessary. We believe retrenchment in the expenses of the colony—liberal encouragement to prospecting—rational efforts to develop the gold fields, and to make the burden of taxation bear more equally upon the various industries of the country, are matters of far more importance to the healthy progress of the colony than the extravagant outlays for roads. The roads are already far in advance of other public improvements there, and we have paid enough for the present. 3. The British Columbian Government is not justified in raising the duties on the necessary of life. The inhabitants of the colony are not in circumstances to justify such an act. The Gold export tax was enough. If more money must be had, let it be raised by some other means than raising the cost of living in the mines. 4. The miner does not believe this increased tariff will raise the price of his grub for one year, and lower the cost of freight "from 10 to 20 cents per pound forever after." He don't see it. The wild theories of all the visionaries in the country will never prove it. Sound, healthy competition in trade alone will do this. That competition cannot and will not be had unless the extent of the gold fields in Cariboo is made larger by new discoveries.

Adios, J. P. C.; "be virtuous and you will be happy." Yours truly, B. P. A. March 1, 1865.

J. P. C. ON THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TARIFF. Victoria, March 1st. To the Editor of the British Colonist.—Sir, In reading some letters signed J. P. C., which appeared recently in your paper, purporting to defend the British Columbia Customs Amendment Act against the onslaught of the justly indignant miners of British Columbia, I notice the following class of statements rather prevalent, viz: "But they have no money—Governor Seymour in his address to the Council told them that he tried to borrow in England, but could not borrow; in this case what was the British Columbia Government to do?" but fleeces the miners for the benefit of New Westminster and a host of unnecessary and over paid officials, &c. And again: "My position then is this—that inasmuch as the British Columbia Government could not borrow the money required they were justified in raising the duties, &c."

Now, sir, I cannot find in your report of Governor Seymour's address to the Council (21-1-65) a statement to the effect mentioned, and curious to state, I heard the agents general say in August, '63, when disposing of the Debentures issued under the British Columbia Loan Act of 1863, that as a matter of course they could raise in London any amount required for that colony at a low rate of interest, say not exceeding 5 or 6 per cent

per annum, since there was an Imperial guarantee, but that it was singular that any amount was offered to meet the Vancouver Island £40,000 loan then being effected, without any such guarantee at similar low rates. The inference to be drawn is this—either Governor Seymour did not make any such statement and J. P. C.'s letter is undeserving of credit, or if Governor Seymour did so state and therefore snub is the fact, the Legislature of British Columbia must have played a very old Harry with the credit of the country in a very short interval of time; there must be something rotten in the State and the sooner they retract their steps the better for the colony.

Facilis decensus avertis, &c. Quot obediens servant. X. Y. Z. ANOTHER LETTER FROM J. P. C. To the Editor of the British Colonist. Sir,—My esteemed friend, Capt. Evans, must excuse me if I object to his attempt to make it appear that I underestimate the miners' judgment. Captain Evans will admit that there are two sides to most questions, and that many sensible men's opinions have been changed after hearing the other side. One side only was presented at the miners' meeting, and I have presented the other side. I hold the miners to have as clear a judgment on questions that concern them, as any class of men I ever met. But no man can be expected to judge with discretion, upon a given question, if he has been misled as to the facts. Now it is alike the fault of the miners' meeting, and the letters of B. P. A. and Captain Evans, that they all try to make it appear that the cost of living to the miner is greatly increased in price by the new tariff. B. P. A. says the "miner's grub" will be increased in price 50 or 60 per cent., Captain Evans says "the duty on flour is increased 160 per cent., on bacon, 50 per cent., &c.," but neither of these gentlemen attempt to controvert the fact of my position, that the increase of duties at New Westminster will not add more than two per cent. to the cost of the necessities of life in Cariboo, and that to state otherwise is to misrepresent the facts and mislead the miners.

Ingrate with Capt. Evans that the Government of British Columbia is excessively expensive for its limited population; and that there should be a "better supervision in the expenditure of money under the head of road making." I trust Governor Seymour will never again allow himself to make such a contract as to pay \$80,000 for 20 miles of road, which is practically useless, because of the 35 miles left unfinished between Alexandria and Quesselle, and which looks as if it had been left unmade for the particular benefit of the steamboat monopoly of the Upper Fraser. If any accident happened to that steamer, the cost of carrying to Williams Creek would be increased 10 to 20 cents per pound at once.

So far I have pleasure in agreeing with my friend Capt. Evans; and were he and his co-workers to institute a serious agitation to reduce the expenses of Government, they would have my hearty co-operation, but Capt. Evans knows as well as any one, how useless it would be to expect a reduction of such expenses, until after a most earnest agitation of several years. Meantime, the miners would have paid in high prices, the cost of finishing the road many times over. I cannot therefore agree with Capt. Evans in urging the miners to sign the address to Governor Seymour. If the miners regard their own true interests they will do nothing of the kind. J. P. C. FROM THE LONDON PRESS. New York, Feb. 16.—Professor Goldwin Smith, in the London News, controverts the opinion of the Manchester papers, and says that, although a compromise with the slave oligarchy was impossible, it is possible that at no distant time, negotiations may happily commence with separate States, over which the oligarchy at Richmond is losing all its usurped powers.

The Index, the Confederate organ in London, ridicules Blair. It does not altogether discredit the peace rumors, but asserts that the North is unmistakably tired of war, and that more rational counsels are beginning to prevail. It claims that the abandonment of the sea coast will add strength to Southern inland forces. The Index then points out how friendship may be restored between the North and South, and that so close an alliance may be formed as to practically make a new Union. Under such circumstances, a war with England or France, or both, would be a necessity.

The Index contends that the United States Government is paving the way for such a war. It says: "The war has reached such a crisis that England and France must decide to become the friends of one of the belligerents, or fight them both." Events are occurring which may precipitate that decision—at least in the case of France. Meantime, the Index bids friends of the South to be of good cheer. It promises them shortly a series of agreeable surprises. It also gives a rumor, alleged to be current in political circles, of an intention on the part of the British Government, to sever its connection with the Canadas before the termination of the American war, so that the finest province of Great Britain may be seized without forcing England into war.

The London Times editorially finds fault with the legal opinion given by Wm. M. Everts in regard to the right of European creditors to recover debts in America on the specie basis. The Times observes: "It is true, that Everts arrives at the satisfactory conclusion that foreign transactions ought to be settled according to the real and not the nominal value of American currency; but the conclusion is expressed so doubtfully, and is fenced around with so many limitations, that those whose interest it is to maintain the opposite opinion, will have little to do."

PURCHASERS would do well to call and examine the stock of Roper & Co. before they buy elsewhere, as in consequence of the dissolution of partnership the whole of the stock must be sold.

DANCING CLASS.—A Dancing Class for young ladies is held at Mrs. Hayward's Schoolroom, Fort street, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

COMMERCIAL.

Per steamer ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—S. A. Phillips, Farn, Martin, Stronach, A. Phinney, G. Lakely, J. White, Newmaster, M. Min, Cesar, Dean, Tallent, F. Sargent, Warren, Kennedy, Melean.

For COMOX.—The schooner Discovery sailed for Comox yesterday morning with 14 passengers, 10 head of cattle, and a quantity of goods for the settlement.

LOADING AT NANAIMO.—The bark Knight Bruce is loading at Nanaimo for San Francisco. She will take 700 tons of coal on board, and will be ready for sea about next Thursday.

FROM THE NORTH.—The steamer Fidelity arrived last night from Comox, Nanaimo and way ports, bringing 25 passengers; 25 tons coal for Brodick and a small quantity of produce.

FROM NANAIMO.—The schooner Goldstream arrived from Nanaimo yesterday with a cargo of 74 tons of coal to Kavanagh & Co.

VESSEL OUTSIDE.—An American bark, deeply laden, came to anchor in Royal Roads, yesterday afternoon. She is doubtless the bark Golden Gate, which is now fifteen days out from San Francisco. The Golden Gate comes consigned to Pickett & Co.

FOR BATAVIA.—The ship General Wyndham will sail this week for Port Ludlow, to load spars for Batavia.

FROM PORT TOWNSEND.—The sloop C. S. Kidder arrived from Port Townsend on Saturday night with passengers.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Business has been rather duller during the past week, the late cold snap having again closed the Fraser above New Westminster, and the trade with Puget Sound having also been very light. The imports for the week have been very small, consisting only of the usual small cargoes of stock and produce from Puget Sound, amounting to \$4553. The imports for the past month have been unusually large, amounting to \$491,862, of which \$343,914 was from England per Princess Royal and General Wyndham, and \$112,847 from San Francisco. The imports from Puget Sound were \$19,323.

The exports for the month to American ports have been smaller than for any similar period during the past year, amounting only to \$10,279. Of this the steamer Geo. S. Wright carried 94 tons, chiefly hardware, to Portland. The exports of coal from Nanaimo have also been extremely light, the total being 960 tons, all for local consumption. This small shipment may be accounted for by the late miners' strike at Nanaimo.

Sales of Flour and Grain have been chiefly limited to local trade. Flour has advanced a trifle and other articles are firm at former rates.

JOBBING RATES.

FLOUR—Extra, \$14 @ \$15.00 per bbl; superfine, 12 1/2 @ \$13.50; Oregon brands, \$11.75 @ \$12.50. CORNMEAL—\$10 @ \$11.00 per 100 lbs. CORN—Scarc; 10c @ 12 1/2c per mat. BEANS—3 1/2 @ 5 1/2 do. SUGAR—Very scarce; Raw, 9 1/2c @ 10 1/2c per bbl; Refined, 15c @ 16c do. COFFEE—Scarc; 25c @ 30c per sack. BUTTER—Best 45c @ 50c per case; ordinary do, 42c @ 45c per firkin. CHEESE—25c @ 30c per case. BACON AND HAMS—Best 25c @ 27c; ordinary do, 18c @ 20c in moderate quantities. WHEAT—Scarc; 3 1/2c @ 4c per bush. MIDDLING, 3 1/2c @ 4c do. OATS—3 1/2c do. BARLEY—3 1/2c @ 4c do. ONIONS—5c @ 6c do. POTATOES—2 1/2c @ 3c per sack. HAY—1 1/2c @ 2c per bale.

PORTLAND MARKET.

Portland, Feb. 17, 1865. There are but few transactions of note connected with the domestic produce market, in consequence of the unfavorable state of the weather. Vegetables are becoming scarce, and dealers are now buying many articles in San Francisco for this market.

The demand for potatoes has somewhat diminished in consequence of the decline in San Francisco. There are no purchases for shipment. We quote to-day, \$1 @ 1 1/2 as the general offers for buttermilk.

Apples are placed upon the market at the average rate of \$2 @ 2 1/2 per box, and as there is hardly a difference between the wholesale and the retail rates, we have taken the former for our report, as those prices appear to cover the whole transactions. Apples of good quality are scarce. We have no large sales to note.

Bacon appears to be going forward to the mining region in abundance. The cargo of the Rival to-day was principally gunnies of the article, transferred to boats for the Columbia immediately. There are large lots on storage awaiting advances. The ruling quotations are 18 @ 20c, with little discrimination between the jobber and the wholesale dealer.

Choice lots of butter are very scarce, the prices, however, remain unchanged. Eggs are plenty and have a downward tendency, we quote offers to-day of 35 @ 40c per doz. Hensy is lower, 15 @ 16 per doz being offered for loose, white-baled rates at \$13 per ton, with dull sale.

The following are prices offered for domestic produce by the city dealers to-day: Flour—Imperial, \$10 per bbl; Standard Mills \$9.00, other brands \$8.50 @ 9.00. Grain—Wheat \$1.50 per bush; Oats, 70c; Barley 2 1/2 @ 3c per bush. Apples—\$2 @ 2 1/2 per box—none offered by the bushel. Butter—Best brands Fresh Oregon 60c per lb; ordinary, 50 @ 55c. Bacon—Sides 18c per lb; hams 18 @ 20c; sugar cured do 22c per lb. Lard—10 lbs cans at 15c; in bulk 16c; choice leaf 18c per lb. Beans—Small white, 3c; white pea, 4c, red 3c. Eggs—Fresh 35 @ 40c per doz. Poultry and Game—Mallard ducks by the quantity, \$2 @ 2 1/2 per doz; geese according to quality, \$3 @ 4 per doz; chickens 25 @ 30c. Potatoes—Best quality choice, \$1.15 per bushel, other varieties \$1 @ 1.10. Hay—Sales at \$1 @ 1 1/2 per ton.

IMPORTS.

Per GEN. HARNEY, from Port Angeles—21 tons hay—value, \$441. Per steamer ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—53 hd cattle & calves, 185 hd sheep, 48 sks oysters, 2 horses, 3 hogs dressed, 14 sks apples, 1 coop chickens, 5 bxs eggs, 40 doz do, 12 bales wool, 3 do furs, 38 bxs bread, 14 bbls sugar—value \$3,112.

EXPORTS.

Per G. S. WRIGHT, from Victoria to Portland-Oregon, 28th February, 1865.—2 bbls Hensons, 439 bars iron, 41 bbls do, 28 do sheet iron, 27 bars steel, 6 cks horse shoes, 3 do chain, 41 boxes tin plates, 1 do saws, 667 sks Liverpool salt, 16 kegs sugar, 4 cks gardines, 1 cks mds, 29 boxes do, 9 bbls carpet, 7 drums paint, 1 case and 1 cask mds—total, 94 tons.

PASSENGERS.

Per steamer ELIZA ANDERSON, from Puget Sound—S. A. Phillips, Farn, Martin, Stronach, A. Phinney, G. Lakely, J. White, Newmaster, M. Min, Cesar, Dean, Tallent, F. Sargent, Warren, Kennedy, Melean.

IMPORTS.

To the Port of Victoria, V. I., for the month ending February 28th, 1865. FROM ENGLAND AND SAN FRANCISCO. Ale & Porter 1637 cases... \$10,655 Iron 25 tons... 450 Brandy 1892 ca... 28,710 Matting 3 bales... 130 Brick 16 ca... 350 Mds 67 ca... 16,174 Bags 20 ca... 300 Oatmeal 50 ca... 300 Bitters 21 ca... 658 Oats 320 sks... 750 Bacon 8 ca... 3000 Oil 10 ca... 285 Butter 150 ca... 3000 Oils men's Stores... 949 ca... 9,265 Blankets 415 bxs... 39,791 Private Rifles 18 cases... 1,050 Coal 145 tons... 7,320 Private Rifles 18 cases... 1,050 Cases 403... 2,406 Private Rifles 18 cases... 1,050 Champagne 2 ca... 600 Flour 4 ca... 760 Coffee 13 ca... 1,770 Paper 18 ca... 390 Confectionery 6 ca... 200 Pipes 32 ca... 350 Candles 249 bxs... 1,125 Perfumery 7 ca... 1,055 Canvas 42 bbls... 7,320 Rice 130 sks... 1,760 Coal 145 tons... 7,320 Rope 115 ca... 1,520 Cloth 10 ca... 5,437 Run 133 hds... 5,233 Drugs 51 ca... 1,925 Stationery 25 ca... 1,768 Dry Goods 119 ca... 31,437 Sugar 5 ca... 50 Furs 2 ca... 370 Saddlery 2 ca... 370 Fruit 191 ca... 8,970 Soap 179 boxes... 649 Furniture 19 ca... 800 Spirits 594 ca... 7,728 Guns 21 ca... 4,230 Soda 43 ca... 2,083 Gun Powder 688... 2,115 chests... 6,400 kegs... 4,210 Tobacco 64 ca... 1,690 Gin 1960 ca... 5,155 Wine 1230 ca... 25,294 Groceries 456 ca... 3,121 Whisky 111 ca... 4,248 Glassware 37 ca... 1,136 Wearing Apparel... 766 Hats & Caps 11 ca... 1,688

Total... \$343,914. FROM SAN FRANCISCO. Apples 115 bxs... \$ 754 Hata 1 ca... \$ 174 Bread 3 bxs... 18 Leather 16 rolls... 1,650 Brooms 50 doz... 213 Lard 82 ca... 1,796 Bitters 25 ca... 120 Lime juice 1 but... 1,175 Butter 304 ca... 10,001 Mds 380 ca... 7,742 Bacon 5 ca... 1,437 Soap 179 boxes... 649 Boots & Shoes 3 ca... 430 Stationery 6 ca... 678 Cases... 2,249 Paper 4 ca... 760 Bags 64 bales... 1,441 Pepper 42 ca... 89 Bacon 10 ca... 1,141 Planos 2... 500 Brandy 34 ca... 1,449 Powder Yeast 75... 2,283 Coffee 22 ca... 1,208 Oysters 10 ca... 310 Corn Meal 20 ca... 1,809 Oil 133 ca... 1,072 Candles 249 bxs... 1,809 Nails 63 bxs... 9,283 Claret 1 ca... 244 Seed 20 ca... 1,338 Cornmeal 49 ca... 289 Seed 30 ca... 586 Corn 92 ca... 605 Stationery 6 ca... 678 Cheese 15 ca... 320 Soap 179 boxes... 649 Dry Goods 27 ca... 4,238 Sundries 294 ca... 1,328 Drugs 51 ca... 796 Safes 2 ca... 350 Express matter... 14,008 Ship Chandlery... 1,719 Fur 42 ca... 138 Sugar 25 ca... 1,049 Hams 6 ca... 18,236 Syrup 119 ca... 301 Furniture 15 ca... 800 Soap 179 boxes... 649 Glassware 26 ca... 1,030 Starch 80 boxes... 111 Gas Fixtures 7 ca... 736 Tobacco 83 ca... 3,214 Groceries 900 ca... 4,430 Turpentine 4 bbls... 58 Hd'rs 498 ca... 7,930 Trunks 59 bales... 3,863 Hosiery 4 ca... 230 Tea 442 chests... 3,894 Hops 4 ca... 303 Wine 62 ca... 289 Horses 1 ca... 400 Wagon 1 ca... 400 Hay 80 tons... 1610 Vinegar 30 ca... 45 Total... \$12,947

FROM PORTLAND. Apples 162 bxs... \$ 375 Fruit 50 bxs... 160 Bacon 27 ca... 113 Groceries 1 ca... 15 Eggs 6 ca... 60 Hams 10 ca... 170 Fruit 1830 ca... 441 Lard 9 ca... 182 Fruit Trees 4 ca... 50 Total... \$7,707

FROM PUGET SOUND. Apples 105 bxs... \$ 218 Horses 1... 100 Bread 30 bxs... 250 Hogs 83 hd... 673 Butter 2 ca... 63 Onions 123 bush... 125 Billed 1 ca... 120 Oysters 59 sacks... 150 Bran 25 ca... 30 Cows 361 hds... 843 Cattle 23 ca... 11,205 Sheep 619 hd... 3,289 Chickens 2 ops... 13 Sugar 2 bbls... 82 Eggs 27 bxs... 123 Trees 4 pkgs... 200 Furs 1 bale... 1510 Wheat 138 bush... 275 Hay 80 tons... 1610 Total... \$19,323

FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA. Furs 17 ca... \$ 5455 Oils 56 ca... 210 Skins 12 ca... 1922 Lumber 43 m... 484 Total... \$8,071

RECAPITULATION. From England... \$343,914 From San Francisco... 112,847 From Portland... 7,707 From Puget Sound... 19,323 From British Columbia... 8,071 Grand Total... \$491,862

EXPORTS.

To American Ports for the month ending February 28th, 1865, compiled from the Books of the U. S. Consulate. FROM SAN FRANCISCO. Ale... \$425 Furs & Skins... \$2,282 30 Boots & Shoes... 106 Personal effects... 100 Clothing... 250 Pictures... 50 Dry Goods... 2,169 24 Seeds... 100 Furniture... 155 Total... \$6,618 72

TO OREGON. Clothing... \$100 Iron... \$245 03 Dry Goods... 1,001 21 Mexican... 1,653 54 Drugs... 193 50 Paper... 25 76 Gin... 5 Total... \$3,104 22

TO FUGET SOUND. Coal... \$38 Hardware... \$ 36 Coffee & Sugar... 354 Tea & Steel... 114 74 Dry Goods... 213 78 Sugar... 545 95 Total... \$1,656 51

RECAPITULATION. To San Francisco... \$6,618 72 To Oregon... 3,104 22 To Puget Sound... 1,656 51 Total... \$11,379 45

NANAIMO EXPORTS.

Statement of Vessels departed from Nanaimo, V. I., during the month of Feb., 1865. Date, Name of Vessel, Master, Tons, Color, Destination. Feb. 1. Stm Fidelity, London, 68 00, Victoria. 2. Stm North Star, Colclough, 35 10, Victoria. 3. Stm Alpha, George, 25 00, Esquimalt. 4. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 5. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 6. HMS Forward, 49 10, Victoria. 7. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 8. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 9. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 10. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 11. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 12. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 13. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 14. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. 15. Stm Fidelity, London, 118 00, Esquimalt. Total... 680 10

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

Feb 27.—Schr Onward, McKay, Nanaimo. Stm Fidelity, London, Nanaimo.

Schr Madras, Everstyn, Sooke. Feb. 28.—Schr Gen Harney, Oberg, Port Angeles. Stm Diana, Wright, New Westminster. March 1.—Stm Eliza Anderson, Finch, Olympia. Schr Swenepackes, Ketter, Saanich. Schr Goldstream, Hewitt, Nanaimo. March 2.—Schr H. L. Tibbals, Peol, New Westminster. Schr Thorndike, Thornton, San Juan. March 3.—Stm Enterprise, Mousat, New Westminster. March 4.—Stm Fidelity, London, Nanaimo. Schr Speedwell, Glasgow, San Juan. Sloop Natve, Jones, Sooke. Schr Onward, McKay, Nanaimo. March 11.—Stm Eliza Anderson, Finch, Port Angeles. March 12.—Schr Eliza, Carleton, Saanich. Schr H. L. Tibbals, Peol, Port Angeles. March 13.—Schr Discovery, Rudlin, Comox. Schr Speedwell, Glasgow, San Juan. Schr Goldstream, Hewitt, Sooke. Schr J. K. Thorndike, Thornton, San Juan. Schr Nanaimo Packet, Phillips, New Westminster.

On the 28th instant, at the Enterprise Hotel, the wife of Samuel G. Foxton, a native of Scotland, died, aged 40 years. On the 28th of February, the wife of J. Swainson, widow of a son of the late James Swainson, died, aged 70 years.

On Tuesday, Feb. 16th, at the residence of the bride's father, near Skotwin Chack, Lewis Co., W. T., by Rev. Charles Taylor, Mr. J. D. Backer to Miss Sarah J. McElroy, recently from Tuscarawas county, Ohio.

On Monday, Feb. 20th, at the residence of J. D. Lamont, Olympia, W. T., by Judge F. M. Sergeant, Mr. James F. Frame to Mrs. Annie A. Blackshere, Daughter of Rev. Stephen Guthrie, of Thurston county, W. T.

At Vancouver, Feb. 21st, by O. H. Hunter, J. P., Mr. Angus McDonald, of Kingston, Canada West, to Miss Fannie Porter, of Headfield, Mead.

In this city on the 28th ult., Mr. John Hume, aged 36 years and 7 months, a native of Upper Woodstock, New Brunswick, died, leaving a wife and 12 New Brunswick papers copy.

On Sunday, the 26th inst., Hannah, second daughter of Mr. John Kinsman, aged 6 years.

Of whomoping cough at St. Paul's Paragon, Nanaimo, V. I., March 2d, Laura Emily Kline, youngest daughter of the Rev. J. B. Good, aged 7 1/2 months.

At New Westminster, on Thursday morning, March 3d, at 1 o'clock, Alexander Turner, youngest son of Mr. J. T. Scott, aged seventeen months, nearly £153, the £100,000 by the account given hands of the sum of \$0 and so we in offices to augmentation freshing in the members relating as to additional to articulates thousand po and hopes th add a second seconded by and of this Lama, the lieved and efforts to pro of the su salaries ar phalanx of opeeel all ment. Wi energy thes ment main good rou stand up lo reformen th their own which we c as it tends ity in the L are not sur Westminst with a kin mate deba courtesy a hybrid Le becoming dis never dies masters, an old spirit down to a large offic and desper We have the above advantages as the PERUVIAN SYRUP.

IMPORTANT TO PERSONS ABOUT TO PROCEED TO MEXICO.—The undersigned having lived in various parts of Mexico, including the metropolis, Mazatlan, &c., and being a professor of the Spanish language, is enabled to prepare, in a very short time, persons about to proceed to that country, in the language, by which they will be able to speak it fluently. He intends opening a new class in Spanish, for beginners, on the 1st of March, at seven o'clock p.m. French lessons also given.—B. Derris, Troncau Alley, off Government street, in the most qualified part of the city.

During the present inclement weather, we would recommend Farmers, Dairymen, and others to call on R. Brodick, who has on hand a large supply of Bras, Shorts, Hays, and Middlings of the very best description.

Notice to Miners.—Every one about to go to Cariboo or Kootenay where they cannot apply to an experienced dental Surgeon whenever they require his assistance, should have their teeth examined and put in order before leaving Victoria. Mr. F. W. CAYE, Surgeon Dentist, Troncau Alley, Government street, is the most qualified part of the city, they can apply to, and his charges for filling, drawing, and scaling teeth, or for fitting artificial teeth singly or in sets, are as moderate as those usually made in the large cities of England and the East.

SCURVY. Scurvy is not confined to Arctic travelers and neglected sailors; it shows a new become a disease among the ill-fed poor in our filthy lanes. Nothing has been found so speedily efficacious in arresting the decomposing tendency of the vital fluids in scorbatic disease as the PERUVIAN SYRUP.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—These wonderful preparations have now become a household name in every part of the world, that they form a complete household treasure; the worst cases of ulcers, wounds, and every variety of skin diseases, for which so many remedies have been tried without effect, readily succumb to their power; they act so miraculously upon the system, as to be considered a complete panacea in the healing art. For this reason they are advocated by many modern practitioners after everything else has proved unsuccessful. Those complaints especially, which affect the secondary and tertiary stages, as must before the rising sun, to the influence of the Pills. External wounds are as readily healed under the Ointment, as the most obstinate ulcers.

COMPLAINTS OF CHILDREN. In the cases of fast-growing and choleric children, predisposed to curvatures and other deformities, it is often desirable to give a tonic without stimulants, and an alterative without irritation. For such a tonic would be impossible to select a preparation combining so many of the above advantages as the PERUVIAN SYRUP.

SOOTHING AND BRACING.—There is no preparation, in existence which has such a soothing effect in cases of nervous excitement as DR. HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS.

Although the fame of this renowned invigorant rests mainly on its astonishing cures of Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, and intestinal disorders, it is equally efficacious in nervous complaints. Thousands of ladies resort to it as a remedy for hysteria, fluttering of the heart, nervous headaches, vertigo, general debility, and all peculiar disturbances and derangements to which, as a sex, they are subject. It cheers and lightens the depressed mental powers as well as strengthens the body, and its use is never followed by any unpleasant reaction. Sold by all Druggists and dealers everywhere.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Indigestion, Acidity on the Stomach.—These corrective and purifying Pills, assisted by the external application of the Ointment, will subdue these troublesome disorders, though assuming an infinity of forms, and under such diagnoses making the skill of the wisest physicians. Their first action is to clear away all obstructions, purify the blood, regulate the secretions, and give tone to the stomach, and energy to the system generally. The cure they effect is not temporary or imperfect, but they work a most marvellous and beneficial change throughout the entire body, and enable it with renovated powers, to resist the approach of future attacks on stomach or liver. They act, likewise, most wholesomely on the kidneys, spleen, bowels, circulation, and nerves.

EVERY (S) AT THE WE UNISHED to Sub months; \$2.50 for

John Meakin, Clarkson & Co., Diets & Nelson, Barnard's Expre

W. B. Burrage, L. P. Fisher, F. Algar, G. Street,

THE BRIT

By the arriv ing we are pr mates of the of that we can tail; for they esting items v Columbia for of the estimat year is £153, nearly £74, the £100,000 by the account given hands of the sum of \$0 and so we in offices to augmentation freshing in the members relating as to additional to articulates thousand po and hopes th add a second seconded by and of this Lama, the lieved and efforts to pro of the su salaries ar phalanx of opeeel all ment. Wi energy thes ment main good rou stand up lo reformen th their own which we c as it tends ity in the L are not sur Westminst with a kin mate deba courtesy a