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Reform in the Constitution of the Colony.

Elections are the order of the day, politics are the principal topics of conversation, in England, America, Spain, and British Columbia; doubtless each country think their own particular affairs the most important, and small as is the power vested in the people of this Colony, we must not forget that there is a possibility of improvement; the evil day cannot last for ever, the one man system must have an end, and the people of British Columbia can hasten that end, by a steady determination to select no members to represent them in the Council, who are not pledged to do their utmost to reform the present system of Government. The taxpayers and electors are one and all of opinion that improvement is needed, none are contented with the existing arrangement, and although the constitution of the Colony gives the people no real voice or substantial share in the Government, it gives them an opportunity of selecting members to represent them who have the courage to stand up in their places in the Legislative Council, and tell the Governor what the people of the Colony desire, and what are their rights and privileges, and who have the perseverance to fight the people's battle step by step, no matter how small the minority in which they find themselves. Nothing can be more dangerous than the policy advocated by some of those who are so opposed to the present fallacious semblance of representative institutions, that they positively shrink from taking any part in keeping up the sham, and with this feeling overcoming all other sentiments they seriously advise that no representatives shall be selected by the people of the Colony—that this is most dangerous advice, no one who gives the subject consideration, will deny. In the first place it would be impossible, even if the people of the Colony were as one man in their unanimity of action, to prevent some persons not truly belonging to the people, from proposing and seconding some members legally qualified for the Council, although in other respects perhaps totally unfitted for it, and in this manner a Council might be made up of nominees; and there would go home to the Colonial Office, false evidence of the concurrence of the people in the policy of the Government; and even if some places in the Colony who are entitled to send representatives, should be sufficiently united to be able to carry out an agreement to refrain from selecting members, what would be the effect? Would it not enable the Governor to repeat his assertion that all is progressing well and favorably, so well indeed that the people were content to leave the full control and direction of public affairs to the Executive. Mr. Seymour has shown himself so incapable of properly discharging the duties of Governor, and the Executive Council have so completely failed in advising measures of any kind for the good of the Colony, that the people's only safeguard consists in sending members to the Council who will protest against the continuance of the present irresponsible and expensive Government. Whether the people of the Colony succeed in their wishes or not, whether Confederation takes place immediately or not, they must not relax in their endeavors until they succeed in obtaining a Governor who will have the energy, at least, to make a show of doing something. The passive and apathetic indolence which pervades every being who is in any way officially connected with the Governor is most disgraceful, and has a most pernicious effect upon the progress of the Colony. As the dense fog and smoke in which we have lately been enveloped has seemed to cast an air of depression upon all active business, so has the listless apathy of the Governor and his disregard of the wants and desires of the people thrown a cloud over the prospects of the country. Had the leading officials in the Colony been men of energy, much of the evil engendered by the want of business habits of the Governor, might have been averted, or at all events counteracted, by a due attention to the administration of public affairs, but unfortunately lack of energy seems to be infectious. There is no determination to infuse any spirit of energy or activity into any branch of the public business of the Colony over which the Executive officers have any control or influence. Lamentable indeed would be the state of the Colony were its affairs left to the undisturbed and unquestioned direction of the Heads of Departments; the gross neglect of the Indians during the growth and progress of the epidemic which is now passing over us, is another instance, if one were wanting, of the want of care and energy of the Governor, and the officers of the Secretariat, whose duty it was to take proper steps to check the spread of the pestilence. But the instances of misgovernment are unfortunately the rule instead of the exception, and under our present system the only means that the people have of guarding the shadow of popular rights which is allowed them, and of obtaining fair representative institutions, is to send energetic, bold, and persevering men into the Council to be a check upon the official part of it, and to strive without ceasing for the rights of the people.

Small Pox.

As some anxiety prevails amongst the public to learn the condition of the disease in regard to the city, we yesterday tried to ascertain particulars. First, the Municipal Sanitary Commission have had all the small tenements, hitherto occupied by Indians in the lower portions of the city, thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed, and the rubbish and nuisances about them removed and burned. An inspection will satisfy anyone that this duty has been well performed. Fresh cases amongst those people are now reported to the authorities at once, and the patients thereupon removed to the hospital at the Reserve, where there is a nurse paid $2 a day, to supply everything requisite during sickness, and to see to immediate interment in case of death. A daily report has also been requested from the members of the medical profession, of cases coming under their cognizance respectively. Up to Monday, and since last report, Dr Davie senr., reported five cases amongst the Indians, four of which proved fatal; on the 13th Dr Powell reported a white man sent to the hospital, since which no further cases were reported to the Town Clerk. It is, however, desirable that every case occurring amongst the white population should be reported as well as those amongst the Indians, in order to prevent a spread of the disease. The authorities should also insist that the interments on the Reserve be made deeper than some of the Indian bodies have been, and that a lot of old Indian clothes and bedding lying at present about there, should be immediately burned. Whatever may be the number of cases amongst the white population, and we have no means of ascertaining accurately, there can be no doubt that amongst the Indians, the disease is abating.

A Question of Going to Bed.—The right of a master to order a servant to go to bed, was the question involved in a case which came before the County Court Judge at Guilford, England, recently. Elizabeth Wheatley sued James White for 16s 8d in lieu of notice. The defendant is the landlord of the Talbot Inn at Ripley. The plaintiff said she was in the service of defendant, who had dismissed her without giving her any notice. The cause of her dismissal was [illegible] kitchen one night and told her to go to bed at a quarter to 10 o'clock. She refused to do so as they never went to bed till half-past 10. On the following morning he threatened to kick her out of the house if she did not go. The Judge gave this decision: 'I think your master was quite right in dismissing you. When your master told you to go to bed it was your duty to do so; and as you did not obey his reasonable commands, he was justified in dismissing you. I shall find a verdict for the defendant.'—*Pall Mall Gazette*

The emigration of women to Canada under the supervision of Miss Rye, has been the subject of a communication from a resident of Montreal to the London *Times*. The writer says: "Having much to do with the English poor in Montreal, and having lived for thirty-six years in various parts of Canada, I would caution the English public, and more particularly that class of women you propose sending out here, against too much enthusiasm in the matter. I have no hesitation in saying, women are not wanted in Canada; there are plenty and to spare here; but the class who should fill the position of household servants prefer a bare living at anything else with their liberty. Consequently, good household servants, and they alone, are needed."

Late Periodicals.—We have received the July numbers of the American publication of the 'London Quarterly,' the Westminster and the Edinburgh Reviews; also the August edition of 'Blackwood,' which are published in New York by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company. We have too, to acknowledge the receipt by last mail of the September copies of the 'Overland Monthly' and California 'Medical Gazette,' before treated of. These latter, as most of our readers will no doubt be already aware, are, we might almost say, local; they are published in San Francisco from the house of A Roman & Company. Most of the articles in all of them are worthy of perusal—they can be had through Hibben & Co, booksellers, of this city.

The Duke of Edinburgh will start in October next on a second cruise in H M S Galetea round the world. The following is the route decided upon: Starting from Plymouth the Duke will proceed to Madeira, Fayal, Ascension, Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, Bombay, Trincomalee, (Ceylon), Madras, Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, Manilla, Yokohama (Japan), down to Sydney and New Zealand, then to Honolulu, and to the beautiful South Sea Islands, Valparaiso, Lima, St Blas, Magalhaen, San Francisco and Vancouver Island, and so returning home. The trip is expected to last one year and ten months.

The Approaching Election.—We have been asked repeatedly during the last few days what the qualification would be at the next election. The only answer to be given is, that there is no statute law upon the matter, and that consequently the qualification is at the sovereign dictation of the Governor. However at the last *selection* of members for the Legislative Council those who were qualified to vote for members of the ex-assembly were alone elegible to select a Legislative Councillor. As British subjects with a property qualification have hitherto had the exclusive right to vote, we presume a similar qualification will be enforced at the ensuing selection.

A Large Farm.—Two wealthy, enterprising gentlemen of Harrison county, Ohio, have purchased a township six miles square, in Nebraska, of Government land, and propose to convert the whole into one grand farm of 23,000 acres. They intend to inclose it with a hedge of the Osage orange 24 miles in length. They will hire all their labor, and the most imporved agricultural machinery, intending to put the whole farm into wheat as fast as possible. It will require about 20,000 bushels for the seed of such a farm.

Burrard Inlet.—There are three ships loading at the mills on the Inlet, two at the Messrs Moody's mills, and one at Capt Stamp's. The Mauna Loa would have left yesterday for Capt Stamp's mill had the weather allowed the steamer Isabel to attempt the trip.

Another Change.—Men milliners are all the rage in Paris just now. The Parisiennes to a certain degree have long patronized male dressmakers, and now they will have men to help and advise in the selection of their head-dresses; so chapeliers take the place of modistes. Bonnets are said to be reduced to nothing, but those nothings cost 150 francs each.

Different Fairs.—A state fair is a queen; a church fair is a parson's wife; a soldier's fair is the best looking girl he can get hold of; a charity fair is a pauper; and the worst fare in the world is boarding house butter.

Gold.—From reliable statistics it appears that $63,000,000 gold in coin was shipped from New York to foreign ports since 1st of January last, and that there is now less gold in the U S Treasury, than at any period since the close of the war.

Endurance.—A horse a short time since fell into the sea at an English town, and swam about for nineteen hours, or more than a distance, it was computed, of ten miles in a straight line before he was rescued.

Changes.—Several new places of business have been opened on Fort and Government streets of late. Amongst others—Mr McKay has removed his establishment to Government street adjoining the Postoffice.

A telegram has been received stating that the Active will not leave Portland for Victoria until to-morrow (Saturday.) The reason of the delay is not given.

Draining the Meadows on William Creek.

Editor Colonist,—With $40,000, which can easily be obtained, and give new life to the Colony, the following scheme would re-establish the lively times of 1862-3 and 4, if the Government would but sanction it. It would be this: Reserve all the claims on William Creek and Willow River, from Marysville to the mouth of Mosquito Creek with all of the water, and divide it into fifty feet claims extending from hill to hill, thereby ensuring fifty feet of the channel to each claim; the number of claims would be about four hundred; to sell them at one hundred dollars each, guaranteeing that the purchaser shall be at no more expense until his claim shall be drained, and that the money shall be used for draining, which will amount to about forty thousand dollars and by allowing five miles to be reserved and about one mile waste for drainage. Then let out a contract to twelve competent miners to run a drain the whole distance, at one dollar and fifty cents per foot; this would about keep them in provisions, tools, &c, and as an inducement to get such men to take hold of the work, give them the right to collect one dollar per day from each claim for drainage with the right to wash the dirt taken out of the drain; which would guarantee each contractor a fortune, to be gained with four years' labor, *Who would not be willing to take a chance?* In California it is common where men without means that have a four or five years' job ahead, (to run through rim rock), for them to divide their interest with a partner who will work for wages; elsewhere, to support both while the tunnel is being run, or give a merchant one half of their claim to see them through. There are many ways to obtain assistance with so good a prospect ahead; in this case the miner has all in his favor and the Government also would be perfectly safe, by retaining five thousand dollars to pay for the surveying of 401 straight lines across William Creek and to pay an officer or some other responsible person a nominal salary for receiving the work and paying for it. By this means, in three years, the drain would be completed about four miles, which would afford three miles of mining ground, and although the funds would then be exhausted,—as the contractors would have an income of three hundred dollars per day, they would be able and anxious to complete the other mile at their own expense, and thereby, in my opinion facilitate the working of the richest four miles of placer diggings in the world; for in proportion as the upper part of William Creek yielded coarse gold, so it is reasonable to suppose the lower part would yield scale and fine gold.

The Government controlling the work would give purchasers and contractors the requisite confidence for such an undertaking, and if put into operation immediately in twelve months from to-day, the first claim would be drained and the contractors' income would be thereby increased every day. Wiser heads will readily see how to put this plan into operation and keep the meadows from capitalists who would reap the gold with very little benefit to the Colony.

Yours,

One who has prospected two years in the meadows, and is aware of the necessity of drainage and the existence of gold.

Editorial Correspondence—No. 14.

Utica, N. Y., Aug 15, 1868.

While coming down from Saratoga yestorday in the cars to strike the Central Railroad for Niagara Falls and Canada, the danger whistle was suddenly sounded and the brakes were shut down, but before the train could be "slowed," there came a crash and [illegible] an electric shock through every car. Instantly three or four hundred passengers were on their feet and stretching their eager necks out of the windows to ascertain the cause of the shock. The cause was soon apparent. The engine had struck a loaded wagon as it was being driven across the track, crushed it to atoms, and threw its driver—an old man of 60—from his seat to the ground with such force as to injure him in the most fearful and hopeless manner. The horses escaped and started off down the road with a part of the wreck attached to the shafts at a breakneck rate of speed. The old man was raised tenderly in the arms of the brakesmen and carried into a house near by. His long grey locks were streaked with gore which flowed from cruel wounds on his head and his breathing became slow and labored. A physician pronounced him dead "to all intents and purposes." The breathing was merely the flickering of the candle in the socket before it burned out entirely. We left the poor old man in good hands and were soon rolled on again towards our destination, arriving at Utica at 10 o'clock the same evening, and remaining over until to-day.

Utica is a handsomely built city of about 35,000 people. It has several large woollen and cotton factories and being situated in the centre of a rich agricultural district and on the line of the Erie Canal and New York Central Railroad, is necessarily a place of importance and wealth.

Horatio Seymour, the Democratic Candidate for President, resides here. This morning he was pointed out to me on the street. His features are not unlike those of Colonel Baker, formerly Senator from Oregon, who was killed in the civil war, and his eye is the most expressive and intelligent. He is apparently about 50 years of age, dresses very plainly, and wears a tall black hat much the worse for wear. His father, in a fit of insanity, produced by business reverses, blew his brains out thirty years ago, and this fact the Radical press have the good taste to revive and produces a as reason why the Democratic Candidate should not be returned!

A Public Market.

Editor Colonist,—On several occasions in past years, I have endeavored to point out the importance of a market in this city to which families might resort for the purchase of farm produce; but the indifference and apathy of our farmers have hitherto prevented its establishment. It is possible that they may now be alive to their interests, and the recent revival of the Agricultural Society induces me to broach the subject again. I will simply mention the benefit which would accrue both to the producer and consumer: The former, instead of carrying round to the various stores, grain, vegetables &c, which he is obliged to sell at whatever price may be offered rather than return home with his cart full, will take them direct to the market where he will be brought into immediate contact with the consumer, who will at all times give the fair and proper price in cash. The latter will, to the great benefit of his family, be able at all times to obtain fresh vegetables, eggs, butter, &c, at the lowest price. As a father of a family I can testify to the difficulty I have in obtaining these articles, and to the regret which I feel at being obliged to be dependant on the occasional visits of a Chinaman. Should there be any probability of the subject being practically taken hold of, I would in a subsequent letter enlarge on its importance.

Yours, &c,

E. G. A.

Fred Payne has removed his Cheap Shaving Shop to the opposite side of Johnson street, just above the Miner's Saloon. *