The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, February 27, 1869

We have before us a very elaborate report, addressed to Mr. McCulloch, the United States Secretary to the Treasury, by Israel T. Hatch, on the subject of the trade between the United States and Canada, and the results of the abrogration of the Reciprocity Treaty recently in operation between these two nations. So far as we can judge, the Report is most flattering to the intelligence, enterprise and judgment of the Canadians; and robs Uncle Sam of a great deal of the lustre that used to dazzle the world into the belief that the American was the "smartest" specimen of the genus *homo* in creation. Mr. Hatch begins with the aid of a number of statistical tables, by showing that the Canadian trade with the United States was always more favorable to Canada than to the Republic; and he gloats over the idea that since the determination of the Treaty, the revenue of the United States has been increased to the extent of $5,000,000 in gold from duties levied on Canadian produce—the quantity, he says, being about the same as that imported when it was admitted duty free. This makes two facts, we think, very palpable; first, that the United States is dependent on the Dominion for certain articles that she cannot herself produce; and second, that Mr. McCulloch finds it necessary to take $5,000,000 in gold out of the pockets of his countrymen, and employs Mr. Hatch to write a report, in order to console the taxpayers, by showing up the subtlety and craft of the Canadians. It is wonderful to what paltry shifts statesmen are driven in order to persuade people to part with their money in the shape of taxes, when they know that the existence of the tax is slowly but surely destroying their trade. Mr. Hatch proceeds to find out, by an ingenious course of reasoning, that the great highway of the St. Lawrence is dangerous during a great portion of each year from the large masses of ice that float down that noble river, and the constant existence of fogs created by the meeting of the currents of air from the North and South; and concludes that the traffic from the West ought by the natural order of things, to pass by the Erie Canal, which he insists, if the United States Senators know their business, must be the channel through which all United States produce is destined to pass. He forgets that commerce is not to be controlled by any arbitrary rules, and will make its own depots and entrepots in spite of all the tables of distances so cleverly worked out by Mr. Hatch. He endeavors to show that England as a market for grain, is greatly overrated, and that she has stupidly purchased her breadstuffs in other markets besides the United States; hence England and anything connected therewith must be avoided or at anyrate treated with the contempt that such small customers justly deserve. But the sore point with Mr. Hatch is the aggressive policy of the Canadians; they have expended $186,285,418 in unprofitable railways and canals, with no local trade, population or commercial wants commensurate with such stupendous undertakings, but relying upon this diversion of the United States traffic to support them. Here is a real grievance, the presumptuous Canadians should have left such matters to their neighbors; that they accomplished their diabolical designs upon the commerce of the United States to a very great extent, is highly probable, since he conceives that such a gigantic British Canadian rivalry requires the closest attention of the Statesmen at the head of his government. Mr. Hatch discovers that Canada is entirely dependent upon the United States for her corn; they would doubtless starve or annex themselves if the United States was to decline selling them any more. This is a very pretty kettle of fish, and the people of the Domiaion had better put on their best behaviour when they have any business to do with Uncle Sam, or they'll find themselves some fine day without any corn in their lockers. Here is another instance of their Mephistophelian policy:—"A characteristic feature of the Canadian tariff is that, although the usual rate of duty levied on textile fabrics and other manufactures is fifteen per cent, the materials used in manufacturing are carefully exempted from taxation." What consummate impudence! The Canadians are actually making their own textile fabrics because they can make them cheaper than they can buy them from the manufacturers of the model republic, and because they possibly object to a large admixture of shoddy. They have also extended this peculiar policy to materials used in shipbuilding, in fact so much so, that they have almost monopolised the whole of the ship building trade; and Mr. Hatch takes the most dismal view of the future prospects of that important branch of industry in the Unitee States, if some *coup d'etat* on the part of the American Government does not accomplish the reinstatement of American shipwrights in their former prosperity. The American coasters have been robbed of a nice little privilege which they possessed before the Confederation of the provinces; they could then carry merchandise from one province to another, which by Confederation is prohibited, as by the 16 and 17 Victoria, chapter 107, section 163, "No goods or passengers shall be carried from one port of the British possessions in Asia, Africa or America, to any other part of the same possessions except in British ships." What an unconscionable set of people these Canadians are! they go and confederate themselves without any regard for American ship owners, and prevent their monopolizing the trade of the maritime portions of the Dominion, to the exclusion of Canadian vessels. It may be urged that the American Government is the most exclusive in the world in that respect, but then the Americans are a free people, which accounts for their tendency to make free with the rights of everybody else, while taking such extreme care of their own. Mr. Hatch is nervously alive to the fact that vessels can be built in Canada for one half the cost of the same description of craft in the United States; he says:—"Our lake marine and our railways now have to compete with the British Canadian carrying systems, constructed at half the cost of their American rivals. Admit Canadian vessels to registry and the asserted ownership will be nominal. Their admission will be equivalent to a repeal of the navigation laws, permitting foreign vessels to coast and carry goods from one part to another," and yet he feels aggrieved because Confederation has deprived the Americans of that privilege in Canadian waters. The remainder of the report is merely a laudatory account of American canals and American everything else, which we have no possible objection to, but Mr Hatch may possibly realize some day that there are other people in the world besides American citizens, and that the great feature in free institutions is supposed to be the recognition of equal rights for all, without respect to country or creed. In looking over the annual review of the trade of Toronto, published in the *Globe*, we find that the commerce of that city has never been so substantially prosperous as at the present time. The manufacturers are thriving and home staples are fast superseding their imported rivals. On various occasions during the year, there have been rumors current of the probability of the renewal of the late Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, but whatever weight may have been attached to these reports can now be thrown aside, the Secretary of the United States Treasury, having in his annual report to Congress, published a short time ago, clearly given us to understand that it is not the present intention of the United States to enter again into another treaty. We sincerely trust that no effort will be made by the people of Canada to bring about a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States till the people of that country, through their ministers, are prepared to recognize the fact that the people of Canada are fully equal in every attribute, to the people of the United States, and that Reciprocity, in its true sense, excludes every feeling opposed to friendly rivalry.

Saturday, Feb 20

"The Ladies' Magnetic Fountain of Beauty Lozenge."—Had Sir Walter Raleigh lived in this era and at San Francisco he would have found little occasion to cross the ocean and wander through unknown lands in search for the spring of eternal youth. Mr. Zelner, formerly of this city, now of San Francisco, has found a sovereign substitute, which is nothing more nor less than a lozenge for producing the bloom of youth and changing old age to young. This lozenge, Mr. Zelner states, is prepared upon scientific principles, having in view the condition of the dormant state of the blood, caused by lack of electricity sufficient to keep it in proper condition. This element, lowered in its power, becomes deranged. Chemistry steps in and by combining certain chemicals the current is again set in motion, the tissues which were lying inactive begin again to perform their usual offices, and old age becomes invigorated and the bloom of youth at once springs into existence. The wonderful lozenge is put up in boxes numbered respectively 1 2 & 3. No. 1 is guaranteed to change an old lady of 60 to a condition that King George described as "fair, fair and forty;" No. 2 will turn back Father Time from 40 years to 20; and No. 3 causes a lady of 35 to pass for 25; and all these inestimable blessings—to obtain which millions of dollars and thousands of lives have been expended in vain—may be secured for the low price of 50 cents per box? Our whilom friend is a public benefactor and deserves to have his name written high on the scroll of fame.

Legislative Council, Yesterday.—Before the minutes of the previous day were confirmed, the Attorney General moved that a protest signed by certain members of the Council be expunged from the books on the grounds that one of the signers of the protest was absent when the vote was taken on the subject to which the protest related, and that the protest itself was irregular, as the matter it contained was improperly stated. Mr. Walkem, as one of the protestants, held that May's Practice was the only guide away from Standing Orders; and that so far as any reference was made to protests, it was decidedly in favor of the retention of the protest. Mr. Robson conceived that if the Attorney General's objections were good, the right of the minority to protest was a perfect farce. It appeared to him to be an attempt to crush an important minority. Mr Trutch thought the right of protest was derived entirely from the custom followed in that House, but on previous occasions the protests referred to measures enacted; in this case it was only a record on a matter of opinion, and in that record certain statements were put forward as facts which in his opinion might be oped to question. He did not think Mr Robson had any right to tax the Government with a desire to crush any one in the case, as he could not see what the Government had to do with the matter, nor could the word "tyrannical" apply in reference to the subject. To leave that protest on the books as it stood would be tyranny towards the majority. Dr. Carrall did not care whether the protest was expunged or not; he only stood up to protect the privileges of the House. If the protest was expunged, the same sentiments could be embodied in another form and sent to Queen Victoria. Mr. Holbrook had brought forward a protest a short time since, and the gentlemen who now felt themselves aggrieved had voted against its being placed on the books. Mr. Wood hoped that no party vote would be cast on the subject; for his part, if the protest had been more carefully worded he would not have raised any objection, but as it stood he certainly could not vote for its being retained on the books. Mr Alston desired that the protest might remain, because it was a record of his opinion; he had left the House before the vote was taken under the impression that the debate was going to be adjourned. Mr. Havelock] thought that as advisers of the Crown the minority had the right to put the protest on the books in the present form, otherwise the opinion of the majority, only, would be known. Mr. Humphreys thought that although some of the members might not possess "infinite wit" that they nevertheless knew the difference between a "hawk and a handsaw." The Council was not a representative body, it was a kind of "Star Chamber;" it represented something and it represented nothing. The Attorney General, in reply, did not know if the House had learned much by the speech of the hon. member who had last spoken, but he could not see the relevancy. He did not suppose hon. members talked to the galleries; as for himself, he spoke only as Henry Crease, and his expression of opinion had nothing to do with the Government. On division the Council decided to retain the protest on the books. Ayes, 10; noes, 8. The Attorney General gave notice he would introduce the Road Ordinance and the Volunteer Ordinance, 1869, and that he would move an address to the Governor requesting that rules in relation to Protests might be sent to the Council. Mr. Robson gave notice to move an address to the Governor requesting that the arrears due to school teachers may be paid out of the sum in the Estimates for Educational purposes. The Victoria By-Law Bill was postponed until Monday. Mr. Ring's Bill to alter the Law of Probate, was lost in committee. The Fire Bill was taken up in committee, and after some progress, adjourned. The Drawbacks and Loan Bills were postponed. The Attorney General, on the Standing Orders being suspended, gave notice that he would introduce a bill relative to the pre-emption of lands; and also a bill concerning Stipendiary Magistrates. Dr. Helmcken gave notice that he would move on Monday for three evening sessions during next week. The Council then adjourned until 1 p.m. on Monday.

PROTEST.

We the undersigned members of the Legislative Council desire to place on record our protest against the action taken by the Council at its last sitting, upon the subject of Confederation with Canada.

1.—It has been conceded by all that the admission of British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada is not likely to take place until the territory intervening has first been admitted, and more than thickly settled. Under these circumstances it was injudicious for the Council to discuss and pronounce an opinion upon the subject.

2.—The Council, as at present constituted, is not a representative body, and hence does not fairly represent public opinion on this subject.

3.—The colonists resident on the Mainland, the larger and more productive portion of the united Colony, together with a large minority on Vancouver Island, are nearly unanimous in favor of Confederation upon fair and equitable terms when the time shall have arrived for its consummation. This will appear evident from the simple fact that all the elective members from the Mainland were returned as Confederationists, and that everyone of those members join in this protest.

Signed—Hons. Robson, Carrall, Havelock, Humphreys, Alston, Walkem.

A charge of stealing a pig was heard yesterday against a young man holding a respectable position, by Judge Pemberton, and dismissed upon hearing evidence of the complainant. The charge evidently arose through a mistake. Mr. Bishop for prosecution; Mr. Robertson, instructed Mr Copland, for the defence.

Brig Byzantium.—A decree for the sale of the Brig Byzantium has been made by the Vice Admiralty Court.

The "British Columbian."—An advertisement announces that this journal will appear in Victoria on or about the 8th of March as a daily. Hon. John Robson will continue as the editor; and it is understood that the services of Mr. H. E. Seelye, formerly of the *News* and Cariboo *Sentinel* have been secured as business manager. This removal will leave New Westminster without a newspaper; but it is mentioned that the plant of the Yale *Examiner* will be brought down the river and the publication of a new paper commenced at New Westminster forthwith.

From Nanaimo.—The steamer Sir James Douglas arrived from Nanaimo yesterday afternoon with 25 passengers and a quantity of Island produce. The steamship John L. Stephens, from Victoria for Sitka, reached Nanaimo on Thursday night, and was engaged in taking in coal when the Douglas left.

Hudson Bay Company.

From the Canadian News, Jan. 9.

A special general court of this company was held on Tuesday last to elect a Governor of the company in the room of the Earl of Kimberley, who had resigned in consequence of having taken office in Mr. Gladstone's Ministry.

Sir Curtis Lampson presided and explained that the meeting was called, not for the consideration of the general business of the company, but for the special purpose of supplying the place of the Earl of Kimberley as Governor. When his lordship joined the board he stated that if he accepted office in the Administration he must resign his post as Governor, but the directors, considering it very desirable that a man of Lord Kimberley's standing and position, more particularly if he should afterwards join the Ministry, should have a perfect knowledge of the affairs of the company, so as to be able to advise the Government in any negotiations that might be carried on between them and the company, induced him to accept the office. He ought to add that his lordship had filled the post of governor very much to the satisfaction of his colleagues, that he took a deep interest in its affairs, and had made himself fully conversant with its business and with all circumstances connected with its position, and that the knowledge he had so acquired could not but be highly beneficial to them in any negotiation that might take place for the relinquishment of its territorial rights. He had to propose as the successor of his lordship the Right Hon. Sir Stafford H. Northcote, who had consented accept the chairmanship, and the directors had every reason to believe that the appointment of the right hon. baronet would be conducive to the interests of the shareholders.

A Shareholder expressed a hope that although they were prohibited from entering into the general business of the company at the present meeting, which had been called for a special purpose, the question to which attention had been called at a previous meeting, of the truth of the statements in the prospectus, would not be allowed to drop.

Mr. Haly remarked that at the next meeting he should refer to that subject, and to the circumstances under which a million sterling had, as he contended, been improperly collected from the shareholders, and should take the same opportunity of replying to some of the observations made at the previous meeting in answer to what he then said.

Mr. Sewell would like to hear something of the peculiar qualifications of Sir S. Northcote to fill the office of chairman of the company. They ought to be satisfied that the gentleman who filled the office of governor, be he whom he might, had but one object—viz., to obtain for them what they were entitled to in any arrangement that might be entered into for the transfer of their territorial rights. Whether the compensation was paid at once or deferred, they ought to be fairly recompensed for the surrender of those rights; and he should, therefore, much like to know whether this point had been duly impressed upon the right hon. baronet.

The Chairman—We could not ask Sir S. Northcote to give any positive pledge before he obtained a perfect knowledge of the affairs of the company and the nature of its rights; but those rights are so clear and unquestionable that I have no fear of any one, being perfectly acquainted with them, and coming here to fill the position of governor, acting in any other spirit than that which the honorable proprietor suggests. I believe that previous to Lord Kimberley taking the office of governor he was ignorant of our actual position and of the facts of the case; but his having obtained that knowledge will, I am persuaded, be greatly to the interest of the proprietors. The committee might have selected a chairman from their own body or one who was directly connected with commercial business, but they thought it would be more to the interest of the proprietors at large to select a person who held a strong and influential public position, and I have no hesitation in saying that if the real circumstances of the case are brought to the knowledge of a man like Sir S. Northcote it must needs be of the greatest benefit to the shareholders. The directors have, in conducting the negotiations, so far for the settlement of our claims, worked very hard and very faithfully for your interests; and in regard to the future, I again beg to assure you that no agreement will be finally concluded until it has been submitted to the proprietors and sanctioned by them. If we have not laid the correspondence before you, it is for the reason explained by Lord Kimberley at the last meeting, viz., that the negotiations are not concluded. We hope, however, to bring the matter to a crisis in a short time, and when it brought to a crisis it will be submitted to you for your approbation.

Mr. Gerstenberg complained that the provisions of the charter had been strictly observed at the last meeting in not taking the decision, upon the question of colonisation, of the shareholders present, instead of referring it to the general body. It appeared to him that the Canadian Legislature were disposed to take up a cavilling spirit, charging the company with having been inert in the exercise of its rights, and that therefore they prejudiced themselves; but the Duke of Buckingham, in April last, said that although the rights of the Hudson Bay Company had been assailed for 200 years, they had always been vindicated, and that they could not be ousted of them without compensation although he hinted that that compensation could not be in the shape of a money payment. He (Mr Gerstenberg) thought it would be well to ascertain whether they could not find some other purchaser than the Canadian Government. He could find those who would purchase their territory of 4,000,000 acres for a million in cash.

Mr. Colville—That is business.

Mr. Gerstenberg—Yes, that was a business-like proposal, and if the company would enter into a provisional agreement with him, and give him two months within which to declare his option to accept it finally, he would in the meantime communicate with some of the largest shareholders to induce them to join him.

The Chairman—That is a very different thing.

Mr. Gerstenberg was not prepared to make a downright offer on the instant, nor did he mean anything of an individual character, but what he proposed was that the purchase should be made by the Hudson Bay shareholders themselves for their own benefit.

The Chairman held that the board had taken the right course in consulting the shareholders at large upon the colonisation question, seeing that the proposal would have involved them in very great expense, adding that he would never consent to carry out a policy which was opposed to the views of 90 per cent. of the proprietors. Had the directors seen their way to carrying out the proposal of colonisation without the expenditure of a large amount of money, they would have proceeded with it. What the prospectus said was that it was the intention of the board to carry out that policy, subject to the condition that it did not endanger the commercial part of their business. On inquiry, however, they found that it would have endangered their commercial success had they expended money thus early for the purpose of colonizing, and had they done so it would have affected their dividend. In further explanation he added that since the extension of the railway system to the state of Minnesota the population had increased to between 400,000 and 500,000, and that the land had increased in value in proportion, and their own lands were becoming year by year of more value, so that they were not prejudiced by delay.

The resolution appointing Sir S Northcote was carried unanimously.

The Great Fire at Ottawa.

Ottawa, Thursday, Jan. 21.—About 12:30 o'clock this morning the rear of the Queen's Printer's block was discovered to be on fire, the fire being in the wooden stair-case behind Orr's and Mackenzie's store; in these it worked its way from story to story until the centre of the fine block was one mass of seething, roaring flames. From thence it caught Mr. Trotter's on one side, the Royal Canadian Bank and offices of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway on the other. An attempt was made by some of the clerks to open the Royal Canadian Bank outside the door. In this they and some two or three other gentlemen had just succeeded, when a terrific explosion took place before they entered, throwing the large window framework and doors into the street, and causing some severe injuries. A second attempt was made, and then a second explosion took place on the second story, more fearful than the first, the whole sashes and windows being driven against the fence on the other side of the street. A third explosion occurred in the Banking house a short while afterwards by which Mr. Grassett, agent of the Bank had his arm severely injured. Nevertheless, the untiring efforts on the part of himself, the clerk, Mr. Cassils, late of the Upper Canada, and Mr. H. J. Grassett, of the Post Office Department, the notes, securities, books and gold were removed to a place of safety, the upper flat falling in as they escaped.

The fire had now extended to every flat on the Sparks street side, a mass of intense, roaring flames enveloping at that time (half-past three) all the buildings, except the side on O'Connor street, occupied by the printing office. From this an attempt was made to remove the stationary and paper stock, about half of which was got out, but so fast was the progress of the devouring element that people were compelled to beat a hasty retreat, and at 4:20 the immense stone side of this portion of the building, five stories high, solemnly and stately topped over with a terrific crash, completing the work of destruction to the fire-engine and the printing presses in the basement.

At 5 o'clock nothing but a portion of the Sparks street wall, blackened, charred and defaced, of the finest building in our city, and the finest printing and book binding establishment in Canada, remained.

On the east side great difficulty was experienced in preventing the destruction of a brewer's brick building and store, all his rear premises being destroyed, while on the west side the fire communicated to the Carleton House, which was totally destroyed. This stood on the S.W. corner of Sparks and O'Connor streets.

The immense shower of sparks and cinders would have caused great destruction among the private dwellings on O'Connor and Albert streets but for the quantity of snow on the roofs, but even then it required unusual vigilance, as many houses were on fire. All the firewood belonging to Mr. Desbarats was destroyed.

The soldiers turned out and did good service at the engines and saving property.

Mr. Desbarat, Queen's Printer was insured for about $50,000 or $60,000.