

## The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, November 16, 1870

## Protection vs. Reciprocity.

Comparatively few persons, we apprehend, fully realize the extent to which the theory of protection has been carried in the neighboring Republic. The Customs Tariff of the United States has been tending upward until it hath with truth been said of it by one of their own leading journals that 'it is the highest tariff that ever afflicted any civilized nation in any age.' The duty on imports in ancient Greece never rose above three per centum, even in time of war. The old Roman Tariffs averaged about four per cent, even when, as Pliny says, 'the rock of the Capital was rent by the endeavors to prop up the tottering remnants of the Empire.' In England accepting, as may safely be done, the statement issued by Historians, 44 per cent. of the entire customs revenue is collected off six articles, and in the whole range of the tariff there are only twenty-four articles. The American tariff comprises over 4,000 dutiable articles, and the average duty thereon is not less than 50 per cent, in gold. The British Columbia tariff has only about a score of articles in the free list. The Dominion tariff has near three hundred. The average rate on dutiable goods under the Dominion tariff is about 18 per cent. Under the British Columbia tariff it is 18 per cent. It is a matter of surprise that the American people begin to sigh for relief from their fearful taxation. It is alone their great patriotism that has enabled them to bear up so patiently under it. The enormous debt incurred by the civil war appeared to render heavy taxation necessary; and a people who were willing to fight as the Americans fought for the freedom and for the unity of their country were not likely to shrink from taxation in order to wipe off the expenses of that terrible and most heroic struggle. But the occasion for that has, in a measure, passed away. People begin to ask themselves why the same generation who made such enormous sacrifices, in time and substance and blood, in order to hand down to succeeding generations a free and united country, should be called upon to cripple themselves and stunt the growth of their country by attempting to pay off the whole debt in their lifetime. Why, it is asked, should not the debt be funded, and the payment thereof spread over many years? And the answer is about to be given by the funding of the national debt of the United States. With that wise step comes another relaxation of taxation, a great reduction of the Customs duties and the establishment of a reciprocity treaty with the Dominion of Canada. These are the changes which are assuredly in the immediate future, and they are changes scarcely less important to us than to our neighbors. With the power of freely interchanging commodities with our immediate neighbors an impetus would be given to industry and development in British Columbia, the full industry and extent of which cannot easily be over-estimated. We have much more than many people have any idea of, to give to our neighbors, all or nearly all of which is practically shut out now.

**FROM THE MAINLAND.**—The *Star Enterprise* arrived at 10 o'clock last night from New Westminster, having left that port at 5 o'clock yesterday morning and anchored several hours in Cowichan Bay to escape the fury of the gale. Among the passengers were Messrs. Pooley, H. Havelock, B. Boyd, W. D. Ferris and J. Connell. From Fort Langley the brought 30 head of beef cattle and 11 hogs. \$100,000 will be taken out of Germanan Creek before the close of the season. The miners will test the deep diggings by running tunnels. The election in New Westminster District resulted in a majority of 50 for Mr. Nelson. There was no ice in the river at Quasimouth when the last Express left and the weather was warm and springlike. Very few miners are expected to leave Ontario for the Lower country this winter. The country telegraph party have reached the 150 mile post and are pushing steadily forward.

**THE MAYORALTY.**—Pursuant to notice an adjourned poll was opened yesterday at 8 o'clock a.m., and continued until 4 p.m. The candidates were Dr. James Trimble and A. R. Robertson, Esq. Very little interest was manifested, but about half an hour before the close quite an excitement was started and the voting became rather lively, and when the hour arrived to close the poll there were still three or four who wished to vote but were ruled 'out of time.' The vote at the close stood: Robertson, 38; Trimble, 30. Mr. Robertson was declared duly elected Mayor of the City of Victoria for the ensuing year. Mr. J. W. Carey, as the nominator of Mr. Robertson, thanked the voters on behalf of the absent Mayor elect, and the dripping electors dispersed to their homes.

**SAN FRANCISCO.**—Moses Conleam, for stealing a pair of bracelets from an Indian woman, was yesterday sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labor.

## Dr. Helmcken and Mr. Nathan before The Electors.

The St. Nicholas Hall was filled by a large, respectable and orderly assemblage last night to hear Dr. Helmcken and Mr. Nathan propound their political views. His Worship the Mayor occupied the chair.

In introducing Dr. Helmcken the Mayor said he had advised the doctor to remain in the Council. Dr. Helmcken had not been for a great while of his duty to the colony. The Railway, itself, reflected sufficient honor upon the doctor even if he had not effected any other good. [Applause.]

The Mayor then introduced Hon. Dr. Helmcken to the meeting. He was received with applause, and commenced by saying that he conceived it to be his duty to meet the public to-night and explain the objects and mission of the Delegates to Ottawa. The Delegates were not sent to make Terms; they were sent to explain the Terms and watch the interests of British Columbia. The Terms are not binding on the people of this colony. They are binding on the Ministry of Canada, and more or less on the Delegates; but not on the people of Canada yet. I support the Terms because they are good. His address, he had been told, was the worst he had ever written. He had purposely made it neutral—leaving the public to decide for themselves whether the Terms are good or bad. The change the people were called upon to vote would be binding for all time. They were to decide upon becoming part and parcel of a nation stretching from ocean to ocean. They were to drop all minor matters and regard only the national aspect of the Terms. He had not solicited a single vote—he had not canvassed—he had no agents or committees. But he looked to the people to act for him, to be unbiased, unprejudiced and unpledged, and come to the polls and vote like freemen. [Applause.]

The doctor then sketched with considerable ability and poetic power the appearance of that portion of Canada through which he passed—its fertility, climate and agricultural resources. The weather there was extremely hot in the summer—so hot, indeed, that it was impossible to empty a glass of water on account of the perspiration from one's face running down into the glass and filling it up. [Laughter.]

The educational facilities of Canada were, he said, of the most complete character; the buildings devoted to education being among the finest he saw—especially in Toronto and Montreal—and what was better, at the cheapest possible rates. In hospitals he thought Canada was deficient—especially the Protestant portion of it. In Quebec, however, he was shown over a hospital kept by the Sisters of Charity. It was clean—painfully clean—and an orphan's asylum and a home for the indigent poor was attached to the building.

Mr. Bishop—Come, to Victoria, doctor.

Dr. Helmcken—We also visited the lunatic asylums [a laugh] and found them very perfect; but each province takes care of its own lunatics and we must do so too. Wool, coal oil and boots and shoes would be almost exclusively supplied up by Canada. Montreal he believed to be one of the handsomest cities in the world, Quebec did not astonish him and that part of the country is declining. Allan & Co are the largest steamship company in the world—owning more boats and larger ones than any other, and they were extensively patronized. The loyalty of the Canadians was beyond question. When the doctor was there they were ultra-loyal owing to the Fenian raid. The Independence party was very small, and as for Annexation, it must not be mentioned in Canada. [Applause.] Ottawa was a fine, prosperous city, and the public buildings were beautiful and the remarkable structures. As regarded churches, they were found everywhere, which went to show that the Canadians were a very moral people.

The doctor then proceeded to narrate the Delegates' interviews with the Canadian Ministry who told them that they intended to do everything they could to advance the interests of British Columbia. They wished the Delegates to point out what they conceived to be best for the colony. They said the Delegates must remember the Canadian Ministry were responsible and that they must not be given any more than they could carry through Parliament. The Delegates then met an influential Committee of the Privy Council, and after 3 or 4 sittings the Terms upon which the people are now called on to decide were framed. The Delegates then went to Montreal. But they didn't go in plush breeches and cocked hats [a laugh] they went dressed in their usual clothes and ranked with the Ministry of Canada. [Applause.] The doctor warmly eulogized the Hon. Mr. Trutch, whose scientific knowledge was of great value, and to whom was mainly due the credit of procuring the Railway and Dry Dock. [Applause.] He [Dr. Helmcken] was introduced to Prince Arthur and asked him to come and see British Columbia. Prince Arthur replied that his duties as a soldier required his presence in Canada. The doctor said he went on to tell the Prince about British Columbia, when His Royal Highness interrupted saying, 'Capt. Gossett told me all about British Columbia and I know it nearly as well as you do.' [Applause.]

The Ministry of Canada were plain men, who went to their business just as a merchant would go to his. There was no pomp and circumstance there. He had the greatest amount of respect and admiration for the manner in which everything was carried on there. The Ministry met after the committee and the Terms were agreed to. The population was reduced from 120,000 to 60,000, but by the alteration the colony actually got \$60,000 more. This colony under Confederation would have \$375,000, which he thought a pretty snug sum, and besides they got rid of the burden of keeping up the telegraph lines which Canada would take over. British Columbia would receive \$168,000 more in Confederation than if it remained out. [Applause.] Canada takes charge of the Indians and bears the expense of Indian wars. We should have more frequent communication with San Francisco and Puget Sound. He was told that goods today could be got quicker from New York at San Francisco than they could be got at the same place from Victoria. Canada would lose by the bargain for a few years. He did not think British Columbia had done badly

or that she had got more than she was entitled to. The Canadian Government had undertaken a great responsibility, the Terms proved. That they will carry out later we fully believed, and that sooner or later we should see that railway through British Columbia. The expense of Judges of the District Court and Stipendiary Magistrates was out of our hands, and a Court of Appeal could be constituted. With respect to the fisheries, salmon would be allowed to go up Fraser river 'as before' [a laugh] and may be caught any way we pleased. Whales too, might be killed by bombs. Hon. Mr. Mitchell, Minister of Fisheries, was very kind and considerate, but he wouldn't believe that we had a fish [he saw-perch] that produced its young alive, nor would he believe the reports of the swarms of salmon. He always called them Helmcken's fish stories. Canada would build a marine hospital and ultimately a penitentiary. With respect to rumors he had nothing to say, but when the Dry Dock at Esquimaux was built it would be a great advantage to the colony. He trusted the bargain would turn out to be a great advantage to both Canada and British Columbia.

Responsible Government, the Tariff and the Terms had created much discussion. His address may have been a little 'shady,' but as he did not care whether he went to the Council again or not, he [applause] was right to speak as he felt. [Applause.] The most profitable thing for him would be if the people would turn him out of the House.

Yolce—Oh, doctor, we're all going to vote for you.

Dr. Helmcken—Don't you be in a hurry to pledge yourself, my friend. Wait till you hear what I am going to say. It was wrong to say that the Government had been altogether to blame for the misfortunes of this colony. The people were the most to blame. They had been too anxious to make money in the country and be off with it. Hereafter there must be no such practice—we must make the country ours and our children's for all time to come. [Applause.] Responsible Government would come and he trusted it would be beneficial. There would be some difficulty in carrying on Responsible Government in this colony with less than 30 members of the Legislature—and where were we to get them from and send members for Ottawa? Why, we should all have to be legislators. [a laugh.] Responsible Government would be more expensive. In all small colonies there is generally corrupt and expensive. [a laugh.] But for all that, it had to come. We must go through the education and in the end it would turn out all that was expected of it. Under the Organic Act the people could have Responsible Government whenever they chose to ask for it. Every candidate now before the public went in for it; and it would be useless and wicked to attempt to resist the popular voice. The Canadian Government had no wish to dictate to the people the particular form of government they shall have. He hoped that the \$150,000 the Canadian Government had given us would not be absorbed by Responsible Government, which he looked upon as a sort of political cannibalism, by which the politicians lived on the people. He had not the slightest intention of opposing it. He might turn cannibal himself.

Mr. Wallace—Do you disbelieve in the principle of Responsible Government?

Dr. Helmcken—Disbelieve in the principle of Responsible Government? No. I have always said the people of this colony were competent to govern themselves but that they would never take trouble. This must end. The people must come forward now. Municipal institutions in this colony do not work very favorably; but when the people become the Government they feel that they are part of the country and stay in it and strive to build it up. The people desire Responsible Government and he should respect it. It must come after Confederation. If he wanted to influence votes he would tell people the sun shouldn't set until they should have it. [a laugh.] The Organic Act cannot come into force until after the colonies are united. We might make a law to alter our Constitution; but such a law would require Her Majesty's signature before it came in force. Responsible Government could not be inserted in the Terms. With Confederation, he believed, the Legislature to be elected now would not last a twelvemonth. However, he should vote for Responsible Government, if he were sent in the responsibility rested with the people themselves. [Laughter.] The Tariff question was one of great importance. Had he known as much when he wrote his address as he did now, he should not have written as darkly as he did. The 'atom of hope' he then entertained had vanished. The Tariff were not to be tampered with. We must either take the Canadian Tariff or keep our own. If the Canadian Tariff were accepted by the colony we should save about \$70,000 per annum—not \$120,000, as had been stated. Excepting spirits, cigars, opium and flour, the remaining articles yield the same amount of revenue under both Tariffs. The British Columbia Tariff protected the farming and other interests; but the Canadian Tariff did so to a much less extent. The Canadian Tariff was made to protect the industries of Canada—care to protect our industries. His object was to get the duty on opium in our tariff reduced to the Canadian standard, and to get the duties on flour and wheat also reduced. But he couldn't do it. Protecting the farming interest had 'done good' to this colony and 4000 acres more of land cultivated would supply all we now import into the country. The interior of the Mainland raised a surplus, and the railway would soon supply a means of bringing that surplus to market. We required here a larger market for agricultural products. The farmers and the country generally were contented. Here in Victoria was the most grumbling and could any one show him any prospect of improvement? No—because there was not a large enough population in the country to support Victoria. What was wanted here was a large rural population, and how were works to be performed by the Dominion? They would create a demand for agricultural products. But he was not going to oppose Confederation because the farmer was not protected—and there was no use in his seek-

ing to represent Victoria and vote against the Canadian Tariff. If the people accepted the British Columbia Tariff it would remain stationary for ten years. He believed that in ten years the Canadian Tariff would be heavier than the British Columbia Tariff is now, the Canadian Government having undertaken such enormous works that they must increase their customs duties. Free trade was out of the question. We could never get it again as we had had it before. He asked the people to give him full power to use his own judgment in protecting the industrial interests of the colony. If they could trust him in that respect, elect him. He could not, discard him. The Railway was next discussed. The first idea, he said, that struck the traveler across the continent was—how far Canada was from this colony without a railway and how near she would be with it. The doctor gave a brief but interesting description of the character of the country through which the Union Pacific railway runs, but he did not see one spot that possessed half the comfort or half the beauty of poor Vancouver Island. He eulogized the great American cities, the American character, their institutions and their commerce; but although he was struck with astonishment at what he saw, there was no reason why Canada should not become as great and prosperous. She only needed the railway to do it. [Applause.] That the railway could be built he had no doubt; that it will be built he had every reason to be certain. Canada had staked her existence on that railway. The fate of her Ministry depended on carrying that measure through Parliament. Did our people want a stronger guarantee? The Canadian people had railway 'on the brain,' and no political party there dare oppose the building of that road. [Applause.] The measure had strengthened the Ministry. The railway was partly for domestic improvement and partly for commerce. It might be said it couldn't pay, but the country would be a railway. If it will pay the Americans to build new lines across the continent, it will pay Canada to build this road. It will strengthen British influence on the continent, and render the country generally more prosperous. With respect to the Terms, he thought a great deal too much had been made of it. The Delegates did not go to Canada to make Terms, but to get the Terms that were passed there. Those they secured were to the effect that the Terms should be to the seaboard of British Columbia, and it was perfect child's play to ask him why Victoria was not made the Terminus. Burrard Inlet and other harbors of the Gulf of Georgia were not fit for Asiatic commerce, which must be the most accessible harbor convenient to the seaboard, and these are on Vancouver Island. In time of war the Straits could be blockaded by a single cruiser. Barclay Sound, he believed, would be the Terminus. If the Terms be made at Esquimaux or Barclay Sound our future is glorious enough. But if it doesn't come to the Island at all, Victoria would not be ruined. It might not increase so rapidly as it otherwise would, but it would grow and prosper. Victorians should not mind that a thousand people in Vancouver Island were going to divert the course of that railroad. Canada had better by Victoria than to suffer her to thwart a great national undertaking like this; but there was no reason why the people of Vancouver Island should not make every effort to procure the Terminus here. They should make known their harbors to the world, and should survey the people of Victoria should survey the place and from Esquimaux to the mouth of Burrard Inlet. They must not only talk, but they must 'shell out.' There must be less grumbling among them and more work. The honorable gentleman then proceeded to sketch the advantages of the road to the colony, the great number of trades and occupations required to carry it out, the employment that would be provided for the rising population, immense supplies that would be consumed, activity would prevail on every side, enterprise and settlements would be encouraged, and even our own iron might be used for the rails; and to look to the not very distant future—when we might see iron steamships building at Esquimaux. [Laughter.] If he were asked to make the Terms a *sine qua non* of Confederation, he must decline to answer whether he would or not. The effect of the railway would be beneficial—though some might go the wall the great majority would rise. We should clinch these Terms. We must not be selfish—and if we were united to Canada a nation would arise which will do no discredit to the Mother Country.

Capt. Cooper asked for a definition of the word seaboard.

Dr. Helmcken—Bordering on the sea. But that isn't what you mean. In the 11th clause of the Terms the Dominion Government is bound to make the railway from the Pacific to the Rocky Mountains. After some goodnatured badinage, Dr. Helmcken informed Capt. Cooper that Burrard Inlet was 'played out' for Asiatic commerce.

Mr. Bennett, who was rather demonstrative and violent in his manner, complained that the water bill had been kicked out of the Council last year and asked the doctor if he would vote to supply water with water. Dr. Helmcken replied that he would if the citizens of Victoria had to pay for it, but not if the cost was to come out of the public treasury.

Dr. Helmcken then declared that he would support Responsible Government consistent with Confederation. He declared that he did not think the colony would get Responsible Government until after Confederation, as the Organic Act would not come into force until then. His Majesty's Government would not consent to a change of constitution on the eve of Confederation, and if the Terms were amended and sent back to Canada they could not be passed there. Dr. Helmcken replied that he imagined they would not be content to live anywhere, and retired amid a hearty burst of applause.

Mr. Nathan, being called for, said he would take the opportunity of expressing his views with respect to the most important political topics. Urging mainly to our sparse population, the death of unemployed capital, and the inability of the present Government—from a want of excess of revenue over expenditure—to engage in public works, we were drifting slowly but surely toward, which he would urge us to bankruptcy. Our resources are great, but they are only valuable when developed for which we require labor and capital, which would scarcely come into existence if 10 or 12 colonies were made. For this we had waited patiently 9 years and we might wait 9 years longer, if things remain as they are; but if once we began to develop our resources, we would be able to add material wealth to our now depleted stores, but it would be to her interest to develop the great natural wealth of the Colony. The speaker thought the Terms of the present Government were not believed to be possible and advisable to get the amount represented by that interest either from the Canadian Government itself or by hypothecating for a series of years the annual income and using it on public works and for assisting immigration. The first settlers of all new colonies have to go through a long and arduous struggle, and it is not their energy, pluck and perseverance as employed as much for posterity as themselves, that they should be burdened by an excessive taxation to meet demands from which they derive small benefit compared with that those coming after will enjoy. Recollect, under our present form of Government no change could be expected, the system is to blame and not the manner in which it is carried out. The adoption of the Canadian Tariff would at once support. His adoption would enable us to live cheaper and we might win back a portion of the commerce we had lost in the past. Referring to the

Railway Clause in the Terms, Mr. Nathan argued that Canada agreed to construct a railroad from the Pacific to the Rocky Mountains, but only agreed to construct the seaboard of British Columbia with the railway to the interior of Canada. That is, a railroad is to be built on this island, but Canada is not bound to connect the mainland unless the terms should be at Burrard Inlet—where, from all he could learn is not probable—in which case all Canada's obligations would be fulfilled. But a petition is already in circulation for the purpose of getting a railroad here. If it should fail, of which he had no fear, he would then fall back on the Terms. What on the subject he would state that it is a misfortune for Victoria that its representatives do not constitute the Council. Under existing circumstances it behooves us to use the utmost caution and moderation not to awaken local jealousies and defeat by over anxiety the object we will have at heart—the advancement and prosperity of Victoria. One of the objections raised to his candidature was that of youth. If one who is in his 29th year has not attained man's estate, he doubted if he ever would. He had heard of those who, being considerably less than he, had attained a much higher position than he, in which he now aspired. To their talents he laid claim, but mentioned it to show that old age is not always necessary, nor does it at all times carry with it the wisdom requisite to the discharge of public duties.

Another objection raised was that he intended to leave the colony. Such, he asserted, was not his intention. If returned, he trusted no meeting of the Council would take place without his being present. I was charged that he held large lands in the interior of the island. Such was not the case. One hundred and twenty acres of unoccupied land was all he held in the colony. The other farms he represented were all occupied and worked. In conclusion, Mr. Nathan said he desired to represent them faithfully to the full extent of his ability and power, and firmly believed, if he had every reason to expect, he should be honored by their suffrages to cause of complaint would ever be made. He trusted that feeling of respect and confidence which he trusted would ever exist between them. Thanking the meeting for their attention, and feeling confident of their return by a large majority, Mr. Nathan took his seat amid great applause.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting broke up.

**THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.**—Doubtless expressed as to the legality of the election for Mayor, held yesterday. It is asserted that the failure of the Returning Officer (who acted upon what he conceived to be good advice) to open the poll on Wednesday morning has vitiated the entire proceedings, and that an Enabling Act of the Legislature will be necessary to legalize the election of new Mayor. We hear, however, that the Attorney General has given as his opinion that although the poll was opened late Wednesday, it was quite competent for the Returning Officer to adjourn it until Thursday, receive votes, and then declare the result. The point is a nice one and may be made the subject of legal proceedings.

The *Star*. Sir Jas Douglas arrived last night at a quarter past ten with about twelve passengers and a number of cattle and a quantity of produce. Among the passengers were Messrs A. R. Robertson, S. Bednall, E. Marner, Father Rondeau, Dring and Alexander. The G. S. Wright sailed from Nanaimo on Wednesday for Portland. A political meeting was held by Mr. Robinson on Thursday evening, at which there was a large attendance. After Mr. Robinson had spoken at considerable length, and answered satisfactorily a number of questions put to him by Banister's friends, Mr. A. R. Robertson addressed the meeting, and endorsed Mr. Robinson's principles.

**A BIG HUNT.**—Mary, a Port Rupert Indian woman, was yesterday arraigned before the Police Court for having goods found in her possession supposed to be stolen. The property consisted of clothing, books, photographs and a variety of other articles, the property of John Lettrey who had left them in charge of a baker in Johnston street, the latter leaving them in an unoccupied house. Two other Port Rupert Indians were arrested as being accomplices in the theft. One was discharged on examination, and the other was, with Mary, remanded for one day.

**BY A MISADVENTURE.**—A continuation of Monday morning's accident was given to learn that Mr. Henry King has not only lost all his harness and out-fittings but all his most valuable tools, all his hay, oats and other produce as well as his farming implements. When an old, industrious and valued colonist meets with so serious a calamity it becomes the duty of every one to give a helping hand. We are glad to learn that Mr. J. G. Norris has consented to receive donations from those who wish to help the unfortunate.

**EXPOSURE OF A CONSPIRACY.**—The *Daily Stander* appears to have had enough to do much perhaps of the pen and ink controversy with Mr. Macdonald. Unable to reply to that gentleman's farcical arraignment, the *Stander* feebly threatens that he has 'put a rod or two in pickle' for his antagonist. Mr. Macdonald has a rod or two in his possession; but he doesn't keep them in pickle. He uses them in scourging ignorant pretenders and political quacks.

**JOHN CHUMMAN CAPTURED.**—Night before last one of the Police officers, saw John with a suspicious looking parcel, escorted him, and acquired of his burden, when Johnny dropped the encumbrance and ran. The plunder proved to be a box of tobacco. The thief, who was duly arrested, was examined yesterday, and the tobacco proved to be the property of Messrs. Fromis & Saunders. The prisoner was remanded for one day.

**MA CANBY DESIRES US TO STATE.** that he has not withdrawn from the canvass for the City representation, and that he has no intention of doing so. We would state that the report was everywhere current on Wednesday and generally believed. Still, in the face of the Candidate's flat denial, we willingly contradict our paragraph.

**FROM THE SOUND.** The str. *Isabel*, Capt. Morrison, arrived at 12 o'clock last night, bringing a mail and 25 passengers. Among the latter were Frank Richards and his ministerial troops. The *Isabel* will sail at 11 o'clock this morning for Port Townsend.

**ENGLISH BAZAR.**—Mrs. Johnston, of the English Bazar, has leased the splendid store known as the French Hotel building, and will open it as a Santa Claus headquarters in a few days.

**A SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTERN.** yesterday, accompanied by a heavy fall of rain, prostrated the telegraph wires North and South of this place and cut communication.

**DOCK BARRAGE.**—Lucy, a Port Rupert Indian woman, was yesterday charged with breaking a door. She was discharged for want of sufficient proof of the offence.

## The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, November 16, 1870

## The Canadian Pacific Railway.

It cannot but be gratifying to the friends of British North America to observe how great a hold the scheme for a trans-continental railway through British territory is taking hold upon the Home mind. Scarcely less in England than in Canada is the necessity of such a work recognized, and the Father stands ready to endorse the paper of the son, in order to carry it out. Those who run away with the idea that the Canadian Government has been induced to promise the railway, in order to induce British Columbia to enter the Union, make a mistake. The fact is rather that the Dominion Government agrees to receive British Columbia now upon the terms offered in order that the great work of building the railway may be speedily advanced; a work the preliminaries of which must, of course, await Union. We have carefully watched the topic of the Canadian press upon this great question, and it is a significant circumstance that the opposition, equally with the Ministerial section, recognizes the early construction of a railway as a national necessity; nor have we in a single instance observed an allusion to it as a part of the price to be paid for inducing this Colony to enter the Confederacy. The following remarks of a leading Canadian paper, in allusion to the growing feeling at home in favor of a railway, may interest our readers:—We are thankful to those gentlemen for their valuable opinions and timely suggestions; but what we now want to push the project on and insure an early commencement, are practical and experienced men—men who can command the confidence of our Government and the confidence of English capitalists; and men in every way capable of carrying the grand undertaking on to an early completion. Undoubtedly as there are no insurmountable obstacles in the way; that such a road could be built for much less than the American Pacific roads have cost; that it could be more cheaply worked; and that, being a shorter route between England, Japan and China than the American routes, it could compete with them successfully for the great through trade between Europe and the East. In order, however, to have this road made, the Dominion Government must be liberal in their land grants, as the United States Government have been. A narrow, niggardly policy will not do. It would be a false economy, and detrimental to the best interests of the country, were we to refuse a comparatively reasonable quantity of our wild lands they might ask for. Away in the Northwest, and stretching right across the continent to the base of the Rocky Mountains, we have millions and millions of acres of as rich land as can be found in any quarter of the globe. But under present circumstances it is utterly useless to us, and must remain useless so long as we have no means of communication with it. If we were to give one-half of it in exchange for a railway to the Pacific, the bargain would be a good one; for then we should be able to find homes for thousands, where we now find homes for tens, and in a few years we should have one unbroken link of civilization and of settlements from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

## Ontario and Erie Ship Canal.

A deputation of influential Canadians, representing the directors of the Ontario and Erie Ship Canal, recently visited Chicago, Milwaukee and other Western towns for the purpose of placing before leading commercial men the great scheme of opening up a passage whereby seagoing ships and steamers of fifteen hundred tons might pass from the Atlantic seaboard to the great West—with a view to obtaining their cooperation in carrying out the enterprise. The deputation was met and very cordially received by the Chambers of Commerce in these places, and steps were at once taken with a view to promoting a work in which the Western States are equally interested with Canada. It will be recollected that a bill was passed during the last session of the Dominion Parliament incorporating the Ontario and Erie Ship Canal Company. A brief sketch of the scheme may not prove altogether uninteresting to our local readers. It is proposed to enlarge and otherwise improve the Welland canal from Port Colborne to Thorold, and to construct a new canal from that point to the natural and commodious harbor at the mouth of the Niagara river. It is estimated that this