

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, July 27, 1870

The Customs Tariff.

By many persons in this colony the question of tariff has been regarded as that which, of all others, presents the most serious difficulties in the way of Confederation. Hence the varied attempts, in dealing with the scheme of Confederation during last session, to hit upon some plan by which the supposed ill effects of the application of the Dominion tariff to this colony might possibly be averted. With this purpose in view one party went the length of asking the Dominion to concede to British Columbia the absolute right to have a separate and distinct tariff of its own, and to deal with that tariff as a constitutional right. A second party approached the subject with, perhaps, a little more moderation, yet with scarcely more reason, and asked Canada to concede the right to levy and collect any tax or taxes on the sales of foreign produce and manufactures entering for home consumption, equal in amount to the duties of Customs now levied and collected on the same,—vide Mr De Cosmos' resolution, 22nd March. A third party approached the subject in a way which we think was less open to objection on constitutional grounds, and simply proposed that the Dominion Government be asked to withhold the extension of the Canadian tariff to this colony for a specified period after union—say, until the completion of overland railway communication,—vide Mr. Robson's resolution of 22nd March. Upon these various grounds the whole question of tariff was very fully discussed in the Legislative Council. The position taken up by those who espoused the third and last mentioned proposition was that, while the Customs tariff of the Dominion was essentially and preeminently a Federal measure, to deal with which no Provincial Government could hope to acquire a constitutional right, yet the Canadian Government might consent to the postponement of the extension of that tariff to British Columbia during such reasonable period as would enable the colony to become a fitting subject for its operations. This was the position taken by the present writer, both in this journal and in the House; and it is some gratification to find that the sequel has tended to demonstrate its correctness. Turning to the Act constituting the new Province of Manitoba, we find the following provision: 'The Customs duties now by law chargeable in Rupert's Land shall be continued with increase for the period of three years from and after the passing of this Act, and the proceeds of such duties shall form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada.' In reference to the words 'with increase,' it may be necessary to explain that the Customs duties of Rupert's Land are now levied at the rate of 5 per cent, *ad valorem*, and it is intended that they shall be gradually approximated to the Dominion tariff. Here we find the principle which we advocated in regard to British Columbia distinctly recognized. Referring to what more nearly concerns this colony, we are in a position to state that, although the resolution moved by Mr. Robson was voted down in the Legislative Council, yet the principle enunciated therein has received practical recognition at the hands of the Ottawa Cabinet, as being the only concession in regard to the Customs tariff that could consistently be made. It has been agreed between the Dominion Cabinet and the Government of British Columbia that it shall be left to the Legislative Council of the latter, about to be convened under the new constitution, to choose between the retention of the existing British Columbia tariff for a certain specified period and the immediate application of the Dominion tariff, and in the event of the local legislature deciding in favor of the former proposition, the Canadian Government agrees to postpone for a specified period after union the application of the Federal tariff to this colony. To our mind it by no means follows that the colony will avail itself of this provision in order to evade for a time the operations of the Dominion tariff. It is enough for our present purpose that the choice is to be presented. It will now become a question of very great importance to compare the two tariffs thus about to be submitted to the free choice of the colony and arrive at an intelligent conclusion as to which of them promises the greatest benefit, or, if the reader prefer it, the least injury to British Columbia. In doing this it must be borne in mind that a retention of the existing tariff will not necessarily carry with it the right to alter that tariff. That is a right which we fear Canada cannot be expected to concede to any province, and for very obvious reasons. The choice will, therefore, lie between the retention of the British Columbia tariff, as existing at present, during a certain period, and the acceptance of the Dominion tariff subject to Federal

legislation. It will be important to keep these points in view in order to arrive at an intelligent conclusion; for, if the choice were between the Canadian tariff and our present one, with power to make whatever alterations and modifications in the latter we might think proper the case would be greatly different. We have already hinted that it is a matter of doubt whether the colony will prefer its present tariff to the Canadian one. The present writer has been accused of a great many things in connection with the tariff question of which he is perfectly innocent. Only the other day a journal published on the Mainland accused him of having been a consistent opponent of the farmers; of having advocated free port at Victoria till the force of public opinion compelled him to relinquish the subject, and of rejoicing at the probable extension of the Canadian tariff to this colony, which would be equally mischievous. It would scarcely appear to be necessary to offer a word in refutation of charges so utterly groundless and wanton. The whole journalistic and Legislative career of the accused is a standing contradiction of the first. The circumstance of a second paper recently started in this city being compelled 'by the force of public opinion' to adopt the free port theory precisely as advocated in this journal, will constitute a sufficiently conclusive answer to the second; while a reply to the third will be found in the fact that both in the Legislative Council and in these columns the accused strenuously advocated what has proved to be the only true remedy. This much we will admit, that we have never regarded the application of the Canadian tariff as being so fraught with evil as some persons appear to think it. Endeavoring to look at the question in the light of the entire colony, in all its varied interests, we have been enabled to discover in the Canadian tariff very important compensating advantages, forming in the aggregate no mean set-off to its unquestionably objectionable features. Remembering that under it, with Confederation and the free entry of all the productions and manufactures of the Dominion, the consumer would be relieved of fully one moiety of the taxation now paid in the form of duties, and bearing in mind that all revenue derived from the Customs duties would go into the Federal Treasury, we have been led to believe that, like most questions, this one has two sides, to both of which the colonists would do well to give due consideration. While we have ever regarded the agricultural interests as being of the very first importance, and, therefore, entitled to paramount consideration, we could not permit ourselves wholly to forget that there are other interests; and that assured prosperity and well-doing will be best attained when all the interests of the colony receive their due share of recognition, and go on hand in hand. It is true that if the agricultural interests were swept away all the others would be of little account. But it is also true that if all the other interests were blotted out agriculture would scarcely flourish. In dealing with a subject like the present, it is especially important that a stand-point should be sought sufficiently elevated to take in a view of the whole colony, with all its varied interests; for if the matter be regarded from a mere class or district point of view we shall be wrangling all our lives, and finally have to refer to Ottawa what we could never settle ourselves. In this very reflection will be found one of the strongest arguments in favor of making the Customs tariff a Federal question.

NO JOKE.—Joseph Dewsnap, the Pound-keeper, picked up five cows in the streets the other day and was engaged in driving them towards the Pound for incarceration, when Daniel Freeman owner of one of the animals, hove in sight and rescued all five from the hands of the Philistine. Complaint was made against Freeman, who was yesterday committed for trial before the Assize Court, where he will probably find that, however strenuously certain parties may counsel disregard of the law and revolt, he will be left to suffer the consequences of their advice.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE.—Yesterday Mr Franklin's rooms were crowded with buyers; the bidding was lively and prices obtained show an upward tendency. Lot 621 on Herald street, improved, sold to Mr Bossi for \$210; vacant lot on Yates street \$210; vacant lot on View street, near Douglas, \$320; to Mr Jessop; one-third of lot 3, View street with 2-story house, \$810; to Mr McNiffe; house and lot adjoining above \$660; to Mr T H Long, section 43, Esquimaux, \$80; to Mr L Lowenberg; three sections of land in Esquimaux District, 80 cents per acre.

CENTRAL SCHOOLHOUSE.—This building will be removed next week from its present location on Fort street to a vacant lot on the north side of View street, east of Douglas, which was purchased yesterday by Mr John Jessop at Mr Franklin's sale for \$320. The lot is 60x120 feet, and will afford ample room for a playground, &c. The schoolhouse is under lease to the local Board of Education and its prospective site is superior to the one on which it now stands.

KENTUCKY WHISKY.—The manufacture of this celebrated article has fallen off fifty per cent since last year.

Prize List.

Following is the Prize List of St Ann's Convent School:

Miss J Huston and Miss M Doane, 1st class—1st prizes for politeness and good conduct.

Miss L Fleming, 2nd class—1st prize for assiduity.

Miss L Tisset, 3rd class—1st prize for assiduity.

Miss V Campbell, 4th class—1st prize for assiduity.

1st CLASS, 1st DIVISION.

Miss E Henderson—1st prize cosmography, 1st botany, 2nd rhetoric, 2nd instrumental music, 2nd vocal music, 1st drawing.

Miss J Huston—1st prize religious instruction, 1st botany, 3rd cosmography, 3rd French, 1st instrumental music, 1st fancy work.

Miss O Huston—1st prize religious instruction, 1st composition, 1st mythology, 1st arithmetic, 2nd rhetoric, 3rd instrumental music, 1st hair work.

1st CLASS, 2nd DIVISION.

Miss M Delatre—1st prize composition, 2nd botany, 2nd history, 1st French, 1st music, 1st vocal music, 1st fancy work, 2nd fancy work.

Miss M Doane—1st prize arithmetic, 1st history, 2nd instrumental music, 2nd drawing, 1st French, 2nd fancy work.

Miss P Laumeister—1st prize religious instruction, 1st grammar, 2nd history, 1st mythology, 1st arithmetic, 2nd fancy work, 2nd French.

Miss O McLean—1st prize excellence, 1st geography, 2nd grammar, 1st history, 2nd mythology.

2nd CLASS, 1st DIVISION.

Miss M J Neilye—1st prize composition, 1st arithmetic, 1st geography, 1st modern history, 2nd vocal music, 1st plain sewing.

Miss J Newberger—1st grammar, 2nd geography, 1st arithmetic, 3rd French, 4th instrumental music.

Miss C Laumeister—1st religious instruction, 3rd grammar, 1st arithmetic, 3rd singing.

Miss S Cameron—1st prize composition, 1st grammar, 1st modern history, 3rd arithmetic.

Miss E Riddley—1st geography, 2nd grammar, 3rd fancy work.

Miss A McLean—1st prize modern history, 2nd plain sewing, 2nd order.

Miss M J Murray—1st grammar, 2nd modern history, 1st reading.

2nd CLASS, 2nd DIVISION.

Miss L Fleming—2nd prize geography, 2nd arithmetic, 2nd French, 3rd drawing.

Miss E Sackman—1st prize writing, 2nd composition, 3rd arithmetic, 1st fancy work, 1st order.

Miss V Medina—1st prize arithmetic, 1st reading, 3rd grammar.

Miss H Walsh—3rd prize modern history, 3rd arithmetic.

Miss J Jangerman—1st prize writing.

Miss S Suckly—3rd prize plain sewing.

Miss M E Coyne—2d prize vocal music.

3rd CLASS.

Miss M L Tisset—1st prize geography, 1st writing, 4th instrumental music.

Miss J Promis—1st prize composition, 1st grammar, 1st geography, 2nd history.

Miss J Hamburg—1st prize composition, 1st grammar, 1st history.

Miss M Wallace—1st prize reading, 2nd history, 1st instrumental music.

Miss O Riddley—1st prize geography, 1st history, 3rd vocal music.

Miss A O'Dwyer—2nd prize grammar, 4th geography.

Miss E Webster—5th prize grammar, 2nd reading.

Miss E Phillips—2nd prize arithmetic.

Miss L Wall—1st prize religious instruction.

4th CLASS.

Miss J Campbell—1st prize arithmetic, 1st writing, 2nd grammar.

Miss M Story—1st prize grammar, 2nd geography, 2nd arithmetic.

Miss J Dickson—1st prize grammar, 1st geography.

Miss K Greenwood—1st prize geography, 3rd grammar, 1st reading.

Miss M Medina—1st prize arithmetic, 3rd grammar.

Miss K Mahony—2nd prize geography, 4th grammar.

Miss G Dugal—1st prize reading, 3rd writing.

Miss A Murray—3rd prize geography.

Miss M Riddley—4th prize geography.

Miss P Phillips—3rd prize arithmetic.

5th CLASS.

Miss C Spiritana—1st prize reading, 4th singing.

Miss M J Crossen—1st prize reading.

Miss J Doll—1st prize reading.

LICENSING COURT.—Yesterday Peter Calvert was granted a license for a first-class country hotel on the Metchoin road. The application of Stevens, on the Saanich road, was postponed for one month; meantime temporary permission to sell is granted. Application of L Eckstein, Saanich road, postponed till next Court.

SPIRITUALISM.—Mr Todd lectured last evening to a very large audience, and handled modern Theology without gloves. One religious sect, in particular, he treated unmercifully, and, we think, somewhat unjustly; but his remarks tickled the audience and the 'sinner' was well filled, which were the main points. This evening Mr Bishop will break an intellectual lance with Mr Todd.

THE NEWS.—Last night's war news sheds little additional light upon the position of parties. The feeling in Northern Germany is, as we suspected, decidedly with Prussia, and Napoleon is not likely to meet with much sympathy in that direction. The 'sick man' will doubtless side with Napoleon, but that would help him much.

HISTORY OF OREGON.—The Oregonian is just now publishing documents relating to matters of early Oregon history, from the original manuscript, in the handwriting of Dr McLaughlin. These papers will doubtless possess much interest, especially to the pioneers of that State.

APPOINTMENT.—We learn that Mr Henry Hill McBride, for a long time jailor in this city, has received the appointment of Warden of the goal at New Westminster, rendered vacant by the death of Capt Frichard. Mr McBride has approved himself a faithful and efficient officer, and his promotion was well deserved.

FOREIGN CAPITAL.—The San Francisco press alludes to the flow of foreign capital into that city, reducing rates of interest to nine per cent. This change is very properly regarded in a favorable light, as tending to greater industrial development.

CELESTIAL SHOEMAKERS.—The introduction of Chinese shoemakers into the State of Massachusetts has given rise to a good deal of discussion. The Springfield Republican claims that 'odious trades unions' rendered the step necessary.

THE THISTLE.—Whether there is a weak point in the Municipal Thistle Extermination By-Law or not we cannot say; but certain it is that the enemy still proudly and defiantly lifts its undiminished head both in public and secret places, and it not speedily laid low it will very shortly send forth its myriads of seeds on the wings of the wind.

THE HARVEST.—The news from the agricultural districts is encouraging. Some crops will be light, especially on the high lands, in consequence of the dryness of the earlier part of the season, but there will, upon the whole, it is thought, be more than an average yield of grain, which will, of course, come in for 'war prices.'

ICE MONOPOLIES IN NEW YORK.—Ice is sold at \$5 a ton and sold as high as \$40. Hotel-keepers have organized for the purpose of self-protection against these impositions, by importing ice direct from Maine and other northern points.

HEAVY TAX.—The United States Government is to receive \$2 for every seal killed in Alaska, and the annual catch is limited to 100,000. It is feared by some that the limit will be disregarded and that the early extermination of these valuable fur-bearing animals will be the result.

THE MOSQUITO.—which has for several years been sorely felt at New Westminster, is represented as being very bad this season. In some of the settlements above the city they are especially troublesome. This circumstance is probably attributable to the high stage of water.

CLEAN DAFT.—McGillivray, a sort of town bummer, afraid to steal and too lazy to work, has gone clean daft. His idiosyncrasy consists in wandering about the streets, picking up old bones and chips, and piling them in big heaps.

THE UPWARD TENDENCY of real estate consequent upon the practical and favorable form recently assumed by the question of Confederation is clearly perceptible in recent transactions.

FROM THE MOUNTAINS.—Quite a number of mountain sheep and goat skins of very superior size and quality were brought into this city yesterday, where they found a ready market.

A GAY DECKCHIEF.—John Berks was yesterday convicted before Mr Pemberton of a charge of enticing H M seamen to desert, and fined \$20, in default, three months' imprisonment.

SHORT CAREER.—The new French Minister to Washington has truly had a short and eventful diplomatic career. His reception by the American press was a most flattering one. What of his exit?

THE FURNITURE of Lieut A O Beadon will be on exhibition at Messrs Davies & Co's saleroom at 12 o'clock to-day and will be sold to-morrow.

THE FINE CASE of stuffed birds exhibited at the Ladies' Bazaar, some weeks ago, will be raffled at the Brown Jug to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock.

BARFAR'S EXPRESS for Cariboo, Omiceca and way places, will close at 9:30 the morning.

Cowichan School District.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—In your last week's paper appeared a letter signed Halo Humburg, in which your correspondent complains of the dissatisfaction expressed that non residents were exempt from school tax. He says he is aware of only six good lots held by speculators. Now, sir, I take it that land acquired under the pre-emption law and held by non-residents is just as much a speculation as that which paid one pound per acre. The dissatisfaction expressed at the meeting applied to the one as much as the other, and the fact of their paying the road tax is no argument in favor of not paying school tax. Again, Halo Humburg says the 'hard working settler should not covet his neighbor's property, as \$960 has been voted Cowichan for school purposes, while Victoria only gets \$480. How much Cowichan deserves double I will endeavor to show.' I, too, think I can make out a case wherein it will appear that Cowichan needs the money if she does not deserve it. In the first place, the area included in the two school districts of Cowichan is too wide for any less than two schools to be of any practical benefit. In the next place, after the settlers had agreed to tax themselves to the full extent allowed by law, it would be entirely out of the question to expect the parents of half-a-dozen children to pay tuition fees sufficiently high to support two schools with only one grant of \$480. I think this is pretty clear if we take Halo Humburg's statement—that only \$100 would be collected by poll tax and tuition fees—to be correct, and I think his estimate is quite high enough. I don't see why Halo Humburg should charge the settlers with endeavoring to wheedle the Government, as they, at a public meeting which was duly advertised by notices posted through the settlement, agreed to tax themselves at the legal limit, which I think is as much as any other district in the colony has done, and all the money that could be raised by those means was found to be so hopelessly insufficient that the only alternative was to apply to the Government, and I look upon it that it is now, after having done all we can to help ourselves and finding we cannot accomplish our object, that we need Government aid more than we should if we were more numerous.

W. M. DRINKWATER.

Somenos, July 11, 1870.

Dominion Mail Summary.

A very large and influential meeting was held in St Patrick's Hall, Montreal, on 25th June. The meeting was presided over by Mayor Workman, and upon the platform were Sir A T Galt, Hon T Ryan, Hon H Sars, Hugh Allan and many other influential gentlemen. The object of the meeting was to acknowledge the bravery and efficiency exhibited by the volunteers on the frontier during the recent invasion, and to urge upon Her Majesty's Government the duty of seeking indemnity for the past and a better understanding in the future with regard to the relations existing between Canada and the United States, and pointing out the desirability of coming to a more clear understanding with the Imperial Government as to the nature, terms and extent of the support the Dominion will receive in future in upholding the honor of the flag, resisting the invasion of British territory by the enemies of the Empire, and in demanding indemnity from the Government of the United States for repeated outrages perpetrated from their territory. It was further resolved that while doing this, the executive should declare the continued willingness which undoubtedly exists among the people of Canada to fulfil every obligation, pecuniary and otherwise, involved by their connection with the mother country, which they earnestly desire may be long maintained, at the same time urging their right to expect that aggressions upon the soil of the Dominion will be as warmly resented as if they were made upon the soil of Great Britain itself. This last sentiment was too much for Mr Young, the leader of a so-called independence party, who was present with all the following at his command. He accordingly mounted the rostrum and amid a perfect babel of confusion, introduced a series of counter resolutions in harmony with his peculiar views. This was the signal for a scene of confusion which appears to have continued to the close, although, somehow, the original resolutions were carried by a very large majority of those present. Many felt scandalized at the turn given to the meeting by Mr Young and his band of followers. The opening of the Hamilton Car Shops was made the occasion of a rather imposing demonstration on the 28th June. The Premier of Ontario and a large number of notables were present. The machine shop is 240ft long, by 40ft wide; the new car shop is 300ft long, by 40ft wide; the smiths' shop is 120ft by 50ft; the foundry is 100ft by 80ft. These buildings are described as very complete and imposing. The ceremony of opening this immense establishment was concluded by a magnificent banquet provided in the main building by the enterprising proprietors, Hamilton & Son, the Mayor presiding. The weather had been intensely hot. At Ottawa, on the 27th, it was 100 degs. in the shade. Mr Cotton, proprietor of the Ottawa Times, had purchased the plant of the Evening Mail of that city. The street railway in the Capital was opened on Dominion Day. Sir John A Macdonald has so far recovered as to be able to travel, and it was proposed that he should go to the seaside in a few days. Lady Macdonald had preceded him to Carleton. The Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto Leader, under date July 29th, says: 'Mr H E Seelye, special correspondent of the British Colonist, leaves Ottawa to-day. He dined with Sir George Cartier yesterday. During his sojourn here he has made many friends.'

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Helpless and Hopeless.—No sufferer from external maladies has sunk beneath the chance of recovery till they have tried Holloway's renowned remedies, which call the most ungodly facility in eradicating all taints from the body, and the most wonderful power in setting up reparative, in place of destructive, action. Skin diseases, scrofulous complaints, and unsightly hereditary maladies yield to a course of Holloway's treatment, which cleanses the corrupt humors of the system, and steadily continues the work of reorganization and reconstruction until thorough soundness results. These Pills create a strong and evenly balanced appetite for food, and so improve the digestion and assimilation, that with the purifying process they simultaneously confer augmented strength and vigor.

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The Situation.

The war news has scarcely assumed tangible, certainly not intelligible, form. This circumstance is, without doubt, in great part attributable to the very natural desire of the belligerents to shroud preliminary movements in mystery. It is not improbable that we shall have to abide the issue of the first and we hope the last, great battle, before any very clear light will be shed upon either the plans of the belligerents or the attitude of the other Powers. Nor is it probable that we shall have very long to wait. With such arm trussing to the front on both sides, it is to be expected that the first battle will very shortly be fought. Until the diplomacy and friendly intervention of one of the Powers is possible, such arm trussing as those now glaring in mortal hate each other on the banks of the Rhine must fight. Matters have gone too far to leave any hope for the possible avoidance of that. The first great battle, over, both may be in a temper more favorable to listen to reason. The French army has, it is asserted, taken up its position at Strasburg, with right at Belfort, a fortified town in France. Strasburg, as our readers are aware, is a strongly fortified city in the east of France, and within half a mile of the Rhine. Its vicinity has been more than once the scene of military operations during the present age. More will, as previously announced, be headquarters of the French army. It is a fortified town of France, 170 miles from Paris. Mayence or Mainz is a city of Germany, in the great duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, on the left bank of the Rhine, opposite the flux of the Ma. It is the strongest fortress in Germany and is considered impregnable. Besides its ramparts, it is defended by extensive outworks, comprising a citadel, forts, and a fortified island on the river. The statements about the position of Great Britain, Austria, Turkey, &c., it will be as well to regard for the present as mere rumor. Nothing would appear to be tolerably certain, Great Britain will be slow to participate in the war in any other capacity than a peace-maker, and should be compelled to take sides against its faithful ally, France, it will be on flimsy or sentimental grounds. It is extremely improbable, therefore, that she would send troops forward now to maintain Belgium's independence; as so would be implied disbelief of the Emperor's assurance that the treaty will be respected. It might, in fact, be regarded as a virtual declaration of hostilities against the French nation and for Great Britain, or any of the other Great Powers, to take sides now would, in all probability, the signal for a general participation. The only hope of avoiding a general European war is by the observance of strict neutrality on the part of all Great Powers. It is said that popular feeling in Great Britain runs counter to France; but it must be remembered that reflection will tend to greatly to down this feeling, which is the first natural outburst consequent upon France having gone to war on such a flimsy pretext. In the United States of America a similar sentiment prevails. Do less the large German element, nevertheless not quite 10 per cent. of the population, will have its share of influence upon that nation.

NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT.—In pursuance of provisions of the 'Common School Ordinance, 1869' the Craigflower School District has been created and defined. The following is the official description of its boundaries: 'Commencing at the extremity of the north-western boundary line of Section 5, Vain District, thence along said line to the Sea Road, thence along said Road to the place where it intersects the southern boundary of Lake District, thence westerly along said boundary line and the north boundary line of Esquimaux District to the north-western extremity of said line, thence in a straight line to the south-east corner of Section 7 and the Salt Lagoon, thence northerly along the water line of Esquimaux Harbor and southerly to the south-western corner of Section 26, thence in a straight line to south-western extremity of Section 10, thence along the southern boundary line of said section to the Portage Inlet, thence north along the water line and southerly to place of commencement.'

POOR THING!—The Standard appears to be utterly incapable of discerning the difference between British Columbia having a right to deal with its own Customs tariff, to have a distinct tariff of its own, and the temporary postponement of the application of the Canadian tariff. This journal recognized the difference along, and has never been in the slightest degree inconsistent with itself on the subject. The Cabinet at Ottawa saw the difference and recognized it both in the case of the British Columbia and Manitoba. Because the Standard cannot see the difference it is into a rage and indulges in vituperation and misrepresentation of those who can. Poor thing!