

THE LAST OF THE CIVIL LIST RESOLUTIONS.

A keen appreciation of a joke is sadly marred by the laugh coming in too late. A forensic address, however clever, is seriously affected in its potency, when delivered after the verdict. History furnishes us with no end of events or sayings which were great in themselves but very small in their effects, because they occurred too late. Had Hannibal brought up his reserves earlier at Zama, who would have bet on Scipio Africanus? Had Grouchy arrived in time at Waterloo, would we now look upon the 18th of June as a day worth commemorating? Had the Vancouver Island politicians of 1858 shown a desire for Union with British Columbia, would the Assembly and Council to-day be worried to death over our civil list? We think not. We believe that on each and all of these celebrated occasions, the most lamentable of all cries—the cry of "too late"—changed the entire current of events. Our Union politicians seem to have been imbued with the unfortunate feeling of John Willet, of Maypole celebrity. Pompeus and popedom, like John, their ideas are a long time arranging themselves, and when they do get length get into something like rational order, are unfitted for the occasion. Tardy of growth, their conception only begins to blossom when the spring and summer have gone, and when the icy coldness of a congealing winter is ready to place its withering grasp on the tender petals. For the past five years the Union question has lain dormant. Session after session of the Legislature has passed away, but no sign or desire for union has been indicated by the "two Houses," according to the stipulations of the Act. Five years of opportunity have been allowed to lapse, but now, when these occasions have ceased, when the Home Government, through representations, has decided on keeping the colonies apart—when two separate Legislatures are established and two Governors appointed—our Colonial statesmen at length awake, and like the old ruined gambler in a balustraded state, attempt to deal out the cards when the money is gone and the play is over.

The Council's resolutions on the Civil List passed that body yesterday. They are in substance, as our readers have seen, similar to the ones sent home by the House. Like those of the Assembly, they touch upon the serious question in the most incoherent and nervous manner. Now making a bold attempt to grapple with it, and then starting rapidly away with all the timidity of a frightened fawn. At one time union is highly desired, at another it is declared impracticable. Were we, in fact, to give these resolutions a name consistent with their character, we should call them, however paradoxical it might seem, the Civil List Irresolutions. The inevitable vacillation which characterizes them is due, no doubt, to the attempt to separate the question of one Civil List from the union of the colonies—an action which is absurd, under present circumstances, as the last is impossible. The circumstances of the "situation" now are very different from what they were a little time ago. Then, with but one Governor and one Colonial Legislature, the difficulty would have been by no means insuperable. Now, however, the attempt to have one Civil List for two distinct Governments would be just about as harmonious as having one head for two bodies. The Siamese twins would be a very common place *fusus naturae* when compared with this political monster.

We have every desire to see retirement in the expenditure of the colony; but we have no wish to have the country appear ridiculous. If we are to have a Civil List now or in the future in conjunction with British Columbia we must be virtually one colony. It is the shrewdest folly to imagine any other alternative. It, therefore, our would-be statesmen have any capacity left them show it in striving to bring about a Union. We can tell them, however, beforehand, that that is a consummation they are not going to arrive at in either one of two years. They have allowed the past to slip away, and the fate of these colonies is decided upon for at least some years to come. The Duke of Newcastle did not give in his adhesion to the establishment of two separate Governments and Governors to undo it all again, because a few non-representative men in Vancouver Island wish to have things restored to their former assumed and deplorable condition. Whatever Union arrangements are to be made in the future must be based on the wishes of the inhabitants of British Columbia as well as on those of Vancouver Island, and the sooner our politicians take this view of the matter and act accordingly, the sooner will they abandon a course of proceeding that cannot under any consideration result in anything but a useless expenditure of time and trouble. From first to last, however, there has been no feasible scheme brought forward. From the Treasurer (who is usually correct) down to the least of the members of the Lower House, the most crude ideas have been advanced on this important question. Mr. Watson in attempting

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the opinion of this Colonist, representing, as it does, the unanimous opinion of the people of this Colony, the union of British Columbia and Vancouver Island would be detrimental to the interests of both Colonies, and that his Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to forward a copy of this resolution to Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State.—Carried unanimously.

Moved by hon. H. Holbrook, seconded by hon. Attorney General, That his Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to take into consideration the necessity of fixing a fresh site for the public buildings at Lillooet.—Carried.

The hon. Colonial Secretary informed hon. W. S. Black that his Excellency had allowed the £500 for the hospital at Williams Creek, the subject, would be allowed to him in his speech on Wednesday.

The hon. R. T. Smith moved his resolution respecting certain lands at the Chilliwack. A petition from the inhabitants respecting the same subject was also presented. The matter was referred to his Excellency.

Hon. R. T. Smith moved, seconded by hon. J. Orr, That his Excellency be respectfully requested to consider the growing necessity of appointing a Gold Commissioner and Surveyor for the Shuswap and Similkameen districts.

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THE NEWS.

The intelligence from the East received yesterday by the Eliza up to the 27th. No engagement portance has taken place since our news from the 17th. The attack on Plymouth, North Carolina, which was alluded to in our news by the Sierra given with fuller details. On the 17th, the Confederates their attack on Fort Gray, a little above Plymouth, but were on the day repulsed with considerable loss. William and Wesels were but after three ineffectual attacks were obliged to retire, forced severely from the fire of gunboat Southfield. At this juncture was carrying three small 64-pounder, and immediately the Southfield, which sank in a hour. Thus relieved of the shelling of the gunboat, the Confederates again rushed to the assault, and repulses succeeded in taking the 20th, after four days' hard fighting. The result was the capture of the men. The loss on the part of the Confederates was about 1500 killed and wounded, although statements put the figure down rather incredible story when the pulses and the continual fighting, Washington and New Mexico to be attacked by the Confederates, but both these towns are but extremely doubtful. The month demanded three gunboats sent commanded the approaches, but it cannot possibly reach Plymouth or Newbern, which will not in connection with the place and Newbern. The boats will, therefore, at Wash full play on the Confederate march to the assault. With case is different. Another Kingston, on the river Neuse, and some of the light draft men descends the river, may prove as the ram on the Roanoke. No further fighting has taken our latest dates on the Red River. The new Federal advance against at Shreveport; but but little of importance that appears about 3,000 men, raise 2,000 in the six days' fight has retired to Grand Ecore, a farther down the river, untilplies and reinforcements are for the will again, in conjunction boats, under Admiral Porter, vance. The only thing to be rapid-falling of the river, which a change of the base of our Grand Ecore to the town, situated about eighty miles further, and possibly prevent being able to co-operate. of Shreveport is, however, to be yielded up, without a further occupies a commanding point, borders of Texas, and is but a from the boundary of Arkansas. The new Federal advance seems likely to be leading to line policy which proved so d North in the early campaign. Confederates to co-operate to attack the enemy in detail. Lee is retiring on the Confederates, by some of the deep Burnside in advancing with way of the Rappahannock, succeed the James river, the General will have to fall back outflanked. This Burnside a however, prove a blind, his pediment proposed by the Conf Shreveport valley. If not hazardous, but at the same time policy on the part of Grant, i bound, from its very bold, the most decided issue, lieve, last advance of the arm mac. Gold has gone on con our last; at present, it stands 181. A truce of the most character, was in circulation to the effect that the Federal determined to impose an add cent on all duties for 60 d with the view to raise an amount of coin. We are in however, that the matter has confused with the present re has passed the House, increas the half of one per cent. Fro is nothing of importance. A letter from Chattanooga, has become a font sending, the shipping of supplies to the cubic inch of pure air is inhale dead mules and horses is al slight of the spirit animals di Disease is spreading rapidly, effect upon the sick in the ho a large increase of deaths in of the previous one.