

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, August 22, 1868.

Reciprocity—Who is to Blame for our Omission from the Treaty.

That we should have been left out of the operation of the bill lately introduced in the House of Representatives for the renewal of the treaty of reciprocal trade between the States and Canada and the British maritime provinces, is another proof, if one were wanting, of the apathy with which our Governor regards the vital interests of the Colony; nothing can compensate us for any delay in being admitted to the full benefit of the treaty; admission into the Dominion would not wholly effect a cure for the wrong to which this fresh specimen of the neglect of our Government has exposed us. There can be little doubt that no steps have been taken to ensure us the enjoyment of the privileges of the treaty immediately upon our admission into the Confederacy. Whose is the fault we ask? Has the Governor of this Colony so entirely forgotten his duty to the people, that he has neglected to bring this matter to the notice of the Home Government; or can it be that his influence has waned at the Colonial Office as it has in the Colony? Is the Duke of Buckingham dissatisfied with the state of things here, with an extravagant establishment kept up in the very teeth of express instructions, and with the reckless way in which the Colony has been exceeding its income for the last two years, and has he determined to visit the sins of the Governor upon the people of the Colony; it would hardly seem reasonable that he should do so, and yet if he really is dissatisfied with the state of the Colony's finances, it is possible that he may hope to coerce the Government of the Colony through the people. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has experience enough to be aware of the influence which local interests can sometimes bring to bear upon their Governments, and it will hardly occur to him to conjecture that the Governor of British Columbia may treat the popular element of the Council as a useless incumbrance not intended to exert any influence; it is possible that his Grace may not be fully aware of the small punishment it would be to the Governor to have the wishes of the people, about which he cares nothing, himself, utterly ignored in the Colonial Office. We cannot however believe that the fault really lies with the Imperial Government; it is, we regret to say, much more likely that proper representations have not been made by our own Government, of the advantages which would accrue to us from being included in any reciprocity treaty that may be effected between the Governments of British North America and the States. It is manifestly the duty of every member of the Executive Council to urge the necessity of prompt action in this matter. But we cannot conceive what the Commissioner of Customs has been about, if he has neglected calling attention to the necessity for steps to be taken to assure our reaping the benefit of any such treaty. The fault must be somewhere—blame possibly ought to attach to more than one quarter, and the official within whose peculiar province this matter lies may have partially discharged his duty in pressing it into notice, if so, he will fall far short of the mark if he relax his efforts, until our coal and lumber can enter into favorable competition at San Francisco, with inferior articles imported from other places. It is impossible that the Commissioner of Customs can plead ignorance of his duty; how then can he justify the culpable neglect. So long as we have separate heads of departments for every branch of the Government, who will not condescend to the common drudgery of work, we are surely justified in expecting that they will think. In matters relating to the Customs, there ought to be no better authority in the Colony than Mr Ham-

ley, his experience ought to have taught him much that is useful. Are we then to suppose that he has so little interest in the welfare of the Colony that he will neither trouble himself to work, think or suggest. Here again are the fruits of the Governor's want of care for the place; whilst he is apathetic all the officials will, we suppose, remain listless. We can assure them, however, that their inactivity will recoil upon them; the evils of our system of Government have made many converts to the cause of Confederacy; but the conduct of the Governor and the slothfulness of certain heads of departments have made ten times as many. Perseverance in their apathy will hasten the, to them, disastrous advent of Confederation, and will teach one and all in the Colony to look to it as the only means of deliverance from the evils which surround them. Apart, however, from the great question of the day, there is our omission from the Reciprocity treaty staring us in the face, and whilst we are enquiring who is to blame for the omission, we must not lose sight of the fact that there is still a possibility of something being done to remedy it. This is a matter upon which all parties must be agreed. We must have Reciprocity if it is within our reach. It is hardly possible, when His Excellency has forced upon his notice the preparation of a Bill to authorize such a treaty, from which we are positively excluded, that he will neglect to take prompt measures to rectify so far as possible the omission.

The Meeting To-night.

The Secretary of the Confederation League calls a meeting for to-night, at Smith's Hall, where measures will be taken for the purpose of having this section of the Colony represented at the forthcoming Convention to be held at Yale next week. The Convention will be held about the time of the holding of the Agricultural Exhibition in that town. Our citizens should show by their unanimity of action, that the gross misgovernment under which we labor, ought, and should at once, be laid before the British Parliament by urgent petitions from the people of all sections of the Colony. We have no doubt but that our suggestions will be willingly adopted.

Wednesday, Aug 19.

Port Townsend.—A correspondent writes us: Murphy, saloon-keeper at Utsalady, paid our burg a visit last week; and while in town seeing the sights, some one hundred and fifty dollars slipped out of his pocket mysteriously. For some reason, best known to himself, he seemed to think that his lost treasure was cashed away in the Indian rancher's just on the outskirts of the town. This impression grew stronger the longer he tarried, till Sunday morning, well fortified with such braces as our well filled bars afforded, he made a bulge for the ranch, bent on the recovery of his ducats; with no fear of the Duke of Buckingham before his eyes, he rushed headlong, uttering terrible imprecations, and roared the retainers of the aforesaid Duke, demanding all the time his ducats, which the natives protested were not there; growing exasperated, he at length threatened to burn down the ranch, and if report is true, actually set fire to the conch on which a native Cyprian was reclining who refused to budge. Finally, the authorities interfered, and the bellicose Utsaladian was led off to the "lock-up," where he was allowed time to work off the effect of his potatoes and to moralize on the fleeting character of riches, and the unreliability of the natives. Large fires are raging through the forests and owing to the excessive drought, great apprehension is felt in consequence. Our school-house, recently erected, was in imminent danger this morning, from a fire carelessly set in the adjoining timber which has been burning for several days. The atmosphere is so full of smoke that the mountains have been obscured for a week, and in consequence we have been unable to discern Mr. Coleman and party as they proudly unfurled the English and American colors from the crest of Mount Baker.

INDIANA.—The attention of the authorities is called to the fact that considerable sickness exists amongst the Indians in the lower part of the town. One died on Monday, one on Tuesday, and last evening, it was said a third lay dying in the alley leading from Johnson to Cormorant streets. During this hot weather certainly some attention ought to be paid to the filthy condition of these people in the district mentioned. Who is the responsible party? This is not the last that will be heard of the matter.

SAN JUAN ISLAND.—Secretary Soward has instructed Mr Darwin, Associate Justice of Washington Territory, in relation to American Civil Jurisdiction on the island, "that as for reasons of high public expediency, the tenure of that island has, since the arrangement between the two (British and American) Governments upon the subject, been exclusively military, it is deemed advisable that that tenure should continue until it shall have been terminated by the parties." It is presumed to be competent for the War Department to redress, pursuant to military law and regulations, any grievances with which the officers and soldiers, subject to its orders, may be charged.

ROADS.—Where are the road overseers, and what are they doing? The roads and bridges in the vicinity of the city are getting into a deplorable condition, and require a few needful repairs before the wet weather comes along. By means of the statute labor these repairs could be effected. Why then are the roads left unnoticed to the peril of life and limb during the ensuing winter? The statute labor act, we believe, is still un-repealed; if so, by all means let the revenue arising from it be applied to its legitimate purposes.

SUPREME COURT.—The case of Ohun Tan vs. Sublette, will be commenced at 11 o'clock to-day, before His Honor Mr Justice Neudham and a special jury of eight. Messrs Wood and McCreight, instructed by Mr Copland, for plaintiff; Mr Ring, instructed by Mr Bishop, for defendant. The attendance of jurors is required punctually at the time appointed.

His Excellency the Governor, Mr Seymour and suite will leave for New Westminster this morning by the gunboat Forward, and will be joined by the Hon. Admiral Hastings and Mrs Hastings in a few days, who will leave by the Sparrowhawk. We believe it is the intention of the party to make a trip to the interior of the mainland prior to the Colony.

NEW PAPERS.—We have received the first number of a neat weekly paper, The Territorial Republican, published at Olympia, by J. R. Watson, Esq. It is intended to represent the interests of the Republican party. We have also received a copy of a new Medical Journal, published in San Francisco.

HEAT.—The heat experienced in this city of late has prevailed over the adjacent territories. In all the towns upon the Sound and at Portland the heat has been excessive. On Monday the thermometer ranged from 86 to 89 in this city, falling at 6 o'clock in the evening to 76.

UP FOR PORTLAND.—The steamer Active which left yesterday morning for Nansimo, will take on board her usual complement of coal and leave for Portland on Saturday morning.

POINT WILSON.—We understand that Col. Williamson, who came up on the last steamer, has consummated the purchase of Point Wilson on behalf of the Government, from E. S. Fowler, Esq. We are informed that \$3000, in gold coin, was the amount paid.

THE ADDITIONAL ROOM to the office of Lands and Works is being progressed with in a manner that shows no time will be lost in its completion. It's a pity the same activity could not prevail in other matters to which the people attach importance.

UP FOR THE PORT.—In addition to those vessels on the way, the Oceanos, Wildfang (Liverpool) was loading in England for this port, by last advice.

THE STEAMER ELIZA ANDERSON arrived from the Sound yesterday, bringing 20 passengers and her usual freight of live stock, fruits, &c.

THE BARK AYA.—A portion of this vessel's cargo was brought to the wharf yesterday, and turns out in the best condition.

WHEN is slight-of-hand anything but a pleasing illusion? When a lady refuses an offer of marriage.

FOR VICTORIA AND PORTLAND.—The steamer J. L. Stephens leaves San Francisco for this port via Portland on Friday next.

FROM VICTORIA.—The steamer New World arrived at San Francisco on Monday evening, a good run down of 34 days.

SAILED FOR PORTLAND.—The G. S. Wright left yesterday for Portland.

Supreme Court.

[Before His Lordship Chief Justice Neudham.] In Re-Trounce vs. Strachan & Ogilvy, Mr. Ring moved for a new trial yesterday, or that the verdict be entered in favor of defendant Strachan.

The Registrar informed the court that the case would be settled and that the defendants did not wish the case to be moved.

On being informed that intimation of settlement had not been withdrawn, the learned counsel withdrew his motion declining to move in the case any further.

Letter from Mr Waddington.

London, July 15th, 1868. Dear —, I wrote you a long letter June 22nd, so to-day I write you a short one in order to enclose you the copy of a second petition to the House of Commons, which I got Lord Milton to draw up for general signature in a more condensed form than mine. It is not what I could have wished, or my friends; but as the session is near its close, I preferred letting it stand as it was, and got it engrossed. I then had to hawk it about the city for signature, and answer the most extraordinary questions and objections, a most wearisome task, I can assure you. I got, however, some first rate names, and, as the Clerk of the House said, the petition was 'most respectfully signed.'

I also forward you by post the Times of yesterday with the report of the debate which took place [published in yesterday's issue from London correspondence of the Colonist] on Monday in the House of Commons on the want of postal communication with Vancouver Island. This was on a notice from Lord Milton, which I prevailed upon him to make, and got my cousin Mr Monk to second it. I trust it may produce some good effect.

THE NORTH WEST TERRITORY.

You will see in the same paper a report of the second reading in the House of Lords of a bill to enable Her Majesty to transfer the sovereign rights of the Hudson Bay Co. under certain conditions to the Canadian Government; to whom a written proposal for the cession of the Saskatchewan territory was made about a month ago by the Hudson Bay Co. at the particular request of the Home government, and a few days after the debate on Sir Harry Verney's motion, which I sent to you. I received the news of this in a letter from the Hudson Bay Co. June 21st on the afternoon of the day I wrote you.

OVERLAND COMMUNICATION.

I had a long interview with Mr Rose, the Canadian Minister of Finance, on this subject on Monday morning, as well as on the opening of an overland communication, but this last question, it appears, more particularly concerned Mr McDougall, the Minister of Public Works, to whom I shall have to write; for the works have been suspended owing to some pecuniary difficulty between the province of Ontario and the Dominion, which is in direct contradiction with what was promised me in Ottawa, as Mr Rose allows, and with the general interests.

MISCELLANEOUS.

How my time is taken up with all these matters in paying and receiving visits, answering letters, negotiations, &c, you may well imagine; besides which I have been advised by several leading persons, to write a short pamphlet on the whole question, commercial, geographical, and Imperial, of an overland communication; which, after some hesitation, I have made up my mind to do, and am now preparing. With all this I have not a soul to help me, at least amongst the Vancouverians who are here, and have to reckon entirely on myself, which is after all perhaps the best plan.

The following is the petition alluded to, presented by Viscount Milton:

The humble Petition of the undersigned Colonists and others connected with British Columbia, Vancouver Island, and the British North American Provinces,

Sheweth: That the Colony of British Columbia and Vancouver Island is for all practical purposes isolated from the Mother Country, and surrounded by a foreign State, and great natural difficulties.

That the Colony, although yielding half-a-million of gold yearly, is entirely indebted to the United States for the carriage of its letters and emigrants, and almost entirely for the carriage of goods required for trade and domestic purposes.

That, in the Judgment of your Petitioners, it is of importance that gravest and other docks should be constructed there; and your Petitioners, in referring to this question, humbly beg to state to your honorable House that, for the purpose of constructing and repairing the docks mentioned, all the material may be had upon the spot, and at a reasonable cost, and in support of this suggestion, your Petitioners humbly beg to state that, if a man-of-war ship requires repair, it is absolutely necessary that the ship requiring repair should be sent to San Francisco. Consideration of the cost of repair of ships during the last ten years will convince your honorable House that large expenses to the Home Government might have been avoided if the means applicable within the colony had existed.

That your Petitioners beg respectfully to call the attention of your honorable House to a petition presented on the twenty-ninth day of May one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, on these subjects.

That your Petitioners are of opinion that it is of great public importance to secure the advantages of an overland communication through British North America, which would be the shortest and best route to China, Japan and the East.

That your Petitioners most humbly beg to represent to your honorable House that, in their judgment, the granting of this overland communication will not only be of advantage in promoting the public interests, but will also perpetuate the loyal feeling of the Colony.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that measures may be speedily taken for constructing docks and opening the overland communication through British North America, and in the meantime that immediate

arrangements may be made for subsidizing a line of steam communication from Panama to Vancouver Island.

And Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

COPESTAKE, MOORE, CRAMPTON, AND CO. G. P. TUNSTALL AND CO. H. C. BEETON, AND 21 OTHERS. London, July 3rd, 1868.

Canada.

The late Canadian papers are unusually barren of news. Attention is being drawn by the press to the merits of the proposed renewal of reciprocity with America, and some papers speak of the fact that it cannot well be completed until it is known whether British Columbia and the intermediate territory are to belong to the Confederation. A lawsuit for libel, brought by Gen. O'Neill against the editors of the Irishman, promises to be interesting, and useful in exposing certain portions of the Fenian invasion, not yet made known. The Toronto Globe gives us an account of a new explosive agent invented by the order, which will do much towards causing their own destruction. It is a powerful torpedo made to resemble a common piece of coal, which by being mixed with other real coal finds its way into private and public use without limit, and may cause endless explosions.

The Toronto Anglican Synod, in session, passed resolutions petitioning the Queen against the disendowment of the Irish Church and expressing strong sympathy with her in the present difficulties. Rev. Dr. Lett, the mover of one of the resolutions, said: "His own view was that the connection of Church and State both in Ireland and England was not for the interest of the Church, and he hoped to see a severance; but what he protested against by his motion was the ruthless spoliation of endowments which the State never gave. His firm conviction was that this measure, if passed, would lead to a breaking up of the entire British empire."

The appointment of Hon. Mr. Howland to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Toronto is generally considered by our contemporaries and the Ottawa correspondents as a certainty, though causing considerable discussion in the press generally.

Judge Wilmut (of the Supreme Court) who presided during a portion of the May circuit in Toronto, took an informal leave of the Bar, from which it is surmised that he has received the long talked-of appointment to the Governorship of New Brunswick.

Throughout this county the crops of all kinds look exceedingly promising, and should the milder and just keep off, great fields of wheat, spring and fall, may be anticipated. In some places the fall wheat had grown so rank as to require cutting down, and even so a good deal of it has lodged. The spring grain looks magnificent. For some the weather has been rather cool and wet.

A very handsome Episcopal church is being built at Winnipeg which is spoken highly of; it is evident the North-West is rapidly advancing.

Hudson Bay Co.

The half-yearly meeting of the Hudson Bay Company was held on Tuesday, July 1st, the Earl of Kimberley in the chair.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, expressed regret at the loss of their late Governor, Sir E. Head, and bore testimony to his very high merits. He had the disadvantage of addressing the meeting for the first time with a reduced dividend. The far trade was a very fluctuating one, in addition to which they had met with certain losses, which had been fairly and fully written off. One question was how far the expectations held out to them on the formation of the present company had been fulfilled? He understood they were promised an average dividend of 4 per cent. In the first year they had 4 1/2 per cent, in the second 4 1/2 per cent, in the third 5 1/2 per cent, in the fourth 4 1/2 per cent, and now they had 3 per cent. They must look at the average (series of No. 7) and if they did they would find the average dividend exceeded 4 per cent. There were important negotiations going on as to the company's territorial rights, in respect of which he had to speak with some reserve. He had a very strong belief in favor of their claims, and he hoped they would be fairly and fully supported by the Government in the matter. He would devote himself to their interests and the committee would do everything in their power to maintain the company's rights.

Sir C. M. Lampon seconded the motion for the adoption of the report.

Mr Thorpe complained of the manner in which the affairs of the company had been managed, and hoped the proprietors would support him in a resolution to the effect that the territorial rights of the company be not parted with for less than £1,300,000.

Sir C. M. Lampon stated that the average income of the company mentioned in the prospectus was £81,000, but they had obtained an average of £92,000, and had divided £436,000, which admitted of an average dividend of 4 3/8 per cent. The proprietors had subscribed £2,000,000 of capital, and they had to pay the dividend out of the profits of trade, goods and stock, for which the company had paid £1,000,000 of their capital; they had given the other £1,000,000 for the estate and territorial rights, which had produced them very little.

After some observations by Mr Newmarch, Mr C. Ely, Mr Maxwell, Mr Quiller, one of the auditors, and other proprietors, the report was adopted and the dividend of 4 3/8 per cent was declared.

At the request of Mr Potter, a director and several shareholders, Mr Thorpe withdrew his proposed resolution, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

VACCINATION.—We are requested by the Mayor of the city, to announce to parents and guardians of children, the immediate necessity of having them vaccinated.

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The Financial Condition

The present financial condition of this Colony has assumed an aspect, that it becomes for the people to look to earnest, and to submit to the responsibility of the difficulty of the situation, no procrastination in its sanction no further to. We have no desire to alarm, and do not in any national bankrupt have been drifting to for two years and more people of this Colony, believe that they will pay to any such degradation and merited end of survive beyond their income no provision for the future; but the people of Columbia, are not reckless means and spendthrifts as they are and have time past, they do not payment of what is due on the government of the people. They believe in the of the country and will considerable personal income deprivations, so long as them as temporary, and herent cause, necessary being. Many of the porters of Union during Colonies were severed, conviction, that the Colonies, already served too heavy an expenditure up unnecessary establishments benefit from consolidation government; it was a supposition, and to those means of realizing the management of our Government must seem almost after two years of unnecessary reduction as was necessary with the altered should not have been tently did the public only did they expect, year of the Union, alteration in the expenditure; the second year expect still, but with soed feelings, their patience exhausted, they being treated as for anything but to. However, all things must and the peoples' endurance their money wasted, kept in ignorance respect of their debts, has max which will soon end one way or the other except a despotic Governor of a Crown Colony safety to himself assume keep those persons, of happens to be the trustee of the state of their Governor of this Colony all established precedent proper to keep back from the extent of the deficit financial year. It would interesting and instruct know what information forded to the Imperial upon this head; that the what interested will everybody who will take to consider the position possible that the financial this Colony taken alone cause the head of a Secretary to ache with anxiety roundings may make it interesting to the Imperial, for it must be ran if no better accounts expenditure are sent to money in this Colony, British Columbia naturally feel some little unsatisfactory state of affairs. A commercial discounted the bills of a ing on a small but subs creating business, feeling long as he sees the close to his work and out into extravagancies.