

The Weekly British Colonist,

Wednesday March 22nd, 1871.

## A Flourishing Province.

That the Province of Ontario is in a flourishing condition facts and figures indubitably attest. Last year the Ontario Government spent a trifle over a million and a half, notwithstanding that the estimated expenditure was two millions, and the actual revenue was largely in excess of the estimated revenue. The estimated expenditure this year is over two millions and a half (\$2,600,000), a considerable part of which is covered by exceptional expenditures, and a great deal of it is for reproductive works and useful institutions calculated to contribute to the future wealth and greatness of the country. For instance, it is proposed to spend \$775,611 on public buildings, public works, and public institutions of an educational and missionary character, over \$200,000 in the maintenance of asylums; over \$380,000 on education; \$75,000 on agriculture and arts; \$60,000 on colonization roads, and nearly \$300,000 in relief of municipalities entitled to relief under the Land Improvement Fund. It would thus appear that fully two-thirds of the whole year's expenditure goes towards directly promoting the material and intellectual improvement of the Province, less than one-third being absorbed in the expense of conducting the civil government, legislation, administration of justice, &amp;c. There are probably few countries that make a better use of their revenue. We only hope British Columbia will be able to exhibit as favorable a balance-sheet. In these remarks no allusion has been made to the accumulated surplus of considerably over three millions which Ontario has decided to employ for the purpose of encouraging the development of a complete railway system.

## The Terms at Ottawa.

The proposition to admit British Columbia into Union with Canada upon the Terms agreed upon between our own Government and that of the Dominion and, at forth in the address to the Queen, passed by the Legislative Council of this Colony during its present session, will come up before the Dominion Parliament for debate and decision on Friday next. Will the proposition be adopted? The question is truly a momentous one to this Colony. A negative answer implies hopes, bright hopes crushed, rudely dashed to the ground; public distrust, painful and indefinite suspense revived. It has been said that the full value of a friend is only realized when he is taken away. And so would it be with Confederation. The Terms have been subjected to the severest criticism—often discussed in a supercilious and unfriendly spirit, some indulging in regret that the demands of British Columbia were so moderate. But let it be announced that these Terms have been rejected by Canada, and there would follow a revolution of public sentiment. There would be a general wail of regret. On the other hand, an affirmative decision on the part of the Canadian Parliament means general rejoicing. Not but it is remarked that there is any great doubt upon the subject; but because the issues are momentous and have but recently emerged from Utopia. What will the decision of the Dominion Parliament be? Aye, or No? Judging from the current of events, the policy and strength of the Canadian Government, the tone of all sections of the Canadian Press, judging even from the accusations of the Opposition, judging from private information, we hesitate not to say that the Parliament of the Dominion will decide in the affirmative, and that British Columbia will be formally admitted into the Dominion on next Dominion day. If the Ministry were weak, shaky, it might be possible that the Opposition would be unpatriotic enough to attempt to oust it on that question; for it is no secret that the Ministry has gone to the very verge of national toleration, so to speak, in conceding such terms to British Columbia. But it is neither weak nor rickety. It was never stronger than it is now. Should the present Ministry succeed in carrying these terms through Parliament, of which there can be no reasonable doubt, it will become the duty of British Columbia to send to Ottawa three Senators, and six Commissioners who will be prepared to agree to that Ministry a general and a generous support. Few Ministers would have met British Columbia in such a liberal spirit. Few

would have undertaken to carry such terms through Parliament, and it would indeed be becoming the people of this Colony to overlook these facts in selecting those who are to represent them at Ottawa.

Wednesday, March 15.

Corroborated Elections Bill.—This bill was sent down from the Executive yesterday. Its chief provisions are as follows:

Any candidate or voter may, within twenty-one days after the return has been made, petition the Supreme Court against such return.

Security for the amount of \$2000 to cover costs, &amp;c., must be given by the petitioner or petitioners. Trial shall take place in the Supreme Court at Victoria, unless it shall

appear to the Court that special circumstances render it desirable that trial shall

take place in the District to which such petition relates.

The Judge shall decide whether the member whose return is petitioned against shall take his seat, or whether the election is void. Where it is found that bribery and corruption have been committed by the members, the expenses of any candidate, his election is declared, shall be void and shall be incapable of being elected to or sitting in the Legislature during the seven years next ensuing, and he shall be incapable during said period of being registered as a voter and of voting at any election in British Columbia or of holding any Municipal or Judicial office or appointment, such as determined by the Court. A short-hand reporter is to be employed to report the proceedings of the Court. The Court shall have the same powers and the same attendance as in ordinary cases.

The Civil List Act, 1871.—Such is the title of a bill prepared by the Government, a copy of which is before us. The bill provides for the payment every year out of the general revenues of the colony of sums not exceeding \$772,241.25 for defraying the expense of the several services and purposes named in the schedule thereto annexed. Said schedule comprises a complete list of all the officers under the Governor, except the Supreme and County Court Judges, with the amount of salary fixed to each. With five exceptions these salaries are the same as in the Estimates. The five exceptions are: The salary of the Attorney General is raised from \$2500 to \$3500. The salary of the Clerk is raised from \$1000 to \$1750. The salary of the Auditor's Clerk is raised from \$1450 to \$2500. The salary of the Superintendent of Printing is raised from \$1200 to \$1500. The pay of two printers is raised from \$1920 to \$2000. We shall have more to say about this bill and about these changes in a future article.

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