

The Weekly British Colonist  
AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, September 18, 1866.

## The Union Bill.

The rumour that the Union Bill has passed the House of Lords and received the Royal assent is, we fear, too true, and our people must begin to nerve themselves to meet boldly and unflinchingly the very worst state of affairs that it is possible for British colonists to endure. We say the very worst, because we fear that the clause which gave our Legislature the alternative of accepting or rejecting the measure, has been struck out; and because we have it on excellent authority that Governor Seymour—having failed to procure the Jamaica Governorship, for which he was an applicant—is now on his way out to take charge of the united Colonies. How much of justice and liberality may be expected by Vancouver Island at the hands of this gentleman, will be understood by those who have perused his remarkable despatches to the Home Government and noted the misstatements which they contain. Writing as a Governor who wished to rule over us—to meet our people socially—to come in contact with us officially—and to meet us on common ground, prepared to work for the advancement and perpetuation of British interests on the North Pacific, we are at a loss to understand how Mr Seymour could have ventured to trace his autograph beneath a tissue of statements so palpably untrue as his despatches to Mr Cardwell. Policy, if not principle, would have dictated a totally different course; but Mr Seymour appears to possess neither the one quality nor the other, and a greater misfortune could not have befallen Vancouver Island than to have such a man sent to rule over us. We have been astonished to hear some very intelligent people exclaim: "matters cannot be worse than they are at present;" but these people talk without due consideration. In the first place, Vancouver Island has a debt of only \$300,000, while British Columbia owes upwards of \$1,200,000. The interest on the combined debt would be fully \$100,000 per annum, or nearly one-half of the entire estimated revenue of this Colony for the current year, and this load of debt and interest we would have to shoulder, give up the capital, and consent to a rival port of entry at New Westminster. It is true that goods shipped at Victoria would escape detention by the Customs' authorities at New Westminster; but that would be but a small item when compared with the actual disadvantages, delay and expense, of having to steam across the Straits every time one wished to lay a case before the Governor. Nor would the proposition for a Lieutenant Governor, to reside at Victoria, mend matters, for there would be then, as now, two staffs of officials to maintain and all the delay and annoyance consequent upon the reference of public business to the chief office at New Westminster, and the delay of several days in awaiting an answer. The terms proposed in the bill are humiliating and ruinous for Vancouver Island, and are such that, if we are to have any voice in the matter, we cannot accept without committing an act of political suicide. Even if the terms were the most favorable, the known hostility of Mr Seymour to everything Vancouverian, would preclude their acceptance. With a new man for Governor—one totally devoid of self-interest or prejudice—we might be sure that the natural advantages of Victoria over any other point, as a commercial entrepot, and as a location for the capital, would exert an influence that could not be successfully resisted for any length of time. But with a Governor naturally prejudiced against us as a people, and interested in the real estate and town lots of the sister Colony, our natural advantages will be ignored, and our well grounded complaints disregarded. As for Union itself, we are strongly in favor of it, but only upon a basis that would be fair and equitable to both sections—A Union with

one set of officials, one Legislature each section to fund and provide for the payment of the indebtedness incurred before Union, by a small annual tax on real and personal property, until the whole is cleared off; the location of the capital, and the manner of raising a revenue to be determined by the people's representatives—and, above all things, anybody but Mr Seymour as Governor. On a basis somewhat similar to the above, we believe Union would be acceptable to the people of both Colonies. With the terms of the Bill, which we have every reason to believe has become law, no one outside of New Westminster is satisfied; in fact, it is a piece of heartless special legislation—concocted in London by Governor Seymour and Colonel Moody, and designed to build up the capital of British Columbia at the expense of the commercial depot of the North Pacific. We do not say that its passage will ruin Victoria. The Seymours and the Moodys in London could not keep this town from eventually becoming a great centre of commerce. Nature has looked after our interests in that respect. But we do say, that its effects will be felt a long time—that it will increase the depression now prevailing—will weaken public confidence in the permanency of the City, and set us back several years. All this it will effect without materially benefiting New Westminster, which must always remain a place of secondary importance. For the reasons set forth above we oppose the Union of the Colony with British Columbia on the basis proposed in the Bill; and we have no hesitation in adding that even were the Bill much more favorable in its tendency, Mr Seymour would not be acceptable to the people of either Colony.

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

## Complimentary Dinner.

The complimentary dinner to Mr Simon Reinhart, on the eve of his departure from the Colony, at the French Hotel, was one of the most interesting affairs of the kind that it has been our lot to attend during a long residence in this Colony. About forty gentlemen sat down, at 8 o'clock, to a sumptuous repast, and the enjoyment, which was unalloyed, was continued until a late hour. Robt. Barnaby, Esq., presided, supported by Jules David and David Leneveu, Esqs, as Vice Presidents. On the right of the President sat Mr Reinhart (the guest of the evening), Capt White, of the U. S. S. Lincoln, and Messrs J. Wilkie, C. O. Pendergast, E. Gracini, F. Weissburger, J. P. Couch, J. Boscowitz, P. M. Baekus, B. Barnett, E. Marvin, and N. I. Neustadt. On the left of the President sat Messrs D. B. Ring, J. G. Shepherd, Henry Nathan, J. Weil, Mr Greenbaum, J. Loewi, Emil Sutro, M. Sporgor, G. Gillingham, J. A. McCrea, and T. L. Stahlschmidt. Letters of apology were read from the U. S. Consul, Capt. Code, of H. M. S. Sutlej, and Capt. Franklin, of the U. S. steamer Saginaw, expressing their deep regret that previous engagements prevented their attendance to do honor to a citizen and merchant so universally respected as Mr Reinhart.

The President then proposed the health of "the Queen," and "the President of the United States," which were received with cheers and national airs.

Mr David proposed the health of Governor Kennedy, who from the despatches lately published, had shown himself a true friend to the Colony, and a withal free-trader man, (applause.) [Music—Governor's March.] The President proposed the health of "Our Guest," who had been with the Colony through all its ups and downs, and had ever been foremost in enterprise, business and charity. The guest was going to join his vrow in Fatherland, and the President hoped he would safely reach his destination, and bring back with him 100,000 men. He wished Mr Reinhart all the happiness it was possible for a mortal to enjoy—*bon voyage*, and a speedy return. [The toast was drunk with three times three. He's a jolly good fellow.]

Mr Reinhart, in rising, responded, was received with applause. He said he found much difficulty in responding to the toast, and wished that he had the ability of an orator to reply in suitable terms. He regretted that he was about to leave so many kind friends behind him, and hoped that on his return he would find the Colony as prosperous as Mr Seymour represented British Columbia to be in his despatches. (laughter and applause) He looked upon Victoria as his home, and expected soon to return and settle down in the Colony of his choice. [Cheers.]

Vice-President Leneveu proposed "The Armies and Navies of Great Britain and the United States." The proposer hoped that the good feeling now existing between these two arms of defence would endure forever. (Cheers.)

Music—"Red, White and Blue."

Capt. White, of the U. S. Revenue Cutter Lincoln, said he was out of his element in responding to a toast. The armies and navies of Great Britain and the United States combined could conquer the world; but as his battery only consisted of small howitzers he must beg to be excused from further service in the talking line.

Capt. Lang responded, and in allusion to the Rifle Corps, said he hoped that the volunteers of Great Britain would never be called on to do fighting, but if they were he trusted they would strive to emulate the example of their brethren on the American continent. (Applause.)

Vice-President Leneveu proposed "The Bench and Bar," coupling therewith the name of Mr D. B. Ring.

Mr Ring said he took it that the toast was intended as a compliment to the Bench and Bar of the whole world. He paid a flattering tribute to the purity of the bench and the bar—who were actuated by feelings of liberality and justice without respect to persons. [Three cheers were given for the "Bench and Bar."]

Mr Gillingham proposed—"England and America—one blood, and representing the same civilization." He availed himself, gladly, of the opportunity of responding to a toast that brought in connection the names of England and America. He would be derelict of his duty, and ungrateful for the happiness he had experienced here during the past eight years, were he to decline to propose a toast that so completely spoke the sentiment of his heart. [Three cheers were given for the subject and the proposer.]

Capt. Lang said it was a hard thing to respond to this toast, because when we came to talk on a subject that all held to be true, there was no occasion for long words. [Applause.] Between England, the great mother, and America, the great daughter, there could never be any serious difficulty. There might be diplomatic misunderstandings; but there was a deep feeling of fealty and attachment among the people. England and America forever! long might the two nations go on side by side, carrying the banner of civilization into the remotest quarters of the globe. (Cheers.)

Mr Neustadt proposed the "Health of the Ladies." His knowledge of the fair sex was so limited that he could not venture upon any extended remarks. (Great laughter.) He would merely propose the health of the dear creatures and called on Mr Gracini and Mr Pendergast for a response.

Mr Gracini could say nothing at all about the ladies, because he was an old bachelor; he wondered why he was called on to respond, when Mr Pendergast was present.

Mr Pendergast felt glad of the opportunity to say one word in behalf of the Ladies; the guest the evening was about to meet Mrs Reinhart, (applause)—a lady for whom all present experienced a feeling of respect. He would propose of Mrs Reinhart. The toast was drunk with three times three, and after a brief and appropriate response from Mr Reinhart, volunteer toasts commenced, and with a sentiment the remainder of the evening was passed. At the conclusion of the repast, the guest was escorted to his dwelling, and loudly cheered. Mr Reinhart will leave on the mail steamer to-day Europe.

## The Fire Department.

The Board of Delegates of the Fire Department, last evening met the Committees from the several Companies, and resumed the consideration of the present condition of the Department.

The Committee appointed to wait on His Excellency to obtain a guarantee that the sums now due, and those required for the Department for the future, would be placed on the Estimates, reported that His Excellency, who had received them most courteously, informed them that he could not possibly give such a guarantee; as in the event of Union of the Colonies, which might soon take place, he might possibly not remain here, and his successor would not be bound by any obligation he might enter into. As regarded any present assistance, the Legislature had bound him hand and foot, or to use their own words, so completely hedged him in, that he was unable, though a warm friend of the department, to grant assistance. His advice was to apply to the City Council for aid, who he thought had the power to levy a rate if they chose to exercise it, and would, he believed, from what had fallen from the Chief Justice, in the Council, be sustained by the Court.

The report was received, and on motion, the reply to the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 31st ult., and resolutions 3 and 4 adopted at last meeting were reconsidered, and unanimously rescinded.

It was then agreed, on motion of Mr Foreman J. O. Keenan, that the same Committee wait upon the several Insurance Agents requesting their aid for the present support of

the Fire Department, assuring them that unless that aid was received the Department would be compelled to declare themselves out of service for want of funds to meet current expenses.

On motion of Mr Secretary E. O. Holden, it was further agreed that a memorial be prepared for presentation to the Mayor and Council, praying that a by-law be passed under the Incorporation Act, to levy a rate for maintaining the Fire Department.

Committee adjourned subject to call of President, and Board resumed business, received new Delegates, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: S. L. Kelly, President; E. C. Holden, Secretary; John Glassey, Treasurer; being one from each company.

Treasurer reported all funds exhausted, and nothing in hand to pay steward's salary.

On motion, the Secretary was instructed to apply to the several companies to advance funds from private sources for payment of steward's salary, he being in want thereof and Board adjourned.

CANADA.—Major General Sherman, U. S. A., visited Quebec recently and was hospitably entertained by the authorities. A fire on St. John street, Quebec, brought out the firemen, who indulged in a riot, and a reign of ruffianism prevailed during the evening. A large number of persons were badly hurt, before the *emete* could be quelled. Mr George Peabody, the American philanthropist, is trout-fishing in Canada. Crops throughout the Province are well spoken of; the yield will be an average one. In Toronto, a man named Brock, shot at a dog but killed a man, instead. The careless fellow was arrested; but the coroner's jury found that nobody was to blame and he was liberated. A fire in the hardware store of W. R. Harris, Toronto, destroyed the building and \$20,000 worth of the stock. A young ruffian, named Merick, aged ten years, at London, fired a gun loaded with buckshot at a Mrs Thomson, because she had reproved him for allowing some fowls to stray into her garden. The charge missed its object, and the recoil of the gun knocked the scamp down, when he was secured. That "young idea knows how" to shoot.

EARL RUSSELL AND THE FENIAN INVASION. On the occasion of Lord Derby's ministerial statement in the House of Lords, July 7th, Earl Russell who reviewed the policy and proceedings of his ministry, paid the following tribute to the friendly conduct of President Johnson during the raid on the Canadian borders, and to the energy displayed by the Canadians in defending their shores:—"Both the public despatches and private letters of Lord Monck bore testimony to the fact that the Fenian insurrection could not have been put down so quietly and completely as it had been, if it had not been for the loyal conduct of the President of the United States. Greater energy and greater promptitude were never seen than that manifested by the people of Canada in support of the free institutions of the day. That is a proof of our friendly relations with the United States, and it is a proof that our conduct towards Canada for the last quarter of a century has been such as to promote the loyalty and attachment of that people to our throne."

ARRIVAL FROM ENGLAND.—The ship Royal Tar, Capt. John Mark, 137 days from London, consigned to Henry Nathan, arrived last evening and anchored in Royal Roads. Capt. Mark reports variable weather during the first part of the voyage; crossed the Equator, in the Atlantic, on the 24th of May; rounded Cape Horn on the 4th of July; on the 12th of July, experienced a heavy gale; crossed the Equator, in the Pacific, on the 4th of August; sighted Cape Flattery on the 12th inst. The ship brings a full cargo of general merchandise and five passengers. She draws 16½ feet of water. The passage is one of the swiftest on record between the two ports, and the fine condition of the ship and the quick passage reflect much credit on Capt. Mark's ability and seamanship.

MARRIAGE.—The North Wales Chronicle announces the marriage, on the 21st of June, on the occasion of the celebration of the coming of age of the Hon. Miss Hughes, of Anglesey, daughter of the late Lord Dinorben, of Edward Shelley, Esq., nephew of the poet Percy B. Shelley, to Miss Mary Smyth, niece to the Right Hon. Lady Dinorben. Mr Shelley was formerly a Captain in the 16th Lancers, and in the Crimean war commanded the Albanians or Bashis Bazzooks. He subsequently travelled over the Rocky mountains, and visited this Colony, where he remained some time and formed many friends, who will be pleased to hear of his social advancement. He had been engaged to the lady of his choice for 18 years.

NO 2 COMPANY.—At a meeting for the appointment of officers of this Company, held at the Mechanic's Institute on Thursday evening, Lieut. Wood was elected Captain vice Capt. Young resigned; private Gillon was elected Lieutenant; Sergeant Widdowson Color Sergeant; Corporal McKenzie Sergeant.

THE "ACHIVE" came down at midnight from New Westminster.

UNION RUMOURS.—A private letter from San Francisco, states that Governor Seymour applied for the Jamaica Governorship but failed to secure the appointment, and that, as the next best thing, he is coming out to take charge here. A local rumor yesterday was to the effect that Governor Kennedy had received information that the Union Bill had become law, and that he is instructed to transfer the Government to Mr Seymour, immediately upon his arrival here—which will be on the next mail steamer, or, perhaps on H. M. S. Sparrowhawk. We give these statements for what they are worth.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—Papers are to August 3d—Cholera rumors were rife at St. Johns two fatal cases had occurred. A sailor stabbed another to death at Richibuctoo on the 20th of July. A fire in Charlottetown destroyed four blocks of buildings, nearly in the centre of the place, causing a great loss of property and much individual distress.

NEW WESTMINSTER.—By the steamer Aca tive we learn that a telegram, announcing that the Union Bill had passed, had been received at the sister capital. The Onward and Lillooet have laid over one trip, and will not start up river until this morning; in consequence of which, the Enterprise will not return until Tuesday.

FROM PORTLAND.—The steamer Fidelity, Capt. Erskine, with ten passengers and a cargo of Oregon produce arrived yesterday morning. The Fidelity was detained in the Straits by a thick fog. We are indebted to Capt. Erskine and Mr Patterson for files of Portland papers.

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.—Great seams of coal have been found at Vermilion Lake; it looks like Welsh coal. The Norwester complains of a refusal on the part of the Hudson Bay Company Justices of the Peace to punish rowdies.

The new Presbyterian Church on Broughton street, in connection with the Church of Scotland, will be opened tomorrow. Morning and evening service will be conducted by the Rev. Thos. Somerville, M. A.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Divine Service will be held in the First Presbyterian Church, Pandora street, on Sunday morning, at 11 o'clock, by Rev. D. Duff, of New Westminster; in the evening, at 7 o'clock, by Rev. R. Jamieson, of Nanaimo.

THE "PREMIER."—This schooner was towed yesterday to Burrard's Inlet B. C., by the steamer Enterprise to take in lumber for the Sandwich Islands. The schooner will call here on her way out.

ENGLISH MAILS.—A telegram from San Francisco yesterday states that the English mail of August 2nd arrived there on Thursday. The Sparrowhawk will bring that mail.

FOR CHARTER.—Messrs Janion, Green & Rhodes announce the ship MacKay, now on the way to this port from Liverpool, as up for freight or charter.

## Execution of Twenty one Sergeants at Madrid—Shocking Scene.

A Madrid letter in the Temps gives the subjoined terrible narrative of the execution of the sergeants in this city. I could have wished to write this letter in a cheerful strain, but find it impossible. I remember that at a certain time military executions were very frequent in Spain, and the *Charivari* used to sum up its news from that country by conjugating the verb *fusiller*. The tradition seems to be still respected, and the logic of revolution appears destined to remain eternally the same. At noon, two days back, 21 young fellows of the army engaged in the late insurrection, almost all of handsome appearance, were taken out of the prisons and, after being tied together two by two, were placed in carriages with the windows wide open and escorted by a numerous body of troops to the place of execution, a spot selected in the vacant ground between the Salamanca Palace and the Champs-Élysées. One of my friends is having five houses built not a hundred paces from the spot: the masonry and scaffolding are in course of erection, and afforded excellent positions for viewing the scene. There was a preliminary ceremony of military degradation; a promenade under the flag; then a discourse, which I could not hear, but which lasted two hours, during which time these unfortunate men must have already suffered a thousand deaths. An enormous crowd which had followed the procession was kept at a distance by the troops. At last the 21 victims were ranged in file, at about a yard's distance from a low clay wall, with their backs to the soldiers, and then the discharge took place. Nearly all of them fell. At that moment the *Hermanos de la Caridad*, or brothers of Charity, rushed forward to save at least a few, but were repulsed by the troops, and the firing recommenced, and continued. The firing went on, and more than two hundred shots were fired. What a sight!

I saw one man raise himself three times and falling again on his knees with his arms extended in a direction from which a piercing voice was heard to shriek in the midst of the massacre "Éradice! Éradice!" The soldiers then approached the corpses, turned some of them over with their feet, and still perceiving some signs of life here and there, discharged a last shot point blank. All was then over. The bodies were thrown upon tumbrils, and the regiments filed off, some to an air of the *Norma*; some to one of the *Semiramide*. Thirty more are to be shot in a day or two, soldiers also; the rest will come after. Let us hope the Queen will show some compassion.