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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
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The Fenian conspiracy, which culminated in England in the Clerkenwell atrocity, has reached the turning-point in Canada by the cowardly assassination of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Minister of Agriculture of the Dominion, Member for the City of Montreal in the House of Commons, and the most brilliant orator of British North America. The assassins apparently left behind them a clue that has led to their detection. The deed is believed to have been the work of Fenians. The fatal blow appears to have been struck at a moment when the unfortunate Minister was thrown off his guard and was perhaps alone. He had just concluded an able speech upon the attitude of Nova Scotia, and was entering his own door for repose when it fell down. The intelligence of the terrible event has cast a gloom over the Dominion. The nation is sorrow-stricken at the loss of her greatest orator and one of her ablest states-

O'Brien, attempted to throw off the yoke of England. If we mistake not, he was one of the "cabbage garden heroes," and having effected his escape to New York, became editor of the *Irish America*, a weekly journal published in that city. In 1853, becoming dissatisfied with Republican institutions, he proceeded to Lower Canada and announced his intention of being henceforth loyal to the Crown. His brilliant attainments at once secured him a commanding position among the statesmen of Canada. He was one of the delegates to England to complete the Confederation of the Colonies; and while in Dublin, at a public dinner given in his honor, passed one of the highest eulogiums upon the Queen and the British Constitution ever delivered. Upon the formation of the Macdonald Ministry he became Minister of Agriculture, a position he continued to fill until his useful career was cut short by the assassin's hand. His hostility to Fenianism was well known, and it is surmised that the Circles, fearing his influence among his countrymen, had resolved upon his death. The excitement throughout the Dominion is very great. It is feared the conspiracy is widespread, and that other prominent anti-Fenian members of Parliament are marked for destruction. The Orangemen, who muster strongly in the Dominion, have already committed some excesses in retaliation; but we cannot see how any cause, however good, will survive the "deep damnation" that attends such deeds as the explosion at Clerkenwell and the murder of Mr McGee.

Gerrit Smith, writing to Frederick Douglass under date of 11th February last, draws attention in feeling terms to the sisterly obligations of the North to the Southern States of the Union, and the splendid opportunity now existing for the North to bring back the errant affections of the Southern people to their first love—the Union—by the present expenditure of one hundred and fifty millions of dol-

lars in order to assist the South "to get on her feet again." He very properly suggests that the contribution of that sum as a gift, in this her time of need, would do more towards her return to her allegiance, than ten times the sum expended in military occupation; and in thus securing her gratitude reconstruction would become an easy task. He says "Horace Greely pities the South. And yet even he, with his bushel of brains, deep sense of justice, and glowing philanthropy, can keep on saying to the South 'Root hog or die!'" At this moment, when United States Congressmen are voting seven millions to pay for Alaska, a worthless mass of icebergs and snow-clad mountains, which is never likely to be other than a source of useless expenditure to the United States, and probably thirty odd millions to purchase the Danish West India Islands, more productive in earthquakes than anything else, and necessitating establishments that will open another outlet for the money of the overtaxed American people, the population of the South white and black, are on the verge of starvation, and their rich plantations are returning to their primitive state of wilderness from the lack of means to put them under cultivation. Thousands of American citizens, gently nurtured, and before the war possessed of every comfort, are now in want of the poorest necessities of life; whilst the public money, wrung from the hard earnings of the laboring millions North and South, is being lavishly wasted on fancy speculations in worthless territory, that will make a return to specie payment a question to be solved at the advent of the Mil-

lions, which Fenianism is fostered and objections are raised to the establishment of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, when American citizens in the South are famishing for want of bread; and instead of relieving the distress at home, and at the same time enable the planters to produce countless millions in cotton, sugar and rice within their own territory, and so creating an immediate return in increased revenue and reduced estimates for soldiers and sailors, resorts to the Quixotic idea of buying up east-off settlements from Russia and Denmark, in order to get rid of ready money. What an inducement for annexation of this Colony is here offered! How much we must regret the circumstances that prevented so delightful a consummation! What felicity would it not have afforded our citizens to be paying the most burdensome taxation in the world, when they knew the money would be spent in so glorious a manner. Let us look on another picture. In the Dominion of Canada taxation is exceptionally light. The public money is carefully expended on works of public utility alone, and where the outlay will soon be repaid tenfold by opening up sources of wealth to the Canadian people such as will ere long make Canada the cynosure of capital and population. The public offices are filled by men devoted to the common weal and whose sole object is the advancement in prosperity and happiness of their fellow citizens. What a contrast is here presented. Who can for a moment hesitate in choosing between them? Can we wonder at the surprise commonly expressed, even by Americans themselves, that people can exist so utterly blind to their own interest as to advocate delay of Confederation? It would be well to remember, however, that in every community there is always a certain number of eccentric people who assume the opposition to any project, no matter how important to the public welfare, simply to enjoy the pleasure of being noticed; people who, were it not for such senseless notoriety, would never be heard of.

Friday, April 10
FIGHTING.—W. C. Bryant, of the firm of Gerow & Bryant, blacksmiths, and Charles Ball, a workman for the firm, were arrested on Wednesday by Sergt. Bowden, on a charge of fighting in the public streets, and brought before Mr. Pemberton yesterday for examination, when both men preferred charges of assault against each other. Bryant having had a misunderstanding with his partner Gerow (who is sick and bedridden) closed the shop on Wednesday noon, while the men were at dinner, and put the key in his pocket. Ball returning from dinner and finding the shop closed consulted Gerow, and was told to force an entrance, which he was proceeding to do when Bryant returned, and (as Ball alleges) attacked him. The charge of brawling was partially heard by Mr. Pemberton and laid over for one day. The counter charges of assault will be heard on Tuesday. The belligerents' countenances present the appearance of having been assaulted and "battered" into the bargain.

Legislative Council.
THURSDAY, 2d April.
After the settlement of the Capital question, Hon. Helmecken, seconded by Hon. DeCosmos, moved that the petition relating to a Court of Appeal being referred to the Governor, be postponed. Carried.
Hon. Helmecken's petition to raise the import duty upon fruits. The hon. member thought the present duties not sufficient. People in the Colony will be compelled to change their orchards into something else in the season's course, and the loss of the road (and the employment of the settlers) thereby. The line of road was extremely difficult, and would be very expensive.
Hon. Pemberton was referred to, and stated the original survey traversed a very difficult line through which to build a road; but he had lately understood from the Assistant Surveyor General that a new line had been surveyed which was infinitely better in every respect.
Hon. Ball would support the first part of the motion, but opposed the employment of convict labor in its construction. In Australia, he knew from personal experience, such labor in the end was always far the most expensive. He hoped that clause would be struck out. Motion carried.
Hon. Helmecken's motion extending the Vancouver Road Act to New Westminster and its immediate districts. Postponed until Monday.
Hon. Robson moved for a survey during next summer for the extension of the Pitt river road to St. Mary's with a view to its being carried ultimately to the head of navigation on the Fraser. One third to be paid in money and one third in land scrip issued by the Government. The hon. member admitted the purpose of the road was local, but there existed a large amount of valuable prairie land never overflowed in this section of the country, which with a road would be immediately occupied, and thus benefit the whole country. As the work would be gradual, and the payments required only as the contracts were completed, the Government would not be involved at any one time in very large expenses by complying with the request made. As to issuing scrip the hon. member was favorable to that practice, as it was beneficial to the Government and the people who would ultimately locate the lands opened by the road.
Hon. DeCosmos seconded the motion. He was willing to support all measures tending to open the country, but there was in this case, as in others of a similar nature, the grave question of money. The hon. member would be delighted to see the whole country round New Westminster thrown open for settlement, as he thought eventually it would become one of the chief garden-spots of British Columbia.
Hon. Smith would heartily support the motion so far as the road to St. Mary's was concerned; but beyond that, he must be hesitant. The bill of expenses for surveyor's work for the road thence to Yale would be enormous. The country above St. Mary's was very different from the country below that point. Besides it was impossible to tell at present which side of the river would be chosen as best suited for the road which must ultimately connect with the road from the Rocky Mountains through the interior. The lower portion of the road must come down on one side of the river, and if Government now surveyed the north side, according to the request of the hon. member's motion, and it was afterwards found necessary to take the south side, it would cause a useless expenditure of money and labor.
Hon. Robson thought the north side of the river must be finally chosen for an obvious reason. The south side was too near the American boundary for a road of such importance.
Hon. Attorney General with pleasure supported the survey of the road to St. Mary's, for he was personally aware of the valuable lands it would open for occupation. Beyond that point, however, he agreed with the hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and thought it was a question of time, which must be left to the judgment of the executive and not forced upon them.
Hon. Helmecken had also much pleasure in supporting the road as far as would reach the good and available lands. Everything it was possible for the Government and the people to do just now to attract permanent settlers ought to be done. He would delight in seeing the Lower Fraser covered with farms well stocked with cattle, for in that case it would preserve one of the most beautiful spots that can well be imagined. The south side of the river being so near the American boundary would be hoped finally determine the location of the road. Motion carried unanimously.
Hon. Bernard being absent, his motion on the Road Toll was postponed.
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Council adjourned till 2 o'clock to-morrow.

The Body Found at Clover Point.—Mr. Pemberton summoned a jury yesterday and proceeded to hold an inquest over the body found on the beach near Clover Point on Wednesday. From the general appearance of the body, and the word "KANAKA," tattooed with India ink on the left arm, the remains are believed to be those of a Kanaka. The face and head are greatly decomposed and recognition is impossible, except by the tattooing and clothing. The body having been found near the spot where the remains of Wm. Black were discovered has given rise to a suspicion, that both men met their deaths at the same time. It is well known that Black was raving mad when last seen, and that on the night of his disappearance he chased two or three persons along Birdsong Walk. What supposition is more natural than that he subsequently proceeded to Clover Point, encircled and seized the Kanaka, and that both fell into the water and were drowned? The mystery will probably never be solved, but it cannot but be interesting to the public.

NAVIGATING LIEN.—R. N. sailed in H.M.S. Cameleon for England. This officer was early identified with this Colony, arriving here in 1857 and being attached to the survey of the coast up to 1861, when he went home in the Hecla. Returning almost immediately afterwards he became connected with the surveying steamer Beaver, to which vessel he was attached up to the time of taking his departure. The beautifully finished charts of this coast owe much of their correctness to his ability. Lieut. Browning has been identified with the Colony for the last eleven years, and took a lively interest in everything affecting its welfare. We regret to lose him.

New Ocean Store.—The handsome store in Alhambra Building, at the corner of Government and Yates streets, just vacated by Dr. Farron, the well-known druggist, has been leased by Messrs Kayser & Lowenberg, who are fitting it up in a handsome manner for the reception of a choice stock of cigars and tobacco. The location is one of the finest in the city, and it will be the fault of the new firm themselves if they fail to succeed.

Sunder Death.—A man named Shepherd, formerly one of the crew of the ship "Robson" from China, died suddenly yesterday in a small house off Johnson street. He had been ill some days with the measles and had not been in a bed for some time.

Benefit of George Marsh.—At the Theatre on Monday evening. This is the young man's first benefit. The bill is a splendid one.

The Isabel towed the ship Shooting Star to Nanaimo.—Wednesday returned last evening and started for the same destination with the ship El Dorado in tow.

Supreme Court Bill, second reading.
Hon. DeCosmos though this bill was a sort of tom-fool play, especially in raising one Chief Justice over the other, just as it happened; where they sat; and in raising a Judge to be Chief Justice who had never been so before under the old law. A Court of Appeal also was especially wanted. In his part of the country the bill was looked upon as an abomination.
Hon. Attorney General—A what?
Hon. DeCosmos—Precisely what I said. Let, of all things, the Court be merged into a Court of Appeal.
Hon. Robson wanted to know if this bill was to be killed on the second reading. Great necessity, he granted, prevailed for a change. People going from one part of the colony to another, as things stood, had nothing fixed to go by. He fully concurred with the hon. member from Victoria.
Hon. Attorney General regretted the House did not seem to understand the matter, which with the documents before them, was very strange. It was his duty to the House to see that no misunderstanding should exist. No doubt had been expressed as to the purpose of the bill, but he begged to say he had none, not had the Home Government.
Hon. Helmecken, seconded by Hon. DeCosmos, moved that a committee, competent to analyze the bill thoroughly, should be appointed. Carried, 8 to 3. Committee—Hons. Walkem, Wood, DeCosmos, Ball and Robson.
Limitation of Actions Bill, third reading.
Hon. Attorney General was desirous of keeping the bill as it stood.
Hon. Helmecken moved the bill lay over for six months.
Hon. Walkem should support his hon. friend; he thought the bill utterly useless, and would convert the Colony into a debtors' prison. The bill simply states the law of England as it stands to-day, and cannot legally be considered anything more than declaratory law. The hon. Attorney General might smile, but he was prepared to maintain the bill gave a creditor a power in this colony over his debtor which he did not possess in England. Debts cancelled legally, if not morally, and barred by the provisions of the home law, are held in power over the debtors coming to this country. This acted with double injustice, by violating an old principle of law. A creditor must use diligence in the recovery of his debts, otherwise evidence of payment or arrangements existing to-day may all be lost in six years hence. Great injustice might thus arise by people coming to this colony who would not think it requisite to encumber themselves with a quantity of old documentary evidences of transactions supposed to be barred for ever. He had received several letters from some of his principal constituents desiring him to introduce a bill similar to that of last year.
Hon. Wood supported his hon. and learned friend.
Hon. Attorney General was not, he confessed, much edified by what he had heard fall from the hon. and learned gentleman. A man who contracted a debt in one country and shirked its responsibility in another was not honest; and so many cases of this kind occur, that it was time British Columbia protected herself from the disgrace attached to them. For instance, a man borrows a large sum of money in California one day and comes here by the steamer next day to avoid its payment; what is to be done with him? He really did not think two years long enough. Recommended for to-morrow, 8 to 4.
Hon. DeCosmos' motion relative to changing the constitution of the Council, postponed.

Hon. Helmecken's motion for the construction of a wagon road to Cowichan.
The hon. member said the question had become agitated for years, and every day it became more necessary. There can be no doubt of the usefulness of the necessity of the road to a large number of settlers. One of the greatest evils of the convict system was to work men, not thoroughly lost, before the gaze of all people on the public streets in chains. There was no redemption for them after that exposure, for somehow a man's face to never forgotten when seen for a time in that condition. He proposed to employ this labor on the Cowichan road, where, if it might cost a little more to watch the convicts, he was sure the settlers themselves would willingly pay that addition,

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Hon. Robson moved for a survey during next summer for the extension of the Pitt river road to St. Mary's with a view to its being carried ultimately to the head of navigation on the Fraser. One third to be paid in money and one third in land scrip issued by the Government. The hon. member admitted the purpose of the road was local, but there existed a large amount of valuable prairie land never overflowed in this section of the country, which with a road would be immediately occupied, and thus benefit the whole country. As the work would be gradual, and the payments required only as the contracts were completed, the Government would not be involved at any one time in very large expenses by complying with the request made. As to issuing scrip the hon. member was favorable to that practice, as it was beneficial to the Government and the people who would ultimately locate the lands opened by the road.
Hon. DeCosmos seconded the motion. He was willing to support all measures tending to open the country, but there was in this case, as in others of a similar nature, the grave question of money. The hon. member would be delighted to see the whole country round New Westminster thrown open for settlement, as he thought eventually it would become one of the chief garden-spots of British Columbia.
Hon. Smith would heartily support the motion so far as the road to St. Mary's was concerned; but beyond that, he must be hesitant. The bill of expenses for surveyor's work for the road thence to Yale would be enormous. The country above St. Mary's was very different from the country below that point. Besides it was impossible to tell at present which side of the river would be chosen as best suited for the road which must ultimately connect with the road from the Rocky Mountains through the interior. The lower portion of the road must come down on one side of the river, and if Government now surveyed the north side, according to the request of the hon. member's motion, and it was afterwards found necessary to take the south side, it would cause a useless expenditure of money and labor.
Hon. Robson thought the north side of the river must be finally chosen for an obvious reason. The south side was too near the American boundary for a road of such importance.
Hon. Attorney General with pleasure supported the survey of the road to St. Mary's, for he was personally aware of the valuable lands it would open for occupation. Beyond that point, however, he agreed with the hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and thought it was a question of time, which must be left to the judgment of the executive and not forced upon them.
Hon. Helmecken had also much pleasure in supporting the road as far as would reach the good and available lands. Everything it was possible for the Government and the people to do just now to attract permanent settlers ought to be done. He would delight in seeing the Lower Fraser covered with farms well stocked with cattle, for in that case it would preserve one of the most beautiful spots that can well be imagined. The south side of the river being so near the American boundary would be hoped finally determine the location of the road. Motion carried unanimously.
Hon. Bernard being absent, his motion on the Road Toll was postponed.
Hon. Robson moved to amend the rules of the House, in order to present a petition from the Hurds Sound Copper Mining Company, which came in his hands late in the day. Petition read, and ordered put on the order of the day for to-morrow.
Council adjourned till 2 o'clock to-morrow.

Hon. Helmecken's motion for the construction of a wagon road to Cowichan.
The hon. member said the question had become agitated for years, and every day it became more necessary. There can be no doubt of the usefulness of the necessity of the road to a large number of settlers. One of the greatest evils of the convict system was to work men, not thoroughly lost, before the gaze of all people on the public streets in chains. There was no redemption for them after that exposure, for somehow a man's face to never forgotten when seen for a time in that condition. He proposed to employ this labor on the Cowichan road, where, if it might cost a little more to watch the convicts, he was sure the settlers themselves would willingly pay that addition,