

Responsible Government.

On Wednesday the question of Confederation is to be discussed in the Legislative Council. All must feel that this forms the most important question of the session—of any session. It is not too much to say that it is the most important question that has ever been brought before the colonists. It is to the colony very much what matrimony is to the man—or woman. It is not good for man to be alone, was the decision of the Creator. It is not good for British Columbia to be alone, therefore it seeks union with Canada. But while the step is a wise one, if wisely taken, it is a momentous one. Like matrimony, it is for life. Unlike matrimony, no divorce court will open its friendly door should the union prove an unhappy one. To enter the Dominion is emphatically to pass the Rubicon. These are, indeed, serious reflections. Yet they should not cause the colonists to hesitate, but to study carefully and earnestly every step in this momentous march, not into Italy but into Canada. Our failures and errors now may avert trouble and discontent hereafter. How often has want of candor cast a blight over wedded life. In uniting with Canada it, therefore, behooves us to approach the whole subject of conditions, settlements, dowries, reciprocal duties, rights and obligations in a spirit of candor and fairness. Regarding this colony in the light of the bride, let no false delicacy stand in the way of a clear, business-like understanding. We shall get on all the better for it hereafter. Of the terms generally we do not mean to speak at present; but we would invite attention to what we conceive to be the ground-work of a well-assorted and propitious union. As in matrimony, so in political union there are many important conditions which must form the charter of our rights; but as in matrimony so in Confederation there is a long list of contingencies which cannot be anticipated, much less specified. To provide for these British Columbia must have a constitution giving its people power to manage all such matters and things as do not fall within the scope of Federal functions. In handing over to the central government at Ottawa the larger and more national questions, we must be careful to take full power to manage those matters falling within the category of Provincial subjects. The mixed and irresponsible system proposed in the Governor's opening message would not do this. Under it, the authorities at Ottawa would have virtual control of our local affairs as well as those of a more general nature. Under it British Columbia would occupy an invidious and disadvantageous position as a member of the Confederacy; and no matter how fairly we might be treated, that very inequality would beget suspicion, distrust and discontent. While having the fullest faith in the government at Ottawa, we do not think it right, in a matter of this kind, to rest upon faith what should be incribed on parchment. While believing the Canadians to be a people peculiarly fitted to manage their own local affairs, under their several Provincial Constitutions, we must decline to believe them better fitted to manage the local affairs of this colony than are the people residing in it. Believe it, the people of Canada have no desire to do anything of the kind. The Government of Canada has no wish to put British Columbia off with a Constitution "one whit less liberal than those conferred upon the other Provinces." The remoteness and difficulty of communication render it all the more necessary that we should have the fullest control of our affairs compatible with Federal rights. If we do not get our full political rights, it will be the fault of the people! Very great ignorance exists respecting the subject of responsible government. There are many who confound it with representative institutions. Vancouver Island enjoyed representative institutions up to the disgraceful surrender of 1866, but never had responsible government. The absence of the latter principle made the former a failure—or very nearly so. Again, there are those who, perfectly understanding what responsible government is, think this colony is not prepared for it. It is "party government," they say, and the population is too small, and the material out of which to construct cabinets too scarce to warrant the experiment. Responsible government is "party government." It involves the existence, more or less clearly defined, of two political parties—the government party or party for the time being in power, and the Opposition, or party seeking power. But what would we have under the constitution offered by the Governor? There would be at least three parties, and that too, without the advantage to the tax-payers resulting from true party government under a responsible system. The colony wants political

rest. To enter the Dominion with the constitution proposed would be to enter upon a fresh political agitation more bitter than any previous one. Instead of two parties we should have three or four parties engaged in unseemly strife about local affairs, while there would be one grand party agitating for that political constitution under which alone we can hope for any measure of rest or contentment. Depend upon it however important and advantageous the material conditions of union may be to this colony, these can never atone for the absence of power, real power to manage our own provincial matters. Fair and equitable terms, with a constitution placing us on an equal footing with the other members of the Confederacy, is all we ask. More than that we have no right to expect. Less than that we will not accept!

Legislative Council.

FRIDAY, March 4, 1870.
Council met at 1:30 p.m.

Mr Drake presented a petition asking government aid for a steam engine for Deluge Company, which was read and referred to Committee of Supply.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr DeCosmos moved for return respecting loans.

TEACHERS' ARREARS.

Mr Drake presented a report from Select Committee on school teachers' arrears recommending the payment of \$3464. The report was laid on the table.

SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of Supply Mr Ball in the Chair.

MEMBERS' PAY.

Mr Holbrook moved that a sum be placed on the estimates for the purpose of paying the traveling expenses of elected members on the mainland for their attendance at the Council.

DELUCE FIRE ENGINE.

Mr Drake moved that the sum of \$1000 be appropriated toward the expense of purchasing a steam fire engine for the Deluge Fire Company.

SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY.

The Attorney General moved a bill authorizing the expenditure of \$201,585.04 in 1868 and 1869 unauthorized by the Council. A long discussion was had on several of the items in the schedule, and the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again on the bill.

Council adjourned till Wednesday next, at 1 p.m.

ANOTHER FIENDISH ATTEMPT AT INCENDIARISM—ARREST OF THE ALLEGED PERPETRATOR.

About ten days ago a small unoccupied house, situated near St. John's Church, was discovered to be on fire, and the flames, which were evidently caused by an incendiary, were extinguished.

The house adjoined that of a colored woman named Bidden, who some years ago separated from her husband, John Bidden, keeper of a small shop of shoes and hats, on Cormorant street. Between this couple there has been a long-standing feud. Bidden laying claim to the house in which his wife lives but into which she refuses to admit him. Some time ago Bidden went to the house and assaulted his wife, smashed windows and furniture and damaged the establishment generally. He was arrested and punished for this violence, since which he has been heard to utter dark threats against the woman.

Naturally, when the fire was discovered, suspicion fell upon John Bidden, but the Police, unable to find sufficient evidence to warrant his arrest, wisely held their tongues and abided events. On Thursday night, about 12 o'clock, Mrs Bidden retired to her bed and slept sweetly, we suppose—unwittingly her co-conspirator in the attempt was made manifest. A quantity of shavings, well saturated with coal oil, had been piled against the back door, a quantity of coal oil poured upon the threshold and under the door, a gunny sack, also well wet with oil, thrown over the shavings and the pile fired. In the yard lay the little house dog—the evoked appearance indicating that poisoned meat had been fed to it. Further away, in the garden, were a pair of large shoes. These shoes were identified as belonging to John Bidden. The gunny sack was identified as the property of John Bidden. And Inspector Bowden proceeded forthwith to his store and took him into custody. The accused loudly protests his innocence.

Letters from England to the 4th February were received at the Post Office yesterday.

The population of Vancouver is stated at a few less than 3000.

THE ASSAY OFFICE DISCUSSION.—In the Legislative Council on Thursday Hon Mr Holbrook rose to a question of privilege. He said he was reported to have stated that "except Mr Cludet there was not another man in the colony who could give a correct assay." He (Mr H) intended to say that there was no other man who could give a correct analysis. The hon Attorney General also rose to a question of privilege to correct a statement which appeared in the COLONIST of the 2d inst., in which he was reported to have said that "there was not another man in the colony except Mr Cludet who could give a proper assay of minerals, and give the true quantity and quality," the fact being that his remarks were confined to the Mainland. He took this opportunity of correcting the misapprehension lest it should be construed to refer to a gentleman in this city who had regularly studied assaying both bullion and mineral in all its branches for years with some of the best assayers in the world, (Messrs Johnson, Matthey & Co.) whose certificate he holds of perfect competency in all respects to act as a qualified assayer.

SEVERE.—The shock of earthquake felt at San Francisco February 18th appears to have been of unusual severity though of short duration. It lasted seven seconds and occurred at 22 minutes past 12 m. The hotels, stores and dwellings were emptied of occupants speedily. From the Police Court everybody—officers, prisoners and spectators—except the Judge—stampeded. At the Washington street Baptist Church there was a large congregation in attendance on funeral ceremonies. There was the silence of the tomb and the choir had just struck up "The Rock of Ages," when the earth tilted and trembled. All knew instantly what was at hand. The pastor and congregation were seized with the impulse to run and a rush was made for the door. Four or five ladies fainted and fell down in the aisles—others screamed and called for help. Several teams in front of the church ran away. Some of the ladies were put in coaches and conveyed home in an inebriated condition. Fortunately no one was seriously injured.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AND SPARTAN PLUCK. As Williams' was ruling along Government street yesterday morning, a little boy, aged 6, son of a widow named Martin, jumped on the step for a ride and to steady himself put one of his hands upon the wind-spring, by some means two of his fingers were caught between the leaves of the spring. The poor little fellow jumped off the step and tried to withdraw his fingers, but finding that to be impossible, ran along behind the box from Fort to Yates street without uttering a cry. At the corner of Yates street his situation was discovered by a passerby, the vehicle stopped and the sufferer's hand released with the aid of a pry. It was found upon examination that the fingers were smashed and flattened as thin as wafers, and the brave little fellow, without pausing to utter a complaint or groan ran as quickly home as his legs could carry him.

SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE.—A proof of the spirit of enterprise which characterizes the colonists in British Columbia is offered by the receipt in London (through Mr G. Street, of Cornwall) of the First Victoria Directory and British Columbia Guide. It comprises a directory of business men and householders in Victoria and the districts, including a large portion of the Mainland of British Columbia together with other particulars, and is compiled and published by Mr E. Mallandaine, Architect. A work of this kind is no small undertaking for a new place of limited dimensions. Extract from the Daily News, London.

AN.—The News—or, rather, its honorable predecessor—is now praising Messrs Holbrook and Drake. We observe, too, that our contemporary has ceased its late abuse of Mr DeCosmos. On Wednesday Mr DeCosmos' name appeared 89 times in its columns, always in a disparaging connection. On Friday the name of that gentleman appears but once. Pictorial's "licks" don't appear to have fallen in pleasant places of late.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP CALIFORNIA.—The S S California, Capt Rogers, arrived at midnight on Thursday bringing forty passengers among whom were Mr F. Bates and Company, Capt Lewis and wife, Mr F. Weiller and Miss Parsons. The California sailed from Portland at 6 a. m. on March 2nd and crossed the bar at 6:50 p. m. same day; arrived at Neah Bay on 2 p. m. on the 3rd after discharging passengers and baggage for Victoria, the California sailed for Port Townsend. She is expected to return to-day.

THE CAMILLA URSO CONCERTS.—A series of Grand Concerts in aid of the Mercantile Library Association, are in process at San Francisco in an immense pavilion. The Concerts are given under the auspices of a little Italian lady named Camilla Urso. Twenty thousand persons were present on the first and second days. The performers were several thousand, all the best amateur musical talent of the State having volunteered. The Library Association are in debt about \$150,000.

NEW MUSIC.—We have been favored by Mr F. Bushell, the well-known musician and composer, with a copy of the "Evening Star Waltz," just composed by him and sent to San Francisco to be printed. The piece is arranged for the piano, and belongs to a very high order of merit.

ENGLISH SHIPPING.—The Corsair, 345 tons, Saunders, and the Princess Royal, 613 tons, were loading at London for Victoria on the 20th Jan. The bark Alpha, Reims, from Liverpool with the servants, put into Belfast, Jan 15th, windbound.

GRANITE CUTTERS are wanted on the U S Branch Mill at San Francisco, many of the present hands having declared an intention of starting for Peace River in April.

Exports from the Colony of British Columbia for the year 1869.

Country to which Exported.	Value of Domestic Produce or Manufacture.	Value of Foreign Produce or Manufacture.
United Kingdom.....	\$192,710	\$12,250
British Possessions.....	7,243	.....
New Zealand.....	35,911	.....
South Australia.....	6,089	.....
Victoria.....	11,183	.....
Foreign Countries.....	28,878	1,000
Chile.....	19,708	.....
Mexico.....	619	.....
Peru.....	43,144	.....
Sandwich Islands.....	21,228	8,594
U S of America.....	293,750	48,791
Total.....	\$661,668	67,635

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
Alfalfa.....	60	Alfalfa.....	\$3,901
Bricks.....	709	Butter (empty).....	650
Cattle.....	2,582	Chairs.....	6,296
Crabapples.....	10,790	Dry Goods.....	7,108
Cheese.....	119,820	Flour.....	4,470
Fish.....	4,608	Fruit.....	137
Fish Oil.....	19,878	Groceries.....	100
Flax and Flax.....	238,682	Household Goods.....	2,475
Lumber.....	252,454	Iron.....	4,702
Potatoes.....	1,370	Live Stock.....	292
Tallow.....	4,380	Mixed articles.....	10,714
Wool.....	.....	Woolens.....	226
.....	.....	Paints.....	490
.....	.....	Soap.....	11,370
.....	.....	Sugar.....	450
.....	.....	Sp. Rits.....	8,550
.....	.....	Tobacco.....	200
.....	.....	Tea.....	188
.....	.....	Wine.....	1,406
.....	.....	Government Stores.....	3,600
Total.....	\$661,668	Total.....	\$67,635

Telegraphic Communication—The Feeling at Lytton.

LYTTON, B. C., 24th Feb, 1870.
To the Honorable Legislative Council, per the Hon F J Barnard, Victoria:

At a public meeting of the inhabitants of Lytton, called together on the evening of the above date (the Rev J B Good in the Chair and Mr L D Loring, Secretary,) for the purpose of taking into consideration the startling intelligence that our present telegraphic island communication may at any time be permanently closed owing to the refusal of our Colonial Government in taking over the line to work on its own responsibility, the following resolutions, moved by Mr J McCully and seconded by Mr Latimer, were unanimously adopted for immediate transmission to the honorable member of this district, to be by him respectfully laid before the honorable Legislative Council now assembled, in the hope that they may assist in retaining an institution of such vital importance to this important portion of this colony:

That we have heard, with feelings of great alarm and regret, that the Mainland telegraphic line of communication between our interior and sea coast may at any time be discontinued, owing to the hesitation of Government in accepting the offer of its present owners to transfer all their interest in the same from Swindonish to Queensland as it stands, simply on condition of the line being kept in repair and working order. The Government ground its fears of acceptance on the supposed great excess of expenditure over all receipts, in the event of their agreeing to the terms of aforesaid company.

That, having a practical knowledge of what they are now saying, this meeting would respectfully state its conviction that the line in question has been most inefficiently kept up, most unsatisfactorily worked, and a tariff maintained of so high a value as practically to shut out the public from a general and inexpensive employment of this speedy, popular and simple mode of communication.

That, in the event of the government assuming control thereof, putting the line in good repair—for doing which it has many facilities not available to the old company—connecting it with the postal service so as to make it the easiest and least costly mode of transmitting intelligence, and opening the line throughout from Swindonish to Barkerville, the general receipts would, we confidently believe, exceed any present expenditure and render the line to a much greater extent than is now anticipated a self-paying institution.

That, in support of our preamble respecting the vital importance of this now well-nigh universal civilized advantage and its being particularly so to the people of this colony, the following are required to read the different points of the Mainland and interior by mail:

To the Mainland and interior by mail, and to the sea coast by telegraph, the line would be a great advantage to the people of this colony, and would be a great advantage to the people of this colony, and would be a great advantage to the people of this colony.

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expended in our behalf in the shape of public improvements, we consider we are deserving of a slight effort being made in our behalf in a matter of such great moment to our interests as is the maintenance of telegraphic communication, and that we shall deeply appreciate an effort to save us from experiencing the shame and loss incident to such a step of colonial retrogression.

European Mail Summary.

DATES are at hand to the 1st of February. In Ireland there has been fresh instances of warning threats in connection with the occupation of land, and the indisposition to pay rents is widely spread in some counties. In consequence of the prevailing terror, bailiffs cannot be induced to serve eviction notices, and application has been made to the law courts to substitute service by post. Several fresh instances of threatening letters are reported from Ireland, and agrarian outrages are again becoming frequent. Dr. Vereshcye, Bishop of Kilmore, is dead. Sir H. W. Watson, Bart., has been unseated for bribery at Waterford, but the petition, Mr. Bernal Osborne was declared to be disqualified. At the nomination for Marlow the show of hands was in favor of Mr. Master, and a poll was demanded for Col. Knox. A petition was threatened against the return of Mr. Grenville Nugent for Longford. A sharp contest is expected at Malton where Major Knox the Conservative candidate is assailed by the extreme Nationalists, who are strongly opposing Mr. Waters as a Government candidate. Captain Erskine Cochrane having forwarded a report of the murder of Dr. Livingstone by natives in the interior of Africa. Sir R. Murchison and merchant connected with African trade have published their reasons for doubting the accuracy of the statement. Mr. Leonard Edmunds has threatened to move for a criminal information against Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lowe, and other officials of the Treasury for a libel contained in a recently published minute. The Archdeacon has pronounced judgment in two ritual cases. The Rev R H Wix was condemned for the use of candles and incense, and the Rev J Purchas was declared to have violated the law by adopting certain gestures and the use of certain ornaments. Other charges, as for wearing secular vestments, were overruled. Sir W. Gordon, an officer who served with distinction during the Crimean war, made an attempt upon his life at Bideford, and remains in a critical position. Lord Cairns has temporarily resumed the Opposition leadership in the Lords, and will receive a party of Conservative peers at dinner prior to the commencement of the Session. The resignation of Colonel Wright, the Conservative member for Nottingham, is expected shortly, and Mr. Baillie Cochrane is mentioned as a probable candidate for the seat. The struggle for Layard's vacated seat at Southwark is being actively carried on, and the three candidates are determined to go to the poll. Sir J. Simon, the Liberal member for the Isle of Wight, has contradicted a rumor of his intention to resign. The Greek Archbishop of Syria and Feos has been a guest of the Archbishop of York, and was present at afternoon service in the Cathedral. Subsequently an interchange of friendly expressions passed between the distinguished visitor and the clergy. Dr. Fraser was formally elected Bishop by the Chapter of Manchester. The Ritual Commission has made a first report, recommending a revised lectionary, which has been submitted to the Queen. The Bishop of London has been added to the Commission. The Educational Question is being agitated throughout the country, the Birmingham League and the Manchester Union holding public meetings in the large towns. Lord Napier of Magdala is to succeed Sir William Mansfield as command of the army in India. Three inquiries were held on one day at the east end of London, in all of which the coroner's jury returned verdict of deaths from starvation and destitution. The Municipal election terminated in the return of Mr. Holland the Liberal candidate by a majority of upwards of 600 over his Conservative opponent, Colonel Tottenham. The Duke of Edinburgh's camera, on her voyage from Dublin to Glasgow, ran on the Alva Craigie, a thick fog, and it is feared will be a total wreck. Mrs. Stowe's vindictive attack on Lord Byron has been published, and has met with general condemnation from the newspapers. Mr. John Hardy, M. P. for South Warwickshire, has been committed for trial for a libel on one of his tenants. A large and enthusiastic meeting in favor of the political enfranchisement of women has been held at Edinburgh. The Rev. Roland Williams, one of the authors of Essays and Reviews, died at Broadwater, of which place he was rector, from bronchitis, aged 40 years.

Partnership Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that James McIntosh and William Fortune, of the firm of McIntosh & Fortune, have been dissolved by mutual consent. The said William Fortune carrying on the business, collecting all debts and paying all liabilities of the late firm.

JAMES MCINTOSH, WM. FORTUNE.

Witness, J. Robert Stewart, James McIntosh, Wm. Fortune.

Dated the 9th day of February, 1870.

Mineral Boring.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING HAD many years experience in boring for minerals, and enjoying every facility for acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of the Coal strata of this Colony, begs to inform parties who are about to prospect for Coal that he is now open for an engagement and holds himself in readiness to conduct any operation of that nature which may be entrusted to him.

MR. J. DICK, Manager.

References—Mr J. Bryden, Manager V. I. Co. Mr Robert Dunsmuir, Manager Harwood Co. Gold Sand.

F. DAILY.

Desires to inform the Inhabitants of Victoria and its vicinity, that he has returned from the Upper Country with a Choice Collection of

New Photographic Views.

Mountain Scenery and other highly interesting Subjects.

CARTES DE VISITE.

GROUPS.

And Views taken with the greatest care and in the best style of Photography, and warranted to give satisfaction.

The Gallery is situated on 10th Street.

Address—McINTOSH & FORTUNE, 10th Street.

Immigration.

There is one item in the Estimating which cannot fail to impress the holder. We allude to that of five thousand dollars under the head of Immigration. It might be supposed this amount is designed to be employed in promulgating information in view to promoting immigration, small as is the sum, if judiciously expended in disseminating information respecting the colony in the nearer or of population it might be productive of no inconsiderable benefit. However, is not the intention. Indeed as it may appear, it is not proposed to enter the great home of Emigration with this princely and waste agricultural laborers, &c. to come to this colony! Just imagine British Columbia standing alongside California with its hundred millions of population! The contrast thus presented would certainly be striking. It would be amusing but people would be amused at our expense. In truth it would be difficult hit upon a cheaper and more effective mode of advertising the poverty of British Columbia. Let us, with coming gravity enter upon a calculation to how many immigrants the would bring to our shores. At five persons a head, it would bring five persons—provided incidental expenses could be met in some other way. Twenty-five (that is present death did not thin their ranks of passage) immigrants imported from England, and set down here, what the Government do with them? What should we have against seeking employment in a neighboring Territory? The fact of the matter we are not in a position to become porters of men and women from land just now. The cost of the article together beyond our means, as colony is wholly destitute of the necessary provisions and appliances for reception and utilization. We look for population from nearer markets than England. Ten dollars a head would bring men from California—men whose experience would render them all the better to work their own way in the colony and by we shall have a steady of the home article flowing in land. To bring it round Cape now would be as unwise as imprudent. Do not, then, let us incur a sole by strutting into the home migration markets with the bare twenty-five men and women. Let money be employed in making the undoubted resources and stages of the colony, rather than in verifying its impotency. Once federation is accomplished, the little need of importing population for the first few years at all. Proper steam communication between here and San Francisco, and the demand for labor caused by the works will bring population as fast as we want it. Let not, the five thousand dollars set down under the head of Immigration be thrown away, and then thrown away, at a time when it could be so well used for pressing matters. There is one of the "Sisters" to be removed; but there is no need of this five thousand would do it. Is the Telegraphic system of the land to be maintained; but there money. This five thousand would nearly suffice. There are thousands already in the colony to be catered; but there is not enough money. This five thousand would about make up the deficiency. It would be easy to multiply instances where the sum proposed to be thrown away could be employed to great advantage. Employed Immigration and general information agency at San Francisco, it would suit in bringing twenty immigrants every one it would bring from there are other items of expense scarcely more justifiable, to which might allude did space admit.

Another Day Season is feared for the Mainland, protesting against the amount of the telegraph system being ordered to pour in. Last steamers have on numerous signed petitions to the Governor, for presentation to the Government. The news of the proposed extension of the telegraph appears created a perfect panic amongst all classes in the interior, and the Government would do well to bow to public while it can do so gracefully. But the telegraph by imposing a Customs revenue would be to jam the lying-pan into the fire. There less items of proposed expenditure Estimates that would meet the one fornia.