

The Weekly British Columbia AND CHRONICLE

Saturday, October 24, 1888

To our Correspondents in General, and 'Sirius' in Particular.

We have been desirous to give every sort of fair play to the opponents of Confederation, feeling sure that the more their arguments were aired, the less substance there would be left in them. It is strange that the Anti-Confederate party should choose two such writers for their champions, as those whose letters we have lately published, the one by 'Self-Reliance' so frothy, that when the bubbles and beads of the author's vanity are blown away, no substance whatever remains, the other clever, both at figures and reported, but most careful to avoid touching upon the true merits of the question. We have suffered 'Sirius' to inflict his prolix statements upon our readers, in the hope that some of them will take the trouble to compare his figures with our own, and to draw their own deductions from the comparison. Turn and twist the figures as he will, 'Sirius' cannot show that financially speaking, British Columbia would not gain by Confederation, although he has with considerable display of mathematical talent, and with just logic enough to wash down the figures, as a single glass of champagne washes down a dry crust, endeavored to puzzle one-half of his readers, and weary the other; into the belief that his statements are arguments, and his views sound. It is very evident from the style of his syllogisms, that 'Sirius' would be equally prepared to advocate the cause of Confederation, had he any particular object for so doing; as it is, he is doing better service to the cause by showing the abject weakness of the position of the opponents of Confederation. We have at times felt the necessity of some opposition to induce people to think deliberately upon the question, and after due deliberation to form a decided opinion as to whether it is best for the Colony to remain an isolated atom in the great family of British Dependencies, or to become upon fair and equitable terms part and parcel of the Dominion, which is destined eventually to be one of the great countries of the world. Certainly 'Sirius' has not thrown much light upon the subject; he has rather endeavored to smother it under a cloud of words, and has wound up an array of figures and assertions, which, he well knows not more than two persons in the Colony will take the trouble to verify with what he evidently believes to be a spicy morsel of gossip. A star of his magnitude ought to know better than to attempt such a know-nothing grub street dodge. 'Sirius' is too old a disciple of the pen to plead ignorance of the well known rules, which the common courtesy of the profession lays down with respect to editorial individuality, he is bound to respect those rules, we have endeavored to extend to him as to all other correspondents, the full measure of courtesy, and in return we expect him to keep within bounds. We fear however, that experience will never teach our correspondent either wisdom or consistency. We could almost suppose that in his late letters he has entered upon a task ungenial to his feelings, he is too circumspect, and much too far seeing to pin his faith entirely upon the cause which he has undertaken to advocate, his anticipated reward ought to be high to compensate him for the weary hours of labor which his figures must have cost him, for we can hardly suppose that it is really pure vexation of spirit which has caused him to take up the pen against Confederation, that he was disappointed at not being asked to attend the Convention at Yale we can well understand, but although we can readily believe that 'Sirius' could with quite as much self-gratification argue in favor of Confederation as against it, we are not disposed to give credit to the idea that he was desirous of being appointed to the Convention as a delegate from any particular place. However, be that as it may,

there must be a limit to all endurance, and we will not weary the public with more figures at present. When 'Sirius' takes up the pen to argue against retrenchment, against amalgamation of offices, and against representative institutions, we may hope for some new rays of light from this brightest of fixed stars, until then we trust he will keep his figures within his own constellation. THE MAIL STEAMERS.—A Portland despatch of Saturday evening says the steamship Active sails Sunday morning for Victoria. The John L. Stephens sailed on Saturday morning from San Francisco for Portland and Victoria. THE PRINCE VICTOR.—It is not so, as stated on Saturday, that this vessel had arrived from England. There is a vessel in Royal Roads, but up to a late hour in the day we could not ascertain her name or whence she came. THE SMALL-POX IN SAN FRANCISCO.—A despatch to this office states the number of deaths during last week from small-pox to be 13 and new cases reported during the week, 26. H. M. SURVEYING SHIP BEAVER arrived at Nanaimo from the north last week, and would probably have come down to Esquimalt but for the thick weather. CAUSE CELEBRE.—We understand that an appeal against the decision of a magisterial missionary will occasion some excitement in our Law Courts shortly. CONSECRATION OF A CHURCHYARD.—On Sunday last the interesting ceremony of consecrating and setting apart a place for Christian burial took place at South Saanich. The petition was presented to the Bishop on behalf of the settlers by A. C. Anderson, Esq., J. P. and read by him. After the first portion of the service in the church, the whole congregation led by the Bishop and the Rev. F. B. Gibbell went round the ground in solemn procession, singing the appointed hymn. Combined with this ceremony was a Thanksgiving service for the late harvest. The Bishop's sermon was taken from Gal. VI. 'Whosoever sows sows that shall also reap,' and in the course of his remarks he alluded to the scriptural illustration of the seed of corn sown in the earth, to represent the rising of the dead. There was much interest manifested in the proceedings. QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS AND CANDIDATES.—We are informed that the elective franchise in connection with the island elections will be similar to its provisions, to that with force in regard to the mainland districts, with a three months residence in the respective electoral districts. This of course will allow aliens of full age the right to vote as well as Brit subjects, but not Chinese or Indians. Dr. Trimble and Mr. M. W. T. Drake are spoken of as early candidates in addition to those before mentioned. In response to a requisition last evening, the latter, we believe, has consented to offer himself. The former we presume will have a seat ex officio, as Mayor of the City, for we understand he again aspires to the office of Chief Magistrate. POLITICS.—During yesterday's politicians were canvassing and discussing the system of voting and the merits of the candidates. It was generally admitted that a third candidate would be put forward for Victoria and that consequently Dr. Helmcken and Mr. DeCosmos would together be re-elected. Upon the elective franchise public opinion is not unanimous. There is much dislike expressed to the adoption of the mainland arrangement of three months residence only, in giving votes. Some object to the exclusion of the Chinese and think this new-born liberality is only a bid for popularity by the Executive. THE ROYAL COLONIAL ANTI-RETRENCHMENT SOCIETY is established upon a bonafide and liberal principle, as free from motives of self-interest and speculative purposes on the part of the promoters. We trust to see every such organization for the opening of our coal mines receive the encouragement that such enterprises deserve, from the Government and the public; for it is by the development of our mineral resources, in common with other resources, that we may expect to make the Colony prosperous and attractive as a field for immigration. (No) COALS.—The weather has which we have had occasion so much to murmur of late, is fast reducing us to primitive principles. Our usual stock of coal is exhausted and for a few days at least there will be no chance of its being replaced. Cord wood in consequence is rising in price with the demand for it. The steamer Grapple was ready yesterday to start for Nanaimo for cargo of coal, but was unable to get away. POLICE COURT.—Charles Baker, and Ah Ohow, a Chinaman, were before the court yesterday, on a charge of fighting in the public streets, on which they were not convicted. A cross charge of assault was afterwards entered during out of the same affair when Baker was fined ten dollars, and Ah Ohow \$5, by 7 days imprisonment; both fines were paid. The case excited some interest amongst the officials. WILL NOT OFFER.—We are authoritatively informed that Mr. J. D. Pemberton will not offer himself for re-election at the forthcoming contest for Legislative Councillors. THE ELECTION.—The address of Mr. De Cosmos to the electors of the city of Victoria came in too late for insertion in this morning's issue.

On Wednesday the 14th inst., the first effort towards an Agricultural Exhibition was made in Cowichan. This in conjunction with the annual Harvest Home Thanksgiving caused quite an excitement in this otherwise quiet settlement. For some time past Archdeacon Reece has spared no pains to establish something permanent in the way of an Agricultural Society, and we have no doubt his efforts were amply rewarded by the large quantity of stock and produce exhibited on this occasion. Divine Service was held in the Church which proved quite inadequate to accommodate the numbers in attendance, and was concluded with a most suitable and touching address delivered by the Archdeacon. All present then visited the show field, where judges were appointed to award the various prizes. LIST OF PRIZES. Brood Mare, 1st prize, Habart; 2d do, Mingy; 3d do, Habart. Three year old filly, 1st do, Habart; 2d do, Marriener. Grain. Wheat, 1st prize, Drinkwater; 2d do, Leuk; 3d do, Skinner. Oats, 1st do, Pimbury; 2d do, Ducean; 3d do, Harrison. Corn, 1st do, Copland; 2d do, Copland. Vegetables. Swedish Turnips, 1st do, Thos Smith; 2d do, Marshall; 3d do, Marriener. Carrots, 1st do, King; 2d do, Skinner; 3d do, Skinner. Potatoes any kind, 1st do, Resce; 2d do, Duncan; 3d do, Habart. Do early sovereign, 1st do, Skinner; 2d do, Skinner; 3d do, Skinner. Parsnips, 1st do, Dobson; 2d do, Skinner; 3d do, Skinner. Onions, 1st do, Resce; 2d do, Brown; 3d do, Skinner. Shallots, recommended. Cabbage, 1st do, T Smith; 2d do, Booth; 3d do, Marriener. Beans, 1st do, Marriener; 2d do, Marriener; 3d do, Marriener. Hops, recommended. Fruit. Tomatoes, 1st prize, Copland; 2d do, Jones; 3d do, Norton. Apples, 1st do, Norton; 2d do, Wims; 3d do, Griffiths. Peaches, 1st do, Sterk; 2d do, Wims; 3d do, Alexander. Pears, 1st do, Jones; 2d do, Jones; 3d do, Lomas. Pumpkins, 1st do, Skinner; 2d do, Skinner; 3d do, Skinner. Vegetable marrow, 1st do, Marriener; 2d do, do; 3d do, do. Squash, 1st do, do; 2d do, do; 3d do, do. Dairy Produce. Butter, 1st do, Marriener; 2d do, King; 3d do, King. The company were then invited to the Paragon where a sumptuous lunch was tastefully laid out under awnings kindly supplied by Admiral Hastings. The magnificent scale on which the repast was provided (to which 120 guests sat down) did honor to the generous hospitality of Mr and Mrs Reece. The list of prizes were then read and John Morley, J. P. Esq., having taken the chair measures were adopted to organize an Agricultural Society, a draft of resolutions (drawn up by Messrs. Reece, Dancau and Jones), having been unanimously carried and the officers of the Society were appointed. From the enthusiastic manner in which the movement was entertained by the settlers, we trust that a grand stride will be made in developing the agricultural interests of this flourishing settlement. For Self-Reliance. GOOD MR. EYERON.—I have put fresh oil in my lantern and have trimmed my wick and I have rubbed up my glasses, but Self-Reliance does not come out with his returns. How long do you intend to allow him to flap his wings like the gullies domestic on the dunghill? I have heard it whispered round the Buildings that the James Bay interest intend to offer Self-Reliance for selection to the Council on the anti-Retrenchment ticket. I think this is a good idea; he is a man of substance, a man of intellect, and a man of many words, and his brass and assurance enough for any house, and his the times. Like the moralist in And was the men 111, he is not a man of his word. That is to say, he possesses the qualifications above mentioned and is not subject to the disqualification of too much truth. DIOGENES.

Agricultural Exhibition and Harvest Home at Cowichan. Report of the Late Exploring Party. The following has been handed us for publication: VICTORIA, V. I. B. C., Sept 1888. To the Members of the Exploration Committee: GENTLEMEN:—In accordance with instructions dated 5th Aug, I proceeded per schooner Surprise to the mouth of Mutchat river in Nootka Sound, accompanied by Mr Aiston, two miners named Charles Molloy and Duncan Cameron, and four Indians packers. We arrived at the mouth of Mutchat river at noon on the 12th August. On the 13th we started up the river accompanied by three Mutchat Indians, who brought two canoes along with them. By making portages we were enabled to use the canoes until the forenoon of the 15th, when we were obliged to abandon them. Reached the lake at the head of Mutchat river on the 17th at 3:30 p. m. Left the lake on the 19th and travelled up a stream which entered it on the north side about 2 1/2 miles from Mutchat river. We followed this stream until we found the valley trending too far west, when we left the stream and struck a course nearly due north, ascending gradually for a few miles, until we came to a very deep ravine on the opposite side of which the mountain rose very abruptly. We walked up the bank of this ravine, which trended S. E., until we came to another small gully, which entered the ravine on the north side, crossed the ravine and travelled up the side of the gully and arrived at the summit of the divide at 4:30 p. m. on Saturday the 22nd, altitude 6500 ft. above sea level. We laid over on Sunday the 23rd, and in the afternoon took some bearings for the purpose of defining our position and deciding on the direction to take for the mouth of Salmon river. 24th, travelled along the mountain ridge for about a mile when we came to what I considered was the head of one of the tributaries of Salmon river; a bank of snow about half a mile long lying between the mountains. We slid down this bank of snow and came to a precipice, where we had some difficulty in getting down, being obliged to let the packs down with ropes; below the precipice we got on another snow bank about three-quarters of a mile long, at the foot of which we camped after a very hard day's work. Travelled down stream and arrived at the Forks of Salmon river on the 31st, where we found some Indians fishing. On the morning of the 1st Sept. I hired a canoe to take the party to the mouth. Left the mouth of Salmon river at 1:30 p. m. on the same day, and arrived at Comox on the 3rd, at 10 a. m., where I found a canoe waiting for the Otter to come up to take us to Salmon river. Left Comox at 9:30 a. m. on the 4th, and arrived in Victoria at noon on the 7th. Mutchat river has several tributaries, every one of which we prospected for gold near its mouth; we also prospected on most of the bars of Mutchat river but only found at most 3 or 4 colors to a pan of dirt—in the majority of places found nothing. The mountains are rounded and rocky near the mouth of the river and heavily timbered with cedar and hemlock, with underbrush of alder, maple and berry bushes. About the second canoe and between that point and the forks, the banks of the river are formed of gravel benches, timbered as above mentioned, and in addition, a few scattered white pines of a fine growth. Between the forks and the lake (which we have called Lake Toimie) there is a very fine growth of red fir. The lake is about six and a half miles long and is fed by three streams, one from the N. W. (Cameron creek) one from the west (Molloy creek) and a small rivulet from the south. The shores are heavily timbered. The valley of Cameron creek is tolerably wide, very heavily timbered, and the soil is good. After crossing the summit and getting on the head waters of Salmon river, we shot so many ground hogs that we called the stream 'Ground Hog Creek.' The valley of this creek, at about five miles from its source, widens to about one mile, heavily timbered throughout; about ten miles from its source it enters a canyon, which continues nearly straight and nearly due north for about fifteen miles, when it suddenly widens near the forks of Salmon river. The land near the mouth of Salmon river is partly bench and partly low flat land, timbered with cedar, hemlock, &c., and a good deal of maple. The land immediately at the mouth is the neighborhood of the sea; its flat had been covered with grass, but I believe the most of it would be covered with water at the highest spring tides. The rock in the along our route is either trap or granite. In the basin on Salmon river it is basaltic. There are indications of iron all along Salmon river, but we could not even find the color of gold. Enclosed is a sketch map of our route. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant W. J. MORLEY. PETER J. LEBCH.

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