The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, December 14, 1870

Things Deserving of Consideration

It appears to be now pretty generally understood that British Columbia will be formally admitted into the great family circle of British North Amercia on the 1st day of July next, the same being 'Dominion Day'—that is, the anniversary of the day in 1867 upon which the federation of the four Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia was formally completed and proclaimed. That day will inaugurate very great changes in British Columbia; and not the least of these changes will be the enlarged share the people shall be invited to take in the management of the local affairs of the country. Assuming that this colony will, upon entering the Dominion, take as full political rights as are enjoyed in the sister Provinces, the people of British Columbia will at once be called upon to elect from amongst themselves six members to represent them in the House of Commons, at Ottawa, and, say, twenty members to constitute the local Legislature and manage the affairs of this province. Of course the reader will understand that the three Senators which this colony is entitled to send to the Upper House at Ottawa will be appointed by the Crown. To be suddenly called upon to elect twenty-six representatives, instead of nine, as now, will, indeed, be a great change. The qualification of a Senator is as follows: A natural-born or naturalized male British subject, of the full age of thirty years, possessed of real and personal property worth four thousand dollars, over and above all debts and liabilities, and a resident of the Province for which he is appointed. The qualification for members of the House of Commons appears to vary in the different Provinces, and is not fixed by any general regulation. For instance, in Ontario and Quebec a real estate qualification of £500 sterling is imposed; in New Brunswick the qualification is the possession for six months previous to the writ of election of $1200 of real estate; in Nova Scotia a legal or equitable freehold estate in possession, of the clear yearly value of eight dollars, or the candidate must be qualified to be an elector. In every instance, the candidate must be a male British subject, of the full age of 21 years, and must be free from the usual legal disqualifications. The Senators are appointed for life; the members of the House of Commons are elected for a term of five years, should Parliament not sooner be dissolved. In each case the qualifications of members of the Provincial Legislatures are the same as those for the House of Commons. The qualifications of electors are as follows:—In Ontario and Quebec, every male subject of the age of twenty-one years, being the owner or occupier or tenant of real property of the assessed value of $300 or of the yearly value of $80, if within cities or towns, or of the assessed value of $200, or the yearly value of $20, if not so situate. In New Brunswick, every male subject of the age of twenty-one years, not disqualified by the law, assessed for the year for which the register is made up in respect of real estate to the value of $100, or of personal property or personal and real amounting together to $400, or $400 annual income. In Nova Scotia, all male subjects of the age of twenty-one years, not disqualified by law, assessed for the year for which the register is made up in respect of real estate to the value of $150, or in respect of personal estate or real and personal together, of the value of $300. In every case we believe the four Provinces have retained the qualifications for members and electors, as existing previous to union. During last session of the Dominion Parliament an attempt was made to establish by enactment a uniform qualification for members and electors throughout the Dominion; but the Bill evoked so much hostility that it was not pressed to a reading. The chief hostility came from New Brunswick, the only Province where voting is by ballot, and the chief ground of objection was understood to be that the measure proposed doing away with the ballot-box. We learn from our recent Canadian exchanges that another effort is likely to be made in the next session of the Dominion Parliament to pass a Bill establishing uniformity of franchise throughout the Dominion, and there is reason to believe that it will differ from its predecessor in this respect that it will leave to each Province the choice between open voting and the ballot-box. Amongst other important duties devolving upon the new Council of British Columbia will be the establishment of an electoral franchise and of a qualification for members both of the local Legislature and the Dominion Parliament, and the matter derives additional importance from the consideration that whatever franchise and qualification this colony may enter the Dominion with are quite likely to remain undisturbed for some time after union. And it will not be denied that there is urgent need for legislation upon the subject; for the present condition of things in this respect is scarcely creditable to the colony. As the matter now stands, a pauper may vote and a pauper may sit in Parliament. Any man who has been three months in the country and is a British subject, or whether or not he has been three months in the country and is a subject, if possessed of a sufficiently elastic conscience—for that constitutes the sole check at present—is eligible to either position. Such looseness in the franchise is bad enough now; but it would be worse after union, when property and permanent interests would be completely at the mercy of a nomadic element. It occurs to us that universal suffrage would be open to greater objection here than in older and more settled communities where the permanent element would always so much outnumber the more transient element as to control the elections. If Responsible Government is to be worked out now in British Columbia, it would appear to be of the utmost importance that a sound, safe and somewhat conservative franchise shall prevail, as upon that the successful working of full representative institutions must greatly depend.

Thursday, Dec 8.

ST CLAIR, AGAIN.—Z M Smith, *alias* St Clair (don't the Smiths *always* select high-sounding cognomens when they change their patronymic?), is travelling through California with two pretty young women lecturesses, having thrown aside Miss Brearly, who did the singing business when the party were here. A short time ago St Clair visited San Jose and whilst one of his daughters was 'speaking her piece,' Miss Brearly broke in upon the scene and made a frantic appeal to the audience, stating that she had been swindled by him. The audience sympathised with the woman, siezed St Clair and forced from him all the money he had on hand—some $25. He gave a note for the balance, but during the night he and his daughters 'folded their tent like the Arab and silently *stole* away.' Miss Brearly followed upon the war path the next day.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.—Councillor Carey appears to have committed a very grave 'breach of privilege.' His fellow councillors have unanimously condemned his wanton attack upon the Mayor, and really appear to be in the humor to purge themselves of his presence at the Council Board. Such, however, would be an extreme measure which we should not like to see resorted to in the present instance. To feel and to know that one is an object of public censure is punishment sufficient for even a graver offence than Mr Carey has committed. Besides, we don't blame him half as much as we do the *Standard*-bearer of revolt, who is never so happy as when he is making mischief and setting people by the ears. Let the matter drop.

TO FORT GARRY.—Mr Cumberland and Capt Dick have submitted to the Dominion Government a scheme for establishing a route from Lake Superior to Fort Garry. They offer to make the Dawson route available by constructing tramways at the portages, and placing eight iron steamers on the lakes and rivers between Shebandowan and the Northwest angle. The capital required would be half a million of dollars. The matter is to be considered by the Government.

A GRAND IDEA.—The London *Spectator* thinks it has discovered the right kind of material in the Marquis of Lorne and his Royal consort-that-is-to-be for the establishment at Ottawa of a fitting Court for the British Empire of North America. The leading Canadian papers fall in with the idea, and we heartily re-echo the proposition on the shores of the Pacific. By all means let the Queen's Scotch son-in-law be appointed Vice-Roy of the Dominion of Canada.

STEALING.—Charley, the Indian who some weeks ago was arrested and convicted for stealing three barrels from Messrs Stuart & Co, was yesterday required to furnish security in the sum o $50 to be of good behaviour for six months, or to suffer imprisonment for three months.

THE REAL ESTATE TAX.—A deputation of property-holders will wait upon His Excellency the Governor in the course of a few days to represent the injustice and hardship of the demand made for certain arrears of taxes on realty.

MASONIC BALL.—The Masonic Lodges *will* give a ball on the 27th inst. This we have upon undoubted authority. The disappointment felt by the devotees of Terpsichore at our announcement yesterday that there would be no ball, will therefore be allayed.

TEA MEETING.—The Wesleyan Methodists will hold a tea meeting this evening at St Nicholas Hall. Tea will be served at 7 o'clock, and during the evening there will be addresses and singing.

DEAD.—Capt Joseph Williams, who formerly commanded the steamships California and Active running between Victoria and San Francisco, died recently at San Francisco.

THE MAINLAND TELEGRAPH has now been reconstructed to Quesnelmouth and will, it is thought, be finished to Cariboo early in the Spring.

STORE STREET, from a point north of the foundry to Johnson street, has been gravelled and will soon present a smooth surface for wheels.

SPECIAL SESSIONS.—This Court will sit, on the 27th inst, at 12, noon, for the purpose of granting licenses.

WEDDING.—At 11 o'clock this morning, at Christ Church Cathedral, John Trutch, Esq, will be married to Miss Zoe Musgrave, by the Very Rev. Dean Cridge.

DEATH.—The hon. member for Cariboo has suffered a bereavement in the death of his father, James Carrall, Esq, Sheriff of Oxford County, Ontario, who expired on the 8th ult.

A VOCAL and instrumental concert in aid of the funds of the Mechanics' Literary Institute will be held at the Theatre on the 19th inst.

QUICK TIME.—A telegram sent from the Victoria office, a few days ago, reached Hamburg in eleven hours.

Supreme Court.

(Before Chief Justice Begbie and Mr Justice Crease.)

TUESDAY, Dec 2, 1870.

Tolmie *vs* Smith.—This was an action commenced in the County Court to recover damages for the alleged detention of a cow. Notice had been given by the plaintiff that the case would be tried before a Judge of the Supreme Court, pursuant to the County Court Amendment Ordinance, 1870.

The Attorney General, instructed by *Mr* Drake, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr McCreight, instructed by Mr Johnson, for the defendant. On objections raised by *Mr* McCreight the Court held that the provisions of the Ordinance had not been complied with, and adjourned the hearing for a week.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.—The Debating Class will resume the discussion of 'Responsible Government' this evening.

THE BLUE POST has been leased by Mr Thos Chadwick, of the Garrick's Head, who will soon open a first-class house.

THE Albion Foundry whistle is now blown at ¼ to 8, 8, 12, ¼ to 1, 1, and 4½ o'clock each day.

THE gunboat Boxer, from San Juan Island with the telegraph scow in tow, returned yesterday afternoon.

THE ENTERPRISE sailed at 8 yesterday morning for New Westminster. She carried 20 passenger and a small freight.

'DOWN, DERRY, DOWN.'—The wires were prostrated by the gale of Tuesday night and didn't get up yesterday; but look out for a 7000-word report to-day.

THE repair of Golden's building has commenced. Mr Storey has the contract.

THE PELICAN will be due to-morrow.

The Overland Road to Portland.

PORTLAND, Nov 30th.

EDITOR COLONIST:—Please permit me through your columns to inform my friends in Victoria and British Columbia of the dangers of an overland trip from Olympia to Portland. There were a party of nine of us—six men and three ladies—left Olympia at 3 o'clock on the 24th. Nothing unusual occurring until we left Pomphreys' on the following morning, at 3 o'clock, in charge of a drunken driver, who took every opportunity to quarrel with the passengers until he was brought to terms by a well directed six-shooter. Even the ladies had to walk rather than take the chances in the stage, so that I would advise any person wishing to go to San Francisco to remain a month in Victoria rather than travel over the worst road in America and be subjected to the abuse of drunken drivers. Yours truly,

ALEX. SHARP.

Real Estate Tax.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—The public will no doubt feel indebted to you for calling attention in your able leader of Dec 1st and 2nd to the *Extraordinary Gazette* recently issued from the Government press, and will fully agree with you that the illegal and irregular application of the Real Estate Tax Act of 1860, during a period of 10 years, reveals a dark chapter of official dereliction. The fault cannot be said to rest with the Act itself which is, plain, practicable and concise, but, even if it did, backed by an official majority in the Council, Government had the remedy in its own hands.

I have never been very sanguine as to the immediate application of Responsible Government to this colony, but am ready to admit that to my mind the dark chapter forms a argument almost irresistable in favor of its adoption. How has the present Government met the difficulty? By presenting the Public with 30 folio pages of names and figures in a shape which would have been obtained, if, infected by the marvellous success of the Mercantile Library Lottery, Government had crowded the names of all who have dabbled here in Real Estate since '58 into one wheel and numbers representing all the property on the Island into another. The wheels revolve, names and numbers are drawn, and the volume before us is the result of the usual blindfolded operation, but it beats the great Lottery hollow, inasmuch as all the prizes are to go to the Government, in the proportion of 100 of prizes to 1 of debt,—to the public all the blanks.

In your issue of the 2nd you claim for the Government every possible assistance from the Tax payers, by studying evidence and searching for papers, to extricate the Government from what you very properly term a 'disagreeable mess' and you believe in the Government obtaining a 'ready response' to this application. To a certain extent this may be all very well, but on the other hand, who created the mess? Answer, The Government, not the taxpayers. Surely it is one of the first duties of all governments to levy taxes equitably and to keep accurate records of the proceedings. Under these circumstances, is it reasonable that the time of every one in the place is to be taken up by a profound investigation of a mass of type about as intelligible as a Nautical Almanac. If Government officers of acknowledged ability cannot solve the mystery is it fair that the public should be required under penalty of confiscation to do so? Besides, remember that while in this matter the Government extends one hand for your charitable sympathy, behind its back it holds a bludgeon in the other as expressed in the words 'to be entered upon by the Crown,'—the estimated value of the property to so be assessed on the 1st of February next being about Five Millions of dollars to satisfy a doubtful claim of Nine Thousand!—a claim that would not now exist if the Government had done its duty and distrained at the legally appointed time.

But I would not weary your readers with the repetition of a grievance, the very familiarity with which suggests a yawn, if I did not believe that a few simple considerations might be proposed which if assented to would settle the question equitably between the Government and the taxpayers.

First. Government cannot waive the claim as a whole since the document contains the names of many persons who may be justly indebted; but it also contains the names of many who have departed for another continent and of not a few for another world. Government has itself to blame for not having collected by distraint or otherwise from the latter before their death or departure. During ten years of mismanagement or inaction, many properties may have changed hands once or ten times. A vendor is invariably required to guarantee a clear title and therefore retains his tax receipt. This he does for the additional reason that a single receipt usually includes taxes paid on all the property owned by the vendor in any particular year. I would therefore propose to eliminate the names of the dead and departed with the penalties attached from the Lists. All the properties enumerated are now owned or claimed by somebody; and it would not be at all unreasonable to require all resident owners, or if absent their agents, to prove payment of taxes during the several periods of existing ownership, although for the reasons assigned it might be impossible for them to produce receipts of former owners. A short Act of the Legislature might be required to enforce returns, to revive distraint or failing this to enable the Government to sell a portion of the property equivalent to the debt. On such basis an equitable solution of the difficulty might be arrived at.

With regard to '60–'61. The amount outstanding is not much, and Government would act wisely in throwing a veil over that particular period. If it can be shown—as it can—that during that time money was obtained for taxes and the usual official receipts detatched from the counterfeils withheld, a legal process would be certain to fail, and a scandal revived almost singular in its nature and discreditable to the Colony at large. For, however culpable the remissness, however lofty the negligence which has led to this confusion, all will admit that during the decade in question to the present moment the official staff have well maintained the status of this Colony as regards the usual British characteristic personal integrity.

J D PEMBERTON.

Dominion Mail Summary.

Dates to 17th November:—

The following persons are said to compose the Canal Commission: *Mr* C S *Czowski* and Mr *Geo* Laidlaw of Toronto, Mr Calvin of Kingston, Mr Hugh Allan of Montreal, Mr Garneau Mayor of Quebec A Jardine of *St* John N B, Mr Starns of Halifax, and Samuel Keefer of Brockville secretary. They were to meet at Ottawa on the 24th and it was understood that their attention would be chiefly directed to the following works:—The enlargement of the *Welland* Canal. The deepening of the St Lawrence rapids. The deepening of the St Lawrence River between Montreal and Quebec. The improvement of the Rideau Canal, and the developement of trade through it. The construction of the Sault Ste Marie Canal between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The construction of the Caughnawaga Canal between the St Lawrence and Lake Champlain. The improvement of the Richelieu and Lake Champlain line of Canals. The completion of the Montreal and Lake Huron system of navigation via Ottawa and French River. The construction of the Georgian Bay Canal, connecting Lakes Huron and Ontario. The construction of a Canal crossing the neck of land between the Bay of Quinte and Lake Ontario. The construction of the Bay Verte Canal across the Isthmus dividing the Bay of Fundy from the Gulf of St Lawrence.

In recognition of his services, as commander of the Red River expedition, *Col* Wolseley was made a Knight of St Michael and St George.

It was understood in well-informed circles at Ottawa that Mr Spencer of Hamilton would be appointed Collector of Customs at *Manitoba*.

Col Cumberland's scheme for the establishment of a direct line of communication with Fort Garry, through the lake region, will probably be adopted on a modified and less expensive scale.

At the Kingston Assize, which closed on the 12th, James Deacon and Daniel Mann, both convicted of murder, were sentenced by the Chief Justice, each to be hung on the 14th of December next. They strongly protested their innocence.

The report of the progress of the geological survey from 1866 to 1869 is printed, but not ready for distribution, owing to the maps that are to accompany it not being ready.

Sir John A Macdonald, Hon John Hillyard Cameron and Colonel Gray are spoken of for the Supreme Court Bench.

It is said the Government is seriously considering the question of constructing a waggon road from Nepigon Lake to Lake Winnipeg.

The splendid new organ has been placed in St Andrew's Church, Montreal, and the new minister, Rev Mr Lang, has arrived. The church was to be opened on the 20th.

Another Pulman car has been placed on the Grand Trunk Railway.

According to the Treasurer's exhibit, the finances of the Province of Quebec are in a healthy condition. The total income for the year, including a balance from last account of $563,200 11, is $2,226,636 48. Last year the receipts were only $1,895,112 60—making a difference in favor of the present of $331,523 87. The expenditure at the time has been $1,592,822 90—leaving a very handsome balance indeed to be carried to next account.

Thirty precious lives and nine vessels, valued with their cargoes at $175,000, have during the past ten years been lost near Salmon Point on Lake Ontario. It is proposed by *Government* to construct a 'Harbor of Refuge' there.

The Minister of Education for Quebec intends establishing two schools of civil engineering at Quebec and Montreal, in connection with the Normal schools.

There are several matters of great importance occupying the attention of the Quebec Legislature; amongst others, a Homestead law, the North Shore Railway, and a scheme for devoting grants of land for colonization purposes. The Government are also asked to reduce the price of Clergy Reserve lands to 60 cents an acre.

There is said to be a growing desire in the province of Quebec to abolish the Legislative Council, retaining only the Assembly, as in Ontario.

The Colchester (N.S.) election resulted in the return of *Pearson* over Chambers by a majority of 1304 votes. Chambers is an Annexationist.

Edward Hartby, of the Geological survey, died at Halifax, on the 11th of November.

In Nova Scotia, the Post-Office Savings Bank deposits have reached the maximum allowed by law. In New Brunswick they are heavier than has hitherto been known.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba has issued orders for the arrest of Riel, O'Donoghue and Lepine, if they enter the Province again, and further instructs that they be shot in their tracks if they resist.

Special to the *Telegraph*—FORT GARRY, Oct, 21st *via* St Cloud, Nov 3rd. With reference to the fearful devastavations by small-pox among the Saskatchewan Indians, Rev G McDougall, Wesleyan missionary, thus writes to Rev. Mr Young, of Fort *G*arry:—

Small-pox has cut off hundreds of people. At Carleton, on my way, we met the plague at Fort Pitt. One hundred had already died,

Many of our best members are carried away, and among them a faithful Indian local preacher, whose death was most peaceful. The Blackfeet have suffered greatly, dying at the rate of fifteen a day. They committed robberies here during the summer, scattered their infected clothing, and left their dead unburied in the woods.

Mr Hardisty, writing from Carleton, on the 25th August, says that the small-pox is bad all over, and is in the Fort. Mr McDonald is dead, and others are desperately sick.

The Hon William Macdougall has returned to the practice of law in Ontario. This first, case was against a young man for seduction and he secured $500 damages for his fair but frail client.

Assisted Immigration.

OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION BOARD,
Victoria, British Columbia,
12th August, 1870.

NOTICE is hereby given that a scheme of Assisted Immigration, on an extended scale, being completed by the Government, applications will be received by the Secretary of the Board, from persons BONA FIDE settled in the Colony who may be desirous of participating in the scheme, upon the following terms and conditions:—

1. The applicant will be required to give security, or actually deposit the sum of Seventy-five Dollars ($75) towards the Passage Money of each Adult, and the sum of ($37) towards the Passage Money of each Child, not exceeding Twelve Years of age, and not being a Child in arms, and a further sum of Twenty-five Dollars ($25 towards the Outfit of each Adult, or one-half that amount for each Child not exceeding Twelve Years of age, not being a child in arms.

2. The Government will contribute the sum of Fifty Dollars ($50) towards the Passage Money of each Adult, and the sum of Twenty-Five Dollars towards the Passage Money of each Child under Twelve Years of age, excepting only children in arms.

3. Applicants desirous of getting out whole Families, will deposit or find security for a sum proportionate to the above amounts for each Adult or Child in such Family.

4. The Outfit of each person will be subject to the approval, as to quantity and quality, of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Emigration or other the Agent or Agent appointed by the Governor of British Columbia.

5. In cases where the abovementioned Outfit is not required, the amount deposited on account of the same will be returned to the applicant so making the deposit

6. The intending Emigrant will be required to report himself or herself at some Port of Embarkation in England to be hereafter notified.

7. Settlers desirous of obtaining Farm or Domestic Servants under this scheme, will be required to produce written characters of such Servants, which characters will be subject to the approval of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Emigration, or other the Agent or Agents appointed by the Governor in this behalf.

8. Such Farm or Domestic Servants will be required to sign an agreement, binding them to serve their Employers in the Colony for a term of years, at a stated yearly Salary.

9. Upon the arrival of the Emigrants in this Colony the Employer or Friends of the Emigrants will be require to take charge of them immediately, and notice beforehand will be given of the time the vessel is due.

10. Any Emigrant not so immediately taken away will be lodged and boarded at the expense of his or her Employer or Friend.

11. Applicants will be required to fill up Forms, copies of which may be obtained from the Magistrate of the District, or from the Secretary of the Board in Victoria from whom respectively any further information may obtained. By Order of the Board,

B. W. PEARSE, Deputy Chairman.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Right Rev. the Bishop of Columbia, Chairman.
B. W. Pearse, Assistant Surveyor General, Deputy Chairman,
Hon. John Robson,
William John Macdonald, Esq,
Henry S. Mason Esq, Secretary. oc14 2md&w

WM DALBY.

HAVING LEASED THE

Rock Bay Tannery

From Mr WEBSTER, and purchased THE STOCK in va has now on hand a

LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

HARNESS, SOLE, ROUSSET, BRIDLE

APARAJO, CALF, KIP

And other kinds of

LEATHER

He has on hand the Best and Largest Assortment

TEAM, FOUBLE AND SINGLE BUGGY CART, DRAY AND TEAM

HARNESS

And has received

EX CORSAIR, FROM LONDON

Ladies' and Gent's

RIDING SADDLES,

BRIDLES

AND WHIPS

All of which will be sold

CHEAP FOR CASH

To make room for other Goods.

A general assortment of Ladies' and Gentlemen's

TRUNKS

and Valises.

SOLE LEATHER TRUNKS & VALISES

Made to Order.

MANUFACTORY and SALESROOM,

St Nicholas Building, Government Street.

The highest Cash Prices paid for Hides, Calf and Sheep Skins.

se20 3m d&w

The Weekly British Colonist,

Wednesday, December 14 1870

The Closing Season.

Another active season has come and gone. The snow creeps lower and lower still down the mountain sides. The leaping, laughing streamlet is dried up or hushed into stillness, or gives forth a muffled murmer, as it pursues its sullen and meandering course towards the waiting bosom of Old *Neptunus*. It is natural at such a moment to take a retrospective glance at the closing season, and see what it has done for us; or, rather, what we have done with it. Confining observation to material progress and development, it cannot be said that the record is altogether a blank. Commencing with the most important, though, perhaps not the most attractive department of colonial industry, it will be found that the agricultural interests have made marked progress, during the past season. Lands already occupied and under tillage have yielded a bountiful return for the labors of the husbandman, notwithstanding that there is still great room for improvement in the science of agriculture. The area of tilled lands has greatly extended; and a larger amount of land has been alienated or put in process of alienation from the Crown, than during any previous season. Faith in the agricultural capacity of the country has been strengthened and increased, and confidence in the enlarged prosperity of the immediate future has been established. The natural result of all this is observable in the greatly increasing disposition to take up lands and create permanent homesteads. This disposition, it will have been observed, has manifested itself as far north as Omenica. Passing on to consider the mineral resources, they will be found to exhibit light and shade, success and failure, confidence and doubt,—the former happily, however, predominating. True, the Southern goldfields, inspiring so much hope at one period, have apparently dwindled down to an unimportant mining camp, yet that circumstance would appear to be less owing to the absence of rich deposits than on account of the want of sufficient capital with which to reach these deep deposits. True, famous old Cariboo has yielded up its rich treasures more grudgingly than in former years; yet of the great extent of its dormant wealth few persons entertain a doubt. And, while William Creek has fallen off in its yield, it will have been observed that Lightning Creek presumes to dispute the palm for richness, thus strengthening the impression that the great beds of Cariboo's wealth lie still undisturbed. But the most important feature of the closing season, at least in so far as Cariboo is concerned, is the inauguration of a scheme for developing that section of William Creek commonly known as 'The Meadows.' The formation of a company of California capitalists and the introduction of the powerful and complete machinery now lying upon our wharves for that purpose, may be regarded as marking the dawn of a new era in the history of British Columbia. Hitherto the great drawback has been the want of that capital and enterprise essential to a successful working of those deeper and more expensive mines which set at defiance mere individual effort. The development of The Meadows constitutes, of itself, a gigantic work, one which cannot fail to make itself felt during the next and succeeding seasons. But it is when viewed as the first of our mining enterprises carried on by foreign capital—the pioneer effort in a new and most important class of mining operations, that its real significance must appear. Should it prove successful, of which those best acquainted with the subject entertain the least doubt, it will simply mark a new era in the mining history of the country; for there will no longer be any difficulty experienced in obtaining all the foreign capital necessary to the development of the vast dormant mineral wealth of British Columbia. Not the least encouraging incident of the past season has been the full and undoubted confirmation of rich diggings in the Omineca country, where there is every reason to believe another Cariboo will be developed. These new mines, so long the object of doubt and contradictory reports, are certain to claim their full share of attention next season; and, with the prospect of greatly improved facilities for reaching them, it is not unreasonable to expect that they will exert no little influence upon the general prosperity of the country. There is just one other interest to which we would allude—that of whale-fishing. The season will be remarkable as the first really successful one in so far as whale fishing is concerned. This is a source of marine wealth, perhaps, but little understood. It is one, in all probability, destined, at no distant period, to contribute in no small degree towards the common prosperity, and it is peculiarly gratifying to be able to congratulate our enterprising fellow citizens who have recently embarked in the business upon the success which has crowned their efforts during the present season. Viewing the season now closing,