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A Lesson to be Learnt From the Revolution in Spain.

If anything were wanting in the world's history to complete the links of evidence, which show how surely the sovereignty of the people makes itself felt sooner or later among all nations, the present revolution in Spain, if it is as complete as the telegraph reports would lead us to suppose, would supply the missing link. Hitherto in the Spanish wars one dynasty or one claimant to the crown has been struggling against another, and although the country has been frequently, during the last two hundred years, over-run by foreign armies, the Spaniards themselves have never been conquered; victorious armies have by turns occupied the principal cities, and crowned heads have been compelled to seek safety in flight, but notwithstanding the defeat of the Spanish armies, the people have never been held in subjection to any foreign invader. One of the greatest historians of the present century has said of Spain, "Nothing can be more contemptible than the regular military resistance which Spain offers to an invader; nothing more formidable than the energy which she puts forth when her regular military resistance has been beaten down. Her soldiers, as compared with other soldiers, are deficient in military qualities; but the peasant has as much of those qualities as the soldier." This was written more than thirty-five years ago, and subsequent events have shown how futile have been the attempts of those who have sought to govern this proud and unconquerable people, without consulting the national will, and without paying due attention to the national spirit, which though sluggish in seasons of ease and prosperity is indomitable in adversity. It is impossible yet to say what may be the result of the present revolution; that there are many staunch royalists in Spain is indubitable, and it is not improbable that a reaction may speedily take place; in fact the Spanish nation are not adapted for republican institutions, as a people they are too indolent to excel under a democracy, and unless the present circumstances bring out the hidden qualities of some great Spaniard, the country will inevitably go back to monarchy, and the present or late Sovereign will merely be exchanged for another. With a change of dynasty there will naturally come about a change of politics; any Sovereign called to rule over Spain at the present juncture must rule by the will of the people, the country has been sufficiently roused to a sense of the misgovernment of the last thirty-five years, to insist upon having a voice in the government administration of public affairs for the future. Hitherto, more especially during the reign of Queen Isabella, popular representation has been a semblance rather than a reality; there can be little doubt that the yoke is now shaken off, and although it is possible that Spain may return to a monarchial form of government, she will in future be really ruled by the people, as must sooner or later be the case in every civilized country. As education raises the people in all nations of the world to a level, many degrees higher than that which they have been content to occupy in past ages, self-government becomes more easy and practicable; the people become more enlightened, whilst the aristocracy who in past ages were almost a distinct race, do not in fact cannot progress in equal ratio; consequently the distinctions between the governing class and the mass of the people are not now so marked and defined as they were in those ages in which education was a luxury only to be enjoyed by the nobles. The progress of letters and sciences, and the advancement of education has indeed done much to bring classes to a closer level in the last two centuries, and we shall assuredly find

that as the masses become more enlightened they will not rest content without their proper share in the government of the country to which they belong, the present revolution in Spain should be a lesson to all rulers of kingdoms, and countries; the age of despotism has passed away from all the civilized nations upon the earth, and is fast disappearing from those less advanced nations, who in past ages have been contented with that form of Government which left nothing to the people beyond the privilege of contributing their quota to the expense of carrying on the public affairs of the country. It is strange that among ourselves, whose boast is that we belong to a nation that has always been foremost among the pioneers of civilization on the earth, there should be so much apathy in the Councils of those who administer public affairs that they should attempt to carry on the Government of this Colony without any reference to the wishes of the people: How long will this state of things last? With all her faults Queen Isabella of Spain had done more, previous to the late insurrection, to win the hearts of her people, than Governor Seymour has ever done to show his interest in the welfare of the people that he has been appointed to govern in this Colony. If it may be allowed to us to compare the Governor of one of the youngest Colonies of the world, with the Sovereign of one of the oldest kingdoms in the world; we might go a step further and invite him to take warning, and remind him that it is wiser to listen to the voice of the people in time, and not to delay until acts of cancellation will be no longer acts of grace.

Letter from Strius.

Editor Colonist.—For your politeness in answering my letter of Oct 7th receive my thanks. Regretting that you should have in some degree misunderstood my letter, I now recapitulate its main points, premising that you stated (Oct 5th) that in case this Colony joined the Dominion of Canada, that Canada would give this Colony \$142,000 per annum. You did not, however, state from whence this money would be derived. By looking over the accounts I was led to the conclusion that the Dominion Government would receive from this Colony the Revenue of Customs \$350,000, and Postage fees \$15,000, in all amounting to \$365,000; and that out of this \$365,000 which she received from this Colony, she would return to this Colony the \$142,000 which you stated this Colony would receive from the Dominion Government—in fact that Canada would take it first from this Colony and then give it back again to this Colony, a very unnecessary labor. In support of this proposition, I made use of the following figures: Amount received from the Colony of British Columbia \$365,000, which would be disbursed in the following manner: For payment of sinking fund and interest on loans other than temporary loans \$120,000 Governor's salary \$20,000 Customs Officers \$12,500 Supreme Court Judges \$11,800 Penitentiary (?) \$10,000 Mails \$29,000 Total \$203,300 Deduct \$203,300 from the \$365,000 received by the Canadian Government and there remains \$161,700, out of which \$161,900 the Canadian Government would pay the \$142,000 granted to this Colony, leaving a balance in favor of the Dominion of \$19,800. I stated also that the reason why the British Columbia Government had no money to expend on public works this year was, that the money which would otherwise have been employed on public works had been used for the purpose of paying off temporary loans, and other expenses incurred both by Vancouver Island and British Columbia, well before we were in the Union. I came to the conclusion, that to join the Dominion would be to this Colony a bad bargain; but you desired information. In your paper of Thursday you very kindly reply, and endeavor to inform me, by giving some propositions of the Convention at Yale. What Convention? What on earth has anything to do with the matter? No one knows anything about it, and I have no question. You stated on Thursday that the Canadian Government would receive from this Colony \$365,000 (which is the supposed amount incurred by a supposed lower tariff) you dispute it rather differently, and by a species of tergiversation in figures come to the conclusion that if Canada admitted British Columbia into the Confederation, that British Columbia would actually be a burden upon Canada, and cost her annually \$257,405! Poor, poor Canada! British Columbia is not likely at present to derive any benefit from the proposed Confederation, but however, recapitulate your figures:

Table with financial data including Annual Interest and Sinking Fund, Public Debt, Annual Fixed Subsidy, Annual Per Capita Subsidy, and various government expenses like Immigration and Quarantine Office, Indian Agents and Services, Postmasters and Postal Service, etc.

Immigration and Quarantine Office, Indian Agents and Services, Postmasters and Postal Service, Penitentiary and support of Canada, Light House and Ship, etc. The table shows various government expenses and subsidies, with a total of \$521,713. The text discusses the financial implications of the proposed Confederation and the impact of the tariff on the colony's revenue.

exceed me for mentioning the thing you speak of stipulate that the Tariff should never be altered; or that no more taxes than you mention should be levied! Why it is probable that the Dominion Tariff may very shortly be made heavier even than 11 per cent, and quite possible British Columbia will reduce her's to 12 per cent. How would your figures then stand? If New Brunswick receives more, Nova Scotia more than either pays into the Dominion—if the Saskatchewan should prove costly to settle, and British Columbia be a frightful burden to Canada; where is the money to come from to support the General Government from Ontario and Quebec? They would not endure that! Additional taxation is the answer. I am much obliged for your courtesy in supplying me with the basis of your calculations; the examination thereof has given me a little trouble, but has led me to the conclusion that British Columbia not only can maintain herself, but that very shortly there must accrue a considerable amount of money available for public works. The examination too has made me more than ever opposed to Confederation, and alive to the fact that until reliable data can be had, it would be very imprudent to begin even to talk of Confederation, much more of the terms. I state again that if we wait a little longer the country will know its real position, and will laugh at such terms as you propose. Mr. Editor I shall not reply to your ill-natured remarks of Saturday last. This letter will I hope put you all right and in good humor; but why did you inquire, write, and wriggle before you had received the smallest touch? Was it in anticipation? Well, we never mind; in your editorial of Saturday last you say, 'Suppose we put the question of the Public Debt in the strongest way; let us suppose that the whole Public Debt will be paid off in three years; what would be our financial position then on the terms of the Yale Convention? You answer and assert that we (i.e. this Colony) would still be the gainer, to the extent of \$107,368 per annum. But that is not all, Canada would have to meet an annual deficit of \$107,368, and British Columbia would have her taxation reduced \$102,942 per annum, and have a surplus revenue of \$200,919 besides.' Now Sir, I will endeavor to show you that instead of the colony receiving what you state, she will be actually giving money to Canada. Let me premise, that the \$102,942 reduction of taxation mentioned above is the loss supposed to arise from the substitution of the Dominion Tariff for our own. The terms of the Yale Convention are those published in my letter yesterday, and we have now to suppose the public debt to be paid off. Terms of the Yale Convention: viz. Canada to give this Colony \$402,576 Less the Interest and Sinking Fund on Public Debt \$120,000 The expense of this Colony to Canada would therefore be \$282,576 On the other hand Canada is to receive from this Colony the Customs revenue and other revenues amounting now to \$367,000, say three years hence to \$400,000 Canada receives from B.C. \$400,000 Canada gives to B.C. (as per Yale Convention) less interest and sinking fund on public debt \$282,576 Therefore Canada would be the gainer by \$117,424. But now Sir, what you may have no cause of complaint, I will even give Canada credit for the loss which you say she will suffer (but which I deny) by the substitution of the Dominion Tariff for our own, viz. \$102,942. Less the loss supposed to arise from substitution of Dominion Tariff \$102,942 Profit of Canada \$117,424 The answer to your question plainly then is, that instead of this Colony being the gainer to the extent of \$107,368 per annum, and Canada having to meet that deficit, as you assert, this Colony would actually be paying to Canada \$117,424. If admitting the loss by substitution of Tariff \$102,942, it is \$200,919 which you state this Colony will have besides? Is it the \$102,942 loss of revenue that is not money? Now are the terms good to the Dominion? I was sorry, Mr. Editor, (I grieve) that I have been compelled to answer your letter, but I have been obliged to you who have done me a favor, I feel certain that the figures you have given were the promptings of some downy-nosed friend, but remember the adage, 'Amor et melle et felle et foculentum.' Make him occupy the corresponding column, and not those of the editor of your paper may be considered unreliable. Sir, I would not have it that the Government's estimate is correct, but it has been used for that purpose, has been stipulated to pay off debt, officers, etc. You cannot not pay off debt, and make roads with the same sum of money at the same time, recollect that; and also, you cannot have your cake and eat it too.

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