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THE SEMI-WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 10. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1869. NO. 77.

THE BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED DAILY BY
DAVID W. HIGGINS.

TERMS:

One Year, (in advance)	$12 00
Six Months, do	6 00
Three Months do	3 00
One Week	0 25

SEMI-WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.
PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY.

TERMS:

One Year	$6 00
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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The figures opposite the address on each wrapper indicate the date of expiration of the subscription.

Self-Government.

Enthusiasm does for practical work what effervescence does for champagne. Effervescence gives life and spirit to wine, but it cannot make a bad wine good; nor if the vintage be of an inferior quality, or if, as is commonly the case, the liquor be wholly innocent of the juice of the grape, will any amount of brilliant sparkle and creamy foam impose on the educated palate. So enthusiasm gives life and spirit to work, but is impotent to effect accurate execution; nor can any amount of fervid intention recompense for the want of solid and patient labor. It is a goad, a spur, an impulse as noble as any that can affect the human mind; the best of helps, the most abiding encouragement to a well-trained and well-disciplined mind, but a delusion and a snare to all such as depend upon it alone. This is equally true as regards religious, professional or civil duty; but it is to civil or political duty that we purpose confining the application of the principle. For nearly a decade of years the inhabitants of the Mainland portion of the United Colony have been more or less earnestly agitating for the possession of those political rights which are regarded as the common and inalienable heritage of our countrymen—rights secured to us under the Magna Charta, sealed by the blood of our forefathers. In the Island part of the Colony political institutions imperfectly conferring these rights upon the people were enjoyed up to the period of Union, when the Island unthinkingly permitted itself to be deprived of the modicum of political liberty it enjoyed, and came under the less liberal system which obtained on the Mainland. Since the union, which was consummated in the autumn of 1866, the United Colony has continued to be governed under a system which, while it professes to give the people some slight voice in the management of their affairs, is capable of being worked in such a way as to render the people absolutely powerless under a practical autocracy; and we need hardly say that it has for the most part been so worked. Few men placed in power will be more liberal than the constitution they are called upon to administer. It would be a libel upon the colonists to say that they have uncomplainingly submitted to such a condition. During the whole period there has been one continuous murmur of dissatisfaction, but that dissatisfaction has too often taken the form of morbid discontent; and many have left the colony in order to escape from a hated system, instead of manfully attempting to change that system. There have not been wanting in the history of the colony exceptional instances, in which enthusiastic and demonstrative protestations gave promise of more decisive action; but, unfortunately, these efforts proved to be, for the most part, merely spasmodic—the brilliant sparkle and cream sent up by liquor which was wholly innocent of the true vintage. The result to the country has been very serious. Public affairs have been administered chiefly in the interest of the governing classes. A bloated Civil List was foisted upon the colony, utterly regardless of the needs of the country or the ability of the people to meet the exorbitant demand made upon them; and this regiment of officials, instead of applying themselves to the development of the immense resources of the colony and to the promotion of general prosperity, have been chiefly occupied in solving the interesting problem of how to draw the maximum of pay for the minimum of work. Thus, at a time when it could worst afford it, the revenues of the colony, the whole substance of the people, instead of being applied to the construction of reproductive works, and to the promotion of reproductive enterprises, have been drained into the breeches' pockets of an unproductive class. At length we have reached a most critical and important juncture in our colonial history. British Columbia, conformably to the desire of the great body of its people, is about to join, and thus a most fitting opportunity for having restored to us those powers of self-government of which we have for so many years been wrongfully deprived, presents itself. Will the people avail themselves of this opportunity? or are they content recklessly and ignobly to drift into the Dominion with their political shackles still rivetted on them? Rely upon it, political freedom will not be forced upon us unasked. It must be solicited, *demanded*! Leave it in the hands of the three Governments concerned? What did similar folly result in four years ago? To leave the terms of the new Constitution to the governing classes is to leave the management of the affairs of the colony still in their hands—to grant a fresh lease to autocratic tyranny and abuse. A policy of quiescence always comes to that. It lasts and looks pleasant until somebody tweaks your nose, and then you have to hit out—rather harder than if you had not put on Quaker costume. Let the people be well assured of this, that unless they ask, and ask at once for self-government under Confederation, they are going to be put off without it. Nor must that asking be a mere effervescent bubbling up—a spasmodic howl. In order to succeed, the demand for political manumission must be put forward with steadiness and reason—must be urged in a spirit of firmness and united determination. Shall we make the trial? Or are the people content to be governed in the future from Ottawa, as they have been governed in the past, from Downing-street?

The Peace River Maps.

The following correspondence removes the responsibility of refusing the tracings of a map of the Peace River country from the shoulders of the Lands & Works Department to those of the Telegraph Company. In declining to permit the map to be traced, Mr Lamb acted in accordance with the general rules of the Company, which have since been so far relaxed as to allow copies to be made:

L & W OFFICE, Dec 3, 1868.

DEAR SIR:—The maps to which you refer were supplied to this office by favor of the Telegraph Company, being the result of the explorations of their agents; and before complying with your request to be allowed to obtain copies of them, I should like to ascertain whether Mr Lamb can offer any objection to their being made public.

Yours truly,
JOSEPH W. TRUTCH.

I have written to Mr Lamb on the subject and will let you know the result.

L & W OFFICE, Dec 3, 1869.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have just heard from Mr Lamb that he cannot, on behalf of the Telegraph Company, consent to tracings being given from this office of the maps of that Company's explorations which were kindly furnished by himself and Mr Conway for the information of the Government. I am, therefore, unable to comply with your request.

Yours truly,
JOSEPH W. TRUTCH.

E MARVIN, Esq.

In commenting on this matter a few days ago, we imagined that the onus of refusal rested with Mr. Truch; because, from the tenor of that gentleman's notes to Mr Marvin, we gathered that the maps were "supplied" (given) to the Lands and Works Office by the Telegraph Company. It would appear, now, that although "supplied" (or given) the Government was bound by the rules of the donors not to allow the public to make tracings from them. Had the Chief Commissioner so stated in his notes, the very natural conclusion, *i. e.*, that one may do as he likes with his own, would not have been drawn by us.

THE CROWN HOTEL FIRE.—Wm Young and Thomas Tugwell were brought yesterday before the Police Magistrate for examination. Inspector of Police Bowden, preferred the charges against Young for setting fire to the Hotel, and against Tugwell as accessory before the fact. The Inspector stated he was not prepared at present to go on with the case. Mr. Drake, who appeared for the defence, applied to have the prisoner admitted to bail. Mr. Courtney, who appeared to prosecute on behalf of Mrs. Cox, stated that the amount for which the premises were insured was $5200. The Magistrate refused to take bail.

THE condition of the insane ladies is unchanged—at least, they are not better.

INDIAN LAND DIFFICULTY.—We regret to learn that an Indian land difficulty is developing itself at the Chilliwack settlement, on the Lower Fraser. Upon the completion of the survey of the Indian Reserves in that neighborhood, a sort of deed of that portion set apart for each tribe was given to the Chief whose name was placed upon the map. Amongst these Chiefs were 'Captain John' and 'Big Jim,' both important personages in that part. It appears that by some means or other the Magistrate for the district was induced to believe that in these two instances the papers had been given to the wrong man; and that gentleman assumed the responsibility of transferring the papers to two persons represented to him as being entitled to hold them. Moreover, he wrote upon the map over the names of Capt John and Big Jim, the words "reputed chiefs." The matter the white settlers at once caused the cause of Capt John and Big Jim, well knowing them to be the real chiefs, and they (the settlers) have petitioned the Governor, asking for a thorough investigation. We have only to express an earnest hope that the action of the Government will be both prompt and thorough. Such matters are in no way improved by delay.

IN London tartans are coming in everywhere; tartan neckties, tartan brooches, tartan dresses, and tartan trimmings light up the shop windows with a blaze of green, blue, red, and white. The Stewart, the Macleac, the Farquharson, the Macpherson, the McNab, the Macdonald, the Macdonnell, the Mackenzie, the Macgregor—those rugged names that would have made Quintilian stare and gasp—have converted many yards of Piccadilly, Fleet street and Holborn, into pictoresque dens of Celtic savagery. What is the meaning of the invasion? From what plane have the tartans come? In the simplicity of his heart, the English reader answers, 'From Scotland, of course;' but we assure him that he labors under a complete mistake. Not from Scotland, but from France; not from 'the capital of the Highlands,' which is the fine name for Inverness, but from the centre of fashion, which is the shop name for Paris, have all the clans poured into London.

MECHANICS' LITERARY INSTITUTE.—Mr Hankin's reading from Dickens last evening proved his most successful effort. The scene was laid at Dotheboy's Hall, and the peculiarities of Mrs Squeers, Miss Squeers, Miss Tilda Price and her lover, were portrayed with a richness that must have delighted the shade of Old Squeers himself. Mr Hankin also read from Aingsley's Legends with marked ability. The readings were appropriately supplemented with vocal and instrumental music by Mrs Attwood, and Messrs Palmer, Leigh, Emory, Wilson and Jenkinson.

ACCIDENT.—Charles Stevens, Quartermaster of the steamship Gussie Telfair, fell from the foreyard yesterday morning to the deck and sustained slight injury in the back. He was conveyed to the American Hotel, where he was attended by Dr. Davie.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.—We are indebted to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries for the fifth report of the Select Committee on Fisheries, Navigation, &c., and for Miscellaneous Statistics of Canada for the year of 1868.

ALEXANDRE Kid Gloves, all sizes and colors, and Fancy Goods for Christmas, received by Express to-day [Dec 10th], from Paris direct, at London House—J H TURNER & Co.

THE FOUR REVIEWS for October are, thanks to Messrs Hibben & Co., before us, and are as usual replete with interesting and instructive reading.

DIAMOND-HUNTING is now a staple pursuit at the Cape of Good Hope. Why don't they hunt the road which, Shakespeare says, 'hath a jewel in its head?'

IN LUCK.—Three mails in as many days and another expected to day. Cheerful, for everybody save the Postmaster.

ELEVEN vessels were wrecked at Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, on the 15th and 19th Sept., and nine lives lost.

A DESERTER from the bark Ruby was yesterday discharged from custody, he having arranged the little matter with his captain.

THE Flying Squadron, Admiral Hornby, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope on the 3rd of October.

THE U. S. S. Newbern is due to-day from San Francisco.

THE Gussie Telfair sailed for Nanaimo at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

THE ship Shooting Star arrived at Nanaimo from San Francisco to take in coal.

A CHILD having swallowed a screw the doctor ordered it to swallow a screwdriver.

H. M. S. Satellite was at San Blas, Mexico, at latest advices—all well.

Fragrance the most lasting!
Fragrance the most delicate!
Fragrance the most exquisite!
Fragrance the most refreshing!
Are all combined in MURRAY & LANMAN'S FLORIDA WATER—the only recognized perfume of fashion.
Beware of the pernicious counterfeits; always ask for the Florida Water prepared by the sole proprietors, Lanman & Kemp, New York. 546

Lunacy at the Police Barracks.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—I am pleased to see you draw attention in this morning's COLONIST to the condition of the unfortunate ladies confined in the Police Barracks. Their position surely calls for action on the part of this community. It certainly is a disgrace to us that patients laboring under such a fearful malady should be confined in a place so unsuitable. I will not say that the people are to blame; but what are we to say about our *model and paternal government* in respect to this and other matters? It does seem as if their high mightinesses had no other idea than provide for their own salaries.

Some years ago the people of the city subscribed money and built a 'Female Hospital.' Why could not the building be used for cases like the present? Would it not be well to enquire into the matter? I understand that it is at present let and occupied as a dwelling house. Who receives the rent and what is done with the money? is the natural enquiry of

ONE OF THE SUBSCRIBERS.

[We made the distressing case at the Police Barracks the subject of personal enquiry yesterday, and it is due to the public as well as to the authorities more directly concerned, that we should state the result. Unquestionably the Police Barracks is, in many respects ill suited for the reception and proper treatment of insane persons, more especially where, as in the present instance, the patients happen to be females; and without doubt the present melancholy case furnishes another argument in favor of a suitable establishment being provided wherein such unfortunates may be properly treated. It is no more than right, however, that we should mention the fact that the utmost solicitude has been evinced on the part of the authorities for the comfort of the unfortunate subjects of the above correspondence, and that they have succeeded in giving the place a wonderful air of comfort. In fact all that human effort can do under such circumstances is being done. A proposition made yesterday on behalf of St John's Church to have these patients taken to a private residence, was firmly declined by the third sister, who is in constant attendance, and who is decidedly of opinion that for the present such a change would be undesirable. We regret to say that no favorable symptoms have yet developed themselves.—ED.]

Executive Councillors.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—The surprise caused by the sudden and unexpected announcement made a few days since that Dr. Helmcken had been invited to a seat in the Executive Council, having somewhat subsided in consequence of the rumor not being confirmed, it has become a matter of serious consideration as to who should be the proper person or persons entitled to that distinction at the present juncture of political affairs in this colony. That it is the intention as well as the duty of the Government to call to its councils two or more of the people's representatives, there probably can be but little doubt; and consequently it becomes a matter of very grave interest to the people who those representatives may be, and to what extent they may possess the confidence of the entire colony. It has already been said by some, and may be said by more, that Dr. Helmcken, being the senior representative of the city and having received the largest number of votes at the last general election, is entitled to the proposed seat. Such reasoning might have had weight had the test of his election been on the particular issues now about to be entered upon, and before a constituency justly entitled to vote on a question touching the Constitution of the colony. But in view of the avowed and determined opposition of Dr Helcken to the union of this colony with Canada, such union being the expressed desire of the Imperial Government and the unquestionable desire of an overwhelming majority of the people of this colony, would it be at all consistent or likely to prove satisfactory to the Government or the colony to introduce a political element so adverse as the open and oft repeated views of Dr. Helmcken are so well known to be?

The people of this colony are anxiously and patiently looking for a speedy change in the government that will relieve them from the tyranny and oppression that have been exercised toward them by all their rulers, whether they came from Downing street or Fenchurch street; and the introduction into the Executive Council at the present critical moment of no element will be acceptable to the people unless it is entirely free from the interests and influences of those who are looked upon as the obstructors of the progress of the colony.

If it be true that the policy of the Imperial Government is to unite British Columbia with Canada—and this being a Crown colony—is not the government of Mr Musgrave a Confederation Government? Upon what principle, then, in harmony with the invariable practice of the Imperial Government, can a man opposed to the distinctly understood policy of the government be invited to its councils?

The people of this colony have given their verdict in favor of immediate union with Canada, and they have a right to expect that, in view of the work especially assigned to him in his appointment to this colony, that Governor Musgrave will facilitate their wishes by the introduction of harmony rather than discord into his Council.

H.

Canadian Mail Summary.

The last mail brings Canadian files to the 25th ultimo. The Hon Philip M Vankoughnet, Chancellor of Ontario, died at Toronto on the 11th. The first number of the *Canadian Illustrated News* was issued on the 6th. It is published at Montreal, by Mr Desbarats, and receives favorable notice from the press. The death of the *North Star*, the sole annexation organ on Prince Edward Island, is announced. Miss Rye had arrived from England with 70 orphan girls. The old jail at Niagara has been fitted up for a school in which these orphan girls are to be educated and trained for domestic servants. Miss Rye's new enterprise is favorably commented upon by the press. A Montreal paper, alluding to the unscrupulous attacks made by a section of the Canadian press upon Sir Francis Hincks, makes an explanation which certainly goes far to establish for that distinguished gentleman the reputation of a self-sacrificing desire to be of use to Canada in his old age. It appears that Sir Francis sought and obtained permission to invite Sir Alexander Galt to accept the portfolio resigned by Mr Rose; and that in order to overcome any scruples on the part of that gentleman, Sir Francis volunteered to serve under him in a subordinate capacity. The Duke of Buccleuch has extended his patronage to Canada, having presented the Rev Andrew Patton, Assistant Minister of St Andrew's Church, Montreal, to the parish of Renfrew, Scotland. The Hon Joseph Howe had returned from the Northwest. The roughing and camping out are said not to have quite agreed with the old gentleman. The Canadian papers attach great importance to Earl Granville's dispatch to Governor Musgrave, regarding it as tantamount to a command to enter. The Earl's dispatch to Sir John Young is not without significance. Here it is:—Sir,—I transmit to you herewith a copy of a dispatch I have addressed to the Governor of British Columbia, making known to him the views of Her Majesty's Government on the important question of the incorporation of that colony with the Dominion of Canada. I have so fully explained myself in that dispatch that it is not necessary that I should do more than instruct you at once to lay a copy of it before your advisers. Prince Arthur has been indulging in the sport of a fox hunt near Montreal. The run was very good, and lasted for an hour, when Reynard, a fine dog fox, succumbed at Petite Cote. The brush was presented to Miss King, who was 'well up,' in recognition of the gallant manner in which she rode all through. About 20 gentlemen and half as many ladies participated in the exciting sport. A Montreal paper says that an appeal from Victoria, B C, has been published, asking for aid to restore the English cathedral destroyed by fire in October. General Wyndham gave a reception at his residence, Montreal, on the 9th, which is described as having been a brilliant affair. Prince Arthur was present. His Royal Highness was the officer in charge of the detachment of the Rifle Brigade which attended St Gabriel street Presbyterian Church on the 14th Nov. There has been some warm work in the Ontario Legislature. It will be remembered that Mr Blake, leader of the Opposition, held that the concessions made by the Dominion Government to Nova Scotia last year were in direct violation of the constitution, that the point was referred to the Imperial Law Officers, and that they decided the transaction was constitutional. Not content with that decision, Mr Blake has introduced a motion appealing to the Queen, against the arrangement. James G Moylan, of Toronto, has been gazetted Emigrant Agent for Canada, in the South of Ireland; Chas Toy, of Omemee, to be Assistant Emigrant Agent for the North of Ireland; Edwin Clay, of Pugwash, to be Emigrant Agent for Nova Scotia, David Shaw, of Kingston, to be Emigrant Agent for Scotland. Advices from Governor McDougall reached Ottawa on the 22d, which show that the newspaper reports of his reception are very much exaggerated. He has not crossed the lines yet, but remains at Pembina, instead of being compelled to beat a hasty retreat. The half-breeds notified him by letter that his entry to the new territory was not desirable. Private letters mention a strong organization among the Scotch settlers and others, which awaits negotiations between Gov. McDougall and the insurgents. Few persons known to business men in St Paul are connected with the insurrection. If the Hudson Bay officials support McDougall the affair will probably be adjusted peacably. Hon Malcolm Cameron had received a requisition from the electors of South Lanark to permit himself to be nominated in opposition to Hon Alex Morris. Mr Cameron has not signified what he intends doing, but leaves for the Riding immediately. The nomination takes place at the end of this month. Mr Cameron is a native of the Riding. In the New Brunswick murder case the Grand Jury returned a true bill against Munroe for the murder of Margaret Vail and her child. Trial was fixed for the 30th Nov. A party of Montrealers were soon to start on a pleasure excursion to San Francisco *via* the Overland Railway.

Fidelity of the Empress Eugenie.

The special correspondent of the Paris *Figaro* writes from Constantinople that when the Empress was leaving, one of her maids was attacked with typhus fever, and that a bed was made up for her in the saloon of the Agile. On the Sultan coming on board to take leave of the Empress, her Majesty apologized for receiving him on deck, and said she could not take him to the saloon because there was an invalid there. After the Sultan left the Empress went to watch by the bedside of the sick servant, but just as the yacht got under weigh the Turkish ships in the port began to fire a salute. She then rushed upon deck, and entreated that signals should be made to cease the firing. Finding it impossible to make her wishes understood in time by the Turkish fleet, she gave orders to put on all steam, and get out of the noise as soon as possible. The poor servant died shortly afterwards and her body was sent ashore in the Dardanelles to be transported to Paris.