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Under the head of "The Judiciary," the *News* of yesterday morning publishes a temperate article on the Judicial question. So far as the remarks of the writer treat of the anomalous position of the Judiciary of the Colony, and the vexations and annoyances that arise from the administration of law in this Colony in consequence, we quite agree with him; and we are convinced that the bill now before the Legislative Council will not only fail to cure the evil but will greatly aggravate it. What the Colony requires is *one* Chief Justice and two *puisne* Judges; a full Bench of *three* to constitute a Court of Appeal. The only apparent effect of the bill before the Council is to define the power and confirm the present jurisdiction of the Judges. It does not give concurrent jurisdiction, a circumstance greatly to be deplored, and unheard of elsewhere. The *News* cites the case of Mr C. W. Wallace to show that a debtor under the present system of jurisprudence must run the gauntlet of *two* suits in order to obtain a discharge from his debts. The lace himself filed his petition in the Island Bankruptcy Court, and subsequently elected to transfer the application to the Court on the Mainland. With regard to the delicate position occupied by Mr Needham in this case, there can be and is but one opinion. We do not think that, under the circumstances, the learned judge should have sat to hear the case; but its citation is no illustration of what the writer intends to convey. If he could have cited an instance wherein a man after first filing a petition on the Mainland had been dragged before the Island Court, the point would have been made; but as it stands the illustration is, to say the least, unfortunate. Under the bill before the Council we believe such an outrage possible, and for that reason we hope it will be killed. The writer in the *News*, too, trips himself up when he advances as evidence of the unfitness of Mr Needham for the position his unpopularity with the legal fraternity, and sets that unpopularity in contradistinction with that of Mr Cameron, when that worthy gentleman occupied the Bench. That a Judge is unpopular with the legal fraternity is no proof of his unfitness for the position, nor of his unpopularity with the *public* or with nor *suitors*. That Mr. Cameron was popular *as a Judge* we deny. We have too vivid a recollection of the manner in which *"law"* and *"justice,"* too, were administered in this Colony during that gentleman's reign (it was nothing less than a *reign*, as his *dictum* was absolute) we remember too well the disgraceful scenes that occurred with impunity almost daily before him; and we can call to mind too readily the length of time required to get even a trifling suit through the Summary Court to ever wish for a return of that gentleman to the Bench. We believe Mr Cameron did as well as any man without legal education could have done; but he failed to give satisfaction in any and every respect *and was pensioned in consequence*. Perhaps the writer in the *News* may wish to return to the halcyon days on this Island when Justice was not only blind but deaf, too; but we are satisfied his desire is not shared by the mass of the people of the country, who have no interest in the differences of the legal fraternity so that they (the public) have reason to believe the *law* is honestly administered and their rights conserved. Mr. Wallace's case is one of extreme hardship, we admit; but why does not our cotemporary join with us in bringing about a remedy instead of advocating the adoption of a course which would place us in the predicament of the fish that leaped out of the frying-pan. Let us have a Court of Appeal, by all means; but let it be constructed from the proper material.

Our report of the debate upon the resolution to remove the Seat of Government to Victoria will be found to possess considerable interest. The member for New Westminster was, as usual, abusive, and his blasphemy is likening the Capital to the Ark of the Covenant, must have sent a thrill through every lover of the Truth in the hall. The member for Yale, the only other speaker on the same side, quoted authority like a "limb of the law," and actually set *his* opinion on "public faith and honor" against that of the best legal minds of the mother country on the same point. Contrasted with the blasphemy and abuse of the member for New Westminster, and the querulous and pedantic remarks of the member for Yale, we have the manly and sensible utterances of Messrs Helmcken, DeCosmos, Macdonald Walkem and Crease—which stamp the speakers as men who, to accomplish a great public good, are ready at all times to sink local preferences and prejudices. But we do not intend to revive this most unfortunate question. It has been the cause of much ill-feeling in times past, and now that it is dead, let us bury it out of sight and mind forever and join hands in an effort to push the country along in the career of prosperity which we are persuaded is its destiny. No good purpose can be effected now by continuing the warfare; and the man who shall attempt to fan the flame will deserve the execration of the Colonists. The crisis, and it is only by sinking side-issues and local prejudices that we can overcome our difficulties and rise Phœnix-like for the ashes of our former prosperity.

Monday, April 6th.

FRACAS AT THE CAPITAL.—Our readers will observe, upon reference to our Legislative Council report, that the Council Chamber, on two successive days, was cleared of strangers to enable the Council to listen to a question of privilege brought forward by the honorable member for New Westminster. The first day's question of privilege consisted in a charge brought by Mr. Robson against Hon. Mr. Smith, member for Big Bend, who he charged was a bankrupt. This charge, be it remembered, was not dreamed of until it was found that Mr. Smith intended to cast his vote for Victoria as the Capital. The The accusation was at once disproved; and the Council having adjourned Mr. Smith approached Robson outside the building, and after expressing his mind quite freely perpetrated one of the grossest indignities possible for one gentleman to commit toward another. Robson did not offer to resent the insult, and walked away. On the second day he brought the matter before the Council on a question of privilege; but that honorable body, while it was disposed to consider the offence as an insult to itself, appeared to think that Mr. Robson, considering the provocation he had given, had no reason to complain. Smith at once apologized *to the Council*.

PATENT SLIP.—Councillor Gibbs has given notice of the following notice which will come before the Council at its next meeting. The project commends itself to all:—"I hereby give notice that at the next meeting of the Council I will move that a petition be sent to the honorable the Legislative Council praying that a Supplemental Ordinance be passed, enabling the Mayor and Council of the city of Victoria to negotiate a loan, not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000), and issue bonds on behalf of said city for the same; said loan to be applied for constructing in Victoria Harbor a patent slip, capable of receiving vessels of 800 to 1000 tons burthen; and also that they be empowered to pass bylaws for the regulation of the same."

THE OVERLAND ROUTE.—Alfred Waddington, Esq., of this city, was invited to lecture before the Royal Geographical Society of London on the 24th February; subject, "Overland Route from Canada to the Pacific."

THE EMIGRATION.—A careful examination of the list of persons who secured tickets in the cabin of the California, which sailed on Friday for San Francisco, discloses the fact that out of 39 men, women and children, lately residents of Victoria, on board, 19 will return. Of the steerage passengers there were 7 or 8 from this place, half of whom, reasoning by analogy, intend returning. The "great crowd" seen on the deck was made up of passengers from Sitka and Puget Sound. We are actually receiving more people than we are losing, by nearly two to one: a fact of which any person accustomed to look upon the black side of everything may become convinced, on application at the proper quarter.

FROM CARIBOO.—Late arrivals from Cariboo announce that at Quesnelmouth the ice in the Fraser is breaking up, and that the snow is rapidly leaving the wagon-road. The Cariboo company on William Creek were taking out 160 ounces of dust *per diem*. On Canadian Creek one of the claims in which a rich prospect was obtained had been 'jumped.' The offending parties were taken before Mr Brew, who decided in favor of the original claimants. The steamer Enterprise will commence running from Soda Creek on or about the 15th inst.

THE NAVAL PAPER HUNT on Saturday was well attended, Lieut. Brookes and K. McKenzie, jr., started from the Naval Clubhouse at 1½ o'clock in the afternoon, and reached Swan Lake Hotel ten minutes ahead of the hunters, who were misled at the Gorge by an old scent. The hubt was well laid and followed. The country was an easy one; the fences jumped numbered thirty-four and no spills of consequence occurred. Bunster was found at Swan Lake with a barrel of beer, which he presented to the hunters.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—The steamer Constantine, from San Francisco on the 31st ult, arrived yesterday morning at 2 o'clock. The Constantine brought Prince Maksoutoff, late Governor of Sitka, with several other passengers and a large mail for this place She will sail this morning for Sitka, via Nanaimo, where she will load with coal, the cargo she had on board when she left here [illegible] San Francisco.

NO PUBLIC demonstration was made over the announcement that Victoria had been selected as the Capital by the Legislative Council. A few flags were flung to the breeze, but beyond that nothing worthy of note took place. The feeling of satisfaction on all sides, however, is very great, and the congratulations though quiet were none the less heartfelt and sincere.

CRICKET.—The first match of the season will come off at Beacon Hill on Monday, April 6th, between Victoria and the Fleet. Wickets pitched at 10:30. Victoria, Charles Clark, captain, Dewdney, Walker, Wilson, Barnett, Guerra, C. Green, Tye, Howard, Ball, Drake.

THE STEAMSHIP ACTIVE sailed from San Francisco for Victoria *via* Portland on Saturday, to take her place in the new line between the last named ports. She will arrive about Saturday next.

TURNED UP.—Relatives of the late Major Humphries have been heard from. A brother of the deceased is a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, and a nephew resides in Virginia City, Nevada.

FROM THE RIVER.—The steamer Enterprise arrived on Saturday evening from New Westminster, bringing as passengers several honorable members of the Legislative Council.

THEATRICAL.—Mr Marsh, the enterprising Manager and Lessee of the Theatre Royal, has engaged a theatrical company at San Francisco to play here during the season. The company is expected in the next steamer.

PARDONED.—Tomlinson, who shot at Marks and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, has been pardoned by Gov. Seymour.

THE Committee appointed for building Dr Wardsworth's new church at San Francisco, have decided in favor of a plan furnished by Wright & Sanders, formerly of Victoria.

GEORGE WILSON, on Saturday, peformed the feat of jumping over 100 hundred hurdles in twenty minutes, at the Alhambra.

SIR EDMOND HEAD, Governor of the Hudson Bay Company, died in London on the 28th January.

THE ship Spirit of the Age was loading at London for Victoria on Feb. 3d.

HOPS.—Bunster has planted twelve acres at Saanich with hops and expects a full crop.

THE Sir James Douglas will start for Nanaimo at 7 o'clock this morning.

After the very exhaustive manner in which the subject of Confederation has been treated in a series of letters in these columns, any attempt of ours to reproduce the arguments, would be an act of supererogation. They have appeared so recently, that the facts supplied must be still fresh in the minds of our readers. Our present object is merely to keep the matter, as being of paramount importance, before the public, in order that all may be impressed with the urgent necessity for immediate action. That a change in our government is necessary, all are agreed; to bring about that change it is but too apparent, from the inertness of the present Executive, the people themselves "must strike the blow" Endowed as we are by nature with climate and position inferior to none in the known world, with mineral and agricultural riches equal to any yet discovered, miners and farmers of a very superior capacity to develope them, and a ready market for our products, we have fallen into a state of apathetic demoralization pitiable to behold. Our unfortunate attempts at self government culminating in the present unwieldy machine, seem to have deprived our merchants and landowners of all energy or enterprise. Our shores are visited yearly by hundreds of hardy muscular men and skilled mechanics, whose only desire is employment After vainly seeking to earn a livelihood they are compelled, though reluctantly, to seek other homes—the blighting influence of misgovernment covering the Colony like a pall. If our mining districts are remarkable for life and activity it would seem to be owing to their remoteness from the Seat of Government. To free ourselves from this thrall of our faculties we must look for aid to the Dominion of Canada. Without this Colony the Dominion would be incomplete, and all the dreams of future greatness would be merely visionary. With our adhesion the possible destiny of the Dominion leaves at present nationalities in the shade. In allying ourselves to our eastern fellow colonists we only unite a homogenous people, our connection with the Mother Country remaining unaltered. But in bringing to our aid the clear-sighted intellects of our brethren east of the Rocky Mountains we draw to ourselves friends who possess the knowledge and experience in which we are deficient, who, comparatively free from responsibilty, will be in a position to afford us the material aid of which we stand in need, to say nothing of the *status* we shall acquire with the capitalists of Europe. The form of government (confessedly the best on the American continent) is adapted to our wants, having been framed by men of undoubted ability and patriotism. Men who, having passed through a severe political ordeal, have been tempered, tried and approved by the people at large. Being a part of the Dominion we shall rise into importance as the Pacific terminus of that great country, the point of departure for passengers and fine goods from India, China, Japan, New Zealand and Australia for Europe. Our now neglected ports will be crowded with ships of all nations and our workshops will ring with the busy hum of industry; capital and population will flow in to us from all parts of the world and, notwithstanding the laudable enterprise of our republican neighbors, we shall absorb the great bulk of the transcontinental traffic to and from Europe. Annexation to the United States is a vagary of the white-washed, a crotchet of the Fenian type; a passing straw clutched at by a few of our citizens, rendered desperate by the torpidity of our present Government, and is unworthy the slightest consideration. The arguments for the delay of Confederation are the offshoots of the Annexation chimera, and should be treated with equal contempt. Our only salvation is in Confederation. To protract it is merely to continue in our present unhappy situation; and could we so remain, the result would be feeling ourselves dragged in the position which is best adapted for us, by those who have more foresight than ourselves. We have however, happily for us, men amongst us such as our representatives at New Westminster, who have devoted themselves to the task of preserving us from such humiliation and under their guidance we shall enter the Confederation with credit and advantage to ourselves. If the people of the Dominion have to make great sacrifices at the early period of our connection, they will be amply repaid in the future. It is fortunate also, in our case, that men like the Hon Mr Tilley have espoused our cause; men whose indefatigable energy has wrung both from their own people whom they have served with unswerving fidelity, and the Imperial Government, a just acknowledgement of their merits. In their hands we are safe. Setting aside the endorsement of the Home Government, which is necessary to our entrance as an integral part of the Dominion, we have reasons to believe that the resolution relative to Confederation passed by the Legislative Council on the 18th March, last year, did not [illegible] further obstacles will be thrown in the way of the consummation desired by the people; the popular voice is too powerful for any merely official objection, and we hope for the credit of those now at the head of our Government that a hearty co-operation henceforward will be vouchsafed. The Governor cannot do less than furnish copies of the despatches and correspondence that have passed on this great question, and when they have been laid before the Council our citizens will be enabled to form their own opinion as to the proper course to be pursued to hasten the "consummation most devoutly to be wished for."

Friday, April 3d.

COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT.—Mr. George Bartholomew, proprietor of the Great Western Circus, has been tendered a complimentary benefit by the citizens of Victoria, to come off this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Mr Bartholomew has resided some months in Victoria, and no resident has attained to a higher position in public estimation. His liberality toward the Free School and urbanity and gentlemanly deportment on all occasions will not soon be forgotten. We hope the public will bestow upon Mr Bartholomew a substantial mark of their favor. Children under ten will be admitted free to-day.

LEAVING.—Rev. Dr. Evans and family leave to-day in the California for Canada. Dr. Evans has been Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission in this Colony since its organization in 1859, and has discharged the arduous duties of his position with Christian zeal and fidelity. Our best wishes will accompany the reverend gentleman and his family to their home in the East.

MR HENRY FOWLER, who leaves to-day for England, has been connected with the Government for several years in various capacities, and has shown zeal and ability in the discharge of his duties. He goes, we learn, to fill a more responsible position in one of the Colonies. We wish him success.

FROM NANAIMO—The Sir James Douglas arrived from Nanaimo yesterday afternoon at half-past 4 o'clock, with about 20 passengers and a quantity of freight from the new settlements. The Black Diamond is loading coal for Sitka and will sail for that port on Saturday.

GOVERNMENT notifies persons who purchased land at the illegal tax sales held at Victoria in 1864-5 that the purchase money, with interest on the same, will be immediately repaid on application to the Colonial Secretary and production of the customary proofs of identity and purchase.

COOLING.—Piper is a cool customer and wishes all his friends to be likewise. Last night he cooled the feverish clay of the poor printer with a bountiful supply of ice cream, for which he has the individual and united thanks of the staff.

EXPORTS.—Among the articles of freight by the California to-day, we notice a large quantity of hides, Mr Frankel is the shipper. A large quantity of fines halibut, packed in ice is also being sent down by Mr C. Smith.

EARLY RADISHES—Mr C A Bayley has placed us under obligations for a fine dish of early radishes, grown in the garden of Mr Moss, Cadboro Bay Road.

SEVERE gales off the Northwest Coast are reported by the California. The trading sloop Fashion, from this port, was lost during one of the blows. All hands were saved.

COUNTY COURT.—To-day is the last day for issuing summons for the next sitting of the County Court, to be held on the 14th inst.

THE schooner Alaska, Capt R Calhoun, laden with lumber from Stamp's mills, Burrard Inlet, sailed yesterday for Honolulu S I.

POLICE COURT.—No transactions were had at this institution yesterday.

THE first pack-trains have left Yale for the upper country.