

The Confederation Scheme.

We are glad to notice that a feeling in favor of the inclusion of this Colony in the Confederation Bill now before the Imperial Parliament, is growing and strengthening here; and were the country polled to-morrow there is little doubt that the vote in favor of a close communion with our brethren on the other side of the Rocky Mountains would be ten to one. We have always been in favor of the Confederation of the British North American Provinces, for we cannot conceive how we shall ever become great if we are to depend, as now, upon the favor of a Parliament that know little of our wants and care less. And how could it be otherwise? It would be unreasonable to suppose that a Parliament of Englishmen, sitting in London, could legislate properly for the Colonies, except there were a Colonial representation in that Parliament to express the views and sentiments of its constituents, and to urge upon the attention of honorable members the requirements of the Colonies. As we stand, we occupy an isolated position; we have no sympathy or interests in common with Britons on the other side of the mountains, save that of common allegiance. We have no voice in the management of our own affairs; our prayers are unheeded by the Imperial Parliament, and our wants can only be made known through an official, and consequently, not always a friendly channel. Politically, we are tied hand and foot; deprived of an adequate representation, we are the laughing-stock of our neighbors, and the object of contempt of our own countrymen. We have scarcely a voice in our own affairs, and what little we have has been powerless to prevent the voting of a sum of money for the expenses of Government utterly beyond our power to pay. But, badly off as we are, we do not wish to accept the Confederation plan because, as some of our friends assert, we "cannot be any worse off." We might easily be as completely sold in making this new bargain as we got the worst of the Union bargain. As a correspondent truly remarked in our columns a few days ago, we might "imitate Moses and exchange our horse for a pair of green spectacles;" or, to use a more homely phrase, we might jump out of the frying-pan only to find ourselves in the hottest kind of a fire. Now, we candidly believe that there is no necessity for any such misfortune befalling the Colony if we exercise even ordinary care in arranging the business. "Put not your trust in Princes," nor, we may add, in politicians, either. Profiting by past experience, let us have it fairly understood that if we enter the Confederacy it will be upon the same terms as those upon which other Colonies are admitted, or not at all; and we believe that we should secure a Responsible and Cheap form of Government; Reciprocity of Trade, an Overland Wagon-road, and ultimately a Railway and Telegraph Line; a transfer of the Legislative power from the hands of the Imperial Parliament to that of a Parliament composed of colonial men; the assumption of our debt (which is heavier in proportion to the population than that of any other North American Province) by the Federal Government; and, more important than all of these, a great reduction in taxation per capita. It is proposed that the General Parliament shall consist of a Legislative Council and a House of Commons, composed of representatives from each of the Provinces. The bill further provides that: "The Executive authority or Government shall be vested in the Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and be administered, according to the well understood principles of the British Constitution, by the representative of the Sovereign duly authorized. The Sovereign or Representative of the Sovereign will be commander-in-chief of the land and naval militia forces. The general Parliament will have power to make laws for the peace, welfare and good government of the federated provinces (saving the sovereignty of the mother country). For each of the provinces there is to be an

Executive officer, styled the Lieutenant-Governor (paid by the General Government), who is to be appointed by the Governor-General in Council. The Local Government and Legislature of each province are to be constituted in such manner as the existing Legislature of such province shall provide in the act consenting to the Union. The Local Legislature will have power to make laws respecting the following subjects: Direct taxation and imposition of duties; borrowing money on the credit of the province; agriculture; immigration; education; the sale and management of public lands, &c. Upper Canada is to be represented in the Legislative Council by 24 members. Lower Canada by 24 members, and the three maritime provinces by twenty-four members, of whom Nova Scotia shall have 10, and New Brunswick 10. The basis of representation in the House of Commons is to be population, as determined by the official census every ten years; and the number of the members at first will be 194, distributed as follows:—Upper Canada, 52; Lower Canada, 65; Nova Scotia, 19; New Brunswick, 15."

It will be seen by the above extract from the bill that the Confederation scheme is most liberal in its character; and should it become law, there will be but little fear of any such calamity overtaking us as in the case of Union, except we are silly enough to again repose our destinies in the hands of men who deem the consideration of questions affecting colonial welfare much in the same light that an unwilling scholar performs a disagreeable task. We are glad, therefore, that our people and their representatives at New Westminster, dreading the fire in which they have been already severely scorched, are extremely cautious in approaching the scheme. This caution will ensure the subject a thorough ventilation at a public meeting, to be held this week, and will result, perhaps, in the zealous guarding of our interests when the final arrangements come to be made.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Thursday, March 14.

ONE WOULD IMAGINE, to hear some expatiate upon the advantages of a residence in California, that sorrow or trouble never visit that favored land—that the sun always shines there—that peace and plenty abound—that business men never "bankrupt," beggars never beg—and that over the entrance of the Golden Gate might with truth be written this quotation— "And oh! if there be an Elysium on earth, 'Tis this! 'Tis this!" But, notwithstanding this happiness, sunshine and prosperity, it appears that some silly people will make haste to leave the favored land, and have latterly fallen into a most unpleasant habit of anticipating a call from the grim monster in the regular way by killing themselves. Thus, in a late paper we find no less than five suicides and attempts within two days in the great city of San Francisco. How do these unpleasant incidents occur there. It is said that the king on the throne has troubles: can it be possible that Californians have theirs?

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The Board of Delegates of the City Fire Department met on Tuesday evening, when there was a full attendance to discuss matters relative to the finances of the Association, &c. The Secretary was instructed to apply to the Government for the money lately voted for the use of the Department. Action was also had in regard to the Municipal by-law levying a rate on the Insurance Companies. It is said that the payment of the small rate assessed will be contested at law; and the Department state that if the Government do not give an assurance that the rights of the firemen will be protected, both with reference to the Exemption Act and the enforcing of the Civil By-law, they will certainly disobey.

CHURCH MATTERS.—An ordination will be held at the Cathedral on Sunday next, when the Rev. Mr. Heyman, of New Westminster, will be priested, and Mr. Cave, Catholic and Indian Missionary, of Nanaimo, will be ordained a deacon. The Rev. J. Reynard, attached to the Cathedral, will relieve the former gentleman for a short period, proceeding to New Westminster by the first trip of the Enterprise. In the Methodist Church, we are informed that the work of revival is proceeding, and that many have been awakened to a sense of their position, and have sought and obtained religion.

LEECH RIVER.—Mr Johnson, who came in from Leech river mines on Tuesday, informs us that the flume between the ditch and the mill was to be opened on Monday. The water from this flume is intended to drive the mill-wheel, by which means some 50,000 feet of lumber for the main flume will be sawed, and active mining operations commenced in about six weeks time. The cold has not been severe at the mines, and there were only some twenty inches of snow on the banks of the river. Williamson & Co. are working at their tunnel claim.

It is said that the Active will stop at Chalm Bay, on her way up, to land one of the Phoenix Coal Mining Company's directors and a mining engineer.

THE CONFEDERATION MEETING.—The committee of arrangements met last evening and decided that the public meeting to consider the question of Confederation and the desirability of taking immediate steps for the admission of this Colony into the new nationality on equitable terms, shall take place in the Theatre on Saturday evening, at half-past seven o'clock. Let all attend and lend their ears, if they don't their voices, on an occasion which will have a most important bearing on the destiny of this Colony.

CALIFORNIA GOLD.—It results from American statistics that the receipts of the precious metal at New York from California were in 1855 \$39,592,720; in 1860 they declined to \$34,580,261; in 1861 they remained about stationary, amounting to \$34,585,749; in 1862 they declined to \$25,079,787; and in 1863 to \$12,207,320. In 1864 there was a rally to \$12,907,803; and in 1865 the total further advanced to \$21,531,586. California would appear, however, to have seen its best days as a gold-producing centre.

THE KOOTENAI MINES.—We learn that the mines discovered last fall on the Kootenai are proving both rich and extensive. Quite a number of men remained there during the winter, many of whom made good wages during the odd times they were enabled to work. Both miners and traders express a confidence that the coming season will prove successful to all. Quite an influx of population is expected this spring.—Oregon Herald, 5th inst.

PATENT HARVESTER.—Mr Vanderpool, of Polk county, Oregon, says the Herald, has invented an ingenious harvester and thrasher, which, when its merits become known, will revolutionize the system of harvesting now in use. With the motive power of an ordinary reaper it gathers and thrashes at the same time, from eight to ten acres of grain per day, without waste. He has had one at work on his farm for two years—proving its practical utility beyond peradventure.

REAL ESTATE SALE.—Messrs J. P. Davies & Co. yesterday sold the following property at auction: House and third of a lot on View street for \$500, to W. Farron; Lot, James Bay, \$32½, to St. Clair; Suburban Lots, \$42 to \$60; 270 acres, in Lake District, for \$2 per acre, to J. G. Shepherd. A full-sized lot, at the top of Yates street, containing 13 shanties, was sold by Mr Backus for \$185.

THE NEXT LECTURE.—Owing to the anticipated arrival of the mail steamer, Dr Comrie's lecture on Water, which was to have been delivered this evening at the Mechanics' Institute, has been postponed until Thursday following, should the Sparrowhawk be then in port.

THE TARIFF ON CLOTHING.—A memorial to the Legislative Council was circulated yesterday, praying that the proposed tariff on clothing be fixed at a uniform rate of 7½ per cent. instead of 15 per cent., as proposed by the Tariff Committee. The memorial points out the injury that will be wrought to our foreign trade, should the duty be fixed at the proposed rate; and suggests that, with the tariff fixed at the minimum, the amount of goods sold for the Puget Sound trade would be doubled.

JOHN T. JEFFREYS, a well-known Caribooite, died lately at Dalles City, Oregon. Mr Jeffreys was widely known throughout the mainland as a butcher and drover, and was a man of such strong secession proclivities during the American war, as to render his residence at that time in Oregon unsafe.

AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.—The next performance of this Association, to take place on the 26th inst., will be given in aid of the Rifle Corps, which will, no doubt, be the means of drawing another crowded house. The pieces selected afford scope for heaps of amusement, which will be enhanced by the appearance of another foreign Corps de Ballet, imported at great expense from parts beyond the seas.

THE METHODIST CENTENARY collection now foots up over \$3,800,000, and it is not all in yet. It will probably reach \$4,000,000. Of this sum Daniel Drew, of New York, gave \$500,000; Mr Baldwin, of Ohio, \$300,000; Mr Rich, of Boston, \$75,000, and many others from \$20,000 to \$50,000 each.

The dwelling-house of a Mr Thomas, living near Harrisburg, Oregon, has been consumed by fire, and Mr Thomas, his family and five other persons, burned to death. No particulars are given.

FOR THE SOUND.—The steamer Eliza Anderson will leave at 3 a. m., and the New World at 6 a. m., for ports on the Sound.

Bankruptcy Court.

(Before Chief Justice NEEDHAM.)

WEDNESDAY, March 13. Re Henry Fry—Bankrupt surrendered for final examination and passed; ordered to come up on the 29th instant for discharge. Official Assignee directed to sue for several sums due to the bankrupt's estate. Re W. F. Quarles—Passed second examination; ordered to come up for last examination on 27th March. Re J. J. McCreedy—A dividend was declared in this estate of 2½ per cent. Re W. H. Huskinson—A dividend was declared in this estate of 1½ per cent. Re Walter, Couves & Crooks—Deed of assignment filed in bankruptcy ordered to be suspended.

By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST

California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 9—Sailed, 8th—Steamer Active, for Victoria; ship Roswell, for Liverpool; bark Fremont, for Puget Sound. March 9—Steamer Sacramento, for Panama.

Eastern States.

WASHINGTON, March 9—The Mississippi Legislature has appropriated \$20,000 to be expended in the defence of Jeff. Davis.

Europe.

LONDON, March 9—The funeral of Artemus Ward took place to-day. His remains were buried in Kensal Green.

LONDON, March 9—Evening—It is stated that the leading powers of Europe have united in urging upon the Ottoman Government the immediate enforcement of the provisions of the Treaty of 1856, and the granting of liberal concessions to the Christian subjects.

The organization of the Derby Government is completed. The Duke of Marlborough becomes Lord President of the Council in the place of the Duke of Buckingham, who is appointed Colonial Secretary, and the Duke of Richmond will take the Board of Trade.

LONDON, March 9—Despatches from Ireland to-day say that tranquillity is restored throughout the province of Leitiner. There has been no recent disturbance in that county or Kerry—the scene of the abortive outbreak last month.

DUBLIN, March 9th—A despatch from Waterford states that the Gaultee Mountains, on the borders of Tipperary and Cork counties, were swarming with Fenians. It is feared that an attack will be made on the town, the inhabitants of which are disaffected and are strongly disposed to help them.

LONDON, March 9—Evening—Official despatches from Ireland say that loads of arms have been discovered and seized by the military, and that this fact confirms the report that the rising of the Irish has failed to be general.

Despatches from Dublin state that small bands of Fenians are patrolling the counties of Cork, Waterford, Tipperary and Limerick, and are pressing the people in their ranks and committing robberies everywhere. The taverns in the city of Cork will be closed every evening at dusk.

DUBLIN, March 9—Evening—A despatch from Waterford reports that the Fenians appeared in force at Devil's Bit Mountain, County Tipperary. Troops with artillery have been sent to dislodge them. The result is unknown. The insurgents muster in strong force, particularly in the County of Tipperary. No bands have yet appeared in the County of Wicklow. Reports from Drogheda say that there was no further disturbance there up to this hour. Twelve of the foremost leaders have been captured.

Legislative Proceedings.

Monday's Proceedings.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 11—Pemberton moved for amount of debt due by Vancouver Island and British Columbia, respectively, at the time of union.

A bill on weights and measures and the supplementary bills were passed; also, trades licence bill, with unimportant amendments.

House in committee on postal bill. Result: uniform postage of five cents on letters and two cents on newspapers throughout the Colony.

Smith's motion to abolish road tolls was supported by long speeches from Barnard, Robson and Walkem, and opposed by Birch, Helmecken, Young, Ball, DeCosmos and Crease.

DeCosmos' amendment, to recommend abolition in whole or in part this year, if the revenue should warrant, was carried, when the Council adjourned.

Tuesday's Proceedings.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 12—Stamp brought forward a motion for the admission of dutiable articles to lumber mills duty free or with a drawback; postponed for one week.

Rest of the day was occupied with ways and means, the schedule of which passed with a few unimportant amendments.

Weather clear and frosty. Malacca goes down on Thursday.

Confederation.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 11—A deputation, composed of the Hon. Southgate, Helmecken, DeCosmos and Pemberton, wait-

ed upon His Excellency the Governor to suggest the propriety of telegraphing to the Government as follows: "That provision be made in the Confederation bill now before the Imperial Government for the admission of British Columbia into the confederacy, on such fair and equitable terms as may be agreed upon thereafter." His Excellency received the deputation courteously, and at once acceded to their request. The despatch will be sent at once. There is every probability that the Council will be prorogued in fourteen days.

The Fenian Revolt!

THE SERVA & CRETE REBELLIONS!

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE VICTOR EMMANUEL!

Frightful Earthquake!

THE CANADIAN GOLD MINES!

CONFEDERATION!

Europe.

DUBLIN, March 10—The band of Fenians reported to have taken possession of the barracks at Kittell, in Kildare, have been dispersed by troops. The insurgents made an attack on the barracks at Mount Melick and were repulsed. The rebels are said to have reassembled to the number of 3000 in the neighborhood of Abeylax. Troops have been sent to disperse them.

DUBLIN, March 10—A Fenian Council, which has been in secret session in this city, has been dispersed and its members arrested by the police. General Burke, a Fenian leader in the South, has been captured at Tipperary.

LONDON, March 10—A telegram from Constantinople states that the Sultan has made concessions which are satisfactory to the people of Servia, and has promised to carry into effect the firman of 1856. A Cretan deputation has reached Constantinople.

PARIS, March 10—The Monitor states that by this time all the French troops must have left Mexico, and the departure of the Emperor Maximilian for Vera Cruz must have taken place on the 8th March.

MADRID, March 10—A proclamation announces the termination of martial law in Spain.

FLORENCE, March 10—An attempt was made to assassinate the King of Italy, near Milan, which failed.

ATHENS, March 10—A terrific earthquake has taken place in the Island of Mytelene. All the habitations are in ruins, and hundreds of people have been killed.

LONDON, March 11—The Princess Alexandra is reported to be very ill.

A subsidy for the Canadian railway will be proposed in Parliament next week. All accounts from the scene of disturbances in Ireland represent that matters have become quiet, and that order reigns once more. There have been no fresh conflicts between the police and Fenian bands, who are now fleeing to the mountains, and the soldiers are in pursuit.

PARIS, March 12—The laborers on the Exposition building have struck for higher wages.

Canada—The Confederation Act.

NEW YORK, March 12—According to accounts received, there are about 2000 persons in and around the Madoc mines waiting for favorable chances. Among them are many Californians and Australians. No person is allowed to mine without a cross license, or private license, costing one or two dollars per month. The excitement is abating.

The Canadian papers publish an official copy of the Confederation Bill. The provinces, when united, will not be termed a kingdom. The position of the Colonies is unaltered. The Confederation Bill provides for carrying out the system of Government with a more liberal scheme of representation.

California.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11—Arrived—bark Adelaide, Cooper, six days from Port Townsend; steamer Ajax, 62½ hours from Columbia river bar.

The Confederation Debate.

The discussion in the Legislative Council on Mr DeCosmos' motion for the admission of British Columbia into the confederacy, on such fair and equitable terms as may be agreed upon thereafter. His Excellency received the deputation courteously, and at once acceded to their request. The despatch will be sent at once. There is every probability that the Council will be prorogued in fourteen days.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, March 12—Charles son, a good-natured looking fellow, rested by special officer Ferrell, late of day night, on a charge of stealing a stone from the door of Messrs C. Gracoini, on Wharf street. He is guilty.

The Magistrate—What has the been doing here of late? Officer—I believe he's been selling key.

Prisoner—You tell a falsehood. Officer—He's been on a schooner. Prisoner—And I've been on the shore, too.

Magistrate—Oh! I remember you 1859, in another transaction; you have earned my memory. I have not forgotten serious charge on which you were the Prisoner—No, sir; that was the red bad company.

The Magistrate—Well, the weather and I shouldn't like to shut you up. Prisoner—I'll bring you twenty me.

The Magistrate—Never mind them ought to go to some other part of the where your character is not so well lished as it is here. As this is a charge compared with the crimes you been before accused of committing, I give you a chance. You will be liber your own recognizances to appear I one week for punishment. In the mes I advise you to leave the country. do appear here at the end of a week— Prisoner—If I appear here, your No fear of that, sir! And Johnson hobbled out of Court.

FROM COMOX.—The schooner In with 22 tons of potatoes and 12 bags of from Comox yesterday. Snow lies ground to a depth of three feet. The has been intensely cold, and the sc lay fifteen days at the settlement, on take in her cargo in consequence severe frost.