

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Monday, Sept 28. Saturday, October 3, 1868.

A Word Upon the Financial Policy of the Dominion.

We are glad to see that our correspondent, who writes under the heading of "Free Trade," but like a lukewarm disciple advocates only half measures, has brought out another more genuine Free Trader, one who has the courage to adopt whole measures, and a broad policy, without regarding expediency. It may be true that we cannot do as older countries do, but when we are endeavoring to plant the seeds of a policy which shall endure beyond the day, which is in fact to build up the prosperity of the Colony, we ought not to be satisfied with expediency instead of principle not even if we are to gain thereby, the éclat of laying the foundation for the chief city in the North Pacific; for beyond the foundation with principle sacrificed to expediency, and with class legislation, we cannot hope to rise. We shall never build up a great city, or a prosperous country, if we do not adopt a true liberal policy, legislating so as to bring population to our shores, and so as to cultivate every source of prosperity that we may have without seeking to give encouragement to one class at the expense of another. The Dominion Parliament are setting us a good example in the broad financial policy which they have adopted, a policy which seems to be based on the principle of equal legislation for all parts of the Dominion. Those who are apprehensive of our becoming but a despised and neglected member of the great family, upon the consummation of Confederation, would do well to notice the sentiments expressed by the leading members of the Dominion Parliament—it is no part of their policy to neglect any portion of the Confederation; neither will they, if it can possibly be avoided, suffer discontent to spring up; still less to gather strength in those provinces, whose members may not be numerically strong in the united Parliament. At the present moment we hear much of the difficulties which have arisen with regard to Nova Scotia; if due precautions had been taken by the people of that Province when Union was first mooted, the present difficulties would probably have been averted; as it is, doubtless mutual concessions will be made, which will ultimately give satisfaction to those who are at present discontented with the step which they have deliberately taken. The Duke of Buckingham in reply to the petition of the Nova Scotia Representatives, has assured them that practical regard will be given to the special position and interests of the province, by the Dominion Parliament, but at the same time he gives them plainly to understand that Her Majesty's government do not feel themselves warranted in advising the reversal of a great measure of State, which was legitimately passed after long discussion, at the request of the Colonial legislatures. Whatever may be the effect, so far as Nova Scotia is concerned, we find that the first year's experience of Union in New Brunswick has been, as regards the financial view of the question, decidedly in her favor, for whilst the taxation during the first year of Confederation, shows a reduction as compared with the previous year by \$44,265, the province has actually received in the same year from the Dominion Treasury \$18,453, more than she has contributed to the general Treasury from all sources of revenue; the account of the second year shows that under the provisions of the Act of Union, and the appropriations of Parliament, \$159,763 will have to be paid by the Dominion on account of New Brunswick, in excess of what that Province has contributed to the Dominion Treasury. Those who are timid in regard to taxation, so far as it affects the Confederation question, will do well to ponder on these things.

Improvements.—An excellent sidewalk has been laid by Mr. Wait and Mr. Lyne jointly, from Pandora street to their respective residences on Quadra street.

Self Reliance.—I observe that Self Reliance in any way to your public debt, I therefore admit that he has erred in his figures which exposed. Evidently Self Reliance is on the Government side, and he ought to be a man of old stage in it, and know pretty well how much has been made amongst the last few years. Certainly no improvements have been made, but in the statements of Self Reliance, which you do not notice, if you will ask him to change, touched by reform, accounts the public condition of items, to see whether he will give to the Government, Self Reliance is further explanation.

DIODEGENES.

PICTORIAL—the world's Golds, Oonghs, Consumptions of the Lungs and

Mortality Amongst the Indians.—Since Saturday morning seven more deaths are reported, but the bodies present no external appearance of small pox. They evidently die in convulsive agony, for the hands are clenched, the bodies bruised about the joints as from rolling about before death and a frothy discharge exudes from the mouth. Vigilance is kept up by the police, and every case is attended to for burial immediately after death. From inquiries we have made, we should say that fifty deaths will cover the entire mortality, and as there could not have been less than 1000 Indians in the city and vicinity, the disease whatever it may be, does not appear to be so terrible in its ravages as some persist in stating. Persons convicted of selling liquor to the natives at the present time especially, should be punished to the utmost.

THE SAANICH COAL.—Mr Jungermann and party returned on Saturday evening from a visit to the new coal mine, bringing back with them a sack of coal taken from the bottom of the shaft, sixty feet below the surface. From the fracture, weight, and general appearance of the sample in our possession, and its freedom from slate and other impurities, it may be called a very promising mine. The shaft is but a short distance from the sea. As measured with a tape-line the seam is four feet two inches thick, and appears to be gradually becoming more horizontal, and though crumbled, is free from slate generally. The work will be prosecuted.

NARROW ESCAPE.—A child, five years old, fell down a deep well-hole in the rear of the Government buildings, on Saturday, but sustained no material injury. As we understand, the child had been clearing the well and covered it over, on leaving the work, but insecurely. Mr Deary, the father, rescued it, not without some difficulty. Both escaped injury, although the bottom of the hole is hard rock, and the father let go his hold of the rope before he got half way down.

THE STEAMER G S WRIGHT arrived yesterday at noon from Portland, having left that place on Thursday evening. She brings seventy tons of freight for Victoria, ten passengers, and mail matter for the Navy and Postoffice. She will not go to the Sound on this trip. On her last run down, she made the Columbia Bar from Victoria in nineteen hours and then lay outside four days. The Active is reported to have left Portland at the same time as the Wright.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.—The election of a member for the City Council to fill the vacancy in the Johnson street Ward, was conducted on Saturday, very quietly indeed; but 44 votes polling out of the two of three hundred names which are on the roll. Mr Russell however, had a majority of eighteen, 36 as against 18, for Mr Garow.

WE call attention to, Mr J D Pemberton's first annual sale of cattle, to take place at the Cattle Sale yard of J P Davies & Co, Fort street, this day at 12 o'clock noon. In addition to the stock already advertised, will be sold for account of whom it may concern, 1 ladies' saddle horse, 1 work horse and 2 cows.

FRISK.—A small isolated cabin near to the corner of Government and Chatham streets, and owned by a Chilean for the past two years residing in Cariboo, was burned down last night at nine o'clock. It was tenanted by an Indian until Friday when that day saw the last of the poor occupant, he having been a victim of the sickness prevalent among the natives.

RELIGIOUS.—The Religious ceremonies of the Jewish persuasion terminated on Saturday evening at sundown, with the Day of Atonement. The services on Saturday were well attended, and an address by Mr S Braverman in the afternoon, is generally spoken of as an able theological exposition.

ENTERTAINING.—Some of our local butchers are importing beef cattle from the Walla Walla country, Washington Territory, which being fed on grass similar to that found on our own ranges east of the Cascades, make splendid meat. One of them, a four year old heifer, weighed 640 lbs when dressed.

SHIPPING.—The Enterprise and Sir James Douglas left on Saturday morning for their respective destinations, and the Del Norte went over to Port Townsend at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. A large vessel unknown was beating about the Straits yesterday.

THE steamer Enterprise it is said, will return from New Westminster this evening. Up to a late hour last night there were no tidings of the Active. It was reported she had gone on to San Juan Island, but we could trace the report to no authentic source.

ENGLISH VESSELS FOR VICTORIA.—At last dates the H B Co's vessel Prince of Wales, Adamsen, was loading in the London Docks for this port; the Cecrops, Wildfang, was loading at Liverpool on this port.

THE TELEGRAPH.—It is odd that the telegraph line should be at fault at so late an opportunity, when there is so much anxiety as must be manifested in connection with the big fire at Barkerville.

The Australian Colonies.

NEW SOUTH WALES. Our criminal records have been increased by the addition of an unusually barbarous outrage committed at the Ironbank diggings by a Chinaman named Ah Mow, who, on the evening of the 10th ult, entered the store of a Mr Lee, and asked for some meat. His victim went to attend to his meat, and in a few seconds afterwards his son, aged nine years, heard his father call for help. The boy ran to the spot and saw his father lying on the ground, and the Chinaman stabbing him in the back, and then the Chinaman then ran after Mr Lee, and the Chinaman then ran after Mr Lee's two little girls, aged five and a half and four years, and stabbed them both. One is since dead, and there are no hopes of the recovery of the assistance of a man named George Wheeler, who when we arrived, found Mr Lee dying, the murderer having rifled his pockets, plundered the house, and escaped. Another supposed murder has recently occurred in the same district. The wife of a prize fighter named Dick Hunt, was found dead in her house. An inquest was held and a verdict of wilful murder returned against some persons unknown.

The great contempt of parliament cases has resulted in a complete victory for the officers, one of whom, Mr DePheon argued the case against the law officers of the Crown, and the full bench decided by a majority that Mr DePheon's demurrer was good. The Attorney General has given notice of his intention to appeal to the Privy Council.

During the night of June the 29th ult, four distinct shocks of earthquake were felt in Sydney, and indeed, along the greater part of our Eastern coast. In some districts the shocks were accompanied by a loud noise, and in some by a strong vibration.

The present winter has been one of the mildest, known, plentiful rains have fallen and already anticipations of a plentiful harvest are indulged in; pastoral affairs are also looking more healthy.

One of the most important items of the month has been the arrangement made between King Takambaa at Pegeen and the agents of a joint stock company, recently formed in Melbourne, involving the settlement of the claims of the American Government and the probable establishment of a British protectorate over the Pegeean group.

The Parliament of New South Wales had voted the sum of £850, to be divided ratably among the widows and children of the constables who were murdered at Jindera, near Bradwood, while out after Clark's party of bushrangers on the 19th January, 1867. To Mrs Carroll and her children of £275 has been approved; Mrs Kneigh and her two children are to have £190, and the sum of £85 has been apportioned to the daughter of Pegean.

The Government have notified Father Dwyer, chaplain of the Darlinghurst jail, that his services are dispensed with. Dwyer is supposed to be connected with the Fenians.

Johnson, the bushranger, has been examined and committed for trial on a charge of highway robbery.

The Bank of New South Wales, at Sofala, has been robbed of £1,700.

Portions of a wreck, supposed to be that of a large American vessel, have been found at Broad Sound.

A political crisis of unexampled duration is daily increasing in importance, and unless speedily averted must produce great distress, inasmuch as the Assembly, by a majority of three to one, has directed the stoppage of further payments from the public treasury. The Colonial Treasurer asked for time to introduce his estimates, but was defeated; and a resolution was carried, on the motion of the ex-Premier, that a sum similar to the estimates of the late Government, and including the Darling Grant, be given in supply to Her Majesty. Another resolution was carried, asking the Governor to send down a message, asking for the appropriation of £2,600,000 for the purpose mentioned. A reply was received, and read to the Assembly on the 26th. In his reply, his Excellency declined to send a message recommending an appropriation in which the Darling grant was included until he should be constitutionally advised that his doing so, would end the difficulty. On the 29th, Mr McOullock moved a series of resolutions protesting against the Government continuing in office in face of the large majority opposed to them, and condemning the action of the Governor as an outrage upon the constitution. On the following evening, Mr Langton, in the course of a debate, took the opportunity of making a long financial statement, in which he stated, that the deficiency at the end of the year was three quarters of a million. Mr Duffy avowed his intention of compelling the Ministry either to resign or dissolve.

Another fine diamond has been found in the Ovens district.

The trial of Shire, the snake charmer, for having caused the death of Mr Drummond, Police Magistrate, resulted in the prisoner's acquittal. The deceased asked Shire to allow a snake to bite him, he did so, and death ensued.

Sir Redmond Barry has been re-elected Chancellor of the Melbourne Ministry, and Dr Brownless, Vice-Chancellor.

Mrs Anne Bishop and Mr Schell are giving concerts at Melbourne. James Stark, the eminent American tragedian, is starting off at Ballarat and drawing immense houses.

The return of the Registrar-General of Victoria, recently published, shows that in the first quarter of 1868 there were 3,227 males and 3,137 females born in the Colony; and that 5,979 males and 2,485 females arrived in it by sea. Of males 1,601 and of females 1,179 died; and 5,527 males and 1,782 females left the colony by water. The total increase of population in the quarter was 4,683, and the estimated population of the colony on the 31st of March was 664,870 persons.

Mr Verdon has been gazetted as Agent-General for the colony of Victoria in England.

The Evening Star (Melbourne paper) is now printed with colonial ink on colonial paper.

Capt. Gregor has discovered the remains of an enormous animal, at Kooronga. Amongst the bones discovered is part of the lower jaw, in which the teeth are imbedded five inches. The teeth measure two and a half inches across the surface each way.

Another silver mine has been discovered in South Australia. Some specimens which were exhibited in Adelaide would give, it is estimated, about 26 ounces to the ton.

Parliament has been further prorogued, pending the arrival of Cpl Blackall, the new Governor, who is expected next month.

A splendid specimen of silver ore, which is calculated to contain 92 per cent of silver, has been exhibited in Rockhampton, in which district it was found.

A nugget of gold, weighing 22 oz 8 dwts, has been found about 50 miles from the Rosewood diggings, in the Rockhampton district, Queensland.

The South Australian railway returns for 1867 shows the receipts for that year to have been £116,310, and the expenditure £124,632.

From a report furnished by the Governor resident at Nicol Bay, it would appear that the pearl fishery on the northwest coast of Australia is very prosperous. Notwithstanding the number of boats now engaged in it, the returns average a ton of shells per 27 days for every white man employed. A ton of shells will readily sell in this Colony for £100, giving £23 a week for each white man engaged in the venture.

Wellington, July 7th.—There were rumors in Auckland of an imminent native disturbance in that district, which however, it was not disposed to credit. The affair which was magnified into a breach likely to draw them into renewed hostilities with the Maories, was in reality nothing but a dispute between some natives or half castes, as to the ownership of a tract of three or four acres of land situated on the banks of a stream called Te Whirama, a tributary of the Hokiangoo. It was little more than an edition of the dispute as to the right of way along a road, such as are frequently occurring in more civilized countries.

New Zealand has now a divorce bill. Her Majesty's assent having been granted to one passed here last session.

Matters in Auckland have improved wonderfully during the past few weeks. The gold fields in the Thames district are turning out well, the influx of population has given a stir to commerce, and the late depression of trade is fast disappearing. In fact, the province has just been saved from bankruptcy and is on the high road to greater prosperity than ever.

The Parliament will be called together about the 9th.

A most destructive fire occurred in Wellington, on Lambton Quay, which before it could be checked, destroyed seven buildings, and property to the amount of £14,000.

The Fenian trials at Hokitika are over. Fathers Larkin and Manning have been sentenced to one month's imprisonment, and the other prisoners were fined £30 each, for taking part in an illegal procession.

THE total estimated yield of wheat in Tasmania in 1867 was 1,528,700 bushels. The total estimated population 97,368. Allowing eight bushels per head for each of the population, without regard to age, and that would make 778,944 bushels required for home consumption, and leave 749,756 bushels for export.

Confederation.

EDITOR COLONIST.—We are all indebted to you for so freely opening your paper to the discussion of this important subject. It is one which ought to be well ventilated. One argument used in favor of Confederation is, that the inadequate expense of our present system of Government would be reduced. This is a point worthy of grave consideration. Let us look at it. If we were united with Canada we should send to Ottawa duly elected representatives—some say five, others seven. These men must be paid, and as they must be first class men, and must give their whole time to serving our interests, they must be paid a salary sufficient to indemnify them for relinquishing their business or profession on our account. Now the lowest sum we could offer them would be three thousand dollars a year each, which would amount to fifteen or twenty-one thousand dollars a year, besides travelling expenses, and the greater part of the salary we paid them would be spent out of this Colony. I am aware the reply to this remark may be that they would be paid by the Canadian Government. True; but that Government would put its hands into our pocket to get the money, and as the Canadian tariff would obtain here, with a protective duty, so small as to be little more than nominal, some further taxation must be imposed upon us to meet the demand—perhaps the revival of the old Real Estate Tax. Nor would this be all the demand upon us; for there must be a Lieutenant-Governor here with his staff of officials to be provided for also, and the aggregate must amount at least to the sum we already justly complain of. This reminds one of the old proverb, "out of the frying-pan into the fire." Some men have said we cannot be worse off than we already are; but let us remember our present grievances are temporary, but once we go into the Confederation they would be permanent. The past has been child's play in comparison with what is now proposed; we have arrived at a crisis in our Colonial history, and unless great wisdom guides us, we may be plunged

into irrecoverable ruin. I hope all parties will think maturely and speak freely, but cautiously, on the subject.

JOHN C. DAVIE, M. R. C. S.

EDITOR COLONIST.—I have been a strong opponent to Confederation, and I am one of those whose opinion is not easily altered, but I must candidly confess if it were possible to get from the Canadian Government one-half of the benefits that the Convention demands, I for one would go in for Union. I wish my fellow-townsmen would calmly and carefully read over the resolutions which were proposed at Yale, they are thirty-seven in number; if they will do so (divesting themselves of all party feelings) they will come to the conclusion that there is nothing in these resolutions but what every well-wisher of British Columbia would wish to see carried out.

Yours, J.

Victoria, Sept 25th, 1868.

Mainland Interior Correspondence.

EDITOR COLONIST.—In a deep ravine of the stream that flows through Cut off valley by Clinton and within two miles of the town there is a mill in course of erection and nearly finished. Harper and Scot the owners, Marshall, Jameson and Matheson the builders. It is a witness, it proves clearly that men of mind, the owners of wealth, believe that British Columbia has a future. When complete the Mill will have cost twenty thousand dollars. It is really a beautiful building, fitted up with all the modern appliances used in such works by the best and most skillful engineers. Fifty feet high, graceful and proportional it stands among the tall fir trees like a thing of life, a charm in the wilderness. Beside it a steam engine rks saw mill. How it pleases the eye to see in such a place, the circles of steel revolving, the huge logs moving to them with ordered motion and the heaps of prepared wood cut into all sizes and ready for use. It reminds you of a country beginning to grow. The mill wheel, Shipley's Pacific turbine, a famous little giant, 27 inches in diameter, moved by water pressure puts the whole machinery in motion and moves the grinding stones with an ease, indicating perfect precision. In very dry seasons and in winter the water power may be diminished, but there is the steam engine, and the machinery so arranged that both powers may be used at the same time as propellers. The portion of the machinery that removes the smut, dust &c., appears to be a most desirable improvement. Inferior corn badly cleaned and full of smut may come, but it must pass through the arms of the inquisitor and it retains only the portion fit for human food. The building is 48 feet long 26 wide, it contains a basement and three floors, one of these, the bolting and dressing room, another the cooler; these rooms will have to hold an immense weight of corn and flour. At the first sight the spaces appear too wide, the columns too slight; but a closer inspection reveals the presence of strength concealed from unpractised eyes by the skill of the builders who have not sacrificed an inch of space, an atom of beauty or a particle of power. Standing in this mill a man would forget the wilderness, the sea of mountains that surround him, and say to himself surely British Columbia has a future. As an agricultural country its resources are limited, but equal when developed to supply its own wants. As a pastoral country it is rich. Flax and hemp of the finest kind are natural products of the soil; they grow abundantly in our valleys and on the dry hill side. We have gold in Cariboo, these are materials out of which a great nation could be made, even in the wilderness, but we have no directing power in the state, and we must only wait and hope that Heaven may send us a man of wealth and skill to point the way. Up to this time Mr Harper is the only man in the Colony who has moved a finger for the country's good. The mill is a great advantage to the farmers, it is a standing menace to those speculators who dream of making "a pile" by starving the miners, and it is a sign of something to come. We may live to see flax and hemp manufactured here, corn pressed into small space and sent to San Francisco. At all events the mainland owes a good deal to the enterprising owners of the mill.

G. A. K.

BOYS CLOTHING, a Splendid Assortment Fall Styles, Hats and Caps, per steamer Del Norte.—ADAMS & BLYTHE.