

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle

Tuesday, April 9, 1867.

The Resolution of the U. S. Congress on the Confederacy of the British American Provinces.

The late telegraphic despatch from Washington, is not very startling; nevertheless, the report presented to Congress by Mr. Banks, from the Committee of Foreign Affairs, is a document that will draw forth many and varied comments from the political circles of Europe. Its pretentiousness is not small. A review of an essay attributed to Mr. Froude (in Fraser's Magazine), who has been rating England for her proclivities towards legitimacy, asks, "will he liberate or will he prefer to annex one after the other of the American Republics, as he has done California and Texas, and will he try to 'bone' Canada? or as proselytes to the greatest zealots, will he begin by restoring self-government to the Southern States? The resolution is worth reprinting, it declares:

"That the people of the United States cannot regard the proposed confederation of the provinces on the northern frontier without extreme solicitude. A confederation of states, extending from ocean to ocean, without consulting the people of these provinces, founded on monarchical principles, cannot be considered otherwise than as a contravention of the traditions and the constantly declared principles of this government that will endanger most important interests, and tend to increase and perpetuate embarrassments which the governments were already discussing passed without a division."

It is asked what right the people of the United States have to assume that their "traditions" and "declared principles" should influence, in any degree, the parties interested in this grand scheme—the confederation of the North American Provinces. Now to the law and to the testimony. If we trace back to the origin of the "law of nations" we find that man was formed for society, and, as is demonstrated by the writers on this subject, is neither capable of living alone, nor indeed has he the courage to do it. However, as it is impossible for the whole race of mankind to be united into one great society, they must necessarily divide into many, and form separate states, commonwealths and nations, entirely independent of each other, and yet liable to mutual intercourse. Hence arose that kind of law to regulate this mutual intercourse called the "law of nations," which as none of those states will acknowledge a superiority in the other, cannot be dictated by any, but depends entirely upon the rules of natural law, or upon mutual compacts, treaties, leagues and agreements between these several communities; in the construction also of which compacts we have no other rule to resort to but the law of nature and reason, being those only to which all the communities are equally subject; but such rules and laws must necessarily result from those principles of natural justice in which all the learned of every nation agree, are equally conversant, and to which they are equally subject. Such is the law of nations. We are, therefore, naturally led to enquire—when one of the family of nations puts forth such a manifesto as the one quoted above—what distinctive rights of the people of the United States would be infringed upon if the Confederation scheme were an accomplished fact? Will it be in "contravention" of any mutual compact, treaty, league or agreement between the States and Great Britain? The answer is, there has been no treaty upon the subject consequently there can be no violation of conditions. The resolution states that the action taken with regard to the Confederation, "without consulting the people of the United States, cannot be considered otherwise than as a contravention of the tradition and the constantly declared principles of this Government."

The "Dominion of Canada."

We give elsewhere the only particulars that have come to hand of the Confederation Bill. As the article is taken from a paper hostile to the scheme, it is unfair and carrying in tone. From Canadian exchanges we learn that it is reported that the Hon John A. McDonald will be made Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, or Upper Canada. Hon John Rose, M. P., for Montreal, is to be Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, or Lower Canada. They will both probably be knighted. Rose was leader of the annexation movement in 1847. The Montreal Gazette's special says that the name of the "Kingdom of Canada" for the new Confederation has been changed to the "Dominion of Canada." The federal Legislature will be styled "The Parliament of Canada." The Upper House will be styled the Senate, the Lower House the House of Commons. The local Legislatures are to be known as the Provincial Legislatures of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, respectively. Ontario, formerly Upper Canada, is to have but one chamber, to be known as the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The other provinces each have a Legislative Council and a House of Assembly. The Speaker of the Senate is to be appointed by the Crown, and is to have power to create six additional Senators, beyond the stipulated seventy-two, in the event of necessity. The House of Commons is to consist of 181 members, 82 from Ontario, 55 from Quebec, 19 from Nova Scotia and 15 from New Brunswick. The Queen's representative, presiding over the new kingdom, is to retain the old title of Governor General, with a salary of \$50,000. Each province is to have a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Governor General in Council. The seat of Government is to be Ottawa, subject to royal prerogative. Toronto, Quebec, Halifax and Fredericton are to be the seats of local Legislatures. A railroad from St. Lawrence to Halifax, N. S., is to be commenced six months after the union, and completed within three years. Provision is made for the admission hereafter into the

manifest destiny" of any nation. Is the policy of the Government of the United States such a masterpiece of human wisdom, or has the experience of her statesmen improved its policy to such perfection that its foundation cannot be shaken, that it may assume to occupy the highest place in the civilized world? Manifest destiny! Has not history taught us the fate of mighty nations,

"That, like the baseness of a vision, The cloud cap'd towers, the gorgeous palaces, The solemn temples, the great globe itself, Yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve; And, like the unsubstantial pageant faded, Leave not a rock behind: We are such stuff As dreams are made of, and our little life is rounded with a sleep."

And yet there are those who presume to look into the dark abyss of the future, who would live for "all time" The Monroe doctrine, as it is termed, is not a principle founded either upon nature or in reason. It, no doubt, is pleasing to the vanity of a "tarnation" great but young people; but in the carrying out of the principle many serious obstacles may arise. It is not surprising that a Confederation of the Provinces should be regarded with "extreme solicitude" by the Government of the United States. The Canadians "asked for a fish, they gave them a serpent." They desired reciprocity, it was declined by the people's representatives, and, instead, the aliens, who "foster that bitter hate" against everything British, and who were, and are contemned by many Americans, sent a marauding party of Fenians to kill, burn and destroy the people and the property of the Provinces. What sympathy can there be expected between loyal Canadians and a neighboring nation who harbor swindling ruffians under the hopeless pretext of hunting down the British Lion and rescuing the Emerald Isle from his claws. The reception by the President, if it did take place, of the Fenian deputation, who desired to be recognized as "belligerents by the Government of the United States, was, even as a piece of political clap-trap to gain votes, insulting to England and the Provinces. If England had recognized the belligerent rights of the Southern States when at war with the North, matters might have taken a different turn; but no more of that. However, those members of the Committee of Foreign Affairs who patronize Fenians must support their "extreme solicitude" with what conscience they may, and rest assured that their consent will not be required in "the consummation most devoutly to be wished for"—the Confederation of the British North American Provinces.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held yesterday at the Police Court, to examine into the cause of the death of an old Indian woman, whose body was found on Sunday night in the bush, off the Esquimalt road. The jury returned a verdict of "Found Dead"—no evidence being forthcoming as to how she came by her death. It is probable, as is sometimes the case, she was a slave, and being old and worn out was left to die, that she might not be a burden on her owners.

WHISKEY SELLING TO INDIANS.—An old and oft offender—John Livermore—was before Mr Pemberton yesterday, for not appearing for sentence last July on his recognizance, and with lately selling liquor to Indians. The prisoner pleaded hard to be allowed another chance to leave the country, but the Magistrate, having the public's interests to attend to, gave him 12 months to date from 19th of July, 1866, or \$50 fine.

FROM PUGET SOUND.—The steamer New World from Olympia, touching at all the way ports, arrived last evening shortly after seven o'clock, having it is stated made the quickest time on record—viz, 12 hours, 57 minutes. Her passenger list, &c, will be found in the usual place. Forty five passengers came by this arrival. Later in the evening the Eliza Anderson arrived, having also made a splendid run from Olympia.

THE STEAM FLOURING MILL.—Messrs Laumeister and Gowen have had steam up at their mill; everything worked satisfactorily. They expect to turn out the first barrel of flour in about a fortnight. The capacity of the mill is 110 barrels daily.

A BRITISH FRIGATE seized a Venezuelan war steamer at Carthagen on the 17th February, and held her until the Government apologized for outrages perpetrated upon British subjects.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.—It will be seen by our Municipal Council report that the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars was voted last evening for the immediate use of the Fire Department.

LEACH RIVER.—On Thursday last, two miners working in a gulch a short distance above Bacon Bar, made \$20. One nugget weighing \$7, was found. The sawmill will start to cut lumber in about ten days.

A Sound paper says that Mount Baker is in an state of active eruption.

THE SMALL POX is at the Dalles, Oregon.

Thursday, April, 4th. GOOD FRIDAY EXCURSION.—The U. S. mail steamer New World will start for an excursion to the head of Puget Sound, calling at all the way ports, on Good Friday morning, at 7 o'clock, returning on Saturday evening. A band of music will accompany the excursion, and the fare for the round trip has been fixed at \$8, including meals. No more pleasant way of passing two-days during the beautiful weather, with which we shall probably be blessed on the occasion, could be devised, and we hope that as many of our citizens as can spare the time from their business will tuck their wives and little ones under their arms and avail themselves of the opportunity afforded for enjoyment. Tickets may be obtained of Mr. J. Robertson Stewart, Wharf street.

THE NEW WORLD.—It is reported that this boat, unable to pay the new scale of port charges, as lately arranged at New Westminster, will shortly haul off. This will be a great calamity. The New World brings the mails from Puget Sound and Oregon without charge, and some consideration should be extended her by the Government.

FROM THE "CAPITAL."—The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday from New Westminster with 38 passengers, among whom were all the Island members, (except Mr Franklyn,) and Messrs Burnaby, Cornwall, Pitfield, Captains Butler and Holmes, Richardson, Moodie, Barry, and Henderson and others.

THE BOMBON still lies at anchor off Esquimalt harbor with the cable on board.

union of Newfoundland, Prince Edward's Island, Rupert's Land, the Northwest Territory and British Columbia, on such terms as the Parliament of Canada shall deem equitable, and as shall receive the assent given.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesdays, April 2d. CHARGE OF ASSAULT AND HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—As the boatswain's mate of the gunboat Forward was returning from town on Sunday night, about ten o'clock, in company with a friend, who was some twenty yards behind, and when near the Esquimalt road bridge, a man named Charles Cruix, who has been five times convicted for various offenses by the police magistrate, attacked the seaman, and but for the timely assistance of his companion would, no doubt, have seriously injured him. Cruix was subsequently secured. The prosecutor, who appeared yesterday in court, proved the charge. Mr Courtney defended. The prisoner got the option of being sent up for trial or being summarily dealt with. He chose the latter—receiving three months' hard labor. A clasp knife taken from him during the scuffle was forfeited, and his photograph ordered at Her Majesty's expense.

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ITEMS FROM THE INTERIOR.—We gather the following from our New Westminster exchanges:—News from Williams Creek to the 24th ult. was satisfactory. The Forest Rose and Borealis were doing well, and the Baby, Cameron, Dead Broke, Last Chance, Caledonia, Never Sweat, Wake up Jake and Welsh Companies were taking out more or less pay. The United, Homestake and Hood on Cucklin's Gulch were running bedrock tunnels. The Clear Grit and Miller Companies on Canadian Creek had obtained good prospects. The Heron, Full Rigg and Discovery on Grouse Creek still continued to yield pay. All the creeks expected lively times this season. News from Big Bend is also gratifying. Prospecting had been carried on with success, and miners were never more sanguine of the results of these mines. A letter from Lytton says that bench diggings in that section are beginning to attract considerable attention. The Fraser Co. have completed a flume three miles long, while the Starjack Co. have also completed a flume their claims prospecting well. A Frenchman named Casset, or Casset, a butcher on Williams Creek, died suddenly on the 27th on his way down, from the bursting of a blood vessel. Several robberies have taken place at Lytton without the detection of the thief or thieves. The steamer Enterprise, now the property of Messrs Marvin & Tarbell, will commence plying between Soda creek and Quesnelmouth on the 18th instant, under the command of Captain Smith. The Onward had returned from Yale; the water was too low to carry much freight. Mr Holbrook is about to make extensive repairs on the Liverpool wharf. The building of the new church at New Westminster is decided on. The project for building a theatre there is making headway. The Lillooet and Onward both left for up river yesterday. Harper, of Kamloops, lost 300 head of cattle this winter, Bates 40, Cornwall 30, and others in proportion.

RETURN OF THE MEMBERS.—The flying of bunting from the steamer Enterprise, as she entered the harbor yesterday, showed that the hon members were on board, and a large crowd gathered on the wharf, where the hon gentlemen were warmly greeted and received the hearty congratulations of their friends. THE CALIFORNIA, reached her wharf at 3 o'clock p.m., yesterday, having made the run in 88½ hours. She experienced a heavy swell during the passage. She brought 50 passengers and 450 tons freight. Among the passengers were Capt Lawson, U. S. S. S., George S Wright, and Lt. Inman. THE WORK on the Russian steamship Alexander is nearly completed, and the vessel will shortly leave for Sitka. It is said that the new Governor of the Russian Possessions in America is expected to arrive here shortly, and that he will go north in the Alexander.

AMALGAMATION.—It may not be generally known that the legal professions have been amalgamated, and that a member of either branch may take charge of a case and carry it through all the courts. This is one of the wisest pieces of legislation during the session.

PRIZE FIGHT.—George Wilson, of Cariboo, agrees to fight Joe Eden for \$2000 a side, and allow him \$200 for traveling expenses. The first deposit (\$500) to be made at Barkerville, on 1st day of May next. Particulars will be observed in the advertisement.

NO ENGLISH MAIL.—The California brought no English mail, and only a few letters and papers from San Francisco. The fleet, however, got its letters, Capt. Oldfield having telegraphed to have the bags brought up. What will Government do in the matter?

DAMAGES.—Catherine F Clarke, a former resident of this place, has recovered \$5,000 from a San Francisco millinaire, as damages to her character. Most disgusting disclosures were made by the witnesses.

UNION HOOK AND LADDER CO.—The following officers of this Company were elected last evening by acclamation:—A. F. H cks, Foreman; B. Grunbaum, 1st Assistant; E. Dickenson, 2d Assistant.

THE funeral of Capt. Hoegg of the bark Scotland, who died when off this harbor, on the 1st of last month, took place at San Francisco on the 28th ult.

MR. J. D. WALKER, late of the bank of British Columbia, has arrived at San Francisco to take charge of the banking establishment of Falkner, Bell & Co.

AN IMPROVEMENT.—Neither the Bankruptcy Court nor the Police Court sat yesterday for want of business. Is the Millennium about to dawn?

Two English gentlemen, from China, who came to California on the steamer Colorado arrived on the California to-day.

The mother of the Fenian General Sweeney lately died in Cork, Ireland, of delirium tremens.

The Legislature of South Australia has raised Governor Sir Dominic Daley's salary £1000 per annum.

BIG PRICES were obtained at the Fashion Hotel sale yesterday by J. P. Davies & Co.

LIEUT. INMAN, R. M., arrived yesterday to succeed Lieut. Cooper, of San Juan Island.

Details of the Confederation Scheme.

(From the Toronto Leader, Feb. 22.) We received, last evening from Mr J. Gordon Brown, who is at present in England a synopsis of the changes made in the confederation scheme by the delegates from Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Mr Brown had not seen Lord Carnarvon's bill when his despatch was made up, but we have no doubt that the measure will be found to be in harmony with his information.

The name of the new confederation is to be Canada. Upper Canada is to be styled the Province of Ontario; Lower Canada is to be called Quebec, and the other provinces are to retain their present designations. We fancy this is as good a selection as could have been made.

The general features of the scheme of the Quebec conference are maintained, but we deeply regret to learn that there have been several very important modifications made in matters of detail.

And, first, a serious change has been made in the annual grants from the federal chest for the support of the local governments. Under the Quebec scheme, it was provided that each province embraced in the union should receive from the federal treasury an annual grant equal to eighty cents per head of its population, as established by the census of 1861—such aid to be in full settlement of all future demands upon the federal government for local purposes. The annual burden thus imposed on the federal chest was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Province, Population, Amount. Upper Canada: 1,396,091, \$1,116,873. Lower Canada: 1,111,566, 829,253. Nova Scotia: 330,857, 264,686. New Brunswick: 252,047, 201,638.

Total annual grant \$2,472,450 These annual grants were not to increase in future years with the increase of population, but to remain permanently at these figures. But this principle, it now appears, has been overthrown by the delegates so far as regards New Brunswick. That province is to receive an increased subsidy from time to time as her population increases until she has 400,000 people, and her grant will amount to \$320,000. Then the increase is to stop, and her grant, like that of the other provinces, is to remain stationary—but at \$320,000.

It will be recollected that under the Quebec scheme New Brunswick had a special advantage over the other provinces. The sixty-fifth resolution declared that "the position of New Brunswick being such as to entail large immediate charges upon her local revenues, it is agreed that for the period of ten years, from the time when the union takes effect, an additional allowance of £63,000 per annum shall be made to that province." Our despatch does not say that this special grant is to remain a part of the scheme in addition to the new boon conferred on New Brunswick, but we infer that it is, and, if so, very great injustice has been done to the other provinces.

But this is not the worst. It appears that the delegates have agreed to increase the grants to all the local governments; and that, not on the just principle of population adopted at Quebec, but in a manner totally irrational and most unjust to Upper Canada. In addition to the 80 cents per head, distributed as already shown, the delegates have agreed that the following annual grants shall be paid permanently from the federal chest: To Upper Canada \$30,000 To Lower Canada 70,000 To Nova Scotia 60,000 To New Brunswick 50,000

Total additional grants.....\$260,000 Had this sum of \$260,000 been distributed according to population, as determined by the census of 1861, the distribution would have been as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Province, Amount. Upper Canada: \$117,449. Lower Canada: 93,513. Nova Scotia: 27,834. New Brunswick: 21,204.

Total \$260,000 The whole grant for local purposes under the scheme as amended will now be as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Province, Amount. Upper Canada: \$1,196,873. Lower Canada: 959,253. Nova Scotia: 324,686. New Brunswick: 314,638.

Total \$2,795,450 These grants, at the estimated populations of the several provinces on 1st January, 1867, give the following rates of grant per head:

Table with 2 columns: Province, Rate per head. Upper Canada: 86 cents. Lower Canada: 80 cents. Nova Scotia: 74 cents. New Brunswick: 85 cents.

Nothing could be more scandalously unjust to Upper Canada than this, and we are amazed that Mr Howland could be a party to it.

The second departure from the Quebec scheme is, that until Prince Edward Island comes into the Union, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shall have between them the four seats in the Upper Chamber that the Island was to have had. The distribution will now be as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Province, Members. Upper Canada: 1,802,056, 24. Lower Canada: 1,288,850, 24. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick: 663,884, 24.

There is nothing to palliate this change. Under the Quebec scheme the injustice to Upper Canada was marked enough, but to add to it in this manner was totally indefensible. Why, the three provinces of Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick united have but 150,689 people more than Upper Canada, and yet they are to have 48 Legislative Councilors and Upper Canada but 24. Every Upper Canada councillor will thus represent 75,085 people, while the average of the rest will be but 40,682. The thing is utterly unfair.

The House of Commons will start with the following distribution of seats, and remain so until the census of 1871, when Upper Canada will get a number of additional seats:

Table with 2 columns: Province, Seats. Upper Canada: 82. Lower Canada: 65. Nova Scotia: 19. New Brunswick: 15.

Whole House.....181