

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, October 15, 1867.

The Economy of Confederation.

A late number of the Montreal Gazette contains a capital article on the economy of Confederation which we commend to the careful perusal of our readers—especially those who contend that the expenses of government under Confederation will be largely increased. The picture painted by the Gazette is a pleasant one. The writer shows beyond cavil that the Provinces will be heavy pecuniary gainers by Union. In discussing the question heretofore we have advocated Confederation because we saw that the political condition of the country would be improved thereby. Our Eastern contemporary, who has opportunities for obtaining information that we do not possess, considers the question from a financial standpoint, and makes out a strong case in favor of Confederation than any we have yet seen presented. Here is the article:

See with what economy the Federal Cabinet has been organized, and which should have comprised 14 members, if we had based our action as compared to that of Great Britain, where there are 27 to meet the wants of the Legislative Union of England and Ireland. We have a Confederation that triples the cost of organization, and yet we have in the Federal and Local Governments combined only five ministers more than Great Britain. Small governments sometimes require as many heads of department as more powerful ones. Witness Prince Edward Island, with 24 representatives, has nine ministers, and Newfoundland with only 15, has likewise nine heads of department. The assertion that Confederation will augment our Civil List is equally false. Let us not lose sight of this fact, that the expenses of the Civil List will not be met out of our revenue alone, but out of the combined revenue of Canada, that is, of the United Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

Let us also bear in mind that Confederation is contemplated to embrace the whole of British North America, and probably the next session will witness the admission of British Columbia and Newfoundland, who have already made steps to attain admission. Now, then, let us produce the figures. Let's first take the Legislative Councilors, under the old system, and we find:

Table with 2 columns: Province, Number of Councilors. Includes Upper Canada (31), Lower Canada (30), New Brunswick (22), Nova Scotia (20), Newfoundland (9), Prince Edward Island (6), British Columbia (15).

Total 123. These 123 Councilors represent an expenditure of \$73,000.

Table with 2 columns: Province, Number of Senators. Includes Ontario (24), Quebec (24), Western Provinces (24), British Columbia (14).

Total 76 which will prevent an annual expenditure of \$45,000.

Comparison—Under old system, \$73,800; Confederation, 45,000.

This one item saves \$28,800. The balance of \$28,000 will cover the expense of the Local Legislative Councils, Upper Canada having none.

We will next take up the Governor General's salary, which Mr Colby calls excessive. Formerly the Governor General received \$30,000. The several Lieutenant Governors combined 80,000.

Total \$110,000. Let us now deduct for Gov. General 50,000.

which will leave us \$60,000 to divide amongst seven Lieut. Governors.

Table with 2 columns: Province, Number of Lieut. Governors. Includes Canada (12), Nova Scotia (9), New Brunswick (9), Prince Edward Island (9), Newfoundland (9), British Columbia (9).

Total 57. In giving to twelve of these \$5000 each, and the remaining 44 \$2400 each, we find an outlay of \$155,000.

Now with these 57 ministers we take 13 for the Federal Government at \$5000, and 88,000 for those of seven Local Governments, at \$2400.

Total \$153,800. Comparison under old system, \$165,000; Confederation, 150,800.

Balance saved \$11,200. Now for the Members. Under the old system there were 270 members for Canada, and Maritime Provinces,—annual cost, \$160,000.

Under the new order of things there will be for Ontario 82, Quebec 65, Nova Scotia 19, New Brunswick 15, Newfoundland 7, Prince Edward Island 5.

Total 193. Costing \$115,000. Balance Saved \$55,000. These \$50,000 will more than cover the

expenses of the several local Legislatures, whose session after the first, will scarcely exceed one month, and yet leave to the credit of Government a sum of \$31,840.

Therefore, instead of as formerly paying to our Representatives \$160,000 we will, thanks to Confederation, only pay \$138,000.

The Civil Service will also be reduced in cost. It is evident it cannot be otherwise. For example the law departments no longer exist under the Federal Government, the employees of that branch being already detailed for under the respective local governments. The same may be said of the Crown Lands. In departments formerly requiring ten clerks, owing to the new order of things but there or four will be required—for example 60 clerks at \$800, \$48,000 under Confederation we will have but 30 clerks at \$800, \$24,000.

Gain under Confederation \$24,000. The thing is easy to understand to all who want to see it in its proper light. Confederation simplifies the machinery of Government. For instance, in place of the six law departments, there is but one, mainly of justice, with six branches. Thus a great saving both of time and money is effected. It is only to argue that, under the Confederation, each local government that formerly expended \$100,000, will not exceed \$25,000. A reduction of from \$60,000 to \$65,000 in five provinces will give us, independently of the foregoing figures, a further sum of \$400,000.

Wednesday, Oct 9th.

BLOODY AFFRAY.—The northwest corner of Government and Fort streets was the scene of a bloody affray, about 3 30 p.m. yesterday afternoon, between two men named Jacob Marks and C. O. Tomlinson. The men were walking together when high words arose between them, and Tomlinson, suddenly drawing a four-barreled pistol presented it at Marks and fired. The ball struck the waistband button of Marks driving it against his stomach a short distance above the navel, and leaving a black and blue bruise on the skin, but doing no other injury. Marks at once grappled with Tomlinson, when the latter threw the pistol over the fence surrounding a vacant lot and struck Marks upon the head with a knob-stick which he held in his left hand. This stick Marks succeeded in wresting from his antagonist, and beat him over the head with it until Sergt Bowden of the Police, who was standing near, rescued Tomlinson, and was escorting the antagonists to the barracks when Tomlinson broke from his grasp and ran down towards Wharf street near the corner of which and Bastion street he was secured. Tomlinson bled freely from numerous scalp wounds on the head. The men are in custody and will be brought before the Magistrate to-day for examination.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT BURGLARY.—A BOLD WOMAN.—About two o'clock yesterday morning a colored woman named Ford, who resides at the corner of Quadra and Pandora streets, was awakened by hearing a window of her chamber raised, and upon looking in the direction of the noise, discovered a man in the act of entering the room. The woman at once seized a revolver and fired point-blank at the man. The fellow dropped and so did the window, instantaneously, and the courageous woman sprang from her bed and aroused the neighborhood with cries of "thieves" and "police." Upon the arrival of the neighbors, boot tracks were observed in front of the house, but the robber, who had been either badly scared or wounded, had got off. It is said that two strange white men were observed reconnoitering in the vicinity of the house on Monday. No doubt a gang of thieves have made this place their headquarters, and we are likely to have lively times through the winter months if the police force is not augmented and the rascals captured.

THE TOMATO.—A good medical authority ascribes to the tomato the following very important medical qualities: 1. That the tomato is one of the most powerful aperients of the liver and the other organs; where calomel is indicated, it is one of the most effective and least harmful medical agents known to the profession. 2. That a chemical extract will supersede the use of calomel in the cure of disease. 3. That he has successfully treated diarrhoea with this article alone. 4. That when used as an article of diet, it is almost sovereign for dyspepsia and indigestion. 5. That it should be constantly used as daily food. Either cooked or raw, or in the form of catsup, it is the most healthy article now in use.

OVERLAND COMMUNICATION BY LAND AND WATER THROUGH BRITISH COLUMBIA.—This is the title of a pamphlet of 24 pages from the pen of Alfred Waddington, Esq., the projector of the overland wagon road to Canada via Bute Inlet. The pamphlet contains a large amount of interesting matter and several comprehensive tables of distances with the land and water travel in separate columns. The pamphlet is worthy the attention of our readers, and may be obtained at the bookstore of Hibben & Carswell.

SPARRING EXHIBITION.—Joe Eden, the champion of British Columbia, will give a sparring exhibition at the theatre on Friday evening, when he will be assisted by a number of friends. Tom Lafont and Miss Maynard will also appear. We learn that the indomitable Joe has been a heavy pecuniary loser by his trip to Cariboo and his admirers should rally to his assistance on Friday.

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, colored, a notorious vagrant, was captured by Sergt Bowden under suspicious circumstances on Monday night, and failed to give a clear account of his doings. The Magistrate consented to let him go if he would agree to leave the country for the country's good. The agreement was signed and Williams liberated.

LAST APPEARANCE.—Miss Jenny Ardot will make her last appearance on the stage on Wednesday next, on which occasion she will take a complimentary benefit under the patronage of Governor and Mrs Seymour, and will be assisted by the Marsh family and Miss Soledad, the charming young actress and danseuse.

The gunboat Forward returned from San Juan Island last evening.

OVER INSURANCE.—The San Francisco Bulletin attributes the great number of incendiary fires that have occurred in that city lately to over insurance. The greediness of the agents there is such that they will insure anything and everything—even a house when in flames against total destruction.

FINED.—The Chinaman who pounded another on the head with a ten-pound weight has been fined one pound by the Police Magistrate.

DAY OF ATONEMENT.—This, the Day of Atonement, will be observed by our Hebrew fellow-citizens in cessation from business and fasting and prayer.

The Fidelity is expected to arrive to-day from Portland, Oregon. She has on board a full cargo of Oregon produce for this port.

FLOUR is advancing, \$9 by wholesale and \$10 by the sack being demanded and paid for extra brands.

The Alexandra with passengers and freight sailed yesterday morning for Fraser River.

CHALLENGE.—Joe Eden challenges Wilson to fight him again.

We are without advices as to the movement of the steamer.

The wires were down all day yesterday.

The Fontainebleau Murder.

[From the London Times, August 16th.]

In the month of February of the present year two women of what is called in France the middle class were introduced to one another by a general agent in Paris, on the presumption that the acquaintance might turn out to their mutual advantage. One of them, Madame Mertens, a Belgian by origin, was left a widow in 1861, with a small fortune of £300, deposited at the Comptoir d'Escompte, and £20 in Lecuyer's Bank. The other, Madame Frigard, had a husband and children at Caen; she had come to Paris with the slender sum of £12, with which she still hoped to retrieve the fortunes of her family. She had set her eyes on the business of a M. and Madame Perrot, and had agreed to purchase their Italian warehouse in the Rue Montholon for the sum of £380, of which £200 were to be paid down upon taking possession on the 5th of May. The widow's money was, no doubt, admirably suited to the thrifty wife's interests, but Madame Mertens had her own plans for the investment of her funds in a lodging-house the information she received in answer to her secret inquiries as to the circumstances of her new acquaintance was not reassuring, and although easy and communicative in her intercourse, she maintained a prudent reserve as to any joint speculation with the bankrupt's wife. The intimacy between the two women continued, nevertheless. The widow was young, gay, and handsome. She had many lovers, and delighted in disreputable intrigues, in the pursuit of which her needy friends and other less desirable personal attractions but beyond reproach as to her own moral conduct—proved herself a complaisant auxiliary. It was thus, by ministering to the widow's profligate instincts, and by the ascendancy of a stronger mind and will, that Madame Frigard secured her hold of her companion's confidence to such an extent as to be able to boast that "she was acquainted with a young woman in possession of £320 whom she could easily wind round her finger."

Having wormed herself into her friend's secrets and obtained access to her papers, she forged a draught for £160 in her friend's name, and cashed it at the Comptoir d'Escompte on the 15th of April. With the funds thus obtained, she paid a first instalment of £60 to the Perrots for the purchase of their warehouse, sent £12 home to her husband, and bought jewelry for herself to the amount of nearly £15. That first step in the path of crime did not advance her much. She might possibly rob her friend of all the remainder of her property by repeated forgeries; but detection would be sure to come in the end, and it became absolutely necessary to forestall a catastrophe. The 5th of May came, and she begged and obtained from M. and Madame Perrot a delay of four days in the execution of the deed of purchase, for which the former date had been appointed. In the meantime she became more than ever intimate with the defrauded widow. She took her out on pleasant drives, treated her to dainty dinners, and plied her with viands and wines which induced sickness and drowsiness. At last, on the 7th of May, she proposed a trip to Fontainebleau. The two women set out together on the evening of that day. On the morning of the 7th, they left the hotel in the town, and drove about in the forest till half-past 10, when they alighted at Franchard's Restaurant, dismissed their coachman, breakfasted, and two hours later took the road to Fontainebleau on foot. It was after 12 when they left Franchard's together, and nearly 4 when Madame Frigard arrived alone at Fontainebleau. She stated that she had lost her friend in the forest, but that she had met her at the railway station, but hoped to meet her at the jeweller's, but in the meanwhile she called for her dinner, pawned a brooch at a jeweller's to pay the bill, though she had a banknote for £4 in her possession, and finally left Fontainebleau by the quarter-past 6 train for Paris. At Paris the same evening she went to the widow's lodgings, and on the 9th, by means of forged checks, she drew out both the balance at the Comptoir d'Escompte and the £20 at Lecuyer's Bank, and attained at last the object of all her ambition by seeing herself in possession of the Italian warehouse in Rue Montholon. Retribution, however, was at hand. On that same 9th of May, a woman elegantly dressed was seen lying in the grass at about twenty-five yards from one of the high roads leading to Fontainebleau, and at about two miles from that place. Her face was covered by a parcel, and she was thought to be sleeping; but as she remained in the same posture for nearly a week, she at last attracted attention, and it was then found she was dead, her face horribly disfigured by insects, and with evident marks of her having

come to her death by strangulation. She was identified as Madame Frigard's fellow-traveller at Fontainebleau. Madame Frigard, who had left her name and address at the jeweller's, was soon traced. Her forgeries were brought home to her beyond dispute, and she has been for several days on her trial for murder at Melun. She made no attempt to deny any of the particulars connected with the tragedy, with the exception of the act of murder itself. Her statement was that a rendez-vous has been appointed near Franchard's by herself and her friend with a man named Williams, an alleged lover of the widow; that, upon leaving the restaurant, she parted with the lovers in the forest, and had no knowledge of the consequences. No trace, however, could be found out to be the real person, could it even be proved that he had a hand in the murder, he would only have been brought in as an accomplice in Frigard's crime. Such being the case, we have no reason to be surprised on hearing by telegraph to-day that the woman Frigard was found guilty, though, strange to say, with "extenuating circumstances," and was condemned to penal servitude for life.

Stripped as our narrative must needs be of its less relevant but still interesting details, we have said enough to explain the attention which this trial has excited among our neighbours beyond the Channel. It is such a tale of blood and mystery as seems to exercise a peculiar fascination over them; such a tale as Edgar Poe would have delighted in spinning out of his morbid imagination, and for which even he would hardly have thought of choosing the scene anywhere out of Paris. The control exercised upon the mind of such a flighty woman as the widow Mertens by a person of her own sex—in despite of original mistrust and of ever-recurring misgivings and warnings, in despite too, of symptoms of nausea and sleepiness after meals, suggestive of foul play—seems to show uncommon strength of character in the murderess; and several passages in her previous life exhibit her as deep in the act of deception. But when we come to the final act, when we consider the paltry object she placed before herself, and weigh it against the terrible means by which she determined to compass it, when we see how miserably she bungled through the plan she flattered herself she had so cleverly laid, and what tracks she left behind for justice immediately to fasten upon her, we are confirmed in the maxim of which every page in the *Neptune's Calendar* bears out the correctness—there is nothing in the world so stupid as crime. Madame Frigard, clever as she was, was only cunning enough to overreach herself.

A Gubernatorial Slander Replied.

In the editorial of the *British Columbia* of the 2d June on Governor Kennedy's dispatches to the Home Government, I find the following quotation concerning our Free School system:

"In reply to one part of the Memorandum complaining that the Legislative Council had amongst other things, 'prevented the passage of liberal and necessary laws,' His Excellency says, 'What may be the nature of the liberal and necessary laws' referred to in the Assembly I will leave you to infer. I state that the only measure passed, of which any apparent popular clamor has been raised, was a School Bill, passed in 1866 and which has already been the prolific parent of expenditure and jobbery."

Allow me, Sir, to make use of the publicity afforded by your columns to relate to the abominable calumny. The accusation is utterly false and unfounded, and it is disgraceful in a Governor to invent such stories and then privately send them home. As far as expenditure is concerned, by which of course must be meant "foolish or inconsiderate expenditure," may I ask, who it was that opened or salaried certain District Schools where not more than 7, 9, or at most children were being taught under Episcopal supervision at an expense of £1000 of from \$50 to 70 per head? Certainly not the Board of Education, who for those schools established. But the Board did open the two Central Schools in Victoria which were immediately attended by more than 220 children, and which ought to have been opened long before. And here I come to the alleged jobbery, in renting, suppose, and fitting up these two schools especially the old Central School, where after much discussion was leased at \$60 afterwards for \$40 per month. As to fitting up, alterations, and some slight repairs, the whole expense amounted to a \$280 for this school, of which a goodly sum was for benches and stock, and \$150 spent on the Congregational Church and on \$60 on the Craigflower School, also benches and repairs. In all these operations M. M. Bruce & Geary, the contractors, claimed that they hardly made wages, and have been abused by other parties, who could name, for protecting the interests of the Colony too scrupulously. Since first initiation, the Board of Education acted throughout with a purity and uprightness of conduct which are above all praise. But calumny, and above all calumny, dark, can demolish any reputation. I thought it just as well to let the public at once know the whole matter stands.

ALFRED WADDINGTON, Ex-Superintendent of Education. VICTORIA, Oct 7, 1867.

STRANGE PHASE OF INSANITY.—One day lately at Beambridge, near Nant England, there was a strange eccentric man named Hall, a horse dealer, had mad. The particular hallucination appeared to possess the man's mind was the devil was in the tree and wished to him, but to prevent such a contingent poor fellow was endeavoring to protect him by throwing his money up into the air. Three men had in vain attempted to subdue him. He had previously formed a club of bread and wheat, and occupying the of it affirmed that the devil could not get him. After some considerable raving, during which he said he felt the hot breath of the devil, he was at length secured.

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