

The Weekly British Colonist,

Wednesday, October 5 1870

The General Election.

Inasmuch as the new Constitution has not yet reached the colony, it is impossible to speak with any degree of definiteness regarding the time of holding the general election. It must however be tolerably certain, however, that the election cannot come off much before the end of November. For various reasons the delay which has occurred in framing a new Constitution is greatly to be regretted; and the recollection of this delay will have its due influence with the colonists in deciding whether they will continue to be governed from Downing-street, where they have experienced nothing but cold selfishness and heartless neglect. There is one feature of this delay which we cannot regard altogether without alarm. It can hardly be questioned that the country is fully prepared to accept Confederation upon the terms offered; and it is equally certain that there is a very general feeling in favor of accepting the situation without any unnecessary delay, so that the colony may, if possible, become a member of the great confederated family of North America with the commencement of the fiscal year of the Dominion—next Dominion Day. This condition both natural and rational. The colony is just now in that transition state so productive of painful suspense and fatal hesitation. Every interest is, as it were, holding its breath and awaiting the result. Under such circumstances any unnecessary delay is cruel—criminal. But there is another reason for desiring the earliest possible consummation of what is now commonly regarded as at once, the immediate destiny and good fortune of British Columbia. Every day's delay in completing the union must be regarded as a day's delay in the inauguration of those substantial benefits which are to accrue from union. To colonists who have for many weary years experienced that heart-sickness which is the sure offspring of long deferred and often crushed hope, this delay is especially painful. After having struggled on in this colony for years, hoping against hope, breasting those difficulties and surmounting those trials peculiar to the pioneers, they see in Confederation a new condition of things under which they expect to reap some reward for past privations and losses, and they are, moreover, naturally anxious that the dawn of this better day should not be postponed until their sun shall have set in eternal night. Others,—and we are happy to say that this class has been growing smaller by degrees and beautifully less—while still entertaining antipathy to Confederation, yet regarding it as the inevitable destiny of the colony, say that the sooner the change takes place the better—that to have such a change hanging over the colony is most undesirable and injurious. If, however, every successive step is to be characterised by that delay which has attended the preparation of the new Constitution there will not be much prospect of entering upon our new estate next Dominion Day. Should the new Council not meet before January it will require our best efforts in order to accomplish that; and we wish, with due respect, to impress this upon His Excellency the Governor, that the people desire union; that they desire it at once; and that to delay it beyond the period we have mentioned will be productive of very profound and wide-spread dissatisfaction indeed. That more than the accustomed interest should be felt in the approaching election is both natural and highly proper. The people will only have an opportunity of sending nine representatives to the new Council; and, inasmuch as it must devolve upon that Council to dispose of great questions of empire and of constitutional powers and prerogatives, it becomes the paramount duty and supreme interest of the colonists to see that there shall be no blanks amongst the nine. The people cannot afford to throw away a single vote. There are only nine. Let these nine be men of known ability and tried principle, men who will not throw away their vote by a personal indulgence in harrasional opposition to, and abuse of, everybody and everything but themselves and their own impracticable and inane conjectures who will neither throw away their vote by harrasional opposition nor sell it by a weak and servile adhesion. The new Council will not only be called upon to accept or reject Confederation, but it will devolve upon the people's nine to decide whether the people shall govern themselves through their chosen representatives, or whether they will be governed by people living on the other side of the continent. It especially behoves the electors, therefore, to send only men who thoroughly know what they are sent for—men, if possible, who will, by their abilities, intelligence, general deportment and knowledge of colonial politics and Responsible Government, constitute a sort of living evidence of the fitness of the colony to manage its own local affairs, as a Province of the Dominion. So much responsibility never rested on a Council in this colony before. Such weighty, broad and

far-reaching consequences never hung upon the vote of nine members. No such importance ever yet attached to the exercise of the franchise by the colonists. Let every District be on its guard. Let every voter be resolved to do his duty.

Municipal Council.

Tuesday, Sept 27th, 1870.
Council met at 7:30 p.m.

Present.—His Worship the Mayor, Councillors McKay, Alsop, Garow, Carey, Walker and Russell.

COMMUNICATIONS

From the Secretary of the Queen Charlotte Coal Company, asking permission to hold a general meeting in the Council Chamber.

Granted.

From the Secretary of the Spring Ridge Water Company, asking permission to lay a water pipe in Yates street.

Councillor Carey moved that the Water Company be notified by the Clerk to put the streets in repair in all places where they have laid their pipes; and that in future they be required to obtain permission from the Street Committee before they commence any excavation. Carried.

From residents on Johnson street, complaining of the distillery of Mr Steinburger as a nuisance.

On motion of Councillor Carey, the Mayor was authorized to take immediate steps to abate the nuisance.

An account from C H Williams for hauling dirt on Humboldt and Douglas streets, of \$18, was presented. A long discussion ensued, and upon a vote being taken it was decided. The Mayor gave the casting vote in favor of the amount being paid.

The monthly statement of the Founder keeper was submitted, showing an expenditure of \$18 50. Also an account for labor, equivalent to \$38.

The Clerk reported that he had collected \$105 towards graveling Douglas street.

Councillor Russell moved that the residents on Pandora street be solicited to contribute toward graveling said street. Carried.

The Street Committee certified that the eastern st the corner of Fort and Blanchard streets was completed according to contract, and recommended that the bill therefore be paid. Recommendation adopted.

Council adjourned.

THE AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SHOW—Should Dame Nature smile propitiously, this year's Agricultural and Horticultural Show will prove a great and brilliant success. The grounds have been carefully arranged for the reception of articles and the accommodation of the public. The pens and corrals for horned cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, &c., are all up; the tent has been raised; the music stand erected, and everything is deemed highly satisfactory. The revenue of the Society, it is expected, will be much larger than that of any previous year. Among the stock exhibited will be some from both the Mainland of the Colony and the America side, and several fast horses. The grounds will be thrown open to the public at one o'clock p.m., when prizes will be declared. In the evening at 7 o'clock an Agricultural Dinner will be held at the Colonial Hotel—tickets for which are fixed at One Dollar. To-morrow evening the affair will close with a grand ball at the Alhambra, at which the ladies and lasses of Victoria are expected to "trip the light fantastic toe" from "dawey eve to rosev dawn."

THREATENING TO SHOOT—On Monday evening Charles Butcher, cook of the St George Hotel, drew a loaded revolver and threatened to shoot Mr Jacobs, the landlord. Butcher was promptly handed over to the Police and was brought up before the Magistrate yesterday morning for examination. His Honor, Mr Pemberton, ordered him to find two sureties in \$250 each and himself in \$500 to keep the peace for six months, and in default to be imprisoned for three months. The sureties not being forthcoming, he was sent to jail. Butcher was intoxicated when the affair took place.

NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE—At an expense of \$120 the enterprising publisher of the Toronto Telegraph had the official terms of Confederation telegraphed from this city and published in full in his paper. The dispatch contained two thousand words, passed over more than four thousand miles of wire and was all in type by 10 o'clock in the evening of the day upon which it was sent from here. We mention this not only as evidence of enterprise on the part of the publisher of a paper which is taking the foremost rank in the Canadian press, but as showing the great interest felt in the admission of British Columbia. The terms appear to be generally regarded with favor in Canada.

FROM THE EAST COAST—The Douglas arrived from Nanaimo and way port yesterday at 3:30 p.m. She brought about 80 passengers, 4 head of cattle, 3 horses and a quantity of poultry, besides grain and other produce, for the exhibition. Among the passengers were Mrs Webb, Mrs Link, Mr Bottrell, Rev Mr Reese, Mr Bate, Father Bondeau, Mr Morely, J. P. Mr A. D. and wife, Messrs Skinner, Benson, Drinker, William Richards, Lindsay, Brennan, Shaw and Martin. Two Indians, the supposed murderers of Hamilton, have been discovered. The particulars of the fearful crime are narrated elsewhere in this issue.

FOR NANAIMO AND COOK—We understand the steamer Sir James Douglas will sail for Nanaimo to-morrow morning. She will take up 20,000 bushels of coal for the coal company.

The Douglas will proceed to Comox on Friday with the Tides head party, returning to Nanaimo the same day.

THE U.S.R.C. LINCOLN, Capt Scammon, arrived from Port Townsend yesterday afternoon and will remain in port a few days.

Following are her officers: Captain Scammon, First Lieut Hooper, Second Lieut Bakeman, Second Lieut Collier, Chief Engineer Doyle, Eng. Ass't Engineer Daily, Surgeon Secc'd Eng. Engineer, Cloyd, Surgeon Whitehouse, Pilot Keen.

The Latest Murder of a Lone Settler on the East Coast.

News has reached us from Nanaimo which tends to show that James Hamilton, a settler, whose body was found burned to ashes in his house a little over a week ago, was cruelly murdered. Immediately after the discovery of the remains, suspicion was aroused, and one or two Indians pointed to as being guilty of having killed him. Indeed, Mr Peck and others of Nanaimo, who were well acquainted with the deceased, and who have taken much trouble to ferret out all they possibly could in connection with the matter, went so far as to say that it would certainly be found that he had been committed.

These predictions will, we think, be verified, as the sequel will show. It appears that two Nootka Indians, named Jim and Quinam—who, it should be mentioned, are about as smart as any of their race, they can speak English well, and fully understand the nature of the terrible crime they are charged with committing—were out at the Lake near Hamilton's on Sunday night, for what purpose is not known. While there, they are said to have broken into the house of Mr Smallbone, robbed it of several articles of no material value, drank all the beer, &c., he had in the house, leaving three empty glasses on the table. The print of a naked foot was also left on the table—evidently that of an Indian. After clearing Smallbone's of all the drinkables, it is said the two desperadoes (Quinam and Jim) started for home, having to pass the house of Hamilton on the way, and being drunk and noisy, it is surmised Hamilton went out to see who they were, when, from some cause not yet made known, Quinam is believed to have fallen into the mind of the "bita" buddies round about Nootka, about the two polecat meetings held up here of late. In a moment he was seized by a gang of savages, who had gathered round the name of Bobson, came up here, held a meeting and giv'd his views in a clear, fluent (sic) and intelligible manner. In a prosper dignity as self-respect, and not insultin' the common sense or dacency of the folk, a wiganayashare hell wan in, but Lord, save us! There was a lang, gauncie, weef-faured chiel, big a' stot, aw wi a wif wame, cam up frae Victoria and giv'd a speech. The chiel did na seem to ken what he wad due for his constituents if the Legislator, as what he wad leave alone, an taer croon aw, actually swore like a trooper; an than quo he, excuse me, but a'w a warkin' man ha'nt canna help swearin'. Did ye ever hear the like o' that? Noo, Master Edith, just giv' him a kin' o' tint, wuk ye, that the speaker o' the Hoosie might pit int ille for that, ye an keep him a han' langer than they kept that daft ass o' yours that obeyed his name "no" to say a word aboot his coat?" They tell me that Amer' Coosmos invanis a'loof o' the World; dyu no think he's, maik in loys wi his sin handsome person an the uncommon sma' quantity o' leeterary knowledge in his whimsical bairns than wi onything else? 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