GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

(From the Montreal Gazette.)

His Excellency having, during his stay in Montreal, visited a number of the public institutions and distributed prizes to the deserving pupils of the schools, made the following speech at a dinner given to him by the citizens in the St. Lawrence Hall:—

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen—Pursuits in which it has been my lot to pass my life, have compelled me, from time to time, to address public assemblies. It is therefore not in my power to plead in extenuation, any shortcomings of my own with regard to my acknowledgements of your kindness this evening, that true excuse of being unaccustomed to appear in public occasionally—no, gentlemen, I cannot plead that, dependent on what has happened. But, gentlemen, when I remember the more than cordial reception which I have received from the citizens of Montreal—when I look on the noble hospitality of which I am at present the guest—and when, above all, the cheers with which my name has just been greeted by you are still ringing in my ears, I confess that it baffles my vocabulary to find words adequate to express my feelings tonight. (Loud Applause.) Gentlemen, I shall not, therefore, attempt by any elaboration of language to convey my sentiments to you, as I believe that the strongest feelings are best expressed in the shortest terms. I shall, therefore, only say, that from my heart I thank you for your personal kindness towards me. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, I am not vain enough to think that this grand demonstration of feeling is merely a personal compliment intended for myself. I accept it, and looking at it in this point of view, I can assure you that it gives me more satisfaction than would be afforded to me from the mere gratification of my personal feelings. I accept it as evidence of the strength of your feeling of loyalty towards that Sovereign whose representative I am. (Applause.) As evidence of you attachment to that British connection of which the office I have the honor to hold, is the symbol. (Renewed applause.) Gentlemen the kindness you have shown me emboldens me to take the license of friendship and to say a few words to you, not in an official capacity—[illegible] the authority of the office I hold, but in the character of one deeply interested in everything that concerns the welfare of our noble Province. (Applause.) I am afraid, gentlemen, that in the observations I am about to make, I shall be obliged to disturb some of these transient feelings of confidence which appear to pervade the breast of our excellent Cairman. He has told you, and with truth, Canada has hitherto occupied a position which was never before, in the history of the world, enjoyed by any community of similar size. (Applause.) Gentlemen, you have enjoyed practicable independence; you have the interior management and control of you own external affairs and taxation. Your commerce as the Mayor has told you, has been protected; your external relations assured without your being called upon, either in purse or person, to contribute toward the expense. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I am bound as a friend, to tell you that I do not think this state of things can longer exist. (Applause.) That condition of affairs has continued in consequence of the peculiar condition of the external relations of Canada. There is no use, in my opinion at least, in acting the part of an ostrich, hiding our heads in the sand, and expecting that no one will see us. The plain truth had better be told and at once recognized, there is but one quarter from which Canada can apprehend any serious attack; that quarter is the great Republic which lies along our extended frontier. Now, gentlemen consider for one moment what changes have taken place in the internal condition of that great nation within the last year. (Hear, hear.) Until last year you would hardly, within the borders of that great nation, hear any sound more angry than the cautious bustle of commercial transactions; the whole land was one busy hive of industry, but what is it now? I regret to say the whole nation has been turned into one vast camp within which resound the clang of armour and the preparation of implements of destruction. Gentlemen, I cannot allude to this subject without [illegible] to express what I believe in the feeling of every British subject on this matter. We have heard of the change that has taken place in the internal condition of that great country with a feeling of unmingled pain and regret. (Applause.) And that we shall welcome with unalloyed joy the day which shall restore tranquility within her borders, (applause.) and her citizens to the paths of peaceful industry. (Renewed applause.) Gentlemen, it would be madness in us if we did not recognize the grave fact of the existence of a numerous army in that country, which, up to this moment has been the abode of peaceable industry. Do not suppose that I am an alarmist, and that I entertain any expectation that we shall be immediately attacked. I entertain no such idea. But I shall now read you some words that express my sentiments fully, and better than I can do myself: they come, I may inform you, from one who has long held the front rank among English statesmen.—Here they are:—"But if you want to be upon terms of perfect friendship with a great neighbouring power—a power of great military and naval resources,—if you want to preserve your independence, and at the same time, your friendship with that power, you can only accomplish that object by being perfectly prepared to defend yourself from attack. It is not necessary that you should anticipate attack It is not at all a part of your policy that you should say, 'I will only prepare myself for defence when I see an attack coming.' It ought to be the constant position of a country that wants to maintain friendly relations with its neighbors, and to hold that position in the world which its importance and dignity require, not to be prepared for aggression, but to be constantly in a state of sufficient defence." These are the words of the oldest, the most sagacious, the most popular of British statesmen—a man under whom I have served my apprenticeship in politics,—the ablest statesman in England, I may call him, I mean the present noble Prime Minister. (Applause) Now, gentlemen, I believe I have cleared one [illegible] out of my way. Both, then, I may remark, that in case of aggression on any part of the British dominions, the whole resources of the Empire will be put forth to defend the part attacked, (loud applause,) no matter from what quarter the attack may come, or in what possession of the extensive dominions of Great Britain the assault may be delivered. (Renewed applause.) But, gentlemen, when I say, "whole resources of the Empire," you must remember that the colonies form part, and that in my mind, colonial resources are, for the purposes of defence, imperial resources. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I will not attempt now to lay down the amount of protection that could be contributed from what I will not call the Imperial, but the Home and Colonial resources in case of war. In the first place, I have no authority to speak about the matter, and in the next place, I believe that all experience will lead the colonis s to the conclusion that if the account should only be stated between England and the Colonies, no such subject will be dealt with in a niggard form. (Loud applause.) But, gentlemen, though I am not empowered to be able to tell you what England will do, precisely, I can give a fair account of what she cannot do. She cannot alone, in the face of England, supply men to defend Canada, and to save the Province; the strong armies which must be arrayed against the enemy must come from the people of Canada themselves. (Applause.) I am perfectly satisfied from the spirit I have witnessed among the people and the exertions which, with their limited means, they have made, to put themselves in a position of defence, that they will not be found wanting should the day of danger unhappily arrive. (Applause.) Gentlemen what I should wish to impress upon Canadians is this, not that they should raise a standing army, or engage in any large expenditure, but that they should take such measures as will enable them in a sudden emergency, to put forth their strength to meet any attack. (Applause.) I speak in the presence of a great mercantile community, and I only ask you to take the common precaution of every merchant in the case of venture to ensure against risk or loss. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, the insurance which I ask you to effect has this advantage over the ordinary commercial transactions, that not only will you repair loss should it take place, but in all probability the moral effect produced by the insurance will prevent the risk ever taking place. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I have thought it my duty, as before stated, as your friend, to lay those views before you; and now I turn with pleasure to the more agreeable contemplation that of the developement of peaceful industry and commercial enterprise which I have witnessed within the last few day in this city.—(Applause.) Gentlemen, Canada in general, and Montreal in particular, may, in my opinion look back with justifiable pride, to the past, and with confident hope to the future. (Applause.) Judging by all the indexes of national prosperity, your progress for several years past has been as remarkable as it has been satisfactory. Your population has increased, your trade has extended itself, the produce of your taxes and imports has increased, and the consumption of the necessaries and luxuries of life has increased. Gentlemen, all these indications go to show great and growing prosperity, notwithstanding some drawbacks, and not the least the diminution of your commerce in consequence of the trouble among your neighbours. I may be told with regard to the climate, that it is not so mild, and with regard to the soil, that it is not so fruitful as others. But I would venture to remind you, that the nations which have become the great masters of mankind, have not been those which have enjoyed the genial skies and fruitful plains of the South. Just look at the case of the individual man—that man is not most likely to command success in life who is born with everything to his hand. So, I believe, the nations which had to struggle against natural difficulties and compel them to be subservient to their purpose, are those who go forth to conquer, not only their fellow men, but all the difficulties that surround them. (Loud and enthusiastic applause.) I have heard people object that your land is inhabited by different races; perhaps I may be told that that is a ticklish subject to deal with; but I can only say, and I am not much given to swagger, that I feel a certain amount of pride in being a British subject. I should like to ask gentlemen to tell me of what elements the British nation is composed? Have we not Saxons in England who form a large portion of the population, and Saxons also? Are there not Celts here, and have we not some of them in Canada? (Applause and laughter.) Why, if we believe the Emigration Commissioners, we are threatened, before long, with an invasion of the Danes. (Renewed laughter.) Such are the elements which go to make up the Great English nation that has overspread the world more than any other race. I may not live to see it, but when the population of Canada is as large as that of the British Islands, and all the races are welded into one composite race, Canada will become as prosperous and as happy as she can desire to be. Gentlemen, I have again to thank you for the kindness with which you received my name, and for the additional kindness with which you have borne my remarks. I would venture to bespeak for the motives that may dictate my action during the remainder of the tenure of office that I have the honour to hold, the same forbearance and generous construction with which I am bound to say I have been met by men of all classes since arriving here. A Voice—You deserve it. (Applause.) I assure, whatever appearance my actions may have before you, I have had at heart the honest, simple-minded desire to do my duty in the position in which my Sovereign has been pleased to place me. (Applause.) And my highest ambition shall have been attained if the future historian of this great Province can with propriety connect my name, in however humble a degree, with any measure calculated to develope the resources and promote the moral and material advancement of the inhabitants of Canada

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., JULY 16, 1862.

CANADIAN DEFENCES.

The rejection of the Militia Bill in the Canadian Parliament, drew forth from the English Press various comments. They did not, for the most part, stop to enquire, if it was adapted to the wants of the Province, but came to the conclusion that the Canadians were not willing to defend themselves. This opinion being prevalent, it was not long before the Duke of Newcastle was called upon, in the House of Lords, to give an explanation of what was characterized as the extraordinary conduct of the Canadian Legislature, and a very ungrateful return for the anxiety which was shown by the Mother country, in sending out troops for our protection, when threatened with an invasion by the Americans. Of course the Duke also expressed his surprise at the act, but endeavored to account for it, by telling the House that, so far as he had been able to ascertain, it had arisen from two causes—a belief by many of the members that it was too cumbersome and costly, and would not work well, and in addition, there was a personal feeling against the present Ministry; but he was sure that no government would be acceptable to the people that did not make provisions for the defence of the colony. He further assured them that he would do all in his power to urge upon them the necessity of being prepared against attack. Now there is little doubt, but that he has brought his influence to bear upon the Governor General, and the words spoken by him at Montreal may be regarded as expressing the views which are held by the Imperial Government. There will be no difference of opinion between the people of this country and the British authorities as to the necessity and duty of providing means of defence; but the share which the Province is expected to bear is another and more difficult question. Lord Monck does not hesitate to point out the quarter from which danger may be expected. He could not have done otherwise. The situation of Canada is such that there need be no fear of aggression but from the States; and to have spoken of providing against attack, without stating from whence it might come, could have deceived no one. A journal, famous for its extreme views in almost everything, dreads the effects of the statement upon the very sensitive minds of the American people. To tell the real cause of the efforts that are being put forth to raise a Militia force is an evil, which might lead the Americans to believe that we regarded them as enemies. Such statements are simply absurd. They know very well that from us they have nothing to fear; the relative proportion of the populations forbids even the thought of danger from this country; and they are well aware that the statesmen and people of Great Britain are more ready to give up, than acquire, territory. They know full well that nothing more is meant than that we should be ready to defend ourselves should war arise. The past has given us warning that such a thing is possible, and he must be vain enough to think himself gifted with more penetration into the events of futurity than common mortals, who would venture to assert that nothing will again occur which might lead to war between the two countries. We do not anticipate that they, with a knowledge of the feeling that exists here of becoming a part of the Union, will undertake a war which has no other origin than that of annexation, but a war once begun, whatever its origin would unquestionably have this for its termination, so far at least as they were concerned. With this danger before their eyes Canadians would be remiss to their best interests if they did not make a liberal provision for the protection of their homes. Nor should this lead the people in the United States to think that we look upon them as enemies, when we are but manifesting a spirit of patriotism, and showing a determination that whatever may hereafter be the relations which Canada shall sustain to other countries, they shall be of her own choosing. Nothing more is thought of, and one very anxiety for the preservation of our liberties ought to beget for us, in the mind of every true American, a feeling of friendship instead of enmity; for without this love of liberty, Canada would not be worth the having. Now though we want to live on friendly terms with them, because it is both to our interest and theirs; the present state of that country, if not such as to cause alarm, is sufficient to make us watchful and prepared for resistance if need be. If any troubles should arise, we know that it will not by any act of ours either directly or indirectly but through our relations with the Mother country. These we still desire to maintain, but we cannot longer regard ourselves as a part of the Empire and receive its protection without sharing a part of its burdens. We do not know what portion of these Canada is expected to bear, but from the disappointment at the rejection of the Militia Bill of the late government, they appear to have been greater than the resources of the Province will permit of. We are glad however to learn from Lord Monck that the system of standing armies adopted in Europe he would not recommend for this country. This is well, for they are a curse rather than a benefit to any country. Besides the amount of labor which is withdrawn from peaceful pursuits, and the millions of money required for their support, they have oftener been used as tools in the hands of despots for depriving the people of their rights than for watching over their liberties and are an encroachment on settle disputes by an appeal to arms rather than by negotiation — Why, if we believe the Emigration Commissioners, we are threatened, before long, with an invasion of the Danes. (Renewed laughter.) Such are the elements which go to make up the Great English nation that has overspread the world more than any other race. I may not live to see it, but when the population of Canada is as large as that of the British Islands, and all the races are welded into one composite race, Canada will become as prosperous and as happy as she can desire to be. Gentlemen, I have again to thank you for the kindness with which you received my name, and for the additional kindness with which you have borne my remarks. I would venture to bespeak for the motives that may dictate my action during the remainder of the tenure of office that I have the honour to hold, the same forbearance and generous construction with which I am bound to say I have been met by men of all classes since arriving here. A Voice—You deserve it. (Applause.) I assure, whatever appearance my actions may have before you. I have had at heart the honest simple-minded desire to do my duty in the position in which my Sovereign has been pleased to place me. (Applause.) And my highest ambition shall have been attained if the future historian of this great Province can with propriety connect my name, in however humble a degree, with any measure calculated to develope the resources and promote the moral and material advancement of the inhabitants of Canada

UNITY OF ACTION.

There always has been and possibly ever will be division of opinion among those who seek to adapt the institutions of the country to the ever changing wants of the people.—The time, the manner, the means, have each in turn afforded opportunities for the exercise of independent thought. Nor is this to be wondered at, or to be regarded as adverse to the interests of the party when kept within certain limits. On the contrary, the very nature of the work in which they are engaged requires that each should look at the subject from his own particular field of vision, and give the result of his observations. Questions that are affected by contingent circumstances can at no time be spoken of in an absolute manner, either as to the best mode of their accomplishment, or the effects of their operations; hence the necessity of diversity,—that it may be viewed in all its bearings, and from this variety, that unity of action determined on, which seems most practicable to the majority of minds, but ever subject to that alteration or modification which the changed state of the country's affairs might render necessary. If government by party is to be continued there must ever be a yielding up of individual opinion to the clearly expressed wish of the majority. He may have strong convictions that he is right, and be persuaded that if the course of action proposed by him were adopted, the end sought would be more easily and more speedily attained: but unless he is able to convince those with whom he is associated, of the correctness of the views which he has taken, it will be necessary, if unity of action is to prevail, that he give way. When we speak of the individual giving up his own opinion that he may preserve unity of action, it is not to be understood as referring to his principles. Before there can be any such a thing as party there must be harmony of principle and it is merely as to the best mode of carrying out these principles that concessions should be made. This abnegation of self and entire acquiescence in the opinions of others has ever been found a difficult matter. The tendency to follow ones own convictions has often proved too powerful to be confined by such a barrier as unity of action and when co-operating with others, has led men into positions from which it was difficult to retreat and still preserve their consistency. This want of united action among themselves, has been one of the great difficulties with which Reformers have had to contend and has impeded for many years measures which have proved to be of vast benefit to the country.—These differences of opinion, too, have often arisen about things so trifling compared with the good to be effected, that it is matter of surprise they should ever have been able to distract the attention from or retard the progress of, the object aimed at. All profess to be seeking the same end but some one conscious of his superior wisdom, declares that this measure or that bill must be carried thro' in a particular manner. The impracticability of the course which he has determined upon is nothing to him. The other interests of the country may be going to ruin by the extravagance or incapability of the men in power, his course is clear, he must preserve what he calls his consistency. He would not condescend to acknowledge that he had taken up a position which was surrounded with greater difficulties, than he was at the time aware of, that many things have transpired which he did then not foresee, and which require not the abandonment, but the holding, for a time in abeyance, or seeking by other means the attainment of his object; because it will at least reflect upon his political sagacity. Though individual indiscretion may be charged against some of the party in power, it is not true that they have deserted any principle which they held while in opposition. The great object which all had in view was justice to Upper Canada. Various opinions were held as to how this could most easily be accomplished. Some advocated a union of all the North American provinces under British rule, some the Double Majority, and others Representation by Population. There was nothing like unanimity. Many ready to adopt any of these provided their object could be gained. The latter had confessedly the least prospect of success from the strong feeling entertained against it by all the Lower Canadians. Notwithstanding this, a few declared for it and nothing else, and hence bound themselves to pursue a particular course. To those alone can the charge of inconsistency be applied, if a confession of having been mistaken is not admissible in politics. But it will be observed, that this is not inconsistency in having given up a principle, but only an acknowledgment that it cannot be procured at the present time. They did the next best thing possible, and though they have not been able to get all that they wished, they have taken all they can get. The cry got up by the Opposition that they have thrown their principles to the winds is worthless. They still hold them, but deem it prudent, and prudence taught by experience if you will, that representation by numbers, irrespective of the dividing line between the Provinces is at present impossible. But let them persevere and by uniting their efforts, and not permitting those little matters of detail to turn them aside from their object they will ultimately attain it. We care but little what course they adopt, or how often they change it, provided they keep steadily advancing toward the goal.

Summary of the Week.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

From the armies before Richmond, there is no news of importance. McClellan, since his arrival under the protection of his gunboats on the James river, has been busy securing his position against attack. The lessons which he has been taught of late seem to be making him still more cautious. This position is said to be almost impregnable, the river for miles below and above being broad and deep affording excellent room for the operations of the gunboats, and on the land side can only be assailed from one point, so unless he move towards Richmond, he is safe from attack.—The President has paid a visit to the army, addressed the soldiers, telling them that he had come to see for himself the situation of affairs. He was sure that they had not been whipped and never could, and that they would never give up till they had captured the rebel capital. He must be an adept in military knowledge, for his opinion seems to give great satisfaction, though he has never seen a single battle. The Federal prisoners at Richmond are said to be about 4,600, and the amount of property destroyed in the late retreat will exceed $2,000,000. McClellan is receiving reinforcements. Volunteering, it is confessed by Northern journals, can no longer be depended on, and conscription will have to be resorted to before men can be had to fill up the shattered ranks of the army, even though offered large bounty. Stonewall Jackson is said to have made his appearance on the south side of the James river, for what purpose not yet known. Vicksburg still remains in the hands of the Confederates, though the gunboats have been bombarding it for some time.

EUROPE.

The steamship "Norwegian," with dates to the 4th has arrived. The news are not important. American matters is still occupying the attention of the Press. The Kingdom of Italy has been recognized by Russia.

Local Intelligence.

During the past week our attention was directed to the correction of the statement to which Mr. Fraser's communication referred and seeing that nothing more would be gained, we thought its publication unnecessary. He will find the paragraph to which we allude by reference to the proper quarter.

We would again remind the public and especially the parents and guardians of children, that the examination of the pupils of the Central School is now going on. The children assemble at 10 o'clock on Friday, when the prizes will be distributed to the successful candidates. All are invited to attend.

By reference to our advertising column it will be seen that Dr. Steinhooff, a Physician of the Homeopathic school, has taken up his residence in the Village of Clinton. Dr. Bell, of London, one of the referees mentioned in the advertisement, is known to many of our readers as a gentleman of high standing in his profession. We understand that Dr. Stienhooff is a graduate of the New York Homeopathic Medical College and was for some time Physician to Bond St. Dispensary, and attendant at Bellvue and Blackwell's Island Hospital.

We beg to call the attention of those of our readers, who are desirous of proceeding to British Columbia, to an advertisement which will be found elsewhere. Mr. Allen, it will be seen, has been appointed the central agent for Canada, by the various companies forming the line of steam communication thither. The object of his appointment, is to enable passengers to procure tickets before setting out, so that there may be no uncertainty about their passage, on their arrival at New York, and to preserve them from the clutches of thieving hotel runners and swindlers of all kinds. He will be always ready to give any information required.

The Grand Pleasure Excursion.—The proprietors of the fine Steamer "Kaloolah," Messrs. VanEvery & Rumball, have determined to send her on a cruise for a fortnight.—She will visit the Georgian Bay, pass through the North Channel, call at the Bruce Mines, Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinaw, and proceed to Lake Superior if desired. The scenery thro' which this trip will lead is not to be surpassed by any in the world, and ample time will be afforded for viewing every object of interest. Mr. Rowan, her Captain, is thoroughly acquainted with coasting along the shores of the upper lakes, knows the exact locality of everything which is likely to attract attention and will do all in his power to gratify the tastes of his passengers. The "Kaloolah" has excellent accommodation; but as the comfort and convenience of the excursionists is to be the first consideration only a limited number will be taken. By reference to our advertising columns all other information will be obtained.

Saturday was the Twelfth, and we suppose that everybody has heard of the battle of the Boyne. Well, those who love to remember it otherwise than a mere event of the past, assembled in town. The railroad, steamboat and vehicles of all kinds were called into requisition for this purpose. Hither, companies of men decked with orange ribbons and other regalia preceded by a flag, fife and drums might be seen wending their way from all quarters. The Court House Square was their place of rendezvous. They mustered in strong force; marched round the square a few times with their drums and fifes in operation. The noise was appalling, and if this is an element in music they have it in abundance. They afterwards marched through the town, returned to the square, listened to a few speeches, and then sought their homes, delighted we suppose with the day's proceedings.

About one thousand pleasure-seekers visited this place on Wednesday last. The larger portion of them were from the Forest City.—The steamer Kaloolah was lying at the wharf ready to receive them. She soon had a good load of living freight. The Volunteer Artillery Band which accompanied them was stationed on the upper deck, and made the air vocal with sweet sounds. The lake was a little rough, and a number of them had the pleasure of getting their stomach emptied of its contents. Swinging and quoit playing was going on in the ground at the back of the Maitland Hotel. The day was fine and all seemed to enjoy themselves. Very many accompanied them to the station. The firemen, too, turned out to escort their friends of the same fraternity from London. A little after six o'clock the cry was heard, all on board; the whistle sounded and they were gone. We hope with feelings of satisfaction.

British Columbia.

(From Victoria papers to the 29th May.)

Nothing is heard among our mining population but Cariboo or Stickeen River. Other parts of British Columbia are never mentioned now-a-days as gold-bearing districts. Yet we are persuaded from information derived from miners, who have worked at Rock Creek, that the diggings there will pay handsomely. Since the discovery of Cariboo these diggings have been deserted, the attractions and fame of the new Northern El Dorado having overshadowed every other place. On all the tributaries of Lake Okanagan, gold has likewise been found. Yet little or no attention has been given to prospecting them.

Mr. George Eves, arrived yesterday morning by the Enterprise. He left Williams Creek on the 12th inst., and reports three companies as ready for work—Cunningham's, Steel's, and Griffin's. The prospects were flattering. Almost two feet and a half of snow lingered on the ground; but the weather was warm and the snow was melting rapidly, and would be all off by the 10th of June. When Mr. E. left, there were 700 men at Cariboo, and he met about 1100 bound north by the Lytton route. Probably a like number by the Lillooet trail. The road below Williams Lake was lined with pack trains men. There is no fear but that they will be able to pack right through to Quesnelle City without any detention on account of bad roads. The trail is in fine travelling condition—much better than at this time last year, and the provisions must be in great abundance at the Forks by this time. Many head of beef-cattle, wintered on the Bonaparte, all in excellent condition, were met on the way up. Business is lively at all the towns. Some 10,000 lbs. of flour, left over from last year, are at the Forks of Quesnelle; it is sold at $60 per 100 lbs., which is considered a reasonable figure at this time of the year.

On Williams' Creek no grub for sale excepting what was in the hands of Steel & Co.—Flour, $1 20c per lb. The people on Williams' Creek were drawing their supplies from Antler, where there was a fair supply at—flour $1, bacon $1 50; beans $1 25. So far, trains have been mainly freighted by miners, consequently but little had gone forward on account of merchants, and the result is that the price of packing has risen to 30c. from Lytton to Quesnelle, being 10c higher than usual. Packing is done from the Forks of Quesnelle to Williams' Creek mostly by Indians at 30 cents, but had recently gone up to 40c., and $5 worth of grub for the trip, being about equal to 45 cents. Found the weather quite warm and vegetation quite luxuriant between Beaver Lake and Lytton. Mr. E. thinks the season's operations in Cariboo will commence about the middle of June, being earlier than last year, we believe, by about three weeks.

The reaction has set in on the Salmon river mines. Day by day men are returning to Portland, without money, and by no means well provided with food or clothing, as the result of an uncalled-for and untimely rush to those diggings. Fortunate it is we have been saved till now from such a disaster, although we are far from being out of a similar danger. We cannot tell at what moment we may have a return of disappointed men to Victoria, and the condition of our neighbors should act as a warning not to pass unheeded. The San Francisco press has already jumped eagerly at the misfortune of the Salmon miners, as a potent means by which the tide of emigrants from California might be checked. Whatever apparent injury we are likely to sustain from any stoppage to the influx of population, no reasoning man can see anything but a good stroke of fortune in the circumstance. At present about 4,000 men are on their way to British Columbia, but the country cannot even now provide for them as it is desirable; and it is consequently of much greater importance to have a surplus of provisions than a surplus of men. With the present number of people, if things are managed properly, the scarcity of food will be but a temporary evil.

From both Dawson and Palliser's reports, it appears that there are really not more than between five and six hundred miles of land travel between Lake Superior and the head of navigation on Fraser river. The land and water transit Mr. Dawson states is quite capable of being accomplished in ten day, from Toronto to British Columbia. With swift steamboats on the lakes and rivers, and good stages on the various portages, he even puts the figured down at eight days! The "pony express" cannot do much better than this. And yet the cost of carrying out such a project would be a mere bagatelle to each of the colonies assisted by the Imperial Government. The North Saskatchewan and other rivers are navigable for immense distances, and flow through a country unsurpassed in its fertility. The value of this land, which is now entirely non-productive, would shortly reach a figure that would pay for twenty such means of communication. As a commercial enterprise, of course, the land and water carriage will not be so enticing as the railway, but the cheapness of the communication, and the practibility of its immediate construction, make the project one that commends itself to every British subject living north of the 49th parallel.

The English mails are again left behind at Panama—making now three English mails waiting patiently at the Isthmus for transit to California and Victoria. A more welcome announcement we could scarcely make, and we only hope that the obdurate hearts of the captains of American steamships may grow more and more adamantine on the subject.

Let us hope that every succeeding mail will be also stricken down with Panama fever, until the Home Government get over its fastidious delicacy about granting us a mail subsidy.

Great Fires—Destruction of Property, and Loss of Life.

The severe drought of the last three months still continues, notwithstanding the repeated appearances of rain. The fields present a burnt and parched appearance, such as has never before been sent in the memory of the oldest men here. For three or four days there has been a prevalence of strong southerly winds, and fires having been raging in every direction, doing a fearful amount of damage. On Saturday afternoon they appeared to have been at their height, and the accounts of the ravages they have committed, are truly distressing. On the Lake Shore, Huron, from within a couple of miles of this village, down for some distance, fences have been burnt up wholesale, while great portions of the crops have been destroyed, and in some instances it was only through the most persevering exertions that some of the buildings were saved. From Thursday till Sabbath morning, the residence of Mr. M'Lay was in imminent danger—the cedar bush to the south of him having caught fire. On the afternoon of Saturday the flames blew furiously in the direction of the house, and but for an abundance of water, which was drawn in barrels by teams from the lake, and the untiring exertions of the neighbors, who turned out, it would have been impossible to save any of the buildings. Mr. Boyd on the adjoining lot, has suffered most severely. His fences were burnt in all directions and his meadow terribly destroyed, besides other portions of his crops. Others down the lake have also suffered greatly, but, at the time we write, we have not heard the exact particulars of their losses. Back in the township of Huron, the fires appear to have been worse than in the front, for, from the want of water, they gained such an ascendency that in most cases it was fruitless to attempt to combat with them. Along the Saugeen road, the crossways and bridges are nearly clean swept off, and fences and crops destroyed to an alarming extent, entailing losses on many of the settlers from which it will be difficult for them to recover. Some building were also consumed, and we understand that the Methodist Church had a hair's breadth escape. The most painful intelligence, however, is from the township of Bruce. From the fires that were raging in the vicinity of School Section 7. it was thought advisable to send the children home. Melancholy to relate, two fine little fellows, named Thomson, aged 7 and 9 years, were overtaken by the flames, and before they could be rescued they were so severely burned, that one of them died immediately afterwards, and the other is not expected to recover. At the lit. the village of Port Bruce, in the same township, the destruction of property has been very serious. Mr. McFarlane's splendid new store and store house, with their contents, were reduced to ashes. The Port Bruce—better known as Bay de dure—steam saw mill, and the large store of Mr. Butchart suffered the same fate. So encreled was the place, by fire in the bush all round, that it is reported, that the inhabitants had to betake themselves to the lake, in little boats to save themselves.

We have not heard of any casualities from the other townships, saving the burning of fences and crops, which will fall heavily on the sufferers. From Saturday at noon, till sundown, it was impossible to discern any object a few yards off, the smoke was so thick. It seemed as if the whole country had become one burning mass, and it was not till the dawning of daylight on Sabbath morning, that people could begin to realize the extent of the loss they had sustained on the previous day. The damage done through drought and fires, must tell seriously on the farmers this year. Indeed, their prospects at present are more discouraging than any the writer has seen since he came to Canada—five years ago. Unless we have rain soon it will be too late for sowing root crops, which is the only chance on which the farmers are now relying for the support of their animals during the winter.—*Commonwealth.*

Where is the Confederate Army?

General McClellan, it is said, has sent out his pickets and failed to discover the whereabouts of the Confederate army, which lately "drove him to the wall." He therefore felicitates himself on his safety. This is natural enough. But where is the Confederate army gone to? If "Stonewall" Jackson is alive—and accounts are conflicting on this point—one would not be venturing a rash prediction in saying that he is not idle. At all events, the Southern army would be useless just now keeping McClellan at bay; and it is possible that it is already on the march to new fields of labor. The N. Y. Times, while throwing out doubts as to the possibility of Jackson moving upon Washington, calls upon the government to be prepared to meet such an emergency. It believes he is capable of doing anything. The N. Y. Post does not take exactly this view of the neglect; but in an article on the necessity of immediate reinforcements it shows that it is absolutely necessary that fresh troops should be obtained at once. These are its reasons:—

"We think it well that it should be known that the rebels are now in a more advantageous strategical position than before. By the change in the position of the army of the Potomac it is more difficult than before for that army to co-operate with Gen. Pope; and the enemy, with his central position and railroad communications, can strike with certainty and with a powerful force in any direction from which an army could advance to co-operate with the James river.

It is not prudent to send Pope's army down to James river, because that would leave the Valley exposed. Therefore, it is extremely urgent that new troops be raised as quickly as possible to send down to Gen. McClellan, who calls for reinforcements and needs them. It will take some time, at the best, to raise, equip and drill the new levies, and every man needed should come forward at once, in order that we may as quickly as possible strengthen the army of the Potomac, and give Gen. McClellan the force he requires to recommence operations."

It will, no doubt, be the object of the Confederates to endeavor to prevent a union of Pope's army with McClellan, should it be the purpose of the Federals to unite these two armies together, though it is very probable the Federals will not allow the Valley to be exposed. It would not be well, however, for the Southern forces to remain in a position which might subject both in front and rear. It need not, therefore, be a matter of surprise if it should appear that, having effected their purpose of driving the Federals from before Richmond, they have retired from the scene of the late battles. Neither need it be wondered at, if a few days should bring the intelligence that they have measured their strength with Pope. They are fighting their cause desperately; and their best policy it to brook no delay while they are flushed with success. The present calm will not last long, if Jackson is still alive.

Frightful Self-Murder in Arran.

A MAN BLOWS HIS OWN HEAD OFF!

(From the Owen Sound Times.)

Thomas Duncan, who had occasionally during the last eighteen months shown symptoms of insanity, committed suicide in his own house in Arran, on the county line between Grey and Bruce, on the morning of Saturday last, the 28th ult. Several times during that period he had attempted to put an end to his existence by cutting his throat, but was always prevented by the cunning and courage of his wife, who, on one occasion, when he threw himself into bed with a razor in his hand, sprang in upon him and held his hands till the children called in the neighbors to her assistance; and who at another time succeeded in wresting a knife from him and concealing it in her bosom.

For the last few months, however, he had been gradually recovering; and for some time previous to his death had none of those bad fits of insanity. Two weeks ago, we transacted some business with him; and in the course of a lengthy conversation, could not discover anything to excite the slightest doubt of sanity.

On the day before he shot himself, he was engaged in logging with his sons, and appeared quite rational. On Saturday morning, the family rose early; the wife going out to milk, the elder children to various out-door labors, and the father remaining in the house, washing, shaving, and dressing his person carefully, as if for a journey. On Mrs. Duncan's return, she found her husband sitting on a stool in one corner of the house, a bible held open before him on the table, close by two horns, one containing powder and the other shot, lying one on each side of the book, a cap box open at his right hand, the gun between his legs, and the following stanzas written on a sheet of foolscap lying beyond the bible on the table:

ARRAN, June, 1862.

My day of life is passing by,
And *death* is drawing near,—
That awful messenger to man,
That doth excite his fear.

And often has it done to me,
When it was far away,
To think this living tent of mine
Would mingle with the clay.

I often feared the rage of man,
And shunned the danger too;
And prayed to God the Lord that He
Would guide me safely through.

How foolish and unwise was I,
For asking such request;
Short sighted mortals little know
The things would suit them best!

What wicked men oft threaten, ed,
I's left for me to do;
And, grudgingly, I undertake
What duty calls me to.

And when the spirit it has gone
Wherever God thinks fit;
The body's left—the question next,
What will men do with it?

There's one request and only one,
I'm now about to make,
On that account I humbly crave
To grant it for my sake;

That it be taken through the bush,
Or else around the road,
Unto the township burying ground,
Or else my late abode;

And dig a grave so one four feet deep,
Therein the body lay,
And let it rest in quietness,
Till resurrection day.

THOMAS DUNCAN.

She at once inquired if the gun was loaded when he replied, "What do you want to know for?" and continued in his musing attitude. She then asked him if he was going fowling. To this question he gave another evasive answer, when she said no more to him, thinking the gun was not loaded, and fearing to aggravate him by too many questions. On the evening previous she observed him rubbing tallow on his foot, and was therefore not surprised to see him take off his boot as if to ease his foot. She was skimming a pan of milk at this time, within arms length of his side, her face turned toward him but her eyes directed to the milk, when suddenly the gun went off, and looking up she saw the headless body of her husband! He had put the muzzle of the gun in his mouth, pulled the trigger with his toe, and blown his head from the lower part of the ears, to his spine, completely from his body. The lower part of each ear attached to the skin of the lower jaw, with the eye balls glaring wildly at each other, stood about ten inches apart. Nothing else of the head or face was left! A more trightful spectacle could not well be imagined. His brains and blood bespattered everything in the house even to the open bible before him.

Mr. Duncan lived formerly on the Garafraxa Road, in Holland. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, and a remarkably upright and intelligent man previous to his unfortunate loss of reason, much respected for his integrity by all who knew him.

Singular Occurrence—A Sergeant Killed by a Private Soldier.

(From the Quebec Chronicle.)

About two o'clock yesterday afternoon, a rumor spread rapidly about the city to the effect that a shocking tragedy had just occurred in the Artillery Barracks, at Palace Gate, resulting in fatal injuries to a non-commissioned officer of the Royal Artillery, and a wound of a serious nature to another, of inferior grade.

Further inquiry proved that the terrible rumor was only too true. The Artillery Barracks had been the scence of a fearful deed, strongly resembling, in many of its details, the crime committed by Private McCaffrey, at Preston, some months ago, when both a colonel and adjutant had been killed. The details of the present case, as far as could be ascertained, amid the prevalent excitement, were few and brief. They are as follows:—A few minutes before two o'clock, p.m., when the usual afternoon parade was about to take place, the troops had been drawn up, and the deceased sergeant, William H. Bewley, of the 7th Brigade, was engaged in 'dressing up' the men. Bewley had his back turned to the quarters at the time, and was absorbed in his task, when Thomas Crozier, a gunner of the same corps, who had just come out of the quarters, deliberately raised his piece and fired quite close to the back of the sergeant. The bullet passed through the most vital part of the sergeant's body, and after half turning round with a convulsive motion of the arms he fell fatally injured. The bullet seemed, however, scarcely checked by the resistance it had met with. It struck Bombardier Aaron Chappell—who was standing in line with the deceased—in the shoulder, and came out through this person, inflicting most serious injuries; it was afterwards found, with portions of skin and flesh adhering, lying at the bottom of a wall against which it had flattened.

Bewley was immediately conveyed off the ground; but his wound was mortal, and he died about four o'clock. Chappell was, at last accounts, suffering considerably from the effects of his wound. The deceased sergeant is deeply lamented by all his comrades, and both he and the other non-commissioned officers bore most excellent characters.

The cause of the bloody deed, it seems is that Sergeant Bewley had, on several occasions, in his capacity as Crozier's superior officer, been obliged to report him for punishment. This had occured, we understand, even so lately as Thursday evening, and it is added that Crozier, who frequently left himself liable to punishment, had uttered bitter threats against the deceased. He made no manifestation of sorrow for the deed after it was committed. It is said that when he came first to the door, the cap is believed to have fallen off the nipple of his piece; he returned, doubtless for the purpose of adjusting it, and came out immediately again.

The inquest will be held this forenoon, when the minor details of the case will become known in a more reliable manner.

The Crisis in the States.

[From the New York Express.]

"To Arms!" "To Arms!" "To Arms!" is, to day, the almost unbroken cry of the city journals. "McClellan must have reinforcements," says one, "not two or three months hence, but now." Another "If the men are not forthcoming in a given space of time, we must have a con