

Confederation.

Now that it is definitely understood—conceded by all parties that Confederation is our destiny, that it is desired by the great bulk of the colonists, it will be well to make the public mind as familiar as possible with the whole subject, in all its bearings and possible consequences. It is very possible, indeed, highly probable that some degree of prejudice may have been created against Confederation by the reckless assertions sometimes made by ill-informed, but for the most part designing persons. Very great prominence has been given to the revenues which would go into the Federal treasury, while compensating pecuniary advantages are carefully kept in the background. For instance great stress is laid upon the fact that the receipts of Customs, the chief source of present Colonial revenue, will, under Confederation, go into the Dominion Treasury; and occasionally persons have been found willing to go the length of asserting, with an air of well feigned horror, that all present sources of revenue will thus be taken away, and that we shall be compelled to have recourse to fresh direct taxation for the means of sustaining the local government. Now, there is just enough of truth in this to invest it with an element of possible danger. The Customs receipts will unquestionably become Federal revenue, and thus a source of revenue which, under the present tariff, produces something like \$350,000 a year, will be taken out of our hands as a Province, though we shall still retain a common interest as a part of the great whole. But it should be borne in mind that if the Customs revenue is taken by the Federal Government, that government assumes the expense and responsibility of collecting and protecting it. Nor should it be forgotten that under the Canadian tariff the revenue derived from that source will lose its present proportions; and thus the people will escape a large amount of taxation. Not only would taxation upon foreign articles of consumption be greatly lightened, but the necessity for consuming foreign productions would be materially lessened, inasmuch as the products and manufactures of all the Provinces being admitted free, these would enter largely into local consumption. Thus it will be observed that under Confederation the Customs revenue would be a very different affair from what it is under the present system; and that difference would be all in our favor. We may be told that the Customs revenue would increase with the increase of population and development. Undoubtedly it would, but so would our share of Federal expenditure increase, and every other source of revenue and wellbeing would increase in an equal ratio, nay, in a far greater ratio, for it should be remembered that the fiscal policy of the Dominion is one of gradual approximation towards free trade, and that this class of taxation must become lighter as its base expands. Then, again, look at what we shall get in return. If the Dominion Government does take away the customs revenue it will give us back a dollar and a half for every one it takes, at least for some years to come. But we utterly demur to the proposition that in taking this the Dominion Government takes away our sole means of revenue, leaving us to fresh direct taxation for the support of the Provincial Government. We derive \$65,000 a year from Road Tolls. Would the Dominion Government touch that? We derive \$15,000 from Crown Lands. Would the Dominion Government touch that? We derive \$12,000 from Miner's Certificates. Would the Dominion Government touch that? We derive \$18,000 from Mining Receipts General. Would the Dominion Government touch that? We derive \$50,000 from Trading and other Licenses. Would the Dominion Government touch that? We derive \$10,000 from Fines, Fees and Forfeitures. Would the Dominion Government touch that? Here, then, we have left wholly untouched by the Dominion Government sources from which, even under present depression and stagnation, \$170,000 of revenue is produced every year, and which, under Confederation, would soon produce double or treble. Why, then, shall such a pitiless howl be raised about our being left without any source of revenue for local purposes? But we have confined these remarks to one phase of the subject. It must be left to another article to point out a few of those things which the Dominion Government will do for us. And, in dealing with this whole subject, we would have our readers understand that our object is less to present arguments in favor of Confederation than to seek to dispel the mist and misapprehension which, in some minds at least, surrounds a subject of present importance. We are rather dealing with a subject forced upon our attention by the

arbitrary and inexorable logic of events than seeking to persuade the public that what we regard as inevitable destiny, is a condition to be desired. We are firmly convinced that Confederation can be coupled with such conditions as will make it a great boon to us, if the people have only sense enough to improve the occasion which now presents itself. The great majority of the colonists believe as we do; and if there are still those who honestly hold contrary opinions, we would invite them to unite in ascertaining the very best terms that can be made; for all must be convinced by this time, we imagine, that the question virtually before us to decide is not "Shall we have Confederation?" but, "How shall we have it?" It will still be remembered how some stood out to the fact against the union of these two colonies; and although the same amount of pressure was not brought to bear on that occasion as will, if necessary, be brought to bear in order to drive us into a larger union, yet all acquainted with the merits of the case must feel that had the people of Vancouver Island approached the subject of union with the Mainland differently, and had they considered the conditions of that union in time and in a united and business-like way, fewer sacrifices would have been made, and the result would have been very different to both sections. In the matter of the larger and infinitely more important union now staring us in the face, let the people endeavor to avoid a repetition of past errors. Let no man, from a feeling of morbid antipathy, refuse to negotiate for terms while yet we have the opportunity. Admit the very worst. Let us regard ourselves in the light of a beleaguered city, and all hope of holding out vanishes. Surely it would be true wisdom on our part to improve the opportunity afforded to make the best possible terms of capitulation. But Canada does not come to us in the form of an enemy. She comes a true friend, and that in the time of our need. True, the Imperial Government will be prepared, if need be, to apply a little gentle coercion; but that, to a foolish and wayward child that does not know what is for its own good, can hardly be regarded as the act of an enemy.

California Immigration Movement.

California would appear to have become thoroughly alive to the importance of increasing its population, and active steps are being taken to accomplish that object. Mr. Bell, for some time connected with the press of this city, and subsequently with that of San Francisco, has been engaged to "stump" the State for the purpose of working up the scheme. It appears that the Pacific Railroad is now transporting immigrant passengers through from New York to San Francisco at \$75 in greenbacks; and from Omaha for \$42, and it is said that the number of emigrants has for some time past averaged one hundred a day, but these for the most part do not come through to California. Many stop at Utah, and Nevada, while others turn off into the northern Territories. This condition of things is by no means satisfactory to the Bay State; hence the present movement to aid and induce immigrants to come through. Amongst the obstacles is mentioned that of large tracts of land being held by speculators, and it is suggested that the necessary and legitimate cure for men who will look up their seventy-five or hundred thousand acres and refuse to improve or sell, unless at high prices, is a good, smart land tax. The people of California are suffering from an evil common to most new countries, and not uncommon in some old ones, but if the remedy suggested be faithfully applied there is no doubt that it will prove effectual. The people of California are going in for half a million of immigrants, and there is every probability that they will succeed in getting them; but we are disposed to think that the railway fare must come down to \$50, before there can be any very large immigration movement overland from the east. We, of British Columbia, apparently utterly helpless as far as any immigration scheme of our own is concerned, look upon this activity in California with complacency. Any great movement of population from the Atlantic to the Pacific side of the continent brings the centres of population nearer to us, and we are certain, sooner or later, to get the spray from the great wave. Much, even in this, cannot, however, be expected until communication between this Colony and San Francisco shall have undergone material improvement, and to this object should the attention of our Government be at once directed. Surely we have as good a field for, and as much need of, population as California; and as we cannot aim at the inauguration of any large and complete scheme of our own it will not be very credible to us if we have not sufficient vitality to utilize the reflex benefit of contiguous development.

Thursday Oct 1 Restoration of Christ Church Cathedral.

The work of collection goes steadily on, and the radius of subscriptions generally enlarges as addresses offering condolence and aid from district settlers pour on to the main body. The extent, we had almost said general nature, of the movement, to replace the burnt Cathedral with a handsome edifice, is not inadequately indicated by the list of gentlemen who have already consented to act on the committee, which, we learn, is to be still further enlarged. As submitted at the usual Monday's 3:30 p.m. meeting at Dean Cridge's we glean the following names:—The Dean and all the Clergy Chief Justice Needham, Mr. J. W. McDonald, J. F. McCreight, Hon. H. P. P. Crease, Mr. Spark, Hon. E. F. Alston, Mr. Thorn, Mr. Faucett, Mr. Fawcett jr., Mr. Lester, Mr. Robert Burnaby, Mr. James Lowe, Hon. J. W. Trutch, Mr. A. Langley, Mr. Wootton, Mr. Frank Richards, Mr. R. E. Jackson, Mr. Ward, Mr. Charles Good, Mr. Leigh, Hon. W. Hamley, Mr. Lettice, Hon. M. W. T. Drake, Mr. J. D. Pemberton, Mr. Claudit, W. J. Armstrong, Capt. Cooper, Mr. Ed. Harrison, Mr. Smith Alcott, Mr. Cowper, Mr. Flewin, Mr. Hayward, Mr. Jenkinson, Chief Justice Begbie, Rev. W. Holmes, Mr. J. B. McKer, Rev. J. B. Good, Hon. P. O'Reilly, Mr. B. W. Pearce, Capt. Swanson, Mr. Spratt, Mr. J. C. Nisbett, Capt. Agnew Lyons, R. N., Capt. Mist, R. N. Capt. Anselmy, Rev. J. Smythe and other officers, Archdeacon Woods, Hon. A. T. Busby, Mr. C. E. Pooley, Rev. A. C. Garrett, Spalding J. P. M. Bate, Mr. Allport, Rev. J. B. Cave, Mr. A. C. Anderson, Kenneth McKenzie, Hon. Thomas L. Wood, Mr. A. Watson, Mr. Ring, Mr. Baker, E. H. Jackson, Mr. Sawyers, Burrard Inlet, and others. The ladies' portion of the work of reconstruction goes on "right merrily" with their efforts to provide a peal of bells and organ for the new Cathedral. Bazaars, working parties, meetings, concerts, oratorios, Christmas trees, and lectures (to wretched readers—not Caudle ones) are on the tapis. If only half the pleasing programme be performed, the lovers of music, and rational amusement, have a rich treat in store for them, to while away the tedium of the dreary winter months; and it needs no prophet to foretell, that the fair workers will be the most popular branch of the little army of collectors.

THE NEW CHANCELLOR.—It would appear from recent Canadian exchanges that Sir Francis Hincks has really accepted the portfolio recently given up by the Hon Mr. Rose, and has, consequently, decided to re-enter active political life in Canada, the scene of his joys and sorrows. This is to us more a matter of surprise than regret. Sir Francis has for many years occupied the higher position of Colonial Governor, with credit and success, and his services have been duly recognized and honored by his Sovereign. There can be no question about the administrative ability of Sir Francis; but whether his talents lie in the direction of financing or not we cannot say. The Opposition press is disposed to be very severe upon him. The Globe, especially, is industriously engaged in digging up all his old political sins, and setting them up in dread array; but we are certain to think that if the principle on a certain occasion applied with such signal effect to the case of an unfortunate woman caught tripping, were applied to Sir Francis there would not be found in Canada many men of thirty years public life entitled to cast the first stone at him.

BURARD INLET.—The steamer Emma arrived on Sunday evening from Nanaimo, after towing out the Shooting Star from that place; she sailed again for Nanaimo at noon on Monday. The Isabel got ashore on Friday last, during the dense fog, at a place about 500 yards to the southward of the Ninepin rock, just outside of the first narrows, in English Bay. She is lying head on to the beach, and evidently is not touching the beach, there being a rock under her bows.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise, Capt. Swanson, arrived from New Westminster at 5 o'clock last evening. She brought 80 passengers, amongst whom were the Hon P. O'Reilly and Mrs O'Reilly, Mrs Trutch, Rev. W. Aitken, Hon. G. A. Walkem, Mr. and Mrs Miller and Mr. Chadsey, [Sumass.] H. P. Walker, A. R. Robertson, C. Pooley, W. J. Armstrong, H. Nelson, T. Moody. The steamer also brought Burard's Cariboo Express, with \$40,000 in bank treasure, and 55 bales of H. B. Coats, 60 barrels cranberries, 6 horses and a cow. There were amongst the passengers a number of Chinamen, just down from the diggings.

POLICE COURT.—Little interest was evoked in this court yesterday. A half-breed, named Alexander Gabriel, arrested by officer McMillan, on a charge of selling liquor to Indians, was put on his trial, and pleaded guilty. Gabriel having been up before the Magistrate on several previous occasions was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, or in default 4 months' imprisonment with hard labor. An Indian named Peter was charged with assaulting an Indian woman. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$10, or in default imprisonment for one month.

THE REPORT.—In another column will be found the report of the Exhibition Committee, duly audited. It will be seen by it that the Committee succeeded in raising the sum of \$1567 56, certainly no mean sum considering the depressed times and the circumstances under which they had to operate upon. Of that sum all was expended with the exception of \$37 81—a nice little "nest-egg" for future operations. The gentlemen composing the Committee assuredly, deserve the thanks of the public.

Cariboo.

We compile the following condensed summary from the Sentinel of the 6th and 9th inst:

MINING INTELLIGENCE. On Williams creek nearly all the claims had subsided by the freshet, in consequence of which the week's operations were limited. Three men in the Sheepskin shaft had a narrow escape owing to the water breaking in upon them. The Bradley-Nicholson co., suffered much damage, losing fully two months' work. The only company which cleaned up for the week was the Downie 50 oz for three days' work. In Conklin's gulch the Felix co washed up 103 oz; the McDowle 65 oz and several other co's smaller quantities. In Stout's gulch the Taffy le co washed up 130 oz. The Coombs' were running a tunnel, and only took out 6 oz. For three subsequent days 128 oz. On Stevens' creek there were some fair yields.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE. The new Governor's name has been given to a mining claim in Cariboo. On the night of the 6th a fire occurred in Chinatown, Barkerville, a stovepipe having communicated the fire to the ceiling of a gambled house. In less than five minutes the Fire Brigade had a stream of water playing on the burning tenement, speedily quenching the fire. The firemen displayed great presence of mind, and good discipline. The gold assayed in the government offices was large, in proportion to the yield of the mines. Intelligence had been received from the exploring party that went up the river a few months ago. McKenzie had arrived at Fort George from Stewart Lake with the intelligence that "big gold" had been struck, but the report was not very circumstantial. Mr. Brown, of the Coombs co., shot a very large bird, measuring eight feet from tip to tip of the wings. The Steele, or California claim, above the canyon, on Williams creek, changed hands for \$350. Last year it yielded \$7,000.

ACCEPTED.—According to information received from England, the Hon W. A. G. Young has accepted the appointment of Assistant Colonial Secretary for Jamaica, and was about to sail for that Colony. Mr. Young's position and services in this Colony would appear to entitle him to expect promotion, and the Jamaica appointment can hardly be regarded in that light, although, doubtless, £800 a year is better in Jamaica than in British Columbia; but as the West Indian colonies are shortly to be confederated the way, to promotion will doubtless be open to him under the new system.

CONTRACT THROWN UP.—M. C. Humber & Co., to whom was awarded the contract for the stone and brick-work of the new French Hotel have thrown up their contract, and in consequence it has been awarded to Kinsman & Styles, who will proceed with the building. The work of excavation will commence the morning. We learn that the contract for the carpenter work has been awarded to Messrs. Hayward & Jenkinson.

CLINTON.—The Assizes were held at Clinton on the 11th. The only case of interest was that of Richard Curson vs. M. J. Toy, bringing a suit for wages. The plaintiff got a verdict for \$4,200. Hon. G. A. Walkem was counsel for plaintiff, and A. R. Robertson Esq., for defendant.

A BEAUTIFUL HORSE.—When on the Mainland, Governor Mungrue selected a very fine riding-horse from Mr. Baroard's extensive stud, and brought it down for his use on the Island.

ASHROFT FALL RACES.—The fall races came off at Ashroft last week. In the first race 7 horses started, Dr. English's mare winning stakes (\$2,300). In the second race Greyhound won (\$175). Greyhound was not permitted to run in the first race.

ON DIR.—That the Legislative Council will be convened at the middle of November for a straight vote on Confederation, which will be the main topic of the speech from the throne.

YALE ASSIZE.—Chief Justice Begbie held Court at Yale on Monday. The only case of importance was that of an Indian charged with shooting at Mr. Alway, with intent. He was sentenced to be hanged!

APLOAT.—We are glad to learn that the str. Isabel, alluded to elsewhere as being ashore in English Bay, was got off yesterday morning, and is little, if any the worse for the accident.

FROM SAN JUAN.—The steamer Emily Harris returned from San Juan Island last evening, bringing Lieutenant Isman and some other officers from the British camp.

FOR COMOX.—The steamer Emma will sail on Saturday morning at 7 o'clock for Comox, calling at Nanaimo and all the way ports.

OFFICIAL DINNER.—His Excellency Governor Mungrue entertained a number of his officers at Government House, on Tuesday evening.

LONDON HOUSE.—Rich and rare are the dry and millinery goods now being opened at this well known establishment. The goods were selected from the choicest manufacturers of Great Britain and France, and came by last express. The stock is now one of the most extensive and best assorted on the coast. The firm have advices from their London partners that in order to send out the latest fashions for winter they are having made especially for them novelties in furs, jackets and millinery, very choice seal jackets, etc. These goods will arrive next steamer. Their winter stock of Alexander gloves are also being made to their order in Paris.

BUY IT AND TRY IT.—Russell's celebrated coffee. The best on the Coast. Warranted pure and healthful beverage.

The Delta of the Fraser.

FRIGMORE, Oct 12th 1869.

HON. J. S. HELWICKER, SIR—As you appear to take great interest in the settlement of the Lower Fraser, I have taken the liberty to send you a few vegetables, also a small sample of flax and wheat to show you that cauliflower are not the only things for which this soil is adapted. I planted a small piece of several things this year, merely to see what the soil would produce, and I find that almost everything would do well that is suitable to this latitude.

In your letter you refer to the overflow; as to that, I have no fear. I have now spent two summers and one winter here and have not seen more than 1 1/2 feet above the river banks and then as you say it only lasted a very short time. What stock I have, ran out all last winter and done well, they soon find the highest ground and the tides do not appear to trouble them but very little. The only high tides last winter were the Full Moon of November, December and January, and I find if we have no wind, the Spring tides do not overflow the banks, and from my experience here so far, the New Moon in summer and the Full Moon in winter produce the highest tides.

As present I might say I am monarch of all I survey! Would it was so, I do not see that charm in solitude that some might, and would like to see a settler and family on every quarter section of land on the Lower Fraser and that would be many. There is, using the common saying, any quantity of Government land open to pre-emption. As to the dyking it depends on the piece of land you intend to enclose, what 'twill cost per acre, or if you enclose 640 acres a square piece it will cost much less than a piece 50 acres. A ditch can be dug 4 feet wide on top 1 1/2 in bottom and 3 feet deep for 50 per rod and that being thrown into a dike cannot be packed so close again, consequently the dike will be somewhat larger than the ditch and that I think sufficient for a garden and stock-land say a piece of 5 acres that might be made say 4 feet high and that no drought would keep out all tides. Should the tide come over the sand that is collected, would it not be a benefit? Is not salt water a good fertilizer, and there is no danger of it coming over until after your crops are secured.

I omitted to mention that the soil has not been moved over 4 inches deep, or a particle of manure used where those things grow. I remain Sir, Your obedient servant, WM. H. LADNER.

Earthquake at Sea.

The Valparaiso and West Coast Mail of the 31st ult, gives the following particulars of a severe shock experienced at sea by the steamship Payta—

On the 24th ult, at 1 p.m., the Payta being in latitude 19 deg 17 min S, longitude 70 degrees 21 min W, or about forty-nine miles from the port of Arica, and about 3 miles from the coast, and in 75 fathoms sounding, a most violent and prolonged shock of earthquake, lasting about 30 seconds, was felt on board, followed by a number of others, though less violent and of shorter duration, the last taking place about 4 p.m. The sensation experienced on board at the time of the first shock has been described to us just as if the steamer had been repeatedly lifted bodily up and dashed down again with great force upon the water. Some idea of the force of the shock and the danger to which the steamer was exposed may be gathered from the fact that glasses and crockery ware were thrown out of the stands and racks, the contents of a toncase in the Commander's state-room strewn over the floor, and a massive iron safe in the office of the Purser was wrenched out of its position and moved to a distance of several inches. At the time of the first shock the Commander was engaged below and upon reaching the deck he immediately ordered the vessel's head to be put off shore, which is here very high and precipitous, fearing that the shock might be followed by an earthquake wave. At the same time the shock was felt on board masses of loose material were seen to fall in succession from the peaks and points of the hills fringing the shore, and the sea which at first wore the appearance of a vast mirror, suddenly became agitated, spiriting up all around the vessel in precisely the same manner as is caused when heavy rain or hail falls upon water.

MUSIC.—The undersigned informs the public in general that he is the only teacher of the Pianoforte who combines Thorough-bass and Composition with his instruction in music and singing, and is also the most experienced and legitimate Tuner of Pianofortes in the Colony. Terms—Pianoforte and Singing \$6 per month. Pianofortes tuned and repaired \$10 00 and upwards. Music provided for Balls, Evening parties and Dinners.—D. GUY PALMER, Kase Street, or at T. N. Hubben & Co's Book Store, Government Street.—Mrs Palmer instructs beginners on the Piano at \$3 00 per month.

BEANPAST—BERRY'S CO. A.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favorite. THE CIVIL SERVICE GAZETTE.—The singular success with which Mr. BERRY's Food is followed by his homoeopathic preparation of cod-liver-oil never surpassed by any excellent substitute. By thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well selected cod-liver-oil, Mr. BERRY has provided a breakfast-table with a delicately flavored beverage which will supply in many cases the doctor's bill. Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold by the trade only in 4 lbs., 2 lbs., 1 lb. tin-lined packages, labeled—JAMES BERRY & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London, England.

CHIEF SHAVING.—Fred. Payne, Tonsorial Artist, Johnson Street above Miner's Station. Shaving 12 1/2 cents; Hair Cutting, 25 cents.

FELL'S COFFEE has become the favorite Colonial beverage, and is to be found on every breakfast table from Victoria to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

CALL AND SEE SAMPLES OF WEDGINGTON and Visiting Cards at the COLONIST OFFICE printing office.

Confederation

The dispatch from E... urging upon Governor... expediency of completing Confederation, by the British Columbia, and in Excellency to ascertain the Colonists upon the subject the last lingering doubt skeptical mind. It is as slow some persons, possible average of prevalence in subjects, have been to recognize the fact that the of all British North American years be in the fixed British Government, a grand scheme was not likely done or left unfinished every one of the ten or eleven men, women and children British Columbia still up voice against it. Still was it for a portion of it to suppose that they could errati in back when the e Mainland were so many. But suppose we admit far, argument that opposition have the effect of keeping out of Confederation. What position would Br occur, and what would the age of? Those who such a course ought to be p in on the advantages true—to show that the be better off without the has been frankly admit Statesmen—by the British that the policy of govern nesses through an office at had a complete failure, a Confederation scheme, a fully experimented upon America, and to be at on the West Indian and Ant nities.—Now, suppose Br had the power to remain remain out, what would be Would the Colonial Office system when has proved perpetuated for the os of British Columbia? A pitiful picture would be state of Downing-street, giving its chains, and refer freedom! But why waste a proposition so utterly a man of sense must know n and endeavor will admit the Imperial nor the Canada ment would think of submit the greatest scheme of the ed, simply because a hand nists on the Pacific had the mind alike to their own u try's good. We do not nt that absolute force would In diplomatic language, would be consulted. But here ways than one of k The colony would be n Confederation—made to be not better cut than in. E for reform, every appeal redress or help would be a stercopyed reminder that, constitutional changes a such and such matters we dealt with under the new things. But, as we have no such unity and hu dition is likely to be pre entire population of the log been in favor of the e of British Columbia, up equitable terms; and attempt to deny or misrep will be worse than us le Excellency has just been in contact with the B nists, and is no st an sentiment on that ques greatly disposed to thin any British subject on would be disposed to o now. May we venture to the people of our rector come convince that Co the destiny, the immed the colony, will be tou willing to consid r the would be most conducive interests, and to enter in for procuring the same? surely be true wisdom and in a matter of such portance—at a crisis in which must form an epoch not too much to hope little lines of party diff have been and such a fruit weakness and unsuccess it be merged, and that all working harmoniously together for the purpose from the Dominion Go most favorable terms cons rights and interests of of the Great Britain of

THE FRENCH HOTEL.—The ders send) in for building the first story of the French Hotel street, viz., M. C. Hubben Kinsman & Styles, \$5,000. Yesterday awarded to the for