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And Victoria Chronicle.

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If the Government wished to stamp out the little life and energy left in our people it could not adopt a more effectual method of doing so than to clog the steps of those true hearts among us who are prepared to manifest confidence in the country by investing their time, their labor or their means in the opening up of its latent resources. The duty of every Government is to foster, encourage and protect the laudable efforts of its enterprising citizens instead of placing a dragchain of restrictions and provisoes upon their movements and bearing them down with conditions and delays. Some time ago a valuable seam of copper was laid bare at Howe's Sound on the mainland and a company formed to prospect it. At the end of several months' work sufficient was known to justify the formation of a Joint Stock Company to work the seam; but when the promoters of the scheme applied to the Government for the right to pre-empt or lease the ground through which the seam runs, they were met with a string of objections and conditions that sent a "thrill of mortification" through the company and well nigh caused its dissolution. Correspondence followed, and after negotiations which extended over a period of *three months*, the company have at last been forced to accept terms of a most unfavorable and unsatisfactory character. The reason assigned by Government for imposing restrictions and conditions upon the company, is a want of faith in the pecuniary ability of the shareholders to open the mine. What right has the Government to assume any such state of things? What right has it to insist upon the acceptance of *unfavorable* terms when it knows, or ought to know, that the success of the enterprise depends mainly upon the attraction of capital from abroad, which can only be attracted where the terms of the lease are favorable. The poorer the company, the greater claim it has upon the assistance of a 'paternal Government;' and the assertion that because shareholders are poor they ought not to receive the same encouragement, as an organization of rich shareholders, is so palpably absurd as to require no argument to upset it. The policy the Government should have pursued was to grant the most liberal concessions to the Copper Company; to have encouraged them in every way, and to have held out every inducement for them to proceed with the work; and should the company fail to comply with the liberal terms of the lease or charter, then would have been the time to act upon their presumed inability to open the mine. As the matter is left, the company, wearied with negotiations which brought such miserable results, has at last been reluctantly compelled, "by a bare majority" to accept terms of a character so disadvantageous that it is feared little if any of the stock will be disposed of elsewhere. Should this fear prove well grounded, the exertions of a company of enterprising colonists will be defeated, and what under other circumstances might have proved a valuable addition to the productive wealth of the country, remain undeveloped for an indefinite period.

While our contemporary deals entirely in *exparte* statements in all political questions which he advocates, we have always shown a disposition, not only to receive communications on, but to devote our editorials to both sides of such matters.—*News of yesterday.*

Just fancy a newspaper that devotes its editorials to the advocacy of "BOTH SIDES" of every question;—a paper that is Confederation and Anti-Confederation—all in the same editorial! The beauty of a Scotch terrier is said to consist in his ugliness; so, also, the consistency of our esteemed cotemporary appears to lie in his inconsistency. Shade of Machiavelli, preserve us!

Monday, Feb 24

THE arrival at Victoria on the last steamer of a Fenian disorganizer has caused the adoption of precautionary measures of a character calculated to defeat any plot that may be formed for the robbery of the Banks or the destruction of the town. What those measures are we are not now at liberty to state; but without violating confidence we may say that every point at which an attack is likely to be made is guarded, and that should a gang of Fenians be so foolhardy as to attempt an outrage they will meet with certain defeat if not destruction. Since the departure of the steamer it has been given out that the Fenian "general" or "colonel" went in her; but this report is not credited by those who have excellent reasons for believing otherwise. Admiral Hastings has acted with characteristic promptitude in the matter, and we do not anticipate in the face of the precautions adopted any very serious trouble at present.

HORSE-TAMING.—We have just returned from inspecting the animal upon which Mr Bartholomew is to operate this afternoon. He is a large horse, standing probably sixteen two, with a wild and vicious eye, and showing, we think, in many points, traces of Spanish blood. If we are right so much the more fun is in store for the spectators. The men had no end of trouble in getting him to town yesterday, and, if appearances do not belie the creature, Mr. B. will have more in taming him to-day. Two o'clock in the afternoon is the hour fixed for the exhibition, at the Riding School, Yates street. We are requested to state that comfortable seats will be prepared for ladies who feel inclined to be present.

DOG-POISONING.—On Friday last a valuable English rat-terrier bitch, belonging to Mr J. T. Howard, of Esquimalt, was poisoned with strychnine by some unknown party. The bitch was considered the best of her breed in the Colony, and was the mother of a numerous progeny of fine-bred terriers, which have been raised with great care by Mr Howard. The act was mean and wanton, the animal being noted for its inoffensiveness; and it is believed that some speaking rascal, who entertained a grudge against the owner, has revenged himself by destroying a nobler brute than the perpetrator is or ever will be. We hope detection will follow.

SENT FOR.—It will be in the recollection of our readers that some five years ago a woman deserted her child—a mere babe—in this city and went to San Francisco. The child was adopted by a colored family named Stuart, who though poor themselves, have cared for the little waif as tenderly as if she were their own child. For a long time the mother was not heard from, and it was feared she had abandoned her offspring forever, but the last mail brought a letter enclosing money to pay the the passage of the child to San Francisco and to provide for her wants; and the little thing left on the Del Norte to join her mother.

FROM NANAIMO.—The steamer Sir James Douglas, Capt. Clarke, returned from Nanaimo on Saturday evening. Among her passengers were Mr Dunsmuir, of the Harewood Coal Co., Capt. Marsden, of the telegraph ship Nightingale, and Mr Horne. The fine ship El Dorado is loading at the mines for San Francisco, and the ship Shooting Star is discharging ballast.

DEPARTURE OF THE DEL NORTE.—The steamship Del Norte sailed at half-past 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, having on board 30 passengers and 85 tons of freight. Twelve of the passengers and 60 tons of the freight were from Puget Sound. She also carried away over $100,000 in gold bars and dust.

TREASURE.—Wells, Fargo & Co. shipped on Saturday $101,598, as follows: For the Bank of British Columbia, $67,144; for the Bank of British North America, $34,456.

MUCH activity is shown at present at the Pembroke gold diggings, near Halifax, a large number of speculators being around and claims selling rapidly. One claim was sold last week for $100,000. A year ago this same claim was bought for $2,000.

H. M. S. ZEALOUS.—The flagship, with Admiral Hastings on board, will proceed out to the Straits to-day, where she will cruise about for two or three days, during which there will be practice with the guns by night as well as by day.

Ella, arrived yesterday morning from Honolulu, S. I. She brings a cargo of sugar and molasses, and will commence discharging to-day.

THE steamer Isabel, having in tow the bark Rosalind, left for Burrard Inlet on Saturday. The Isabel will tow down the lumber-laden ship Dorsetshire to-morrow.

THE Fraser is open to Harrison River. Above that point it is blocked with ice in places.

OUTSIDE.—The Russian bark Menschikoff, laden with Nanaimo coal for Alaska, is at anchor in the outer harbor.

THE English ship Marmora will be brought round from Esquimalt to-morrow to Sprout & Co's wharf.

THE steamer Fideliter sailed at noon on Saturday for Victoria.

A Few Plain Words.

EDITOR COLONIST:—What strikes one most forcibly in carefully reading the letters of "Victoria" and others, is the air of antiquity which pervades the whole of them. They remind us of a face which we have often met before, and in another country. There has no great political change occurred in England during the last forty years which has not from its inception to its completion, had to encounter exactly the same kind of opposition which "Victoria" and others urge against Confederation. The conservative element in society, that element which deprecates all change, resists all progress, and as a rule denies that in any case change is progress, has from time immemorial met every progressive movement with precisely the same sort of argument, the same kind of reasoning, the same dismal forebodings of probable disappointment, disaster and ruin, as are just now brought forward against the Union of this Colony with the Dominion of Canada. No matter that again and again experience has shown their arguments to be unsound, their reasoning fallacious, and their predictions unfulfilled, they are equally ready upon the next occasion to tread the same well beaten path, again to repeat the same programme with the utmost gravity, and with an air of the most oracular wisdom. It might be an an interesting and perhaps not unprofitable employment, if "Victoria" would undertake to show us what would be the probable position of England to-day, had she continued to remain as she was previous to the passage of the Catholic Emancipation Act, with a restricted franchise and protection in full play—and yet that measure, the Reform Bill of 1832, and the repeal of the Corn Laws, were each destined according to that conservative element to plunge England into irretrievable ruin. We are now told that reciprocity will ruin our farmers. It appears to me that a little enquiry into the probable effects of such a measure will dispel that illusion. At present we have very little to export except coal and lumber. What the farmers want are consumers. The only channel through which these consumers can be immediately obtained is by a further developement of our coal and lumber resources. The quickest and surest method of attaining that end is by obtaining the whole Pacific coast for a market. The coal-consuming capacity of this coast is now over 300,000 tons a year; of that quantity we raise 31 000 tons. With the trade thrown open there is no reason why within five years that 31,000 should not be 250,000 tons. There is no known coalfield upon this coast of as good quality and as easily obtained as we have upon this Island; and with a market of twenty or even ten thousand consumers at their very door, which reciprocity would quickly give us, if the farmer of Comox or Cowichan could not successfully compete with the farmer of Washington Territory, the fault must be in the man, not in the system. No man who begins farming with no capital but his labor, in either Canada or the Western States, expects to make a fortune in two or three years. If that fortune is ever reached, it is as a rule the work of a lifetime. Speculators and miners alone have any right to expect a fortune in a year or two. A man who desires to have that chance has no right to become a farmer, and yet farming here is a money-making business. I venture to say that there is no farmer upon this Island who has farmed land for the last five years, with that industry found necessary to success in other countries, who does not hold his place to-day at from two to ten thousand dollars. Give us such a market as I speak of, and I have no doubt that Confederation with reciprocity will rule our farmers. A great deal has been said about the debt of Canada and her inability to do a great many things in consequence of that debt. Let us look at this debt compared with the debts of some other countries. England has a debt of something like $130 per head of population, the United States about $85, France about $75, and Canada not quite $19. To talk of a nation being crippled and powerless, whose debt is only $19 a head—whose taxation, including interest upon that debt, is only $3½ dollars a head,—whose bonds command a higher price in London than any bonds outside of Britain—appears to me to be so absurd as scarcely to merit serious attention. The Grand Trunk Railroad was made with English capital. So was the Illinois Central. England is the money centre of the world. When we want money to build a dredger we go to England; when Canada wants money to build a railroad she goes there also, and Canadian credit appears to be so good they find no difficulty in obtaining an Imperial guarantee for $20,000,000 for that purpose. Will she give us the half-million we want so badly just now? There is one peculiarity about this Confederation question and that is, that all the opposition comes from our friends. I suppose on the principle that we should be thankful for small mercies, we should be thankful for this very small one. They at least merit our gratitude for imparting the information, for had they withheld it we should never have discovered that fact from anything they have written. These friends of ours tell us to wait and see how the Dominion gets along, and if in the course of a few years she appears to be healthy and thriving, then we will go ahead and join the family circle. Setting aside the unmanliness of such a proposition, there is something strongly repugnant to the Anglo-Saxon sense of honor and sense of justice in refusing to take any share whatever in the risk, and deliberately proposing to claim a share of the profits; and besides it is anything but agreeable to be told to stand still, when one feels that movement, progression, is a law of our nature. "Victoria," as a reason for delay, tells us once in, there would be no getting out; that fact seems to me to be its highest recommendation. Nations, like individuals, whenever they feel their position unalterably fixed as far as retrogression is concerned, accept that fact and make the best of it. That is the one great redeeming feature of the Conservative interest of England, whenever the thing is accomplished they accept the position and grapple with the consequences like men. That manly acquiescence in the repeal of the Corn Laws, when they could no longer prevent that repeal, has made the land of England to-day more valuable, more productive, and farming more profitable than it ever was during the palmiest days of protection.

VERITAS.

Secular Education in Primary Schools.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST,—The progress of sound views on education in England ought to encourage hope that the obvious hostility of the Executive of this Colony to the system of free secular education will not long be tolerated. The insidious movements of a few interested ecclesiastics, who are anxious to have everything in their own hands, will have to give place to the public will. Extensive school systems under denominational direction have long existed in England, and are well adapted to the condition of many of its densely peopled districts. But in many places, as in all districts in this Colony, the population is too sparse to furnish separate schools for each denomination. In many of those places the clergy of one church have long sought to monopolise the education of the young, and to enforce their own peculiar religious tenets. Against this outcry has been loudly raised, and the people have demanded that, where wished for, secularly conducted schools should be fostered by the Government.

In a speech recently delivered in South Lancashire the following sensible and highly significant remarks were made by Mr Gladstone, Ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer:

"I think I am bound to say that there is another change that ought to be made in the system of teaching as it now prevails. Schools which are called secular schools ought not to be proscribed. (Hear, hear.) Undoubtedly, if you ask me, I prefer a school where religion is taught to one where it is not taught. But if there be benevolent individuals who are disposed to give or assist in giving to their own families or the families of others the advantages, not only of the positive knowledge of a school, but the moral habits of a well-conducted school, I do not think it a sufficient reason for withholding public aid from the school and placing it under a ban, that religious instruction does not form part of the system of that school. (Hear, hear) Because, after all, it is to be recollected that the very persons who may wish to found a school simply secular in its character, may limit the sphere of that school, not out of disrespect to religion, not from undervaluing its inestimable blessings, but because they feel afraid of its becoming a source of discord in the school. I think it better to leave it to the pastors and parents. (Hear, hear.) Whether we adopt that opinion or not, it is fair to keep that possibility in mind, and I own it would not be altogether equitable and fair—on the contrary it would be decidedly inequitable and unfair—if we were to say that because a school conveys secular knowledge only, therefore it is to be regarded as unworthy of public assistance and countenance. (Cheers.)"

Coming events cast their shadows before them.

Nanaimo, February 21, 1868.

King Theodore's Pedigree.

The following is King Theodore's pedigree, according to his own account:

PROCLAMATION.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, one God!

The King of Kings, Theodore, created by the Trinity its servant, installed by it and made Prince, to his children given to him by God, and to all the Franks (Europeans.)

By your God, and the God of your friends, Theodore, who appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai and in the Red Sea; who appeared to Joshua at Jericho; who, through his servant Samuel, annointed Saul when he was seeking the asses that were lost; who, when Saul turned from his Creator, commanded Samuel to annoint David.

Solomon was King after David, according to the word of the prophet and of his father, notwithstanding that Adonias (Adonijah), against the will of God, was proclaimed King by the people, and obtained favor their sight. Solomon, by the Queen of Azped (the southest), begat Menilek, who became King of Ethiopia. From Menilek down to the dynasty of the Gallas, all the Kings were stage players (azmari), who sought from God, neither wisdom nor strength, but, with His help, the means of raising up the Empire where found, when God chose me, His servant, to be King.

My countrymen, "the river is dried up, its bed is empty," and they insulted me because my mother is poor, and called me the son of a beggar. But the Turks knew the greatness of my father, who made them his tributaries as far as the frontiers of Egypt, and to the gates of their cities. My father and my mother descended from David, and from Solomon, and they are also of the seed of Abraham, the servant of God.

Now those who insulted me with the name of a beggar's son are themselves beggars, and beg for their daily bread. Without God's will, neither wisdom nor power can save from ruin. Nevertheless, as God said unto Adam, 'In the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat bread,' it is necessary not to fall into slothfulness. But it is needless for me to give you the advice; for, as the proverb says, 'Speak not of wisdom to the sage, neither cut the food of a lion.'"

There is nothing powerful in the world. Many have had mortars and cannon in abundance, and nevertheless have succumbed. Napoleon had myriads of them, yet he died conquered, after having subjugated the Franks. Nicholas, Emperor of the Muscovites, possessed them in abundance, and he was vanquished by the French, the English and the Turks, and died without having accomplished the desire of his heart.

If in your countries you meet with any partisans of the brigand Negusye, who shall say, like the traitors of this country, that Ethiopia is governed by the son of a beggar, wager them a field covered with gold that I, the present Emperor, am on the throne of my father, Abraham and David, and bring them here to be confronted with me.

It is God that hath put down the mighty from their seats, and hath exalted them of low degree."

AN English paper gives the details of an extraordinary battle for the possession of a newly-built ship at Hylton, which lasted several days. A dispute arose between John Nichols, for whom the ship was built, and John Rogerson, the builder, about the payment of a balance due on the ship. On a subsequent night Mr Nichols employed a number of shipwrights, who proceeded to Mr Rogerson's yard, where the ship was ready for launching, completed the remaining arrangements and launched the vessel into the river, and then moored her at some distance. Next morning Mr Rogerson was surprised to find his yard empty, and the ship gone, and, on making inquiries, ascertained where she was. Engaging a force of men he proceeded to the ship, and a regular fight ensued, resulting in Mr Rogerson and his men throwing those in possession of the ship into the river. The ship was then towed to the quay of Mr Rogerson's yard, where she was scuttled and sunk, in a belief that she could not be easily removed. A few days after, Mr Nichols, assisted by a much larger force of men than before, again took forcible possession of the ship, the water was pumped out of her, and she was towed down the Wear to Sunderland South Dock, followed by hundreds of the inhabitants of the village. The case is to be carried into Court.

THE Hartford *Courant* contains a remarkable local item, the gist of which is that a married couple in that city got into a dispute, and that the husband, to revenge himself "sprang out of bed" and seated himself "on a hot cooking stove." but this wasn't the worst of it. The stove was so hot that "the man's flesh burned on and he was unable to release himself." His cries finally brought in two men who "pulled him off the stove by main strength."