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## Tardy Friends are Hidden Enemies.

There probably never was a movement, having for its object the reform of any existing abuses set on foot, which did not suggest and even assist to call into existence opposition, counter movements, and different plans for reform or improvement; this may in a great measure account for that natural superiority which popular, as opposed to despotic forms of government, are almost universally allowed to possess. It seems to be denied to mortals to live under any form of Government which shall attain to perfection; nevertheless men do not weary of aiming at perfection, nor do tney despair of attaining such superiority as shall satisfy the expectations of perfection as they exist within the minds of mortals. It is fortunate that this is the case, for in political science if all were contented to follow in one groove, it would be nearly impossible that countries should advance to any system of government approaching even to excellence, for that which in the opinion of those who superintend the working of the machine, most nearly approaches to perfection, viewed from a different point by those who provide the means, and for whose supposed benefit the whole system of government is adjusted, sinks down far below the level of mediocrity. Now, although we may admit that there is no hope of the Convention achieving perfection, by means of such reforms and alterations as they may effect in our system of government, there is no reason that they should not aim at excellence, indeed they would not rightly discharge tneir duty to the people were they to aim at anything short of it. It cannot be expected that the whole population of this Colony will be undivided in their opinion as to the means most calculated to lead us to the highest excellence that can be achieved by any system of government that may be adopted, but it is scarcely possible that opinion can be divided if we except that unfortunate division of opinion which exists between the members of the government and the people upon the necessity of a radical and immediate change in the organization of public affairs in the Colony. Let it be granted then that there is sufficient unanimity upon this one starting point, and those who favor Confederation will find their hands strengthened materially by the promulgation of all the different theories, that can be devised by those who give the subject of reform any consideration whatever, there is always danger of too little mature consideration being bestowed upon subjects which are passed with so much unanimity, as barely to evoke discussion. With the great question of Confederation this might be the case, if nothing were heard against it; the very men who oppose Confederation, provided that they are in earnest in desiring the Colony to progress, will do good service in guarding against any rights or privileges being sacrificed by those strong partisans who may happen to be in favor of Confederation at any price. No doubt many shades of opinion will be represented at the Convention, and there is no fear of there being any lack of discussion upon the main questions of the day. The more free the discussion the more hope will there be of excellence in the decisions arrived at; so long as there is unanmity of action after ample ventilation of all subjects brought before the Convention, there can be no fear that the true interests of the Colony will be neglected. The people of the Colony may safely rely upon those who are part and parcel of them they are much more likely to meet with straightforward dealing in public life from those who are striving for something beyond the retention of the salary of an office, than from those whose very position and income depends in a great measure upon the will or caprice of a single individual, and who apparently have but little in the service to which they belong beyond the desire to make a good living out of it upon as easy terms as possible. There is one class, however, which the people of this Colony will have to beware of—a class which have not yet come to the surface, but which will undoubtedly show themselves before the end of the present system arrives. We would especially caution the members of the Yale Convention against this class—they will offer themselves to the cause of Confederation as friends, when they feel that it inevitable, as in all stages of history they have done to other good and noble causes, and they are fully capable of mischief even at the last. We allude of course to Government rats; we have spoken of wire-pulling on the part of Government officials, and have not some of us heard members of the Government expressing themselves as not unfavorable to entertaining the question of Confederation when the proper time arrives. Let the Convention beware of such tardy friends, and let them take active and certain means to counteract any attemps on the part of such men to influence the Colonial office when the change in our constitution is in progress, they must be steadily watched, and the Convention must not forget this, or it may chance that so much of the old leaven may find its way into the new system as shall make it as unpalatable as that from which we now seek to rid ourselves.

Friday, Sept 11.

FEROCIOUS COUGAR.—On the 21st ult, a little child three years old, of Mr Patton living on Bear creek, three miles west of Long Tom in Lane County, Oregon, was was killed by a cougar. The child was playing in the yard, and within ten feet of the door of the dwelling, when the cougar sprang upon it from the bushes which grow near the house. The mother seeing the beast drag her child towards the timber, seized a stick and started in pursuit. She attacked the cougar with such resolution that it dropped its burden, and the heroic woman taking the lifeless body under one arm and her only remaining child under the other, made her way to a neighbor's house a mile and a half distant. Mr Patton was absent from home at the time.—*Herald*, Portland.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE CO.—When this company charged a tariff of £25 for a message by their line, the receipts per day were £505; when reduced to £10, the receipts were £579; when again reduced to £5 5s, the receipts rose to £685. A further reduction, no doubt, would give a greater receipt. What a pity it is our steamboat companies cannot see the soundness of the policy of cheap fares—of accommodating the tariff upon travelling, to the means of all classes. It is the experience of the world that the soundest policy lies in placing whatever the masses need, within their means of getting. Wages of all kinds are rising in this city, and throughout the Colony, out of proportion, but even at the present rate of fares it is doubtful if we get that kind of immigration we most need. We heard of three laborers who yesterday refused to work for $2 50 and board.

MR ROBERTSON, barrister-at-law, returned to this city yesterday morning by the steamer Active. He is about to resume the practice of his profession here.

## Municipal Council.

TUESDAY, Sept. 8, 1868.

His Worship the Mayor and Councillors Lewis, McKay, Allart, Gibbs, and Crump were present.

Communication from the Secretary of the Victoria Gas Company, giving notice that the Company were about making excavations on Broughton and Courtenay streets, in order to supply gas light to St. Andrew's Church, read, and on motion permission granted, subject to the supervision of the Street Committee.

Communication from Arthur Porter, asking permission to remove the present sidewalk in front of his half lot on Johnson street, and to replace it by a new one, read, on motion permission granted, subject to the supervision of the Street Committee.

An account from the Daily COLONIST for $55, read, and on motion, referred to Finance Committee.

A communication from the Hon. Attorney General, on the subject of the number of thistles left to seed in different parts of the city, and requesting that the requisite action for their destruction may be immediately taken under the full power existing in the Corporation, before they spread to the open country to the injury of all citizens, read and on motion received and laid over for further consideration.

Councillor Lewis called the attention of the Council to the existence of a dangerous hole at the corner of Douglas and Yates street, and on motion a sum not exceeding $5 was placed at the disposal of the Street Committee for repairing the same.

The Finance Committee reported on the amended account of John Jeffery, and recommended payment.

His Worship the Mayor informed the Council that there had been no reply from the Government to his communication, respecting James Bay Bridge, and, further, that if no answer were received by the next trip of the Enterprise from New Westminster, he should assume the responsibility of closing the said bridge to the public.

Council adjourned until next Tuesday unless previously convened by His Worship the Mayor.

THE 'ZEALOUS.'—A party of gentlemen from Oregon City have recently visited this place, and in a communication to the *Enterprise* give the following description of the ironclad Zealous: 'She is a 20 gun frigate; has 25, 7 inch guns, four Armstrong rifled guns—12 pounders, carries 575 men. She was sent out by the mother Government to protect the colonies against the Fenian Guard of Portland! It cost $127,000 to furnish her coal alone from Liverpool to Victoria! She is 556 feet in length; 75 feet beam; 75 feet deep (English measurement;) 4000 tons register. She is propelled by two 400 horse power engines fed by 8 boilers and 24 furnaces; engines, boilers and surroundings are protected by 5½ inches of solid iron plate. Her outside plating is 4½ inches iron 6ft below her water lines. She has bulkheads fore and aft her artillery room. Her decks are five in number—and when sailing or in battle orders are given by telegraph from station to station on board. She carries 80 tons of powder stored in two magazines, protected by 5½ inches solid iron plateing.

FROM PORTLAND.—The steamer Active, Captain Floyd, arrived here at half-past seven yesterday morning, having left Portland on the night of 7th inst; she was detained by fogs on the river before reaching Astoria. She has brought 80 tons of freight for this port, 35 cabin passengers, and 10 others, amongst whom were A R Robertson Esq., barrister, and wife, from Canada; Messrs Vogel and Sehl of this city, from a trip to San Francisco. The Active reports be Oriflamme having left Astoria, for San Francisco, on the morning of the 8th inst. This vessel, it is said, will be the next of the Company's boats for this port; and that Mr Holladay will remain at Portland until she returns; to come over on her, if in the meantime, he does not decide upon taking the overland trip. She brought no English mail. The agents of the Active advertise freight for the Sound from Portland at $2 per ton, to connect with the Anderson, and passenger rates are as heretofore.

THE steamer George S Wright sailed for the different ports on the Sound yesterday. She will return here to-morrow.

INDIAN CORN—Some very fine stalks of Indian corn, a sample of over an acre, may be seen at this office, which were grown by Mr Lester on Salt Spring Island, this season. Eight feet eight feet high is hardly an average and they are very productive. They were grown from seed imported by the former Agricultural society which was given to one of the settlers on the Island, who again redistributed and now a considerable extent of ground is planted with the same yearly; only one evidence of some of the benefits to be derived from Agricultural Societies. It is pleasing to be able to notice from time to time, the many proofs of the increase of our agricultural interests.

CABLE RESURRECTION—The stmr Diana returned yesterday with the remains of the submarine telegraph cable laid two years since between this and San Juan Island. Its recovery occupied twentyfour hours continuous labor with a patent capstan, loaned for the occasion by our friend McQuade. Most of the cable was found to be sound and ready for future service should occasion require, and will beheld in reserve for future emergencies.

SCREW steamers have been put to the test of close comparison by the Cunard Co. The Scotia is a side wheel ship and the Java a screw. The former consumes more than double the coals per ton per mile. On our coast the great cost of fuel would seem to give preference to screws, and we understand they are of equal speed or nearly so. The Cunard Company has changed to screws altogether.—*Alta.*

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT.—A correspondent complains that the statement we gave a few days since of the expense of sustaining the American President is exaggerated. The paragraph containing the statement in question, was first taken from a leading New York journal, and we copied it, as others did, although some of the items of expense appeared to us rather overdrawn.

NOT BAD.—Mr. Stephens, of the Half Way House, Saanich road, planted three quarters of an acre of ground this season with the Early Sovereign potatoe. Besides supplying his own house, he has cleared $170 in cash from this crop. He got one cent per pound for all the potatoes he sold.

THE J L STEPHENS.—A private telegram received yesterday states that this vessel would leave San Francisco for Portland yesterday morning. Mr J H Turner of this city we understand is expected by her on his return from England. It is not known however whether the John L Stephens will come on to Victoria.

DESERTERS.—Three more men from H M S Pylades deserted a few days since. Officer McMillan got on their track, and succeeded in arresting the whole of them yesterday. The men were working on Mr Williams' farm, on the Saanich road. They were returned to the naval authorities.

## What is Confederation?

EDITOR COLONIST,—If you and I, Mr Editor, were well to do in the world, and many of our friends were to rush upon us all of a sudden, and insist that it was undoubtedly necessary, for our very existence, to take upon us without delay, the business of pork butchering let us say for example, should we not as sensible men, immediately ask the why and wherefore, and should we be contented or convinced with mere assertion in place of argument, and be ready at the mere reiteration of the cry 'pork butchering my boy' to lay aside our peace and comfort and with doubtful prudence enter on a business of which we know *litterally nothing?* I doubt even if we should be inclined to do so if we were badly off or wanting employment; no one likes entering on a venture without enquiry, unless he is a fool. Now does not the present position of Confederation with the Dominion of Canada bear this aspect? Here we are, if you like it, very badly off (but I don't admit it) and we are urged, begged, intreated, threatened, on the subject of Confederation, but are or have any arguments in its favor been put forth? declamation, outcry, assertion, is not argument. We want to know what it will do for us; and what harm it will do us. Mr Bull has put forth some arguments per contra, rather ably I think, but no one attempts to refute them except by counter charges of stupidity, blindness, or factious opposition. Either give us arguments founded, or refute those of the opposite party, I say to friends of Confederation, for unless you do so, depend upon it you *won't carry Confederation by acclamation.*

Now, as in the United States, all sorts of dodges are had recourse to, to win votes on the eve of a Presidential Election, such as the Eight-hour Bill, &c.; so in this country, the promoters of Confederation endeavor to win the popular cry in their favor by making it appear that we are over taxed, misgoverned, embarassed financially, and on the eve of destruction, and that thus any change must be advantageous. This is the constant cry of the Press, this is what goes abroad. Now I ask you Mr Editor, do you in your heart believe that this country is one jot more financially embarrassed than she was some five years ago? Now for a few facts. The grand embarrassment of the Colony is her public debt, amounting at this moment, for the United Colony, to $1,200,000, for which sinking fund and interest, we have to pay annually just a quarter of our revenue, *i. e.* about $130,000. Now, is the public aware of this fact, that, that sum has to be every year sent to England; I doubt it, but still this was exactly the state of the case five years ago, the public debt has not increased one jot. But we are the less embarrassed than we were five years ago by a reduction in the Civil List of $90,000! *i. e.* in the now united Colony *versus* the two former Colonies. Everybody knows who cares to find it out, that the revenue is steadily increasing, that the temporary loans are gradually being diminished, that the Colony is paying its way, that agriculture, stock raising, the lumber trade, mining, flour manufacture, &c., are all on the increase, and yet for Confederation purposes we are told that we are fatally embarrassed, drowning, and so on. Now let the question of Confederation be fairly met; met as honest men, anxious, not for *our own* but *our country's* good. What good will Confederation do us? First of all, it will swallow us up. We shall lose our identity. Our lumber exports, fisheries, gold, will be Dominion gold, lumber, fisheries. Then it will be a change of matters. We now acknowledge the Government of Downing street, then we shall hail that of Ottawa or Montreal, now we endeavor to get a hearing and with some little success in the British Parliament for our grievances, then in vain will our miserable three or five members raise their puny voices amid the clash of conflicting Dominion interests. *But Canada will take over our Loan*; certainly she will, but she will at the same time *take over what we are now re-paying it with* and more besides, she will, as Mr Bull says truly, have a taxing power and won't forget to use it, while worse than all these taxes, instead of being spent in the country, as they now are, will be sent to Canada to be spent there, and there will be extra taxation, for the Local Government must be maintained. Moreover, if we go in now we *can never get out again*, while it is always open for us at any future time, to join the Dominion if we think good. *But Canada will make us an Overland road.* It may be so, but if I err not, Great Britain ere two years, will be compelled, if she wants to retain her China trade, to make an Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, better than a waggon road I trow; and who shall say that the waggon road will have any actual results? From all I hear, things are prosperous in Canada, and certainly if a Canadian farmer reads the COLONIST he will never set foot in Columbia, *i. e.*, if he has the slightest prospect of success in his own country. But *then we shall have such able Executive officers*, such open-hearted, generous, thrifty, progressive officials. Don't you believe it; men are very much alike all the world over, and I think this Colony may compare favorably with other parts of the world, as regards the honor and freedom from jobbery of its officials, and I have heard that Canada is not so celebrated.

What I hope is, nay what I believe in, that this colony will wait two or three years before she jumps blindfold into this Confederation. Let us see the actual results of Union of V I with the mainland. Let things have time to recover. Give the Governor and the Govertment fair play and assistance instead of censure and opposition. Let us believe in and build up our own future, and we shall then be implored to come into the Dominion on our own terms instead of rushing into it on theirs. Let our public press overflow with articles and facts, advancing and illustrating actual progress and prosperity instead of teeming with personal invective and detested self-abuse, so fatal in its effects on immigration, and then Confederation may be hailed with pleasure by all right thinking men, instead of being as it is now, an actual bugbear, with which small children are put to sleep, and large ones *i. e.* those of sense and substance, are utterly disgusted.

I trust on the principle of hearing both sides; you will admit these remarks to your columns.

Yours,
SELF RELIANCE.