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Ten months have elapsed since the Legislative Council passed a resolution requesting Governor Seymour to take steps, "without delay," to secure the admission of this Colony into the British North American Confederacy; and up to the present time we are in entire ignorance of the action of His Excellency in the matter, nor is there the slightest indication that any steps have been taken at all with a view of accomplishing this so much desired object, as expressed through the representatives of the people, as well also as in a more popular manner. We do not overlook the fact of the necessity of a reasonable time being required to mature a measure of such vital importance to the future well-being of the country; and besides, at the time of the passing of the resolution referred to the precise action necessary to be taken by the Government of this Colony in order to effect Union with Canada was not clearly understood; but, since the Imperial act has been published and proclaimed, the mode of action on our part becomes clear and simple, and therefore, Governor Seymour, in acting upon the authority of the expressed wishes of the Legislative Council—if he had felt so disposed—would have found no difficulty in having the preliminaries so arranged that at the first session of the Canadian Parliament the terms of our admission would have been one of the first measures considered. Instead, however, of having done so, we have every reason to believe that he has willfully delayed and retarded the measure which he in good faith pledged himself to perform. If there were any obstacles in the way, such as the opposition of a considerable portion of the people of this Colony, or any reluctance on the part of those with whom we seek to join in Confederation, or any other cause whatever, beyond his own desire, and that of some of his interested friends, to defer it, he should have, months since, communicated the fact to his Council and the people, and much inquietude and dissatisfaction would have been allayed. But we are quite well convinced that no good cause whatever exists for the delay which has been occasioned. We know too well the mind of the people of the Province, as expressed through the press, and by their leading public men, to believe that any cause for delay is to be found in the Government or Parliament of Canada as at present constituted; but, on the contrary, they would be glad to embrace us under the aegis of the Dominion flag, and are even now anxiously waiting the proposition of British Columbia as required by the terms of the Imperial Act of Union. As regards the wishes of the people of this Colony—outside of that small circle of officialdom at New Westminster—we will not insult the intelligence of our readers by attempting an argument to show not only their willingness but their great impatience to be among the first of that band of Colonies which is to stretch from sea to sea and form an empire which is destined to become the pride of the world in presenting to the nations of the earth the freest

and freest form of government yet known to man. We therefore do not hesitate to say that further delay in the matter on the part of Mr Seymour would be an outrage upon the liberties of a people who have ever regarded the principles of a free Government as their birthright too gross to justify a suspension, the time has fully arrived when he should have convened his Council; it behooves him to convene the Legislature at once, in order that legal steps may be taken to secure the present session of the Council to the consideration of the

a measure not only greatly desired by the people of this Colony, but one which is anxiously looked for by the Governments of England and Canada, and opposed only by those who have an interest in the welfare of the country merely so far as it may provide for them a position and a salary which they perhaps can not easily obtain under any other condition, or at least in any free Colony, whose laws and Government are made responsible to the will of the people. The loss of time which has occurred, and the neglect in not having sent a suitable delegation to Canada, can only now be compensated by substituting telegraphic communication, which perhaps may prove less expensive than a delegation, and upon the whole more satisfactory, particularly if resorted to whilst the Legislative bodies of Canada and British Columbia are in session. In view, therefore, of the shortness of time in which legislative action can be made available in effecting union during the present year, and the seeming indifference of Governor Seymour in the matter, we think it behoves the leading men in the Colony to adopt such measures as will convince His Excellency of the necessity of yielding at once to the pressing and serious demands of those over whom he has been appointed to administer Government by a sovereign who has long since learned to regard the will of the people as the highest power in the land.

Monday, Jan 13.
MUNICIPAL RATES.—The Town Clerk gives notice that the Fourth Quarter's Municipal Rates, together with all outstanding amounts due, must be paid on or before the first day of February, proximo, or proceedings will be instituted for the recovery thereof, together with the expenses of collection. Attention to the requirements of this notice may save citizens expense.

GRATUITIES.—The shipments of coal for the year 1867 amounted to 31,174 tons 5 cwt against 25,212 tons 5 cwt., in 1866. Showing an increase in favor of 1867 of 5962 tons 10 cwt.; and there is every reason to believe that the total shipment of the present year will be greatly in excess of that of last year. Every productive interest in this Colony is looking up.

We remind our readers that Mr Harriott's lecture will be given to-night, in the Alhambra, at half past 7. His Worship the Mayor will preside. There will be no difference in the price of admission, and tickets can be had at the book stores, hotels, and at the hall on the evening of the lecture.

The Pastoral address of the bishops of the Anglican Church, lately assembled in Conference at Lambeth Palace, was read yesterday at the Cathedral, St. John's, and St. Paul's (Esquimalt) churches. The address will appear to-morrow.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—The schooner Alaska, Capt. Osborn, having taken in the freight that offered at this port has sailed for Puget Sound to complete her cargo for San Francisco, for which port she will sail in a few days.

COLD AGAIN.—Last night the bitter cold weather returned and the frost made itself felt severely. The thermometer at 11 o'clock stood at 19° above zero.

The Otter will proceed to Sitka about the end of this week, calling at Queen Charlotte Island on her way up, should sufficient inducement offer.

The Prince of Wales will sail about to-day week for London. She will have a few passengers and a good freight.

HAY.—The steamer Fly, with a cargo of Spanish hay, grown near the Isles, arrived yesterday morning.

Australia.
NEW SOUTH WALES.
Sydney dates are to October 11th.
A flock of brown moths have been seen everywhere in the colony for the last week or two. It is feared that they will prove to be the harbinger of some destructive grub.

The French war steamer Primarut, from Sourabaya August 18th, arrived in Sydney on the 24th. She has been employed for the last three years on a surveying cruise, and, pending repairs, has come to the port for that purpose.

There is a great flood at Hay nearly as high as in 1852, and the river is still rising. A great many families are flooded out. At other places in the same direction the waters are said to be unusually high.

The Government were defeated in the Assembly on the motion for the second reading of their new land bill on October 22nd. There was a majority of 32 to 30 against the bill. Several members abstained from voting.

It is stated that the order of Masonry is very popular amongst the Chinese, and that there are many Mongolian members of the craft in the Braidwood district.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales was in session.

Sir John and Lady Young have been so much pressed by all classes of the community to stay and receive the Duke of Edinburgh, that they have determined to postpone their departure until the 24th of December.

A letter dated Sydney, October 25th, says: On Monday, the 25th inst., a deputation of gentlemen waited upon the Ministers for the purpose of urging upon the Government, through Mr. Byrnes, the necessity of filling in the Blackwattle swamp.

The works of the Australia Paper Company at Liverpool are completed and are found to work satisfactorily. The directors hope to be able to manufacture paper in about a fortnight.

An effort is being made to give a treat to the poor at Sydney in commemoration of the arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The news of the arrival of the Galates at Adelaide on the 30th instant, has been received in Sydney with very great satisfaction.

The Chinese Immigration Bill has been read a third time and passed in the Legislative Council.

GENERAL INTER-COLONIAL NEWS.
The following is collated from the Australian papers of October 31st:
The difficulty between the two houses of the Victorian Legislature with reference to the passing of the Appropriation Bill still continues. The Legislative Council have a second time rejected the bill, on account of its containing a grant of £20,000 to Lady Darling, wife of Sir C. Darling, late Governor of the colony. The Council have, however, intimated their willingness to give earnest and serious consideration to the grant, whenever the Assembly choose to send it up in such a manner as not to preclude their giving effect to their opinions upon it.

The works at the Graving Dock at Williamstown, Victoria, are progressing satisfactorily.

In the early part of the month there were some very heavy floods in the lower districts of Gippsland, Victoria; three men were drowned and much property destroyed.

It is intended to temporarily finish the front of the Parliament Houses at Melbourne in wood, and to illuminate it on the visit of Prince Alfred.

The members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly have passed a series of resolutions declaring the advisability of giving aid to the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies of that colony.

A terrific hurricane passed over Doyleston, Victoria, on the 4th ultimo; trees were uprooted, and several buildings blown down.

A telegram appears in the Courier from Rockhampton, dated September 21th, to the effect that a new rush had taken place to the Sugarloaf Mountains, near Roswood.

Within 16 years the two colonies of Victoria and New South Wales have produced a supply of gold amounting in value to £150,000 sterling, four-sixths of which have been the produce of Victoria alone.

Gold has been found on the sources of the Mary River, 60 miles from Maryborough, Queensland. Two hundred ounces of gold have been brought in. One man

working a profitable pursuit, has been discovered in the Burnett district, Queensland. The discovery was made by a working man.

The Nelson papers report that a large rush has occurred to a place called Mount Richmond, about 20 miles north of Westport. It was stated to be turning out well. Near Collingwood, very rich diggings have been discovered between Bedstead Gully and Slate River.

A new seam of coal three feet thick has been struck at Cape Patterson.

A gentleman in Ipswich received by the last mail a letter from Mr. Eckerley, M. P. from Wigan, and proprietor of an extensive cotton mill in Manchester, which states that the staple of Queensland cotton is so worn and broken in ginning as to render it too short to suit the machinery at present in general use, and that therefore very few mill owners feel disposed to purchase it.

It has been ascertained that the height of Mount Cook, on the West Coast of New Zealand, is 12,262 feet.

An experiment is being made to introduce trout into the New Zealand waters.

The association established at Hobartown for the purpose of securing the abolition of State aid to religion, has decided to publish a small monthly newspaper expressing its views on the subject, and to circulate 19,000 copies throughout the Colony.

Speaking of the introduction of South Sea Islanders into Queensland as laborers, the Brisbane Courier of October 22d remarks: The more thoroughly the South Sea Island labor question is ventilated, the more clearly does it appear that it is nothing more nor less than a system of slavery very similar to that which existed in America a century ago, except that up to the present time men only have been brought away from the Islands and they are under promise to be returned after serving a certain number of years to their Queensland masters. "The despatches and correspondence in connection with the introduction of South Sea Islanders into this colony," laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly last week, are singularly confirmatory of this fact, and therefore worthy of notice.

A vote of want of confidence in the Ministry (Victoria), moved by Mr. Robertson, had, after three days debate in the Legislative Assembly, been negatived by 31 to 21.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church was in session in Sydney.

The contest for the championship of New South Wales between William Hickey of Newcastle and Richard Green of Sydney—the former staking £120 to the latter's £100—took place on the 26th ult., and resulted in Hickey finishing about five boats' lengths ahead of his opponent. The fairness of the race is disputed, but no imputation is thrown on Hickey. The stakes have, however, been handed over. A new match is arranged between the men.

The 18th Royal Irish is the only regiment to be left in New Zealand, and it is to be stationed at Auckland.

Favorable intelligence continues to be received from the Cape Diggings, Northern Queensland. Gold is now being obtained in good paying quantities. There has lately been plenty of rain and provisions are said to be abundant.

The loss of sheep in the western districts of Victoria, in consequence of severe storms, has been very great of late.

The approaching departure of Sir George Grey from New Zealand seems to be viewed with very general regret throughout the Islands. Addresses have been presented to him from both Houses of Parliament of a character very far from being merely formal.

It is stated in the New Zealand newspapers that platinum has been discovered in the beach diggings at Jackson's Bay. Two ounces of the metal had been sold to a dealer in Hokitika. The digger stated that he could wash out from 6 to 8 ozs. per day.

Attention has lately been directed to

Silence is one of the negative virtues. The best capital to begin with—A capital wife.

When is a flea like a locomotive? When it goes over the sleepers.

When will the laundresses strike? When the iron's hot.

It is the lot of humanity to err at times, as the drunken man said when he missed the pigsty for his bed room.

Lord Lytton has written two new plays, and is looking for a manager.

\$100,000 is to be expended in furnishing a new hotel in Portland, Maine.

In Spain, out of a population of 15,673,000, according to the last census, 12,000,000 could neither read nor write.

Painting Prince Arthur's face with collodion has prevented any traces of the smallpox, with which he has been sick.

The Presse says that in the battle of Mentana the French troops began shooting when 1,000 metres distant from the enemy.

A Russian officer has invented an inexpensive apparatus for throwing light on objects under water, for the use of divers, etc.

Arrests have been made of the man who was intoxicated with success and the individual who was staggered by the result.

A traveler was induced to go into a cook shop by this inscription on the door: "Boiled at two pence a head." He was not a little disappointed by two courses of potatoes.

A Wisconsin paper, describing a large farm which the advertiser wants to sell, adds the following: "The surrounding country is most beautiful; also, two wagons and a yoke of steers of best quality."

When Orator Hunt (who was a blacking manufacturer) was in Parliament, the late Sir Robert Peel so far forgot himself as to taunt him with this fact, whereupon Hunt sarcastically replied: "The truth is, the honorable member is the first gentleman in his family, and I am the first tradesman in mine."

Temperate Habits of President Johnson—Letter from B. B. French.
The following letter from B. B. French is published in the Washington Intelligence, to the editor of which it was addressed:
WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 1867.
I have just read, with exceeding regret, a statement recently made by him, spoke of President Johnson as a drunkard. I feel it to be a duty that I owe not only to the President, but to the community, to say that probably no person has had a better opportunity, from April, 1865, to this time, to judge of the habits of the President than I have. As Commissioner of Public Buildings, duty required that I should visit the President's House almost daily, and no week passed when I did not have personal interviews with President Johnson. I have seen him at all hours of the day—in his office, in his sleeping room, in his reception room—and never have I seen him in the least under the influence of strong drink, nor did I ever see him taste any but once, and then, when in company with many gentlemen, at their urgent solicitation, he poured into a glass perhaps half a table-spoonful, and drank in company with the rest.

I was with him throughout his journey to Boston, and I saw him in places where intoxicating liquor was abundant; but he followed strictly the injunction, "Touch not, taste not, handle not," so far as my observation extended.

I sincerely believe Andrew Johnson to be as temperate a man in all his habits as any in the United States.

Hon. Mr. Price is not the only man who has been misled by false statements, as I well know from the questions that have been put to me when visiting New England friends.

Respectfully yours,
B. B. FRENCH.