

The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday, December 14 1870

Another Anniversary.

With the present edition commences the thirteenth volume of this journal. Twelve years ago today the first number of the third newspaper published on the British Pacific was issued, and now the *British Colonist* is a recognized power, a felt commercial and domestic necessity, a recognized institution in the land. It is not our present intention to inflict on the reader a history of the twelve years' struggle, or of the circumstances and influences which have raised this journal from the false and sickly position of a mere personal political organ to the higher, broader and more legitimate one of a newspaper, in the full and proper sense of the word. It is enough to know that such is the fact, that this journal is the organ of no party, faction, clique or individual, but that of the people, ever ready, without fear, favor or affection, to expose and denounce wrong-doing, oppression and injustice, whether in the private citizen, the public man, the Judge on the Bench, or the Governor himself. It may not be considered amiss to allude to the prominent part taken by this journal in regard to those great measures which so largely absorb public attention at the present moment. Confederation upon just and beneficial terms has found in it a consistent and staunch friend and advocate from first to last, through good report and through evil report; and it may, perhaps, be permitted to claim some little credit for being more or less instrumental in rescuing the measure from the fatal embrace of false and self-seeking friends. First in taking, alone in maintaining the position of the feasibility and necessity of the Canadian Pacific Railway as an immediate accompaniment of Confederation, it has been no little satisfaction to see that position meet with general recognition until now there is not an objector, scarcely a doubter in the land. Regarding the ancillary question of a Pacific terminus for the railway, this journal will continue, with firmness and trust dignity, to advocate the policy which, although it may for the moment prove unacceptable to some, because viewed through the mist exhaled by local self-interest and prejudice, cannot fail eventually to command the assent of the great body of the people who appear to us that it is of the very first importance for the colony and for the Dominion to build up a great and overshadowing commercial enterprise on the Pacific seaboard, and so essential does it appear to be that a highway looking across the two great oceans for traffic must seek the most eligible outlet which nature has placed within the reasonable compass of the financial and engineering capacity of the nation, that we feel confident the scheme under locating the terminus at Esquimaux will, in due time, extort universal acquiescence, and it does not command universal approbation. Perhaps in no period of the history of British institutions on the North Pacific has the possession of an independent and stable newspaper been more felt than at the present time, and we are well content to believe these qualities that the public recognize in this journal. In extending upon the thirtieth year of its existence, this journal may not justly claim to be unapproached in the colony as an efficient advertising medium. Viewed in the light of its long standing, the large circulation it has attained locally and especially beyond the immediate community in which it is published, and the prestige which seldom fails to attach to the oldest and most influential journal, business men cannot fail to see they do not fail to see the advantages presented by our columns as a medium through which most happily and effectively to reach the public eye. In conclusion, let it be remarked that it will continue to be the unremitting endeavor of the Proprietor to make his journal the most reliable and authoritative source of information to a fairly remunerative schedule of changes, to give full value to the subscriber and the advertiser, as well as to ensure stability and permanency to an institution of no little importance in these times of organic transition and political unrest.

The Terminus Squabble.

The following very sensible remarks are from the *Hamilton Spectator*, one of the most influential newspapers published in Ontario:

British Columbia, like ourselves, seems to be furnished with politicians of a peculiar kind, and as there is legitimately very little for them to do there under present circumstances, they have dropped into mischief, as it is the law of their being to do. One of the conditions which British Columbia insisted upon as necessary to her acceptance of Confederation was that a Pacific Railway should be constructed on British territory with a terminus upon the Pacific coast. The surveys of the road were to be completed in three years. Grave doubts existed in British Columbia as to whether that condition would be accepted by the Dominion Government. Mr. DeCosmos, a local politician actually insisted that it was quite unreasonable to expect its acceptance and urged that only the opening up of a wagon road should be demanded. The Dominion Government, however, readily agreed to the stipulation concerning the railway, and what is more, bound itself to complete the surveys within two years from the date of British Columbia's admission into the Confederation; and now this DeCosmos, who had no hope that the railway clause would be accepted by the Dominion Government, waste or pre-

tends to want a stipulation that the terminus of the Pacific Railway shall be at Esquimaux on Vancouver Island, at which place no doubt he and his friends have some very eligible corner lots. Now the place indicated may be the very best in the world for the terminus, but if so the premature advocacy of its claims is quite unnecessary; but however that may be it is obviously unreasonable to ask the Dominion Government to pledge itself to a particular spot for the terminus before the necessary surveys for the road have been made. There is ample time to consider the terminus question. We hope to see the Pacific road put through with vigor, once it is commenced, but it is not going to be built in a day, and Esquimaux will have abundant opportunity to present its claims before the question of the location of a terminus becomes of any practical importance. If the Dominion Government were to concede what DeCosmos asks, his next demand, no doubt, would be for an additional road so as to afford the advantages of a competing line. We are glad to see that even the people who favor Esquimaux as the terminus are not disposed to follow DeCosmos in his demand that it should be made a condition of accepting Confederation.

Sunday, Dec 11,

FROM THE NORTH WEST COAST.—The Otter arrived from the North on Saturday afternoon having visited all the Hudson Bay Co's stations on the coast. There had been some trouble among the Indians at Fort Simpson, and a white man named Spencer had been shot in the foot, but everything was quiet when the Otter left. The schooner Nanaimo Packet and sloop Native started from Fort Simpson for Victoria about the 30th Nov. The steamer California arrived at Tongass on the way to Sitka on the 27th. The Otter brought down thirteen miners from the Skeena. They had come through from Germanen creek and report very favorably of the prospects there. They brought a considerable amount of dust with them and they all intend returning in the Spring the same way. Twelve other miners are wintering on the coast and Mr. Dewdney and four or five others were expected in a few days. Passengers—Mr. Martin and family from Fort Rupert, Messrs Cunningham and Hankin from Fort Simpson, and Messrs Germanen, White, Davis, Bill Moore and 9 others from Skeena. A passenger by the Otter informs us that the liquor trade is very brisk along the coast. He attributes the shooting of Spence, Captain of the Yellow Lane, to the fact that he had sold Indians claret instead of whiskey. A visit from a gunboat is urgently demanded.

AUTUMN AND WINTER.—The study of the seasons is ever interesting and amply repays the student, who now learns that A. B. Gray, Government agent, has just received a large stock of Fall Goods, comprising Wincesy, Serges, Plaids, French Merinos, Waterproofs, Tweeds, Astrachan Cloths, Alpaca, Flannels, Blankets, Sheetings, Ladies' and Children's Jackets, Shawls, Hosiery, Silk Umbrellas, Hats, Feathers, Flowers, Ribbons, &c., &c., together with a choice selection of Fancy Small Wares suitable for the present season. (GOVERNMENT STREET, DECEMBER, 1870.)

SPORTSMEN, ATTENTION.—Peter Olver at the 4-mile House, Craigflower Road, will hold the first shooting match for fat geese, turkeys, and sucking pigs on Saturday next, 17th inst. Shooting will commence at 2 o'clock, flat, and a free lunch will be provided by Peter, whose generosity is as unbounded as his larder.

ANOTHER NIAGARA SUICIDE.—A lady, registering herself Mrs. Hill put up at the Spencer House, Niagara Falls, on the 19th of November. On the following morning she got up took breakfast, and, inquiring the way to the Falls, walked out. Going on to Goat Island Bridge, within about 50 yards of the edge of the American Falls, she climbed up the railing of the bridge and jumped in. Her correct name was afterwards ascertained to be Mrs. T. M. Avery, belonging to one of the best families in Chicago. No cause was assigned for the rash act.

THE PRICE OF BUTTER IN CANADA.—The retail price of fresh butter at Montreal is quoted at 33 to 35 cents a pound, and in explanation of the high price which has prevailed for some time back it is stated that Canada exports annually into the United States \$500,000 worth of butter and \$9,000,000 worth of cheese. The nine millions tell the story. The milk that goes into the cheese for export is taken away from the production of butter. In Boston fresh butter retails at 50 and 55 cents a pound.

DEATH OF A WHILOM BRITISH COLONIAN.—The *Ottawa Times* mentions the death of Mr. Frank Macdougall, a younger brother of the Hon. William Macdougall, O. B., late member of the Dominion Cabinet. Deceased was for several years a resident of British Columbia, being for some time employed at Messrs Moody, Davis & Nelson's mill, Burrard Inlet, where he was much respected.

HIS FIRST LOVE.—The *Ingersoll Chronicle* states that Sir Francis Brooke will be a candidate at the next election in South Oxford. Sir Francis sat for South Oxford during the many years of his active political life in Canada, and it is quite natural that he should now return to his 'first love,' where he will doubtless meet with a hearty welcome.

GERMANEN CREEK GOLD.—About \$8000 in Germanen creek gold was brought down on the Otter yesterday. Capt Wm Moore and son, well known on the Fraser, Mr. Germanen and a number of others were among the arrivals. About \$70,000 had been taken out by all hands down to October 26th.

THE GALA.—The furious gale of Friday night prostrated a number of fences and reduced to 'ramshires' a large barn belonging to W. P. Farron and standing upon one of his lots on Pandora street. Damage to shipping is feared.

OUR NEW ELDERADO.

ALL ABOUT GERMANEN CREEK, FROM ITS DISCOVERY.

Mr. James Germanen, the discoverer of the new diggings on the creek named after him, is an American, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota. He started for British Columbia by way of Fort Garry and Saskatchewan river in the spring of 1866, in company with Dancing Bill, Black Jack and Robt Lamont. They wintered at Saskatchewan, and in the spring of 1867 a party was organized who came through by way of Jasper House. They prospected the head waters of the Rocky Mountains, and found gold but not in paying quantities. They followed the Eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains by way of Skook, Porcupine and Labish rivers, tributaries of Peace river, arriving on Peace river at Fort McMurray, on the 7th September, 1867, where they wintered. Having brought down through the party here alighted them and subsisted on the meat; but for eight months they were without flour. They passed the winter trapping, meeting with poor success. In the spring of 1868 they reached the main Peace river and made about \$500 apiece at mining. Falling short of provisions, they came south to Quesnelmouth, where they wintered. In the spring of 1869 the party separated, and Mr. Germanen worked on a ranch at Deep creek. In the spring of 1870 he joined the rush for Peace river and reached Vitale creek on the 28th May. The ground on the creek was mostly located and many miners were leaving disgusted. Mr. Germanen at once began to prospect the surrounding hills and creeks, and on the 13th day of July he reached a large creek, a tributary of Omineca river, 72 miles from Vitale creek in an easterly direction. Here he got 25 cents to the pan, but an old miner, who made one of the party, declared there were no diggings there that would pay. The party then went back to Vitale creek, where Germanen got Jim May, Duncan McMartin and Peace River Smith to return to the creek. They got there on the 1st of August, and in the same hole in which Germanen got 25 cents to the pan, two dollars and a half to the pan were obtained. The gold was coarse. They then located their ground and named the creek after the discoverer. On the 14th August two of the party went back to Vitale and reported their good luck. An intense excitement sprang up at once—some men leaving the same night with lighted candles in broken bottles to pick their way over the trail. The next morning there were only four men left in the camp. At Omineca some of the party built rafts and floated down 60 miles to Germanen creek and took up claims. All was at once life and bustle at the new diggings. Nearly every man who went to work made money immediately. They winged lumber the creek and whipsawed lumber for sluices. The average yield was from half an ounce to \$100 a day to the man, and soon men whose week before had not a cent possessed heavy wags. Only about eighty miners went to work. Small lumps of silver are frequently found in the sluice-boxes. The largest piece found is worth \$300. Cold weather set in on the 24th of October, freezing the creek and retarding mining operations. Germanen, Davis, Smith, Hamilton, Simmons, Willson, Black Jack, White, Madder, Brown, Holliday and Reed came in company from Fairbairn, Minn., down the Skeena to Woodcock's store, where they stopped eight days and then went to Fort Simpson and awaited the arrival of the Otter. There was snow in places on the banks of the Skeena, but no ice. On the Babine Summit there were only about 8 inches of snow, and at the forks of Skeena there was no snow.

Mr. Germanen gave it as his opinion that 200 men will find diggings there next year that will pay from 1/2 an ounce to 3 ounces a day to the hand. The benches of Germanen creek have been prospected and show well. The appearance of the country is good. Mr. Germanen has been on several creeks in the vicinity and got gold on all. The country is not very heavily timbered with black pine. On Vitale creek two Frenchmen struck the lead on the bank and make 2 ounces per day to the hand. They will introduce hydraulics in the Spring. Several bars on Omineca river will pay from \$10 to an ounce per day, and a miner named Johnson says he has had good prospects on the Omineca, a large tributary of the Omineca. On a small branch of Findlay branch prospects of from 3 to 6 cents were found on the bars.

THE TELEGRAPH.—Superintendent Lamb sailed yesterday in the schooner Winged Racer for the broken cable, which will be taken up and repaired, meanwhile dispatches for the press and private parties will be received at San Juan and ferried across the Channel, which is seven miles wide, and then transmitted by wire to Victoria.

NEW LEGAL FIRM.—Mr. George Peakes and Mr. Edwin Johnson have formed a co-partnership as Attorneys-at-Law, Solicitors, Conveyancers and Notaries Public. Offices, Masonic Building. The new firm are worthy of public confidence.

THE HON GEORGE BROWN.—It is rumored in Canada that this distinguished politician is about to return to active public life and will contest South Brant, at present represented by Treasurer Wood, of Ontario.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY lunatics, with attendants, arrived at Toronto, Ontario, from Orillia, on the 18th Nov. en route to London, to be placed in the new Provincial asylum.

THE REAL ESTATE TAX.—His Excellency the Governor will meet a deputation of property holders at Government Buildings on Tuesday next at 11 o'clock a.m., with respect to the proposed enforced sale of real estate for taxes.

DANGEROUS.—The cover of a well on Humboldt street, lot 112, has caved and is now a dangerous mantrap.

Our French Letter.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE OF THE "COLONIST."

AMIENS, Nov 12.

Paris is determined not to allow the world to turn aside its gaze from her. It is all she asks in her misery, not to be forgotten in her adversity as she was ever remembered in her joy. Metz may surrender by famine or by treason—Verdon which in the bloody days of Vionville and Gravelotte was a name to conjure with—falls after nearly a two months siege, and the telegraphic account is even too long, so a barbaric is every one about Paris. Thionville and Montmedy, as full of provisions as an egg is of meat, must fall in due time falling external relief. No interest can be attracted there, no more than to Victor Emmanuel's entering Rome, or Castelar's prediction, that the paving stones in the streets of Madrid will shout *Vive la République* in case the Duc d'Acosta enters as King. Even Exeter Hall forgets his Holiness and Dr. Cumming's vials. The universe is absorbed by Paris.

And what is Paris doing? Rapidly approaching to the times of 1793, and it is not surprising to find that the price of a passage in a balloon has risen fifty per cent, despite the chances of being hunted by the Uhlans, and, if caught, sent before a Court-martial for aerially breaking the blockade. In expiating Paris would remain politically calm, her friends were but whistling before they were out of the wood. She has had a 'day,' and a serious one, and since it is only the first step which costs, those who know the capital best, could not predict that no more internal struggles will occur. Putting aside suburban defects, the disaster and the misunderstanding armistice, the burning question in the city is that of the *Commune*. The friends of order justly oppose it, the speculators of disorder advocate it. This institution had its origin in 1793, and was composed of delegates elected from the several quarters or wards of Paris. Instead of being a municipal body it became a political one, and controlled the affairs of the nation. It was the freest of parliaments. All were equals and brothers. There was no president; every member was such; the voting was free, but no one dared put his bulletin in the urn, without first publicly exhibiting it. If Trochu, Jules Favre, &c., conceded the establishment of such a body, they would be its first victims. Rochefort was the only advocate of the measure. The Committee of Defence would allow the election of Ward Mayors, and their adjoints, but nothing more. Floreus, Blanqui, Eyat & Co, seized the recent occasion when the people were excited about Metz and the armistice to carry the commune question, calculating upon audacity to be successful. The National Guards they commanded marched on the Hotel de Ville where the Government was deliberating and held the members of it prisoners. Followed by the crowd, a new Government was named. Tribian was objected to because he was an Italian but was retained to represent the 'universal Republic.' Rochefort endeavored to speak; he was insulted, told to be off, and finally was rescued by the reporters. He 'was a child of the people,' 'no you are an aristocrat.' He is a count by birth. When he alluded to the mission of Tuier, it was unanimously resolved to hang that statesman, Dorian, Minister of Public Safety, was proposed as President but it was objected to have any president—such violated the holy principles of equality. Victor Hugo, who desires no office, was as unpopular as Rochefort. The crowd subsequently made its way to the Council chamber, and burst upon the Cabinet like a mountain wave. Trochu sat pale and unmoved, Favre indignant and resolute. They refused to resign to force. The popular General Trochu addressed the voters as 'my children,' but the children gave him 'fire.' On resolving to send him at once before a Court-martial Garnier-Pages fainted, and to revive him it was proposed to throw him out of the window. Floreus arrived—dressed in the highest style of theatrical military art—smelling of musk and incense. He is wealthy—thanks to his mother. He mounted on the Council table and harangued the mob, and called on Trochu to resign. In drawing up his list of the new cabinet the name of Gambon was included. This is a small farmer, had who some time last spring refused to pay taxes, the better to overthrow Napoleon, his only cow was seized by the tax gatherers, and since then he and his cow, to use the expression of a journal—'are model patriots.' Picard, a member of the government, escaped in the row, and to his energy Paris—France, has been rescued from anarchy. He at once had the National Guards called under arms—protected the telegraph office, printing establishments, &c. One of the proposed members of the new cabinet called on Picard and demanded at once fifteen millions of money, as the country was in danger. He was invited to enter a room, and write his request and while doing so was quietly locked in and the gas turned off. Trochu and his colleagues were kept in their chairs by rifles levelled at their heads. Ultimately some Mobiles and National Guards arrived; liberated Trochu, on condition of the rioters being let off with fire. The Governor of Paris at last, order was secured.

After such an outrage nothing was left to wipe it out but to take a vote of confidence among the citizens as to the government holding on. Rochefort disgusted with his reception by the Sovereign People would have no more to do with them or the Committee of National Defence. He has disappeared and the most active searches cannot discover his whereabouts. Thus the popular idols of yesterday are commencing to be smashed. The confidence vote gave Favre, Trochu etc., one. But the minority mustered 62,000—a very ominous total—representing the forces of the Socialists—the future Reds, who can calculate upon the recruits from the corridors of the capital, the young men under 21, the market women, etc.—the two latter classes being the terrorists of every revolution. The Byzantine fight has commenced—will the Prussians be entitled to enter and put it down? This may account for the delay in the bombardment.

Among my letters just received by balloon post I have three posted in the early days of September last and marked *presse* (immediate). Apart from the attempt at revolution, the *Commune* is becoming pressing, that Trochu should do something with his great army, before it has to take to short commons. He feels the national guard is not yet ripe for the field, undoubtedly the officers still play at soldiering a good deal. Besides, when he makes a sortie with 100,000 men the carnage must be fearful, and when dead and wounded husbands, brothers and sons are brought into Paris, it is uncertain how the excitement may be worked upon. I would not like to be in Gen Trochu's shoes. The reopening of the theaters, under difficulties, has not succeeded in killing the *Commune* which is gnawing Parisian life. It is very curious, that a fashion has set in to go to church, admire the music, and sit out patriotic sermons. The making of collections in the sacred edifices by the pretty popular actresses, who have ceased to be cantatrices, may go a little in the way of explanation. The Courts of Law have been duly opened, but not 20 barristers put in an appearance, and not even a Jarrydoy v Jarrydoy case came down for hearing. The supply of fresh meat has been increased by the free permission granted to hunt the swarms of rats in the city sewers, and these Chinese delicacies may be observed in shops hanging up in bunches like pheasants or squirrels. Dogs and cats contribute to ward off starvation, and one of the sights of Paris is a butcher's shop on the Boulevard Rochechouart, where the pets are 'laid out,' in all the loveliness of death, shrouded in scolloped paper or smothered in garlands of flowers or evergreens. The tenants of the Zoological Gardens are contributing to the new gastronomic tastes of the time, and the bears, fox, which require fresh meat daily, are to be slaughtered. *Sic transit gloria mundi*.

Yesterday a balloon started from Rouen with a mail for Paris. Amiens has the celebrated one in which Gambetta escaped, which is to set out for the same destination, but the continuous snow shows its present departure. In the meantime the Tours Government undertakes to send—but not to deliver—dispatches for Paris for five francs the way words, by 'pigeon express.' The dispatches are first printed on a large sheet of paper and then reduced by photographic agencies, tied to the pigeon and magnified etc., on arrival. The heavy weather now existing is not favorable to ballooning and since the Prussians intend to deal harshly with any aeronauts they catch, they have seven already—the balloon mails will be fewer for the future. It is better to remain in Paris than in a German fortress.

The military situation is not cheering. The armies that France has unquestionably some where, ought by this to put in an appearance if they are to 'work in' with Trochu. Discipline is being severely carried out and the slightest insubordination in the ranks is punished with death. A great many military excursions have already taken place, the war goes on fiercely. The people, while desiring peace, are becoming sulky towards the invaders, reckless by the exactions of the enemy, and the demands by their own Government. The *trois en masse* has brought heads of families what the way is. 'Up to forty years of age' all men must serve. Home is thus made desolate and the sources of livelihood destroyed. Rumor states that men beyond 40, and between 17 and 20 may be also wanted. The country is beginning to have a wild look, and people to ask, when and how is all this to end? The farmers have to bring their horses into the stables to the authorities to select such as are suited for artillery and cavalry purposes—of course the ones taken are paid for. The note of preparation for France, and the Garibaldi banners are everywhere heard. Universal Republic in the east. But the Germans do not stand in awe of the eccentric Italian, and Von Moltke ignores him. Bismarck has failed to clear himself of the charge of treason launched against him by Gambetta. The evidence is clear and decisive that he sacrificed the army under his command to further political intrigues, wherein he would have the lions share of the spoils. If he enters France, that made him great, and which he betrayed, he knows his fate now. His own officers, from generals to lieutenants, has furnished the damning proofs to his guilt. Amiens is again in a terrible state, expecting Manteuffel and his detachments from Metz. The people are still in the fighting mood, and will give back blow for blow, unless the terms of surrender accepted by the town of Dijon become fashionable, viz. depositing a few millions as a security for good behavior, and to surrender all warlike weapons until peace arrives. The Society here for insuring houses against shells at extra risks have not lowered its rate of premium—a bad sign for peace.

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By Electric Telegraph.

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

Europe.

LONDON, Dec 4.—Granville's reply to Gortzshakoff was sent on the 29th of Nov. He says he has nothing to add to his interpretation of international law already made. He is aware that suggestions to Congress to settle other eastern questions may not be adopted if Russia has formed her opinion without intending acting without consulting other powers. The controversy is entirely closed and Russia's invitation to hold a conference is accepted without a foregone conclusion as to the result.

BREITENBURG, Dec 3.—The bombardment began on Saturday night.

The French before Meenue were reinforced on Friday and fought Treskov's division. They took 9 guns and 1,800 prisoners, including one General and 2 officers.

TOURS, Dec 4.—The Prussians have recaptured Normandy, Willonville and Neuville.

It is reported that there was heavy fighting yesterday.

The Pontifical Zouaves lost three-fourths of their battalions.

LYONS, Dec 4.—There was fighting all Saturday between Aisan and Arny-le-Duct. General Cremer is actively pursuing the enemy.

LONDON, Dec 3.—The Saxon losses from the 30th Nov to the 21 Dec. is about 1,800. Poor regiments No. 104, 106, 108, 115 lost 15 officers killed and 63 wounded. The number of French prisoners taken amounts to 3,000.

A despatch from before Paris dated Sunday night says that there has been no further attempt to attack the Prussian lines.

LONDON, Dec 2.—The Duke of Mecklenburg makes the following report: Yesterday morning a battle commenced near Bierschles Hantes. After a hot fight the 15th army corps was defeated and driven back to Arthenay. The 16th French army corps was driven beyond Soigny. Several hundred prisoners and 11 guns were taken. The enemy's