

Mr M Bate's Career-His claims to the Mayoralty

To-morrow the first election of Mayor and Councillors for this city will take place. The event brings up many reminiscences of the past, and carries us back to the days when nine tenths of the people of Nanaimo, in public meeting at the Institute on the 11th day of April 1866, declared in terms most unmistakable, that they were prepared for the introduction of Municipal government. The opposition, led by Mr. Bate were about fourteen in number, and it may seem, an object of inquiring to strangers, or those whose knowledge of Nanaimo does not extend back for a period of nine years' how such a small number could defeat 170. To such inquirers if any, we would intimate, that at that time there was no general Municipality Act for the whole Colony as at present. At that time we had to get a special Incorporation bill passed through the Legislative Council. While it was before that body Messrs. Bate & Co., started a petition against the passage of the bill. This petition they circulated secretly, and by misrepresenting its object, obtained a large number of signatures, to which were added a large number of mythical men, dead men, and men living in distant countries, these Hiawathas, were pitted against real living hardworking, progressive men, and the government at Victoria at that time being inclined to extreme centralization disallowed the bill, and the people were defeated. Peck, Bate and Co., had a mock funeral, and buried the bill, making the funeral services of the Church a subject for ridicule & buffonery. they were told at the meeting on the night of the 11th of April 1866, that the bill was not dead but that it slept: and tomorrow we will see some of the fruits of its resuscitation.

WHAT WE HAVE LOST,

We will now take a retrospective view and consider what might have been gained for Nanaimo by those who fought her early battles for Municipal Government, had they been successful. In the first place, had we been a municipality nine years ago, there can be no doubt but we would have been allowed 2 Members in the local Legislature under the Municipal Constitution, one for the city and one for the district, and in the second place we would have had one Member in the Commons of Canada, the same as New Westminster, by our defeat on that occasion those political advantages have been lost, the first for years: the second it may be for generations, these are prizes that in other countries people value and sometimes fight for.

OTHER LOSSES.

In addition to this loss of political caste or status, let us consider the loss of revenue that has been drawn from the

town, during those ten years, and expended in other parts of the country, a loss that cannot be estimated at less than \$25,000, a sum which if it had been judiciously expended on our streets, would have placed them in a condition that would have impressed upon strangers visiting our town, that we were not entirely beyond the pale of civilization, as they frequently with a taunt assert we are at present: Another backward look and then we come to the times in which we are living, moving, acting, Nine years ago there was no Wellington Mine, Harwood had or was about changing its proprietary and was entering upon that long sleep, from which enterprise [is now] bidding it to awake and yield up its treasures, real estate at that time was almost worthless, men or industry and energy were leaving the town for different parts of the world, unless workmen swallowed the company's pill, or run in the groove which they marked out for them they were obliged to leave for other parts: Bellingham Bay, Coos Bay, Mount Diablo, Gabriolo Island, and Comox received a share of those who had sinned against the Company.

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, but men decay;
Princes and Lords may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them as a breath has made;
But a brave peasantry--a country's pride
When once removed, can never be supplied;
Except the causes pass away.

The opening of the Wellington Mine and now the starting of Harwood have run property into its former value and has more than doubled the population in three years and the Miner Mechanic, or laborer, can now if a good man, if discharged from one, readily find employment in one of the others, and men breathe freer, and make life more cheerful, and happy-

For those advantages, no thanks are due to the V. C. Co., or their little man; no had it not been for those outside enterprises we have named, what would Nanaimo be to-day, its condition might have been described as follows, viz, 20 miners (20 runners, 10 outside labourers, all Chinamen) 1 carpenter, 1 blacksmith, 1 machinist, 1 locomotive driver, 1 team, half-a-dozen indians and two managers, at good salaries. Outside of the Company there would have been say two stores, two saloons, and one bakery half employed outside of the Company's works. There would have been no blacksmith shop, or blacksmith, no carpenter or carpenter shop, no tin shops, or tinsmith, no shoe shop, or shoemakers no tailors, bakers, or mantle makers, no steam or water mills, no brewery from which to quench a