

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

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The Dominion Estimates.

We stated last week we should return to this subject, as it is of primary importance at present to show the solid foundation on which the Dominion finances rest, and the reasonable expectations the Government have of collecting their anticipated revenue, and thus of performing all promises they may make to others and ourselves. In our last article, we gave the total expenditure and revenue, which, we estimated, would exhibit not only creditable to the new system, but indicative of its final success. Mr Rose is either right or wrong in his calculations, and it will, therefore, be most satisfactory perhaps to let him speak for himself upon the Dominion revenue and taxation, for those people at a distance can best judge how far reason is on his side. He says: "The way in which the Dominion stock had been taken up by the country, exhibits very gratifying features. There were 62 tenders under par, and 145 at and above par. The most gratifying feature connected with the distribution of the stock was that it was not taken up by speculators and capitalists, but was diffused over the whole country in small sums held by trustees and executors, charitable institutions, and by individuals who thus invested their small savings. It had been the object of giving the public a large interest in the permanency and stability of the institutions of the country. We regarded the balance of the sum which had gone in diminution of the floating debt, that raised by the sale of securities of the Dominion or of Nova Scotia bonds, sold as such, it was gratifying to know that this first financial operation of the Dominion had been very successful. With regard to the portion of the floating debt which still existed, the anticipated that it would very soon be discharged by the receipts from the various sources which he had indicated in December, which could be realized gradually and without disturbance to the commercial interests of the country. Some progress had been made in the negotiations with the Great Western Railway for realizing the considerable indebtedness of that corporation. There had been, with a similar view, both legislative and executive action on the indebtedness of the Bank of Upper Canada. There was a measure now before the House which would put Government in possession of considerable sums as deposits from insurance companies. A considerable sum would also be realized by the post office savings banks. The Government so far had confined themselves to establishing the post office savings banks, and still they had some practical experience of these, deferred establishing the proposed Government savings banks. He was informed that a feeling existed to some degree in the country, that the Government was taking possession of too large an amount of money, which was needed for the commerce of the country. This was not the case. He could assure the House the Government would watch anxiously and vigilantly the effect which any of their operations would have in withdrawing from the banking institutions and commercial interests of the country that capital which was needed to carry on their operations. There had been very little withdrawn as yet. Very little of the money invested in Dominion stock could be looked upon as so withdrawn, and the small savings deposited in savings banks would have, in fact, and unproductive if not so invested. The insurance deposits would not be withdrawn from the commercial deposits of the country. On the contrary, the greater portion of the money would come from abroad. In speaking of the fiscal relations of the Dominion with the Confederate Provinces, we should have had glad, had we room, to review them all, serious, but we must content ourselves with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and as public attention has been more particularly directed to the former, it will be best from Mr Rose's statement that she has really no substantial ground for complaint. On this point he says: "He now came to explain the fiscal relations between the Dominion and the various Provinces. The debt of Nova Scotia on 1st July last was \$7,435,285, being \$684,715 less than the debt of eight millions with which it was entitled to enter

the Union, but beyond this it was found that its obligations amounted to a very considerable sum in excess of the eight millions, being no less than \$1,292,545, making the total present debt of that Province \$9,292,545. Under the terms of the Union Act, the Dominion became responsible for all the engagements of the Provinces, no matter whether they exceeded or not the amount of debt with which they entered the Union. To meet the engagements of Nova Scotia the Dominion had raised cash or otherwise provided a sum of \$3,019,628 since the first of July last. The receipts from that Province in the same time were \$1,159,288, showing an excess of payments over receipts of \$661,933. (Hear, hear.) He mentioned this not with any sectional object, but merely as a matter of account. The debt of New Brunswick at the time of the Union was \$5,923,422, leaving a balance of \$1,076,578 to make its quota of seven millions of debt with which it was entitled to enter the Union, but the estimated excess of its engagements beyond the seven millions which had to be provided for by the Dominion was \$792,719. It follows therefore that the amount altogether which the Dominion had to finance for to make good the obligation of that Province was \$2,768,859, which had to be met in cash or in short dates, and was now in course of payment. The receipts from New Brunswick in the same time were \$760,668, which with the cash on hand at the time of the Union made a total of \$1,036,216, showing an excess of payment on behalf of the Province over the receipts of \$837,730. (Hear, hear.) The Dominion had thus to provide the means of meeting obligations on the part of these two Provinces to the amount of \$8,148,486. The best division of Mr Rose's speech is devoted to the consideration of the interprovincial railroad; the reduction of the present Civil Service List, which was large; the Militia, Public Works, Customs, Excise, Emigration, Fisheries, American Reciprocity, and the necessity of retrenchment so as to avoid the imposition of new taxes, in order that the policy of the Dominion may be thoroughly understood by those Provinces not yet entirely reconciled to union and that they might see the just and paternal character of the Government. On all these questions the statement given is plain, reasonable, statesmanlike, and satisfactory. The conclusion of the speech shows two things worth noting, first, that the Government intend to do everything to conciliate the opposing element, that can be justly done; second, that the assertion so often expressed that the people of the Dominion were laboring under a load of debt which would eventually crush them, is false. In fact, it turns out, the amount per head, admitting the difference in population, is far less in Canada than in any of the Australian colonies. The facts given are opposite to those put forth by the enemies of the Dominion, that in order to silence their misrepresentations and misapprehensions for ever, we are induced to give the conclusion in full. If, said Mr. Rose, in simple and truthful eloquence we worked together in harmony, we could not, in this union, if we developed the resources of all the Provinces, there could be no doubt as to what was in store for us in the future. He did not allude to these satisfactory features of their position in order to offer any encouragement to extravagant expenditure. On the contrary, he thought whatever Government might be in power, the people would demand a careful and economical administration of public affairs. He thought the present Government could not fairly be accused of any other than a desire to confine expenditure within the smallest possible limits, and to promote by every means in its power the public weal. (Hear.) He then referred to statements of opinion made respecting the load of debt this country had to support, and pointed out that the people of New Zealand had \$6 per head; Queensland, \$4 97; New South Wales, \$3 21; Victoria, \$2 88; South Australia, \$2 16; Tasmania, \$1 51; while in Canada it was only \$1 12. He also compared the amount of taxation here and in New York, arguing from figures supplied by the Finance Committee of the Albany Convention, that State taxation there was \$45 a year per head as against \$5 in Canada, and the proportion of national debt, \$158 as against \$23 in Canada. The hon. gentleman concluded by an appeal to Nova Scotia members. The policy of the Government had been framed with a view to remove any injustice that Dominion may have suffered, and the treated that policy would convince them that their interests would be regarded and that their voice and their remonstrances would be heard in that House. In the last words of one who had passed from them, they would shape their policy with the view to conquer them with kindness. (Cheers.)

of the latter had much to do in forming the policy of the century that has passed; the contest of the former, in the same way, will have much to do in shaping the policy of the century to come; nor is the similarity of the position of the leaders of the past and present generations less remarkable in minor respects. We have, however, to deal with the living, the present and the future, and the question most interesting to ourselves and those who, in the course of nature follow us, is, which of the two will triumph finally in the desperate struggle now going on? The present position of Mr. D'Israeli is like that of many brilliant men of undoubted intellectual power and attainments whose real effectiveness ceases on becoming an absolute leader. None of the principal English journals attempt to deny or palliate in earnest the mistake he has made in dragging the Queen's name into the contest upon the Irish Church, and declaring that his own policy had been and would be, and the policy of the House of Commons ought to be governed by the expressed wishes of the Monarch. The many a Premier of England, who would thus violate the constitutional rule of the country by attempting to coerce the debates of Parliament by the expressed wishes of the Monarch, attempts what is wrong, what is impossible, and upon the face of the assertion, seeks the revival of practices that have perished forever. We can scarcely imagine a man so able and experienced as the present Premier, ruining a life's reward by a moment's vanity. Yet so it is. Such was the anger created by Mr. D'Israeli's words, and the concurrent threat of the Duke of Richmond, that if the Commons behaved badly, Parliament should be dissolved, that the tone and temper of the following sittings are described as resembling a coal-pit conflagration at one time, and a geyser's explosion at another. Nor can we wonder. Such a declaration is a relapse or retrogression in the working of the constitutional rule which ought not to be sanctioned except in cases of the greatest importance or danger. The country suffered enough in earlier times by threatening the House with the dissolution of the Crown and the proscription not to be repeated with impunity in this age. It has been truly said that the system lost us America actually, its loss, as Ireland morally; and that the mass of the people and some of the most valuable institutions of the country. Happily, it has been known as yet in the present reign; but we live in times when over the appearance of its renewal in the slightest degree would be fraught with evils and dangers greater than those which would have been produced in former times from the same cause multiplied tenfold. But the position of the Premier suffers again, perhaps in a larger degree, by the supposition publicly expressed that the monarch might not have acted as insinuated, for he believes her whole life to be and the great, and probably the last Conservative Premier in the hour of triumph, powerless and beaten, with no other alternative to choose but folly or falsehood. Mr. Gladstone stands by and in the majesty of his power turns all this to advantage but remains calm, moderate and cautious. He sees with instinctive quickness that if he were to force the expulsion of the Ministry from office, by moving a vote of want of confidence, as urged by some of the less prudent of his party, he could not separate the Queen's name from the issue, or avoid events which would be most calamitous at present, both to the country and his own policy. Some think he hesitates from timidity; but that cannot be, for such a motive is unknown in his career. All but his most violent opponents give him credit for true loyalty and patriotism in his present attitude and forbearance. To us, it appears, Mr. Gladstone is quietly biding his time, to return to the position, he of all men now is alone capable of filling. By acting as he has done, Mr. D'Israeli has hurt himself, and the Conservative party beyond redemption. The Whist, Mr. Gladstone remains what he is, no other man, in his day, can long be leader of the House of Commons, or the representative of the Government. Since the early days of Pitt, no man, except perhaps Sir Robert Peel, has proved himself so capable or become so powerful. Taken altogether, the disestablishment of the Irish Church is an epoch in our history, though only incident to the progress of ideas and parties of the present day; and we thoroughly agree with the Spectator, in regarding Mr. Gladstone as the man of England; and that since the emancipation of our West Indian slaves, the cause of true freedom has had no such triumphs in our country as under his guidance.

CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.—The picnic on Saturday, given by this Society, was certainly the best attended and most successful of the season. It was wisely held, on the beautiful grounds of J. D. Pemberton, Esq., and in the afternoon there must have been over 300 people assembled, old and young, together. About 1 o'clock, Mr. Russell, the President attended by the gentlemen selected to assist him in the opening ceremonies, was escorted to the platform by Captain J. McKay, of the Favorite, playing a Scotch national air upon the bagpipes. The platform was occupied by the President, Dr. Tolmie, Rev. Thomas Somerville, and Mr. Legh Harriet. The President's opening address was exceedingly appropriate, and that of Mr. Somerville's in his "most happy and amusing style, but sufficiently earnest and national to be impressive." Dr. Tolmie followed, and Mr. Harriet closed this part of the proceedings. Mr. Somerville and Mr. Harriet, both, drew attention to the prominent and important part taken by Alexander Hamilton, a son of a Scotchman, in the formation of the American Government and its Constitution; and after illustrating how the Scotch mind, by its capacity, energy and frankness had influenced the world for good in all countries, they brought to bear upon the principal transactions of both public and private life. The speakers were well received and heartily applauded. After this the general amusements commenced, and a more hearty day's pleasure was not often enjoyed on the island. The Scotch reel, to music by the bagpipes, drew forth dancing capacity of several ladies, whose powers would yet shame many of our modern belles, however active they may be on the "light fantastic" and elicited the warmest praise. "Archery, football, racing, jumping, and other athletic games were vigorously pursued." The following is a list of winners: Running race, 150 yards, William Tolmie; do 250 yards, Wm. Reynolds; Running Leap, McCallum; Quoits, Messrs. McDougall and Allist; Hop, Step and Leap, Wm. Robertson; Hurdle Race, Wm. Tolmie; Race for 687s, B. Derham; Tossing the Caber, Alex. Young. Neither were the joys of childhood forgotten, the platform several times having been given up to the little children, whose dancing in the "polka and waltz" was one of the brightest features of the day. The "victualing department" was under the able management of Piper of Government street, whose ice-creams and good dinner gave entire satisfaction. The best of liquors were dispensed by Mr. Robertson. The arrangements all through reflected credit on the management. It was after ten o'clock at night before the party broke up, taking away with them the recollections of a day which will make its anniversary cherished and eagerly anticipated.

FOURTH OF JULY AT PORT TOWNSEND.—The residents of Port Townsend celebrated the anniversary of their country's natal day most enthusiastically. Committees were formed several weeks previous and invitations were extended to Victoria and various ports on the Sound. About one hundred and fifty persons—Britishers, Germans, French, and others, as well as Americans, left this city by the Enterprise on Saturday morning at 8 o'clock and took part in the ceremony which mainly consisted of a procession, firing of salutes, an oration delivered by Mr. Gerould, a large picnic, free to all, a horse race on the principal street, fire works, and a ball given at the Masonic Hall, in the evening. Our Victorian visitors speak kindly of the handsome manner in which they were received by the people of the place. The presence of the U.S. flagship Pensacola in the harbor, and also of the cutter Jos Lane, added additional interest to the day. The use of the band from the flagship was kindly given by Rear Admiral Thatcher. The Enterprise, after entering Port Townsend harbor, steamed around the point, where she was given and the crew manned the yards in compliment of the visitors, who returned here at half-past ten yesterday morning, making a nice run over in less than three hours.

ALARM OF FIRE.—Yesterday afternoon an alarm of fire was raised, and the Department was soon on the spot, but before any water was thrown the blaze was quenched by neighbors around St. John's St. The premises of Mr. Raggan, the coffee merchant, were the cause of the alarm. A squad of men were sent ashore by Commander Lavelle, of the gunboat Retard, to assist in the event of their services being required, and we should have added in the report of the fire on the Esquimalt road, in yesterday morning's paper, that the same gentleman with much alacrity sent a force of his men with six buckets to the place mentioned. Such occurrences, together with similar surprises, which may at any time happen, ought to be a reason sufficient to keep a gunboat constantly in our harbor.

THE LATE HON. THOMAS D'ANOR MCGEE.—We are pleased to learn that a petition to the Government is now in course of signature amongst the Irish members of the House of Commons, praying that a vote of money may be made out of the Royal Bazaar Fund to the surviving sister of the late Mr. McGee. By the assassination of her brother—who was her sole support for years past—and as he has been rendered entirely destitute, and as it will be a graceful act on the part of the Government to make the grant we have no doubt that a favorable answer will be at once returned to the petition. We believe the amount will be £100 per annum. Irish Paper.

THE SAN JUAN CABLE.—Superintendents Haines and Lamb left Saturday to repair the San Juan Cable. The steamer Emily Harris and the Telegraph Co's propeller Ezzie Horner arrived from the Sound on Saturday, and were taken out with the necessary material for the purpose.

THE SHIP AID.—Mr. Alfred Fellows, of this city, purchased the bark Aid at Uxalady, W. T., on the 30th, for the sum of \$6000—sold by order of the U.S. District Court Marshal.

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