

Semi-Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday, September 15, 1869

Agrarian Reform.

In writing upon this subject, a few days ago, our remarks were chiefly directed to the evil of permitting the agricultural lands of the country to fall into the hands of speculators. Our present purpose is to deal with the land system, and point out some improvements therein needed. Legislation on this subject itself would present an interesting study. The singular tenacity with which the Government has held on to the land, relaxing year by year little by little, proves how utter a stranger it is to the true use of land...

Kine Nuisance.

WHILEST the Colonist is hesitating so long on the subject of the Pound Law I have their attention and that of a nuisance connected with not yet been mentioned. I mean the nuisance of their bellies, families, especially which children, the above named nuisance is positively intolerable...

R. W.

It must be a source of gratification to you, after years of study and toil, to see your efforts and know his labors are peculiarly the case with Dr. Walker's system which is composed of purely vegetable, and induces beautiful slumber without the use of any narcotic...

Democracy in Trouble.

The Democratic party in the Pacific States appears to be fearfully exercised over the Chinese question at the present moment. The Democrats are indeed inconsistency personified. Constituting a large party of a great nation inscribing upon its banner "All men were born free and equal," they appear determined to give the lie to their national motto. According to their creed the negro is only fit to be a slave, and the Asiatic is unfit to enter the United States...

Savings Deposits.

Perhaps no better gauge of the thrift, indeed the prosperity of a country, can be found than in the amount of its deposits in institutions for the savings of the masses. Applying this test to Canada the country, although comparatively new and its savings institutions of recent date, it would appear to have made considerable progress in this respect...

A Brawl named Harrigan.

A BRAWL named Harrigan, late a fire man on board the steamship Fideliter, became drunk and disorderly, and when approached by officer Raffit "buted" him in the face with his head. The prisoner was fined \$20 for assaulting the officer and five shillings for being drunk and disorderly.

Whaling.

The Howe Sound Whaling Company have secured two whales lately and tried the blubber out. Several other whales were struck, but got away.

Laid.

The short cable between Lopez and San Juan Islands was laid yesterday and the wires are now working in all directions.

The Governor at New Westminster.

It is already known that his Excellency Governor Musgrave arrived at New Westminster on Tuesday last, where, as might well be supposed, he received a very hearty welcome. The address presented to his Excellency by the Municipal Council was published yesterday. In another column will be found his Excellency's reply to it, as well as the Warden's address and the Governor's reply thereto. We may be permitted to remark that the addresses are everywhere creditable to the community, and that the replies they drew forth cannot but have proved gratifying and satisfactory to the loyal people of New Westminster...

The Langford Lake Mystery.

The finding of the hideous evidences of murder—the deliberate, cold-blooded slaughter of an unarmed and unsuspecting traveler—laid in wait for at the edge of a lonely wood, and shot down from behind by a stealthy assassin—adds another page to the long and fearful record of mysterious assassinations that have occurred in this Colony during the past eleven years, and of the perpetrators of which no clue has ever been obtained...

The Government Assay Office.

ENTER THE BRITISH COLONIST.—In your issue of the 10th I notice an article on the Government Assay Office, in which it is stated that the amount assayed there during the year was 13,725 32-100 ounces. At \$16 per ounce this would amount to \$219,605.12, the charges on which, at 1/2 of 1 per cent, which believe is the Government rate for assaying, comes to \$549, rather more than enough to cover one month's salaries and expenses. Being rather astonished at the result of these figures I took the trouble of making some further enquiry on the subject and ascertained that the amount of bars shipped during the same period was \$1,780,587 which, deducting the \$219,605.12 done at New Westminster, shows \$1,560,982 assayed by the Bank of British North America, being rather more than seven times the amount treated at the Government Office. The fact of the matter is that the Government Assay Office is and has been a perpetual drain on the resources of the Colony from its commencement ten years ago, and ought to have been closed long since had the interest of the community been consulted. Originally started with a staff of four employees, it was reduced to two six years ago and has been allowed to linger on ever since at a heavy expense to the country, owing to the supineness and indifference of those in authority. Now that our new Governor has arrived, let us hope that among other abuses this crying one will be fairly looked into, and that at the ensuing session some of our popular members will obtain a statement of the cost of this office to the Colony from its commencement, and if the result does not fairly startle your readers, I for one shall be greatly surprised. The suggestion in your article about the establishment of a branch office at Cariboo tending to improve matters, is, with due respect to the writer, simply nonsense; on the contrary, it is only increasing the expense without a possibility of adequate rates; the freight on the material alone is a total bar to the successful operation of an Assay Office at Cariboo.

Exports.

Per H B Co's bark Lady Lamson, 333,645 feet of lumber; consigned to Messrs W Gibbs & Co, Valparaiso, and 3 cases of personal effects for J J Southgate, London. The steamer Enterprise on Saturday towed the Lamson from Sooke into the Straits and there cast her off.

Deserters.

Two deserters from H M S Charlydis were arrested yesterday upon a charge of attempting to desert. They were caught in citizens' clothes while bargaining for the hire of a boat to carry them to Port Townsend. They were given up to their officers.

New Westminster Addresses.

The following is the Governor's reply to the address presented by the Municipal Council:

GENTLEMEN, It is very gratifying to me to receive so kind an expression of welcome to the colony for myself and family on this occasion of my first visit to the chief town on the mainland. I have sought with eagerness the earliest opportunity after my arrival to become personally acquainted with New Westminster and the settlements inland, which I propose to visit before my return to Victoria; and I am so much pleased with what I have seen that I hope to be able frequently to renew our intercourse. Any success which you are good enough to attribute to my administration of affairs in other places sprung from the ready co-operation of those with whom I worked for the community which you sought to serve. I will not permit myself to doubt that with a like good understanding, and the same support and confidence which has been afforded to me elsewhere, we, too, may achieve some improvement in the affairs of a noble country of which the natural advantages are so great as those of this united colony. It is my personal opinion that British interests would be consolidated and perpetuated by the union of all the British provinces in North America, and I willingly would aid in bringing about such a result; but my acquaintance with the affairs of the colony is yet too limited for me to pretend to know what practical difficulties may be in the way of accomplishing such a design. You may however be assured that the subject will obtain my most careful attention. If, during my residence among you, I should be successful in promoting the interests of the colony as I earnestly desire to do, the period will certainly be among the happiest of my life, and it commences most pleasantly with the kind welcome which has been tendered to my family and myself.

ADDRESS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

To His Excellency Anthony Musgrave, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Columbia and its Dependencies, Vice Admiral and Ordinary of the same, etc., etc. May it please your Excellency, We, the officers and members of the Fire Department of New Westminster, beg most heartily to congratulate your Excellency upon your safe arrival in this colony, and to extend to you a cordial welcome to this the chief city of the Mainland.

In approaching your Excellency as citizens, as well as members of an organization, we would wish to express the hope that in your Excellency we may find a warm supporter of this Department; and to assure you that our most ardent efforts will at all times be used to merit the approval both of the public and of your Excellency.

- We have the honor to be, your Excellency's obt. servants, Wm. Johnston, Chief Engineer, J. S. Clute, Assistant Engineer, Wm. Fisher, (per Wm Johnston) Captain, Thos. Walsh, First Lieutenant, Wm. Vienna, Second Lieutenant, Hugh Burr, Secretary, W. J. Armstrong, Treasurer.

REPLY.

Gentlemen,—I thank you for your congratulations upon my arrival in the colony and your welcome to New Westminster. In common with all beneficial institutions which it will be a pleasure to me to aid and promote, I shall be most cordially ready to give my support to your organization, to which the community already owes so much. I am aware of the valuable services you have so often cheerfully rendered, and I regard the beautiful condition of your engine and its fittings, which I had the pleasure of inspecting on Wednesday, as evidence of the interest which you take in your voluntary duties and your readiness to perform them with alacrity.

The Rise and Fall of the British Empire.

Near CLINTON, Aug 29, 1869. EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—As the question of the separation of the Colonies from the Mother Country is now on the tapis, the following quotation addressed to Lord Palmerston during the Crimean war may prove interesting as it touches on the subject:

"Now allow me to draw your attention to a no less interesting subject—Our Colonial Empire. Your Lordship will have observed from the development of the colonies into nations, a centrifugal movement, which in one instance resulted in the abrupt secession of large and populous territories, the United States. This was in the nature of things, for the colonies driven to arms by our blundering policy found themselves strong enough to break up a Dominion which had become a stumbling block to their further progress. A different course pursued by the Home Government towards other portions of the Empire has hitherto checked any further dismemberment. But need I observe to your Lordship that this status quo cannot last very long; that as the colonies grow older and more powerful they will demand and obtain their independence; that our Empire in the course of nature will die a natural death unless it be hurried on to a violent end by any injudicious intermeddling on our part in its internal administration. But why not change the old order of things to a new which shall give us a fresh lease of Empire? May not a new combination in the relation between the parent State and the Colonies bind us in one common polity as we are now bound by one common origin? The chief cause of disruption would be in the Colonies aspiring to the dignity of independent States when they should have developed their internal resources, in other words, when beyond the stage of pupillage. Let there no English statesman bold enough and farseeing to forestall events, gratify their aspirations and imprint a beneficial character to this bloodless revolution? Cannot we change the British Empire into a Confederacy of Anglo-Saxon States, free, independent and united, of which Great Britain would be the nucleus? Immeasurable advantages would accrue to the contracting parties of this Federal bond. To the Colonies one Federal diplomacy, one Imperial army and common flag. The economy, power and security which the new Confederate unity offers to each integral portion of the Empire are advantages which no single State or Colony could possibly hope to obtain by its own unassisted efforts. To the Mother Country friendly ports in war time, greater security and wider scope for its commerce, and all the untold profit from wielding such a power. Does your Lordship realize the difference of England's voice in the councils of Europe as the leader of the great Confederacy from its voice as a single State shorn of Empire? Does it strike your Lordship how advantageous to English capital when invested in enterprises covered by our flag and regulated by our laws to the precarious and risky struggle under the arbitrary policy of separate States often tantamount, at times conflicting? Will not our commercial transactions, the world over, painfully feel the insecurity which the loosening of the bonds of our Empire would naturally produce? Quotations on the Stock Exchange would soon tell us that our wealth in transit would no longer be covered by the flag of a powerful State; and I doubt whether any increase, however liberal, in our army and navy estimates would counterbalance our moral loss in the fact of our no longer being backed by a powerful Empire. Now, my Lord, it is my humble opinion that at no time like the present, when the tide of colonial sympathy runs strong towards us in this our struggle with Russia, can we set afoot our newly conceived reform—that of drawing the Colonies into closer companionship with the Mother Country; of checking the centrifugal by a centripetal movement." The movement here foreshadowed as early as 1855, of which failing health alone prevented Lord Palmerston from becoming the guiding spirit, has now assumed the dimensions of an important crisis in our national history. It behoves us Colonists to look at the question from a colonial standpoint and to consult our real interest. If the institution of a powerful confederacy of all the British Colonies should prove on mature reflection to be a harbinger of peace. If it should promise to afford us a powerful police of the seas, a powerful preventive of war and hence greater security to our commercial transactions—if our laws, institutions, civilization and well-being generally should be thereby advanced or secured—then let a great colonial agitation ensue—then let a great colonial agitation ensue—then let a great colonial agitation ensue. Let us thoroughly ventilate the agitation for the union of a great colonial party agitate for the union of the colonies in this grand alliance. Let a powerful world-wide State, guided by a well constituted central authority, arise out of the present chaotic confusion of our relations with the mother-country and with one another. Let a well ordered individual Anglo-Saxon State define and clearly lay down the duties and privileges of each component element or part. Let us have one common federal army and navy, diplomatic service and civil list. Let the sovereign authority of the new Confederate State be well defined and limited, but powerful and efficient. Let it be no sham. Let each colony cheerfully contribute its quota to the federal treasury, bearing in mind, should the extra taxation prove somewhat irksome, that this premium on a peace insurance policy paid to a great Peace and Reciprocity Insurance Association on a national, intercolonial, world-wide scale of which each colony would be a member. Let Great Britain, as the oldest and most experienced State, be the head and front of the union, if she do not decline the honor, but let us have union at all events as the great harbinger of perhaps millennial peace. Let a vast colonial convention assemble at once, agree on the preliminaries and sketch out the constitution of this new State for approval, discussion or amendment by the several colonial Parliaments, and we shall then be in a fair way of averting the disasters so keenly felt in the above quotation as the result of the probable decline and fall of the British Empire. K.