

Saturday, December 19, 1868

The question of the Hudson Bay Company's claims to the territory lying between British Columbia and Canada, has assumed an entirely new phase since the arrival in London of the Canadian delegation. Several interviews have taken place between the Company's representatives and Sir George Etienne Cartier, Bart. (Minister of Militia and Defence of the Dominion of Canada), and the Hon William McDougall, O. B. (Minister of Public Works) and the result is not considered satisfactory from the Company's point of view. The question of the disputed title does not appear to have been entered into with a view to adjustment and settlement; but the delegation have announced that neither the financial condition of Canada nor the position of the Hudson Bay question generally, viewed from a Canadian stand-point, permit the possibility of any cash payment being made to the corporation at the present time; although the prospect is held out to them of receiving a small sum per acre from the sale of the public lands as they are opened up to colonization, which means the payment of an indefinite sum of money a generation since, or they may be allowed to retain the territory until its yield of furs shall have become diminished so that it will be no longer a source of profit, and the cost of governing it grow so heavy as to render its possession a burthen that eventually would be eagerly shifted to other shoulders by the Company. Whether taken in this connection, the telegram (published a few days ago) stating that the Home Government declined to recognize the Hudson Bay claims to the territory, possesses any significance, we must wait the arrival of the next mail to determine. We are strongly of opinion, however, that the knotty question is approaching a solution; and we form this opinion after perusing a remarkable article which we find in the *Canadian News* of October 29th. To this article we direct the careful attention of our readers. The subject is one of great interest to every British American Colonist, and its settlement upon an equitable basis would be hailed with satisfaction. "We believe we are in a position to state that the expectation that any money will now be paid by the Government of Canada may be abandoned, and an announcement to this effect will most likely be forthcoming in the next issue of the paper." "The government of such a territory as that embraced in the present discussion between the Hudson Bay Company and the Imperial and Canadian Governments is necessarily a costly matter, certainly requiring an expenditure of not less than \$25,000 per annum; and even if the company were inclined to incur this outlay, which we hardly think can be contemplated, it must be remembered that the corporation could not properly assume such a charge, and therefore, the constitution of Rupert's Land into a Crown colony, and the march of events requires that this be now done without further loss of time, and an undertaking at the instance of one or other of the two Governments. It is believed that the Canadian Executive are prepared to incur the necessary outlay not only for the establishment of a government, but also for the opening up of proper means of communication between Red River and the Dominion; but beyond this no further pecuniary liability will be assumed by Canada. The experience of the United States, as well as of Canada shows clearly that the object of a new country is rather to secure a settlement of its lands than to attempt to make any profit out of their sale. In the recent constitution of Confederated Canada the lands of each province are retained for the exclusive benefit of the local Governments, and of course the North-West Territory, if, as was contemplated by the Union Act of 1867, that country is to form part of United British North America. Apart, therefore, from the question of the obvious policy being not to make any profit out of the sale of the lands, but to induce population by free grants or grants of land upon mere nominal payments, it is clear that the policy of the Federal Government must be against making any cash payments for acquiring lands which, as soon as obtained, must be handed over for the exclusive benefit of the local Government; whilst, at the same time, the cost of government and opening up lines of intercommunication would remain to be discharged by the Federal Government. The whole question of the acquisition of the North-West Territory has been considered by the delegation, we have reason to know, in a broad and liberal

sense, but there can be no doubt that an idea which may have heretofore been entertained on this side of the Atlantic that any money payment would be made by the Government to the company for its lands has been founded on erroneous data, for it is now placed beyond all question that no money payment will be made. This seems to be the present aspect of affairs. We have in these columns always held that sooner or later, that is, whenever Canada made the demand, the company must surrender. That time seems to have arrived, and clearly the wisest policy for the company now to pursue is to make the best and most friendly settlement it can accomplish with the two delegates now in this country. As for the rumour that the Company was in negotiation for obtaining bids for their lands from the American Government, it need only be said that the idea of any purchase in that quarter is simply preposterous.

From the North.
Saturday, Dec. 19th.
Captain Harris of the schooner *Margaret*, from Fort Tongas, who arrived here on Thursday evening, gives us news confirmatory of the murderous outrage at Nanaimo, alluded to in yesterday morning's issue. The Indian wife, wife's sister, mother and an infant child of the murderer, were brutally butchered about a week since; all the bodies, except that of the child, were actually backed to pieces with an axe, so that the scene presented the appearance of a slaughter house. The deed, it appears, was caused from feelings of jealousy, and the author of the horrible act, a Kanaka, acknowledged committing the same after he had been captured. He tried to make his escape in a canoe, but was followed by several persons, taken, brought to the look-out, and will be brought down here by the *Douglas* for trial.

At Tongas matters were quiet—the weather very boisterous. The Otter was met in Johnson's Straits. She was filled in every part with goods from the wrecked schooner *Woodward*, previously reported. A religious revival has taken place amongst the natives at Metlakahle. Mr Duncan was looked for, he having been expected by the Otter, on which he sailed. A portion of the wreck of the *Sawana* was still visible on the rocks, the *Nanaimo Rocket* lying by, taking advantage of favorable weather to pick up what was still left. At Fort Simpson the *Blizzard*, bound for the Queen Charlotte coal mines, lay disabled, her master, Bradley, was on shore sick from the effects of rheumatism.

THE PELICAN. We have before noticed the purchase of this steel propeller by the C. O. & M. Company for this route. She is now lying at the Polson street wharf, San Francisco, where she is undergoing a thorough refitment for service on this coast, including a fine cabin for the accommodation of from 50 to 60 passengers. The *Pelican* was built at Hull, in England, in 1858, and was intended to be run between Dublin and Liverpool. She soon found her way however into the Confederate service, and was used as a blockade runner during the late civil war. Upon the collapse of the rebellion she was at Havana, where she was turned over to the United States authorities, and subsequently taken to New York. She was sent to San Francisco by her owner, David Fay, and arrived there on the 27th of October, after a passage of 127 days, including sundry detentions. The *Pelican* is a steel built vessel, and the only one of her kind on the Pacific coast. She has five water-tight compartments. Her length is 189 feet; breadth of beam 24 feet; depth of hold 13 feet. She is called a twin propeller, having two direct acting cylinders each of which is 40 inches in diameter and 30 inches stroke of piston. Her present registered tonnage is 445 tons. She is light draft, and will carry 500 tons cargo under deck, with nine feet of water.

From the report of the directors of the Vancouver Coal Mining and Land Company (Limited), to be submitted at the general meeting on the 3d of Nov, we [Canadian News of Oct 29], extract the following:—The directors feel confident that the accounts, showing the transactions of the first six months of the present year, will be received by the shareholders with satisfaction; and it is gratifying to the directors in presenting them, to assure the shareholders of the improving development of their property and a continuance of advantageous sales. Two items which have appeared in former balance sheets are now entered for the last time, one, the mortgage to the Hudson Bay Company, has been discharged; the other, the loss on the *Fideliter* steamer, has been written off. The amount which remained after payment of the dividend in June, added to the profits for the last half year, will, after deducting certain charges and the expenses of home management, leave an undivided balance of £12,393, 10s. 2d. The directors have set aside the sum of £3,000 to form a reserve fund; and they recommend that a dividend of 10 per cent for the half year be declared. This will leave a balance £1,133 19s. 2d. to be carried forward to the credit of the next account.

Supreme Court.
[Before His Honor the Chief Justice.]
This court has been occupied for the last four days in hearing the case of *Muir vs Morton*, which grew out of the ship *Sarah Marsh* running away from Sooke. The application for enforcing the solicitor's undertaking was discharged, the gentlemen signing bills of lading diminishing the freight, so that the claims, as adjusted by the Chief Justice, can be settled. Mr Wood, instructed by Mr Peacock, appeared for plaintiff, Messrs McCreight and Walker for defendant.

REMOVAL.—The new store, on Government street, now in course of erection by Mr Gibbs, has been leased by Messrs Findlay & Durham, for the purpose of removing their retail establishment (Victoria House) to a more central position of the city. The building, when completed, will have a handsome front, and will make the most stylish store in town. The walls have been well supplied with fire-places, and are thoroughly inter-locked with floors, so that the goods in all parts of the premises will be kept constantly free from dampness; a principle well worthy of application in all similar buildings.

POLICE COURT.—George Richardson of the Victoria Hotel appeared before the Court yesterday, in answer to a summons against him on the complaint of William Lush, of the Park Hotel, for selling liquors on the race course without a license, at the late match between Volreese and Lucy—fined \$5. John Bowers a German, remanded from Wednesday under a charge of stealing \$170, the property of John Posten, was again before the Court yesterday, and again remanded until next Tuesday.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Mr Plummer had a fair house last night considering the weather, and the fact that an entertainment, in which all depends on one person, however well he may acquit himself, is not attractive. Mr Plummer is not deficient by any means in the rare qualities of imitation and mimicry; but without desiring to be critical, we certainly think the mimics was superior to the intellectual portion of the programme.

JAMES' BAY BRIDGE AGAIN.—We learn that the accident which happened to Mr Shakespeare the other day, is not the only one to be recorded. A young gentleman, dressed for an evening visit, performed a double somersault into the ditch on Thursday night, and although happily escaping with sound bones, completely destroyed a suit of fine broadcloth, which was unfortunately borrowed.

A GOOD CHANGE FOR FARMERS.—A thorough Russell's Threshing Machine, with Separator, and everything complete, is advertised to-day by Messrs Findlay & Durham. This machine, which is the largest we believe, in the Colony, as it can be easily shipped from place to place, would be very useful to our farmers in any section of the interior.

EARTHQUAKES continue to be felt all along the coast of Chile and Peru, and fears are entertained of a repetition of the terrible disasters already suffered. In Copiapo a series of very severe shocks have been experienced, doing considerable damage to property, though fortunately no lives have been lost.

We have heard that Capt F Campbell (154) will proceed to Persia for the purpose of organizing the Navy of that country, but should any circumstance occur to prevent his going, we are told the Admiralty will then offer the appointment to Captain Rice (1365)—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

FROM PORTLAND.—The steam G. S. Wright, Captain Langden, arrived late last evening from Aotearoa. She brought fourteen passengers and an average freight. Among the passengers we observe the name of the Governor of Washington Territory.

HUDSON BAY shares have declined on the announcement that the incorporation of some portion of this company's territory by the Government of Canada will be accompanied by no payment in money. *English paper*.

Sailed.—The *Active* left again yesterday morning at 10 o'clock, for Portland, carrying the mails, some little freight and forty passengers.

BREAK IN THE STREET.—A rat in Bastion street, near the bank of British Columbia, makes it very bad for loaded vehicles to pass. The Corporation should look to it.

THE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT.—The Leiford Ward troupe of minstrels will perform to-night at the Theatre, Government st.

Tax schooner, Clara Light sailed from San Francisco on the 7th inst, with merchandise, for Victoria.

A GENTLEMAN, residing near Bogton, drew the attention of the Town Council to a slough in the road as a nuisance, but no notice was taken of it. One day he found, to his amusement, that two Councillors had walked into it by accident, and were floundering about in the mire, when he addressed them thus: "Gentlemen of the Town Council of Bogton, I have often petitioned to your honorable body against this slough, but I never had any attention paid to my petition. I now come forth to express my delight to see you at last moving in the matter."

The Police Court.
EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—Be pleased to insert in your paper the following facts relative to a case recently brought before the Police Court by me, on the 8th inst. A marine named Rooke came to my house drunk and upon my refusing to give him any more drink, became furious; he broke up tables, glasses and doors, and otherwise behaved in a most outrageous manner; failing to pacify him, I was obliged, in defence of my own life and others to the him until I could procure a police officer; he frequently having threatened to take my life; had I acted otherwise, murder might have been committed by the man who bears a very bad character; he having shot at his Corporal on San Juan Island; and for which offence he was tried and imprisoned. My wife having been grossly insulted by this man whilst bound, caused me to strike him once, several sailors witnessed the affair and are willing to state that I treated the man with more leniency than he deserved. I requested of a marine artillery sergeant to take charge of the man; but he refused to do so, on the grounds that he was too desperate a character and advised me to let the civil power take its course; it appears my conduct in the matter has not met with the approval of the Police Magistrate, who threatens investigation and withdrawal of my license. I consider myself aggrieved at the decision given, as also the reflections cast on my house; the enclosed testimonial will tend to prove it is conducted as respectable as any similar house in the district. We are a long way from police assistance here, and there are no pickets-patroling in the neighborhood, therefore we are left to our own ingenuity to protect ourselves. In conclusion I beg leave to say I will only be too glad if the case is gone into, for I feel satisfied that from the facts of the case being made known, the remarks of the Police Magistrate yesterday can not be sustained.

I am sir, your obedient servant
THOS. TUGWELL.

Joseph Howe abandons the Repeal Party and Corresponds with the Dominion Government.
HALIFAX, Nov 7.—A long letter appears in the *Chronicle* in answer to Judge Marshall's demand for explanations as to Mr Howe's present course and policy. After reviewing the various proceedings adopted by the Repeal Party in Nova Scotia and in England, to secure the disruption of the Union, Mr Howe goes on to say: "Seriously pondering all these matters, nobody will be much surprised at my convictions, after the last decision of Parliament, that in England our cause is hopeless. I at first clung to the belief, as a great many people here do yet, that a new House of Commons elected on a wider franchise might be approached with better prospects of success. But I put the question squarely to Mr Bright. His answer was decisive: Unless the circumstances materially changed, Nova Scotia could not expect Mr Gladstone and the leading men who would form his Cabinet, if they got a majority, to reverse a policy which they claimed as their own and which the Conservatives had adopted under their pledge that it should be maintained. There was some hope in another direction. A union of the Maritime Provinces might yet be formed. The subject was discussed, with Mr Bright, and he frankly admitted that if such a union could be completed, the question would assume a new and more hopeful aspect. Immediately I wrote to Mr Robertson to have the question considered here, and to send me his views. In doing this, we landed in Halifax. But it was dispensed by the information brought back from Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. A convention was then called early in August, to consider the state of affairs. It deliberated for four or five days, when the whole subject was discussed. I have ever since regretted that body met with closed doors. If the debates had been open to the public, we would perhaps have been spared the miserable tales and slanders which have been whispered about the corners and scattered broadcast over the country ever since. Partly because I could only trace these stories to a quarter from which it seemed incredible that they could emanate, and partly because wherever they came from I had no desire to volunteer premature disclosures, I have for three months allowed them to circulate in silence, and give it with infinite pleasure. Judge Marshall states that for two years I when he recognized leader of the anti-Confederation and Repeal party. In the spring of 1865, finding a body of old friends, no one of whom could afford to give his entire time to the contest, fighting our country's battles, and other gentlemen unto whom I had often been positively opposed ranged beside them, I voluntarily yielded. These men honored me with their confidence, and working together, we contrived to invest Nova Scotia's case with a dignity and intellectual life that was acknowledged by even our opponents, on both sides of the Atlantic; and have explained the reasons why, on retaining our direction; and how, on my landing here, a union of the Maritime Provinces appeared impracticable. I was still, however, willing to struggle on, if anybody could show me anything to be done, or any probable termination to the contest. Nobody could. Of my own feelings and opinions I made no secret. They were explained to a private meeting of our friends the day after I landed, and they were explained to the Convention with the same frankness that they are now given to Judge Marshall. There is one thing that never has been explained, but it is time the country knew it. On the second day that the Convention met, and after my explanations had been made, this question was put by a member for whom I had a very high personal respect: 'But cannot Mr Howe tell us what we can now do?' As nearly as I can remember, my answer was, 'There are two things. You can declare your independence, but if that is to be done, and I do not advise it, come up to the table here and sign a declaration pledging your lives, your fortunes, and your sacred honor to maintain it; if the people respond, he prepared to lead them, and history will record your martyrdom if not your achievement. Nobody seemed inclined to try this experiment; and it then said: 'There is one other thing that neither involves your lives nor your fortunes. It is clear to me that unless something is done on this side of the water besides making and passing resolutions, you can make no change on the other. But if you wish to startle England and Canada, and play your last peaceful card before you negotiate, let the Executive Council go up to Gen Doyle to-morrow morning, and say—'From no disrespect to Your Excellency, for we all respect you—from no desire to embarrass for under other circumstances, we would rather assist you—but in order to give the most emphatic answer to the Duke of Buckingham's despatch and speech, and to show the unanimity and strength of public feeling in favor of repeal, we come to tender our resignations, and to inform Your Excellency that we will not work for or under you, so long as you hold a commission from Lord Monck, and not from the Queen?' In offering this suggestion, I pledged myself that, if it was adopted, I and every member of the House of Commons that I could influence would back the Council, resign our seats if there was a dissolution—and pile up such a majority as could not be represented in England. When this proposal was made I looked along the Treasury benches with some curiosity and interest. Not a man rose to second it or to give to Nova Scotia her last chance of a peaceful and loyal repeal of the Union. From that moment I have no part in Repeal movements in which I have no faith. I have cheerfully made way for others who seemed anxious to air their projects and assume the lead; and except when some person has attacked me to an unjust and ungenerous manner, I have amused myself in my own quiet way, smiling at blunders that I could not prevent, and attending to my own affairs. My opinions I have never disguised, and as respects the flourishings made about Repeal for the last three months, they have hardly amused me so much as did the screams of the sea-gulls round the grave of the dead Indian on the coast of Labrador. But Judge Marshall has heard of some negotiations, and on this branch of the subject he desires information. He shall have it without reserve. The Duke of Buckingham, in his despatch and speech, threw upon the Canadian Ministers the responsibility of opening negotiations with Nova Scotia. When those gentlemen addressed themselves to the task, I claimed for them courteous treatment and a fair hearing. They had both. But for reasons which were explained they were not prepared to assume the responsibility of action, as but three or four of them were here, and it was proper that Lord Monck and the six of October Sir John A. Macdonald addressed to me a letter, which was answered on the 21st, and it is my intention to continue the correspondence on my own responsibility, and that of a member of the Legislature, until satisfied that it ought to close. I desire to give the Canadian Ministers the most ample opportunities to make reparation if they can, to show to the Imperial Government that they have not failed from any absence of fair decision, and to satisfy my own mind, not very hopeful for the reasons I have explained, of success in any other direction, whether we can recover so much of what we have lost as to make the system less burdensome and distasteful to us, as to live under it. Others can try their experiments. In the meantime Acadia can try forcible annexation. One of the people may be able to negotiate a bargain for the sale by Great Britain of a British Colony to a Foreign State; the Local Government can try the issue of more resolutions, and nominate the Council, and filling these and similar offices and discharging duties without law; and Judge Marshall can keep on writing letters informing us that he will accept nothing but Repeal, without being able to show anybody how he is to get it. For these pastimes, I have neither inclination nor leisure, and shall therefore endeavor to employ my spare time to more advantage. But Judge Marshall seems to be afraid to trust me to conduct this correspondence. These people of Nova Scotia (or I am mistaken) will not be much afraid. He thinks I am possessed of some secret, but he is mistaken. The correspondence has been shown to twenty of my most valued friends, and will be shown to others as they drop into my dwelling. There is nothing in it which states me from deceiving or accepting Repeal, if anybody can show me how to get it. This letter is already so long that there is no room for other points that I wish to touch. Scattered all over Nova Scotia are thousands of men who know me and have seen me variously tried; and who would feel a stain upon my honor, like a blow in the face. There is no office, no distinction in the Dominion, or any where else, that will tempt me to forfeit the confidence and respect of these men, or to sacrifice their interests to my own; but I will not deceive them by vain hopes, or conceal the truth from fear of their displeasure. I pass over a great deal in this, and in other letters of Judge Marshall's which he will by and bye regret. Upon some points we, perhaps, may never agree, but I respect his sincerity, his zeal, and his services; and, while giving him the information he requires, I trust that I have said nothing to give personal offence. Believe me, yours truly
(Signed) JOSEPH HOWE.

ANTI-DIVORCE is the name of the newest style Gentle Neck Tie; these together with a Large Stock of Winter Clothing, Beaver Suits, Pants, Hats, Caps, Shirts and Oregon Undershirts, Bows, Braces, Socks, &c. have just been opened out at Adams & Beaven's New Clothing Store, Government street, which they are selling cheap as usual. *verbal*

"SELF-RELIANCE" yesterday struck the political troubles. Information as to our has created the di of confidence that f vaded the public same cause may be popularity of the bitter and just compl arisen from the tax-on to contribute to of inat ions in t which is not a single suggestion. ity in the country t the People must w common good." Th Noble and patriot re-echo it. There e perity nor contented ability in the manag affair until "the srted and deferen wishes. "Selection allowed are burlesq ernment. The sha substance is wanti require proof of thi analyze the prolam ernment Gazette ea toget r. He will "the people" are t low little prospect measures emanating structured after suc Governor had an form his Council "the People" at le of the new Council do so; but has d from the official and and left the popular represented except effective minority. condition be reall "Self-Reliance" m (and a few days w had the Executiv admission into the popular element? he present for the of the tax-payer d disbursement of his count, can only pr ernment and the gether for the com the latter assiduo doing their share of put these questions in cause our correspond his figures has dep made upon the Gove injured innocent wh under the impressio were perpetually at public, or that he public believe they w deprecate the atten impression. The yesterd was the fir years, and if t been needlessly a are by no means s itself a blame. If and as istance, and did it not take in popular tax-paying ely the condition of forbearance and the difficulties that t But no; there has effort made to secu ury of action. A its fruit, so must a by its acts. Prom like pie-crust, the Had the Executiv out its liberal knows its opp and its way ne knew an old gentle relating the partic adventure in a for rom ked that ea stor, he gave a di rept asked for h he a paid reply, " gentlemen, but don't hit!" I liberal professions noble sentiment of compared with the ment the "stories