

The Weekly British Colonist  
AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, September 26, 1868.

## Mr Wells upon American Finance.

Mr. Wells, special Commissioner of the Treasury Department of the United States, has written a remarkable letter upon the American Finances of the present year, which has been published in most American journals, and is well worth perusal, by all who take the slightest interest in the affairs of Uncle Sam. The letter enters minutely into the whole expenditure of the different departments, and shows a diminution in the expenses of government that must be highly satisfactory to all Americans, who are not desirous of making political capital for the coming Presidential election, out of grievances which at such times are invariably sought out, and sometimes invented for party purposes. Mr. Wells' letter shows by plain figures that the expenses of the War Department have been gradually brought back to nearly the same amount as they reached before the war. The interest on the national debt, of course forms one of the most considerable items in the annual expenditure, but it is satisfactory, so far as the growth and progress of international commerce is concerned, to find that simultaneously with a gradual diminution in taxes, the aggregate debt exhibits a reduction which lessens the annual interest payable by \$15,000,000 per annum. The estimate for the Civil List for the present year is only about \$36,000,000. When we consider that this is to meet the whole civil payroll of a large nation like America, we may well exclaim at the comparative enormity of the Civil List of our diminutive Colony. There are however many differences in the system of official payments between the two countries, which might be done so far as they are concerned, desire to see assimilated, but in new countries it is with satisfaction that the tax-payers see their money expended in what appears to them to be for the substantial benefit of the country, than in payment of salaries to officials whose positions seem to be of questionable utility.

## Monday, Sept. 21.

OUR BONDED WAREHOUSES.—We accepted the invitation of Mr. Wells on Friday, to visit these buildings *seriatim*, and were well repaid in doing so. The bonded warehouse system in this city had been a myth to us, and many of the public were often puzzled to know how the Government, without any public buildings for the purpose, kept the run of imported goods. We find, however, the plan adopted somewhat simple and efficient, although it entails upon the revenue officers much extra trouble and necessitates more labor and vigilance than the public imagine. In the absence of a building owned by the Government, or a series of buildings devoted to bonding, through which, by the way, it loses at least \$9000 a year—in which bonded goods could all be stored together private stores are used, the owner and revenue officer both keeping keys to that neither can get into the store without the knowledge of the other. Of these stores there are seven—The Hudson Bay Co's, Broderick's, Millard & Beedy's, Gralley & Fitter's, Jackson, Rhodes & Co's, Dickson, Campbell & Co and one at Esquimalt. Of these some have vaults with good ventilation and well arranged, equal if not better than the average of stores in San Francisco. At the present time there are upwards of 3000 tons of goods in bond, the larger proportion of which strongly illustrates the requirements and tastes of the community. This amount of goods in bond teaches us another fact worth noticing; viz., if to these 3000 tons of goods in bond, which are not over the immediate requirements of the people, we add those in the hands of the city traders and those distributed recently throughout the Colony, it will be found that to-day in what is alleged the ultimatum of our distress, there is little short of a ton of goods to every person of our white population. We doubt whether any other community in the British Empire can make such an exhibit. When we further recollect in this connection that there are still several vessels due from England, and may safely conclude that in commerce, as in our mining, coal and lumber interests, the Colony was never in a better position materially.

Subscribers will receive with this day's issue a catalogue of the goods to be sold at auction tomorrow, Tuesday, Sept. 22nd, at the residence of John Russell, Esq., Esquimalt. N.B.—The goods will be on view this day from one to four o'clock.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held on Saturday by the Coroner, upon the body of Mr. Donald McAuley, at Esquimalt. It appears from the evidence, that shortly before the deceased went out fishing in a small, risky boat, and that on drawing in a stope which he used as an anchor, he fell overboard, and was unable to extricate his hand from the rope in which it had got twisted, by some means. When discovered in the morning by the milkboy going across to the naval hospital, the hand was seen a little way beneath the surface. Under the circumstances the jury found a verdict of accidental drowning. Mr. McAuley was an employee of the Hudson Bay Co for over thirty years, and at the time of his death had charge of the company's powder magazine at Esquimalt. The funeral took place from St. Andrew's church yesterday. Deceased was over sixty years old.

ECCLÉSIASTICAL.—At an ordination held at the Cathedral yesterday morning by the Right Rev the Lord Bishop of Columbia, assisted by the Venerables the Archdeacons Woods and Reeca and by the Rev W. E. Hayman, the Rev J. C. B. Cave of Sapperton, New Westminster, was admitted to the order of the priesthood, and the Rev Holmes of Yale, and the Rev B. Owen of the Indian Mission, Victoria, to the order of deacons. The ceremony of the induction of the Archdeacons to the Archdeaconries and dignities of Columbia and Vancouver respectively, was in the absence of the Very Rev the Dean and in obedience to the Bishop's mandate, performed by the Rev W. E. Hayman, assistant minister of Christ Church, by placing the Archdeacons severally, in possession of a chair and seat in token of their full investment with the powers and privileges of their responsible office.

AUDACIOUS ROBBERY.—A few days since, the High Sheriff dismounted at his office and tied his horse to an adjacent post. While the Sheriff was standing talking close to the animal, a daring but clever thief crept up, and in a twinkling stripped the horse of both saddle and bridle. In a few minutes the Sheriff returned, and was amazed to see his saddle and bridle gone. The Magistrate indignantly expressed the idea of a robbery being committed almost in his presence, started the police force after the robbery (was), who upon the hunt becoming warm, dropped his plunder in the street, and escaped to a well known haunt close by.

ANTI-CONFEDERATION documents in effect, repudiating the action of the Yale Convention and the city Delegates thereto have been circulated during the past week for signature. It is proposed to hand them to His Excellency the Governor; they are signed by a number of our citizens—purporting to represent the feelings of the various sections of the community, both of our British and foreign element.

A HOUSE was lately burned at the celebrated bathing place of Vichy les Thermes, France, and it was curious to remark the strange mixture of assistants pressed into the fire brigade service. The pump was worked by a duke, ten generals, several clergymen, &c., causing much amusement.

THE WEATHER.—Owing to the long continuance of thick, foggy weather, business seems almost suspended and our communications with the outside entirely cut off. The Enterprise was unable to leave for New Westminster on Saturday and will not get up before tomorrow. The St. James Douglas did not return from Nanaimo as usual, in fact almost everything in the shipping line is a stand still.

THE GAZETTE.—The table for Piper's of goods in bond, will take place at the Garrison's Head, Bastion street, at 8 o'clock this evening.

## Another Letter from "Self-Reliance."

EDITOR COLONIST.—It is almost impossible within the limits of a short article on any subject to write exhaustively, by which I mean, fully enough to meet any objections or contrary views that might strike the mind of one who is opposed in sentiment to the writer. It is on this plea that I seek your indulgence for a few remarks in reply to your leading article of Tuesday, commenting on the letter signed "Self-Reliance."

As I hold that if argument is sound it does not matter from whom it emanates, I shall not enter upon the personal part of your article; it may be as old as young, a government man or the reverse, but that won't affect the soundness of my argument if it is sound. I trust therefore, you will see fit to answer the arguments that I have endeavored to raise against a precipitate participation in Confederation, or to bring forward arguments of your own in its favor.

You are pleased to question the accuracy of the figures I submit, viz. \$90,000, as the saving effected in the Civil List since 1866. If you will follow the simple process I have done, and take the published Colonial Estimates of British Columbia and Vancouver Island for 1866, and for the United Colony in 1868, under the head of Civil List, you will arrive at the following result:

British Columbia Estimates 1866,	
Civil List.....	\$175,533
Vancouver Island, including Governor and Colonial Secretary,	
1866, Civil List.....	76,911
United Colony, 1868, Estimates,	
Civil List.....	157,000

Reduction..... \$95,444  
Showing an actual reduction of \$95,000; a statement which is not as you assert, "entirely erroneous."

You remark that at any rate 5 years ago, considerable public works were undertaken in the Colony; whereas, there are none now. I am glad you have done so, for it enables me to remind you, of the source whence the funds came, viz. \$1,200,000, one million two hundred thousand dollars, the proceeds of the public loans; surely it is not surprising that the government should have been able to undertake costly public works with such a credit, and not much more surprising that just now when they have not only no loans to trust to, but have to expend one-fourth of the whole revenue of the Colony to meet the repayment of the aforesaid loans, that they should be able to expend only a moderate sum in public works.

Further on you make a remarkably broad statement, broad even for the elastic consciousness of an editor, viz., "every dollar of our revenue, outside of the \$130,000 which is annually sent to England, goes out as fast as it is collected, to pay official salaries and discharge temporary loans which never ought to have been contracted."

In reply to this exceedingly wild statement, I would again point to facts and figures. Take the Estimates for 1868, and what do we find?

Estimated revenue.....	\$576,000
Estimated expenditure.....	\$578,000
Then for details—Civil Service.....	\$167,410
leaving a balance of some \$415,000, to be expended in the general service of the Colony, viz.,	
Bonds, Sinking Funds, Interest &c.....	\$260,000
Administration of Justice.....	5,200
Charitable Allowances.....	6,000
Education.....	19,000
Police.....	13,000
Conveyance of Mails.....	40,000
Roads, Streets, and Bridges.....	50,000
Light House, &c.....	10,000
Other expenditure.....	57,000

This making up the total of the sum of \$415,000 in a manner somewhat at variance with your assertion. It will moreover be found that the sum of \$157,000 for Civil List will be over the mark, the Magistrate's establishment at Columbia, costing I should say some \$6000 per annum, having been abolished, while considerable advances have been made in the items of hospitals, mails, education, &c., &c. I venture to hope that this statement, open as it is, to be verified by anyone who will take up the Estimates for the year, will conclusively answer the broad statement I have quoted from your article; and I would venture further to remark, that such mis-statements cannot possibly do any good, and may do immense harm to the Colony.

With reference to your remarks as to the spirit in which the Governor has carried out the instructions of Her Majesty's Government, subsequent to Union, I hardly think, though differing with you, that the subject forms one of the advantages or disadvantages of Confederation, so I need not make any allusion thereto.

I would in conclusion refer to one fact which I omitted in my previous letter in forming an important objection to any premature participation in Confederation, a fact which is almost narrowly veiled, viz. the action of Nova Scotia with regard to its connection with the Dominion, that section being by the latest accounts almost in a state of rebellion on the very subject of Confederation. Such a state of things re-enslaved here, would be well avoided, while it is in our power to do so.

## SELF-RELIANCE.

## Editorial Correspondence No. 10.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27, 1868.

For more than a week we have enjoyed ourselves in this "city of magnificent distances," as called from the magnificent future which its founders glowingly predicted for it, the fulfillment of which seems all involved in the womb of years yet to come. Washington is far from being a handsome city. It is far from being New York, Boston, or Baltimore in architectural taste or design, and only the truly magnificent public buildings that dot its site save it from a tawdriety that would be absolutely painful. The war in its respect, was a benefit to Washington, its population having nearly doubled since

that melancholy epoch. In 1861 the number of inhabitants was 60,000, now they number about 130,000; fully 30,000 of whom are colored. The city stands on the north shore of the Potomac river, a stream rendered historic by the stirring events of the late war. The main Capitol building, in which the Legislative business of the nation is transacted, is of white freestone, and is surmounted by a great dome, which rises nearly 200 feet above the roof, furnishing a landmark for many miles around. The height of the structure from the ground to the apex of the dome is 400 feet, and the view obtained from such a height, it may well be imagined is picturesque and lovely in extreme. On late years a north and south wing have been added to the main building, for the accommodation of the Legislative bodies. The Senate (or Upper House) holds its sittings in the north, and the Lower House in the south wing. The wings have ceilings of stained glass, above which gas jets are so arranged that at night soft, mellow rays of light are thrown into the hall below. Within the great dome and in various portions of the main hall are arranged statues of eminent deceased American statesmen, and several paintings of prominent living Republicans. Of the former, Mr. Lincoln's occupies the most prominent position, and is more frequently met with than any other, while the Father of his country—George Washington—is seen but twice, once in plaster beneath one of the small domes, and once in oil at the right of Speaker Colfax's chair, in the House of Representatives; the left of the chair being occupied by a handsome full-length portrait of the French General Marquis de Lafayette, whose exertions in behalf of the revolted colonies are too well remembered by all readers of American history to need recapitulation here. The State, Treasury, War and Patent Office Buildings (and I believe one of two others) occupy sites in other parts of the city. They are built of white marble. Each covers a square of ground, is a handsome structure, and if located in a city remote from the Capitol building would be imposing. As it is, the impensity and magnificence of the Capitol overshadows and dwarfs all the rest.

The President's mansion is situated on Pennsylvania avenue, distant one mile from the Capitol. It is built of white freestone, and is surrounded by handsome lawns, flower beds and shaded walks. Visitors are admitted almost daily, and shown through the famous east and blue rooms by polite attendants, who seem never to tire in pointing out and explaining the various objects of interest contained within the mansion. On Saturday evening, during the fine weather, a regimental band performs choice selections of music in front of the mansion, and the occasion is improved by the fair portion of Washington society, in a promenade through the grounds. Last Saturday evening we joined the promenade. The scene presented was, I am assured, unusually brilliant. The Washington belles appeared attired in the latest styles to great advantage. The prevailing fashion for young ladies is short walking suits, mostly of white pique, but a few Polonaise, Plain, black, grenadines, with shawls to match, and light grenadines with lace shawls were also numerous—the grenadine dresses being invariably worn long. The Fanbonnet is the latest Washington novelty. The hats worn are so small as to be hardly worth the mention. During the progress of the promenade, President Johnson, with Secretaries McCullough and Welles, and the ladies of the Presidential household, occupied the balcony. Mr. Johnson is a better-looking man than his pictures lead me to suppose. His toilet is scrupulously neat and his face free from lines of care or anxiety. He appears to have accepted the fierce assaults made on him by Congress from time to time, as a matter of course, and as inseparable from the discharge of the duties of his office. Secretary McCullough resembles Mr. Johnson closely, and Mr. Welles has a red face and a full, long white beard.

The hotels of Washington are both dirty-looking and dirty. Neither in appearance nor fare, does the best of them approach the poorest San Francisco establishment. Wilford's, the fashionable hotel, has a dingy, grimy look that would not be tolerated in a western city. The hotels mostly stand on Pennsylvania Avenue—the widest thoroughfare on the Continent. It ought, from its relation to the Capitol and the White House (it has one at either end) to have on its line the finest buildings in the city, but it has just the reverse—being fringed on either side with mean, old, tumble-down structures, and ending at the Capitol in a rough-board stable! A line of street cars runs through the centre of the Avenue.

Speaking of street cars, I am reminded of the characteristic politeness of Washington passengers as compared with that of Brooklyn and New York. In the former cities, a lady enters a car filled with male bipeds, and in nine cases out of ten I will lay a wager not a seat will be offered her, she must remain standing and striving to maintain an equilibrium by grasping a hand-strap suspended from the ceiling of the car, until a vacant seat be provided by the alighting of the first gentleman who arrives at the end of his journey. Here in Washington, how-

ever, let a female enter a crowded car and instantly half-a-dozen gentlemen rise and tender the fair one a choice of seats, a sweet smile and a pleasant "thank you sir," being deemed sufficient compensation for the gracious act of self-denial.

To be continued.

## British Columbia.

A correspondent of the London, Eng., Daily News writes from Clinton in British Columbia:

Four-fifths of the country may be described as a sea of mountains, wooded to their summits and intended by nature to shelter deer, bears, wolves, wild dogs, and the beautiful valleys which comprise the remaining one-fifth, or 4,000 square miles, fine land, all alluvial soil, and capable of producing crops of any kind in great abundance. When I remember the thousands at home famishing in want, it grieves me in spring-time to see the countless spring streams descending from the mountain, cascading through the valleys, and carrying with them to the Fraser, or some other mighty river, the wealth that would make beautiful gardens. Here we have no farmers—a few squatters, broken-down miners, or men without experience; they irrigate their patches and produce barley, wheat, and some heavy-grained abundance without any irrigation. Potatoes of the best kind and vegetables of all sorts may be produced in great quantities. The squatters have not made up their minds to stay in the country; and at the end of each year they are ready to march. The miners working in the gold fields of Cariboo are the consumers of the surplus produce; if the mines were exhausted the miners would leave, and there would be no market; therefore the squatters provide just as much barley and hay as is required to feed the mules employed in taking to the mines flour, bacon, venison, and other necessities produced in California. The population in the mines appears to be much increasing; the yield of gold last year was very satisfactory. There is some hope that the squatters will this year produce a sufficient quantity of wheat to supply the home market. We have a few flour mills, and in a short time a new one at Clinton, on the road to Cariboo, will be completed. Half the gold region has never been explored. The price of provisions, so enormously high, has tended in a great measure to drive away the miners. Their absence means death to this beautiful young colony. The climate in the valleys is charming. In winter we have summer and winter all day the sun is shining in a clear blue sky; you cannot work with your coat on, the sun goes down, and then winter rushes in. Men are sometimes frozen to death, but this is always the result of too much brandy or too little caution; there is an abundant supply of firewood and a little industry makes winter all right in your log hut. Winter comes about the 10th of November and ends about the middle of April. All this time the country is covered with a mantle of snow. In this particular locality it never rains in winter; in other places the rainfall at this season never exceeds a dozen showers, and spring comes a month earlier. New Year's minter is, indeed, an exception; there it is always rain and mud in winter; it has no mountains between it and the Pacific Ocean. In spring the weather is always beautiful; vegetation begins at once and the growth of plants is surprising. In summer the weather is always hot, but always tempered by cool breezes from the mountains; then we have occasional showers, but never enough of rain for the crops—these are entirely dependent on the silver streams, gliding down through beds of wild flowers and decaying woods, the wrecks of ages, lying all round on the gigantic mountains. Autumn is the most beautiful season; the days then are like the days in winter, but at night the air is cool and full of perfume—no rain, the sky always clear and blue, slight frosts occasionally in October until the 25th; then we have the Indian summer—ten or fifteen glorious days and nights, and winter comes with a bound. I miss the music of the birds. In these vast woods we have no feathered songsters. In summer for two months the mosquitoes are a perfect nuisance. With these exceptions, there is nothing to complain of. The climate is superb, the rivers full of salmon, the woods filled with game, deer, wild chickens, pheasants, partridges, and prairie chickens. I have had considerable experience as a farmer. I have been in many lands and I declare I never saw in any country so climate as a soil so equal to those you find in the valleys of British Columbia. The great majority of the class that emigrate are not rich enough to come here. A man arriving here without any capital would find himself in a bad position; there is no demand for labour; clerks and shopmen have no business here. A farmer should arrive with at least a capital of \$200, and should make up his mind to grasp the land and hold the plough and reap the best new crop. In five years such a man could make for himself a beautiful home, produce an abundant supply of necessities, some luxuries, and lots of cash. The man that is ashamed or afraid of work had better stay at home. The axe is a splendid weapon to work with. After a week's practice it is more convenient to cut down the giants of the wood. Ploughing is hot, hard work. These occupations are delightful to a man fond of liberty and the variety of life in the forest, where he may kill a deer with one barrel and a wolf with the other, while his horses are taking their mid-day rest. The first duty of a farmer here would be to provide himself with the necessities of life—a cow, potatoes, and vegetables. The squatters never think of such trifles; they sell barley, wheat, or hay, and buy at the highest price all that they want from storekeepers.

EDITORIAL.—HONORARY FRANK.—The Great News. The blood is the life, and the purity depends on its health; it is not an exaggeration. These pills thoroughly cleanse this vital fluid from all contamination, and by their power strengthen and invigorate the whole system, thereby stimulate sluggish organs, repress over-acted action, and establish order of circulation and secretion throughout every part of the body. The balsamic nature of Holloway's Pills commends them to the favor of cold and nervous constitutions, which they counteract. They dissolve all obstructions, both in the bowels and elsewhere; and are, on "dry" seasons, much sought after for promoting regularity of action in young females and delicate persons who are naturally weak, or who from some cause have become so.

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ph physician says: "More than half of the world comes from neglect to remedy the changes of climate, weather, and food of health is to keep the condition of the food regular and uniform, to that changes cold, from dry to damp, etc., cause upset of the body and breed disease."

ANTONIA BITTERS.

Tonic is now used by all classes of people from a "Stomach out of order."

It is this! Plantation Bitters are certain cures of the stomach, and all the machinery able to resist and throw off the poisons.

Dr. J. S. CATHER, Rochester, N.Y.

Rev. W. H. WAGGONER, Madrid, N.Y.

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