Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1887.

## THE MASS MEETING.

The mass meeting of liberal-conservatives held last evening in The Victoria proved that they were not in favor of a convention on the eastern principle, viz.: selecting two candidates to support through thick and thin, but rather preferred the old style of committee work. While it is somewhat disappointing that arrangements could not be made by which two pledged conservatives would be run in that interest, yet the fact was demonstrated that the city is thoroughly in accord with Sir John Macdonald's government. It had been stated that a "hole-and-corner meeting" was being held in order that a self-constituted clique might foist two candidates upon the electors, but that idea was dissipated by last night's meeting when the great body of conservatives was consulted. A convention is now, of course, out of the question, as the popular verdict seems to be against it; but we would impress strongly upon the great majority in this city and district who are in favor of Sir John's administration not to commit the fatal mistake of bringing forward so many conservative candidates that the grits may have the opportunity of electing their men under the guise of independents or "straddle-bugs." It would be in direct opposition to the interests of the city and province, and an act of base ingratitude towards the man and the government that have done so much to bring British Columbia to her present prosperity.

## A RUINED COUNTRY.

The assertions so frequently and so confidently made by discontented Nova Scotians that confederation had ruined their country are contradicted very emphatically, and are, in fact, shown to be wholly untrue by a pamphlet issued so late as June, 1886, by the repeal government of that province. Its title is "Information for Intending Emigrants to the Province of Nova Scotia." This book was published for circulation in Great Britain by the secession government of Nova Scotia in order to induce farmers and capitalists to come and settle in their ruined country. Among other passages it contains the following:

"The total value of the fisheries of this province for the year 1882 was seven millions one hundred and thirty-four thousand four hundred and eighteen dollars." It goes on to say:

"The coal trade is steadily increasing, and last year one million three hundred and eighty-nine thousand two hundred and ninety-five tons were raised, while only about one-half of that amount was produced ten years ago.

"Any practical farmer, with a small capital, may at once possess a good and comfortable home, and by energy, industry and enterprise may make for himself a fortune and position in Nova Scotia in a few years such as he could not obtain in a life-time in Great Britain." "Laborers get very well paid in Nova Scotia." "Outdoor servants who board themselves can live, perhaps, cheaper than they can in England." "Industrious men do well and rapidly acquire property." "Nova Scotia owns more shipping in proportion to the population than any other country, and our vessels do a large proportion of the carrying trade of the world." "Our laws are liberal and not discriminative." "For a man of energy and industry, combined with a small amount of money capital, no other part of America offers the same inducements or presents the same advantages." "In short, industry in any business will in Nova Scotia meet with a sure reward." "The emigrant would find relief from that strain of 'landlordism,' of which he has an overdose already. He would find himself in the midst of a population as intelligent as that of England, with everywhere an abundance of church and school accommodation. Moreover he would find himself a citizen of a very decidedly rising country, and a healthy and a pleasant country to live in."

The secession government's pamphlet supports this true and glowing statement of Nova Scotia's condition and progress by statistics taken from the census of the province. Among the figures to be found in it is the following comparative statement:

| Occupations of the People. | 1881. | 1882. |
|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 53,684 | 47,203 |
| Commercial | 15,103 | 2,986 |
| Domestic | 7,832 | 1,550 |
| Industrial | 38,956 | 13,519 |
| Men Engaged in Fishing. | 1881. | 1882. |
| | 34,636 | 14,322 |

Commenting on the above the Montreal *Star* says: And this "pleasant country to live in" where industry in any business will meet with a sure reward, where a farmer, with a small capital, with energy, industry and enterprise may make himself a fortune and a position in a few years, where laborers are well paid, and whose industries of all kinds are progressing at a rapid rate, is represented by the men who have circulated this information for the people of England, Ireland and Scotland, when they get upon the stump as having passed beyond the verge of ruin. The reader will not have much trouble in deciding which is the plain, unvarnished truth—the sober and proved statements of the emigration pamphlet or the wild and unsubstantiated assertions of the grievance-mongering politician.

## HYPOCRISY UNMASKED.

It would be amusing, if the game was worth the candle, to follow our very gritty evening contemporary in his political tergiversations and expose him to the public as he deserves. But the organ which "killed" Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition at the last local elections snuffed itself out so completely then that we have begun to look upon it as a loss of valuable time and space to show up its manifold inconsistencies, and its utter lack of principle, where there is a chance of carrying its point. There is one subject, however, to which we must advert, merely to show the public just what a time-server Mr. Blake's organ here is, and the utter unreliability of any of the editorial utterances which it pleases to inflict upon its long-suffering readers. Independent candidates have been the latest editorial hobby. Elect "independent" candidates, he says, men allied to no political party, for

"It is a well-known fact in political ethics that the straight, servile party man is hostile to men claiming independence of thought, word and action."

Your independent man is a jewel, he will be in a position to vote with whatever party is in power, and basking always in the sunshine of the government's favor, would give you all you ask. Everybody knows what this talk means. It is simply this: We are aware, says the liberal mouth-piece, that the grits are as distasteful to the people of this city and province as holy water is said to be to our old but constant friend, and that it is simply absurd for us to think of electing even one. But we can do so if we go the right way about it. Nominate "Independents," and the problem is solved. Thereafter "Independent" candidates are the salt of the earth; they are "manly" and "honest," and would never think of "flopping." The straight party man is to be avoided as you would a rattlesnake. He is positively dangerous, and if elected would rush the country into ruin. How different these sage-like utterances from those of our contemporary last year when he had a different game to play. Then he spoke in no uncertain tones. "Independents" were to him an abomination and a snare. They were untrustworthy and without a spark of manliness, because no sooner were they elected than they "flopped." This is how the erratic editor of the *Times* addressed his readers on the 7th of June of last year in a leading article headed "The House Dissolved:"

"As a rule candidates of the 'independent' stripe are not manly or honest enough to pronounce for or against either party while soliciting the suffrages of the electors, but no sooner are they elected than a 'flop' is made to the strongest side, that upon which the flesh pots and political spoils are to be encountered. Such at all events is the experience in all other sections of the country in which the independents are to be met with, and being for sale to the highest bidder they are not a very desirable class to be entrusted with power and electors will be careful to place them in a position to take advantage of, and betray the trust reposed in them."

Consistency thou *art* a jewel! In the brief space of less than eight months the *Times* "turns its coat" more completely than any circus clown and masquerades complacently in strange and ill-fitting garments. But times had changed and the *Times* changes with them. What a record for a journal presuming to reflect public opinion to make for itself! What inconsistency, what hypocrisy! Our neighbor should, in the face of such convincing proof of his turpitude, hide his head in shame and cease to pose as anything but a journalistic "jumping Jack." But, like Tennyson's Brook, he will "go on forever" in his present course, injuring the prospects of his political friends and delighting the hearts of his opponents. Our object in bringing this question of so-called independent candidates before our readers is to point out to them the necessity of electing good men and true who have the courage of their convictions, not ashamed to declare themselves supporters of one or the other of the two parties in Canadian politics. Give "Independents" the go-by during the present campaign and invariably treat them as grits in disguise, only looking to "the flesh pots and political spoils" as our "Jump Jim Crow" contemporary so tersely puts it.

## "INDEPENDENT" CANDIDATES.

The local grit organ will not resurrect the "independent" chesnut. While regretting to be obliged to do so we showed up its utter lack of consistency so completely and so irrefutably yesterday morning that the presiding genius came to the decision that discretion was the better part of valor, and displaying somewhat more wisdom than he usually does, is "mum" on the subject. We conclusively proved from his own writings that he held diametrically opposite views as to so-called "independents" during the last local elections from those he holds now, and exposed his want of principle in a manner so crushing that a reply is impossible. Our misguided contemporary has a happy faculty usually of crawling out of a hole, and when cornered invariably goes off at a tangent into something entirely irrelevant to the question at issue, hoping in that way lo squirm out of the ugly position in which he had placed himself. But here the issue was so square a one and so firmly "clinched" home that the only way to avoid it was to beat a most ignoble retreat. What a character, however, to build up as a public journal! Carried away by every wind that blows, to-day conservative, to-morrow independent and the next liberal; one year advocating the bringing out of square party men, and consigning independents to the lowest depths, the next assuring its readers that the man who belonged to no party, who went into parliament perfectly untrammelled, who was thoroughly independent, was "the man for Galway." Out upon such political double-dealing! All candidates seeking the suffrages of the electors should at least have the credit of their convictions, and announce themselves as friendly to the liberal-conservative party or the reform. "Straddle-bugs" are a species of insect which find no favor in any intelligent constituency. This is what the *Times* said of them in June last:

"As a rule candidates of the 'independent' stripe are not manly or honest enough to pronounce for or against either party while soliciting the suffrages of the electors, but no sooner are they elected than a 'flop' is made to the strongest side, that upon which the flesh pots and political spoils are to be encountered. Such at all events is the experience in all other sections of the country in which the independents are to be met with, and being for sale to the highest bidder they are not a very desirable class to be entrusted with power and electors will be careful to place them in a position to take advantage of, and betray the trust reposed in them."

Alas! what a fall was there, my countrymen, from such high teaching to those which the liberal sheet has been attempting to inculcate since the opening of the present campaign.

## POLITICAL NOTES.

The "break" of Mr. Beaven on Monday is still the topic of general conversation and of general condemnation. A few of his friends attribute the occurrence to his youth; but really the leader will not plead this in palliation of his unseemly conduct before a whole houseful of people, many of whom were ladies.

The fact of the matter is the opposition are sick and tired of their leader and want a change. This was plain enough before the last general election. A writer from Cariboo wrote to the *Standard* suggesting that Mr. DeCosmos would make a good Moses to lead the opposition out of the barren wilderness in which was neither honor nor profit (prophet). Next the *Guardian* cried aloud for Mr. Walkem to descend from his lofty pinnacle and take command of the nondescript forces. The *Times* copied the *Guardian's* cry and tacitly endorsed it. Then when Mr. Bole was elected, a member of the opposition party telegraphed the Toronto *Globe* that "the principal opponent of the government" had been returned the downfall of the ministry was now assured. Mr. Beaven, although elected on the same day as Mr. Bole, was ignored.

Rumor hath it that one member of the house who was elected as an opposionist, has declined to meet with the party in caucus as long as Mr. Beaven continues the leader. These incidents all point to the early deposition of the leader and the selection of Mr. Bole or Mr. Orr as his successor.

A requisition bearing the names of one thousand electors has been presented to Sir Hector Langevin from Three Rivers. As there are only about fifteen hundred voters in the constituency, it would appear that the opposition candidate's work is "up hill," to say the least.

Mr. John Grant, M. P. P., in writing about himself in the *Times* last evening, says "if Mr. Grant accepts a nomination he will be elected, and don't you forget it." It is just like John to say that, but of course the electors would also have some voice in the matter. Mr. Grant is in precisely the same position to-day that he occupied before the civic nominations. For weeks he fished around in every possible way to induce some prominent citizens to get up a requisition asking him to stand for election as mayor. A few "stuffed" him on the matter, but, to his chagrin, he received no request. Mr. Grant now desires to come out as an "independent," an abomination to his paper not nine months ago. Come out like a man, John—don't hedge. You can't be elected any way, but then in your defeat you will go down with all your colors flying.

The *Times* predicts that if Mr. Grant stands for the commons he will be elected and—"Don't you forget it!" We will not "forget" it. It will be filed away with the numerous other predictions which the *Times* made as to the result of the last general elections. Our contemporary as a prophet is not a brilliant success.

The rapidity with which our estimable evening contemporary has skipped from conservatism to gritism, and finally to independenceism, excites the admiration of its friends, who are in the position of the worthy Irishman who, meeting a person he thought he recognized, exclaimed, "When I saw you first I thought you was your brother; when you came a little nearer I thought you was yourself; and now, begorra, I see you're naythur!"

The speeches of Messrs. Baker and Prior were gems. They captured the house and showed that the gentlemen are possessed of good debating powers, backed by a liberal education. Such speeches are always listened to with pleasure and profit.

Mr. Bole, in rising to begin his remarks on the speech, said that he did "not agree with the leader of the opposition." Whoever did agree with him? Name the man and he will secure a first-class position in a dime museum as a "freak."

The debate on the speech was characterized by much good humor and geniality. Mr. Beaven was the only gentleman who exhibited peevishness, and as he has lately had a great disappointment his fretful disposition is excusable. It is rough on a fellow to know that he is condemned for an indefinite period to sit in the hyperborean region of opposition after having already sat four years there.

Mr. Bole made a "pretty little" speech yesterday, and showed that he will be an acquisition to the debating power of the house. Mr. Ladner appeared to think that he was still canvassing his district for votes. He went over the whole weary details of the contest with evident relish. Many years after General Jackson had died and been laid away an old, old hunter came down out of the mountains and tendered his vote at a polling booth for "General Jackson." The poor old man did not know the mighty changes that had taken place during the thirty years of his absence from civilization. Does Mr. Ladner know that the election is over?

## THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

To the Editor:—I have been greatly pleased to notice the generous support your journal is giving to the true friends of this province—the conservative party—on the eve of the forthcoming general election, and perhaps you will allow me to add a few words to those you have already expressed, in as brief a sketch as possible of our position from the date of confederation to the present time.

The federation of the crown colony of British Columbia with the older provinces of Canada, consummated in 1871 on favorable conditions under the conservative government of Sir John A. Macdonald, marked an era of great importance in its history—emerging from the new alliance with the free constitution of responsible government. The stagnation prevailing at that time gradually gave place to a better condition of things. The future prospects of the country restored confidence in its progress; trade improved, real estate commanded higher prices, the surveyors of the Pacific railway were promptly commenced, the expenditure on which at so opportune a time was of so much value to our people.

The government, unfortunately for this province, fell in 1873, chiefly through its endeavor to keep faith with us in organizing a company for the construction of the Pacific railway. In the autumn of the same year the liberal government took office, which it held for five years, during which, great depression ruled throughout the whole of Canada, and British Columbia was seething with indignation, and discontent, on account of the unwarrantable delays in commencing the railway. Recourse was had to every reasonable means to induce the government to fulfill its obligation—in fact, the whole period of the liberal administration is strewn with letters, petitions, and memorials to the imperial and Dominion governments, praying that justice might be done the province, but all were of no avail. The liberal party rode into power on the cry of purity and economy—how it kept to those maxims is too well known for me to dwell on here. Large sums of money were borrowed—notably in 1874—power was taken by act of parliament to raise £8,000,000 (forty millions of dollars) the preamble to the borrowing act setting forth the necessity of the loan, on account of the arrangement made with British Columbia—but not one dollar of that large amount was spent here, beyond that on surveys and in the purchase of some steel rails. It very soon become evident that this liberal government did not meet the expectation of the people who placed them in power. It failed to conduct the business of the country in a manner conducive to confidence and progress, and it signally failed to grasp the idea of the importance of constructing the Pacific railway from ocean to ocean within a reasonable time, and at the general election in 1878 that party was completely routed and scattered to the winds. It was succeeded by the conservative government of Sir John A. Macdonald, which immediately on taking office turned its attention to the fulfilment of the obligation to British Columbia, entering at the earliest day possible into a contract with A. Onderdonk, for the western portion of the railway, and with the C. P. R. syndicate for the construction of the through line from Callandar, near Ottawa, to Savona's Ferry. The acts of parliament necessary to give effect to these contracts were opposed to the bitter end by the liberal party in the house of commons, but thanks to the conservative majority firm and its loyal supporters the Pacific railway is an accomplished fact, and will continue to be an enduring monument to the government which had the courage to initiate, subsidize, and carry to a successful completion that stupendous undertaking and great national highway.

It is true that this courageous government had to borrow largely and add to the debt of the country, but it is equally true that its progressive policy has added tenfold to the wealth and prosperity of the whole Dominion. The construction of this great railway, the enlarging and deepening of our canals, the building of dry docks, and the improvement of rivers and harbors, were all carried on simultaneously. Yet, with all this extraordinary expenditure over the normal expenditure, increased in a very slight degree the annual taxation of the people. The Dominion taxation under the present system is about $7.50 per head, and by comparison only can we judge whether this is heavy or light, so that I will give the taxation of other countries to aid public opinion:

| | |
|---|---|
| United States | $ 7 75 per head |
| England, under a free trade policy | 13 25 " " |
| France, under protection | 15 00 " " |
| Germany | 12 00 " " |

The Australian colonies range from $21 to $43 of the population. You will, therefore, see that Canada makes a most favorable comparison.

In addition then to those large national public works, which may be set down as valuable assets, we have a marvelous expansion of trade, and a large accumulation of wealth by the people, in illustration of which I will give a few figures.

In 1878, the end of the McKenzie administration, and in 1884, after five years of the Macdonald administration, we find the following results:

| | Factories. | Hands employed. | Yearly Wages. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1878 | 1,501 | 42,794 | $13,835,733 |
| 1884 | 2,026 | 77,346 | 34,396,165 |
| Increase in five years | 525 | 34,552 | $10,562,432 |
| | | Production. | Capital. |
| 1878 | | $ 49,963,282 | $37,819,931 |
| 1884 | | 102,870,166 | 67,293,373 |
| Increase in five years | | $ 52,906,884 | $29,473,442 |

Over and above this expansion of trade and the large sums invested in factories, we find the actual deposits of money in the banks of the country very large. Deposits from 1874 to 1879 under the McKenzie government increased $16,000,000. Deposits from 1879 to 1884 under the Macdonald government, increased $55,000,000. So that from 1879 to June, 1884, the deposits in banks and loan companies and the money invested in factories—about $100,000,00—has been added to the wealth of the country. These are some of the advantages reaped by the country under a conservative government. Let us consider, then, before casting our votes, which party has benefitted the country most in the past, and which is the most likely to do so in the future, and the conclusion arrived at must be—that it is the bounden duty of every British Columbian and of all those who intend settling in our midst to give a strong and loyal support to the conservative government which has done so much for the country.

W. J. Macdonald.

## McDONALD FOR MACDONALD.

To the Editor:—I notice in the press of the city that Alexander McDonald is spoken of as a possible candidate for the the commons, though he has not declared his allegiance to any party. As a ratepayer I believe he would prove the right man in the right place, and a representative who would do his duty conscientiously for the advancement of the province. From a personal acquaintance of several years, I know he has been prominently identified with Dominion politics in the eastern provinces, and is a firm supporter of the Sir John Macdonald government. His residence in British Columbia has made him familiar with the needs of the province, and if elected he will no doubt fearlessly exact from the Dominion government that assistance needed to usher in an era of renewed prosperity to the province. With many others I hope that Mr. McDonald will publicly announce himself as a candidate. A Ratepayer.

Victoria, Jan. 26, 1887.

## CONSERVATIVE MASS MEETING

### Addresses by Messrs. Shakespeare, Baker, Fell, Humphreys, Robertson, and Dr. Helmcken.

### The Audience Enthusiastically in Favor of Sir John A.—But do not Want a Convention—The Old-Time Practice to be Followed.

The announcement that a liberal-conservative convention would be held in The Victoria theatre last evening, drew together several hundred electors and a large number of spectators. Promptly at eight o'clock Mr. M. W. T. Drake was voted into the chair and Mr. F. S. Barnard appointed secretary. The chairman called upon the gentlemen who were candidates for the suffrages of the people to come forward, whereupon Messrs. E. C. Baker, N. Shakespeare, W. A. Robertson, T. B. Humphreys, and Mayor Fell took seats upon the platform. Each candidate received a liberal measure of applause as he ascended the platform.

The chairman, in explaining the object of the meeting, said the party at present in power at Ottawa had done a great deal for this province. They had strained the resources of the Dominion and the allegiance of their party that they might faithfully carry out their bargain with us, and the least the province could do was to send good men and true to Ottawa who will support that party [cheers]. At the conclusion of the meeting he would recommend the appointment of a convention by the meeting to choose such of the gentlemen before them as representatives for Ottawa as they might see fit. He called on Mr. Baker, as senior representative, to address the meeting.

Mr. Baker on coming forward was received with applause. He said as there might be several other aspirants for the same position as himself among the audience it was suggested that each speaker confine his remarks to one quarter of an hour. He claimed that he had attempted during the past four years to do his duty zealously and faithfully, and Mr. Shakespeare and himself had worked in perfect harmony.

Dr. Helmcken stepped upon the platform at this juncture and was greeted with great applause.

Mr. Baker had not time to read everything in the papers but he occasionally had time to notice some of the squibs which appeared in them about election times. In one he was described as "the Lord High Admiral." (laughter) another said he might be a very good sailor but he was an utter failure as a politician. (Laughter). All he had to say was that if he wanted a master mariner's certificate he would not go to the *Times* newspaper for it. And there he would say that there is more noble whole-souled honest chess of men then the sailors. (Cheers.) If elected again the electors must not expect too much from them. If they did their duty and put in the regular sessions in hard work it was all that could be expected of them. He wished it to be understood that he would support the party of Sir John Macdonald on the same terms as he had during the four years just ended and at some future time the electors would hear from both Mr. Shakespeare and himself at length on matters connected with the dry dock, liquor license, Chinese question etc. On concluding he was liberally applauded.

Mr. Shakespeare, on coming forward, was loudly received. He said he would speak but a few minutes. Four years ago he had been honored with their confidence. In his address he pledged to carry out certain important points, and if there was one present who could point to where he had neglected his duty he would feel obliged [applause]. He had then been elected as a liberal-conservative, and time had now brought him again before them on the same interest. Hoped they would again honor him, and he believed they would, for the signs were that he was more popular with them than before [applause]. He thought they would all agree with him that the liberal-conservative party was the one they should support [applause]. There were three things he thought a man should not vote with party, and if the liberal-conservative government had voted against the hanging of Louis Riel he would have voted against them. [Loud applause]. The man who would not sanction such a course was not worthy the name of a citizen of our fair Dominion [applause]. If they would again honor him he would endeavor to serve their interests as faithfully in the future as in the past. [Loud applause]. He and his colleagues would in a short time call a public meeting and disclose their views on public matters.

Mayor Fell being called upon came forward, and was applauded. He was in full accord and sympathy with the conservative government of Canada, though he was not a slave to any party. This community was especially under obligation to the present administration. It should be borne in mind that Mr. Blake had traduced this country by every means in his power, and called us a "sea of mountains." (Roars of laughter.) What had he done in regard to the Canadian Pacific railway? Why, as Mr. White had told us on this platform, he had done everything in his power to prevent it's construction. (Cries of oh! oh!) I say yes. But there were measures which the opposition had fought against which made them deserving of our thanks; for instance, there was the Franchise Act; and if I had been in that house my voice would have been heard ringing through it (laughter) in condemnation of that measure. But did we hear either of these worthies we sent there to represent us, say one word against it? (Laughter.) I am told that I have only one quarter of an hour to speak and, consequently, cannot expand myself, (roars of laughter), and I must prepare to conclude. (No, go on, go on!) Now, as the lord high admiral, (laughter), that's what he goes by at Ottawa, has told us what he has done I might also recount some of my acts while among you. The speaker proceeded to refer to his services in connection with the schools. (Cries of time, time.) The speaker appealed to the chair and was told he had three minutes to go. He then proceeded to give 'em one round more amid applause. He referred to the present satisfactory condition of the schools and the benevolent institutions with which he was connected. (Cries of time, time.) One word more. (Laughter.) I am told that I should not run for Ottawa because I am mayor. (Hear, hear.) I say no! Where do you find a city in Canada that does not elect its mayor to Ottawa? (Hear, hear, and laughter.) If he was sent to Ottawa the interests of the city would be well guarded, and he would seek the first thing $100,000 for the clearing out of the harbor, and he would insist on getting it. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Humphries was well received. He said the time-limit would not allow him to discuss Dominion politics. He did not think it fair that the two previous members should have been named by the chairman as the two candidates they were to select. He was simply in the position of an ordinary individual and would have to abide by the decision of the people. He did not like the term "independent" candidate—it was simply that such an individual was allowed to do as he pleased. However, the two gentlemen who previously represented them had placed themselves in a peculiar position. A man, if he was an honest man, was the supportor of either one party or the other. (Applause.) If he was elected he would be an out-and-out supporter of Sir John Macdonald. [Hear.] He did not believe there was a crisis for Sir John Macdonald, but that British Columbia and every province in the Dominion would support the liberal-conservative party. [Applause.] He did not wish to disparage the liberal party, but thought that they acted in the best interests of the country so far as they knew. [No, no.] But he intended to be a staunch supporter of Sir John Macdonald, through good and evil report. He would, like his other friends, avail himself of the opportunities to discuss matters more fully. He (Mr. H.) had been quietly canvassing Victoria ever since he was shunted out of the Victoria legislature, and he believed he had a majority of votes in the district. [Applause.]

Mr. W. A. Robertson was received with cheers. He was not aware up to date as to why the meeting was called. He was before them to-night to ask from a higher honor than ever before. He was previously a member of the confederation league. It was a time when Canadians were termed "North American Chinamen," and it was not safe for one's business to be connected with anything Canadian. However, he had always worked for principle and continued with the league until confederation was a fact. He had previously been elected for Victoria district to the legislature, and several times a councillor for the city. It had been pointed out by Henry George that as soon as they elected dishonest men the community generally became corrupt. (Voice—Who was Henry George?) (Laughter.) When working men ruled the nation that nation was prosperous. When Cromwell was dictator England was well ruled. The reason he spoke thus was because some might say 'Oh, he is a common blacksmith, and ain't fit to represent us." He believed no matter how poor a man was, if he had the ability he was competent to represent them. (Hear.) He thought that the man who would oppose Sir John Macdonald was guilty of an act of ingratitude. He thought we should have more protection on our waters—our towboats should tow in our own waters, our sealers should have right to seal in the Behring sea; the fisheries in the east should be protected. No matter how loud the American eagle might scream the British lion would not be frightened neither the lion's cub [applause]. If elected he would get as much as possible for the province. Now he was still unaware what the meeting was called for. He believed that it had been cut and dried that the two old members should be chosen [no, no]. He had been enchred once before in a convention [laughter] and he did not propose to be so again [laughter]. No matter who might be chosen here to-night he intended to run anyway [cheers].

Dr. Helmcken was loudly called for, and on coming forward said he was in the wrong box—he had got in by the back door [laughter]. He was not a candidate—he did not know there was a vacancy in the city. He thought that when two members had done their duty faithfully they should again be accorded the confidence of the electors. He would ask them to support the government of Sir John A. Macdonald [hear, hear]. There was not a man who had come before them but had supported Sir John Macdonald; there was not one who dared to dare to come forward and oppose him [cheers]. Sir John had carried out his agreement with British Columbia, and in his endeavor to do so had nearly swamped his party. They should not swamp horses in crossing a stream, and he thought they should send men to Ottawa who would support the present government. The Macdonald party were the party that were one of progress. [Cheers. He took no stock in the remarks about being slaves to party—or to Sir John Macdonald—there was no such thing. They sent members there to support the government and not any one man. [Cheers.] He would ask them to give that support to Sir John A. Macdonald's government, which his enemies say it requires, and which we all know it deserves. [Loud Applause.]

Mr. E. G. Prior said he was there to support the member who would support Sir John A. Macdonald and if they returned two such members they would get justice. If they returned others they would return those who would oppose British Columbia interests. He had great pleasure in proposing the following resolution:

Whereas, it is desirable in the interests of Victoria city and district that members of parliament pledged to support the government of Sir John A. Macdonald should be elected to represent this constituency, and that in the choice of such members all classes should be represented.

Therefore, be it resolved that in the opinion of this meeting a convention of electors be formed; and that said convention after due deliberation do select two candidates to represent this district in the house of commons who pledge themselves to support the government of Sir John A. Macdonald on all party questions, and upheld the interests of this community in all matters of local importance; and that this meeting invites all liberal-conservatives to use their influence for the welfare of such candidates as may be chosen by said convention.

Mr. R. P. Rithet said it was with pleasure that he seconded the resolution. British Columbia, now really a portion of Canada, for they were connected by rail with the same, it was necessary now to sink individuality and elect men to the house who would support the Macdonald government. They had seven candidates before them all in the same interest. If they did not combine their forces they might place themselves in a position that would enable their enemies to return members against their wishes. They had a large meeting here to-night and he was pleased to see that there were so many supporters of Sir John in Victoria. (Applause.) They would have the privilege of deputing as many or few as they pleased to choose two candidates who would pledge themselves to support John Macdonald. (Applause.)

The chairman then put the resolution, which, according to vote, was carried.

A large number objecting, on motion of T. B. Humphries, seconded by Mayor Fell, the vote was reconsidered.

The chairman again read the resolution which was negatived.

On motion of Humphreys, seconded by Fell, a vote of thanks was tendered the chairman, and the meeting dispersed.

## PREFERENTIAL CREDITORS.

The attorney-general has introduced a bill to abolish preference amongst creditors in the administration of the estate of deceased persons, which provides that in the administration of the estate of every person who shall die on or after the first day of January, 1888, no debt or liability of such person shall be entitled to any priority or preference by reason merely that the same is secured by or arises under a bond, deed or other instrument under seal, or is otherwise made or constituted a specialty debt; but all the creditors of such person, as well specialty as simple contract, shall be treated as standing in equal degree, and be paid accordingly out of the assets of such deceased person, whether such assets are legal or equitable, any statute or other law to the contrary notwithstanding: Provided always, that this act shall not prejudice or affect any lien, charge, or other security which any creditor may hold or be entitled to for the payment of his debt.

## BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES.

Returns laid before the house yesterday show that in 1885 there were 320 births and 323 deaths and 193 marriages, against 263 births, 377 deaths and 227 marriages for the year 1884, being an increase of 57 births, and a decrease of 54 deaths and 34 marriages; and making together a total decrease of 31 registrations for the year 1885. Of the 320 births registered in 1885, 172 were males and 148 females. Only 14 of the marriages were by banns. The age of the eldest bride was 63 and of the youngest 15 years. The age of the eldest bridegroom was 71 and of the youngest bridegroom 19 years.

Sabbath School Anniversary.—The Gorge road Sunday school anniversary which took place last Wednesday evening, proved to be a very successful one so far as the part contributed by the children was concerned. This school has only been a little over one year in existence, and during that time its numbers have increased from forty-five to one hundred and thirty-five. Judging from the secretary's report considerable progress has been made in providing aids for instructing the children. We note that a very handsome library has been obtained. Mr. E. J. Gray, the superintendent, deserves great credit for the present prosperous condition of the school.

Every Week, Dick's English Library of Standard Novels, and many other cheap publications of a similar kind at T. N. Hibben & Co's.

## SALMON.

### Complimentary Dinner to M. Lumby, Esq., J. P., Secretary to the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway Company.

We clip the following account of a dinner tendered to M. Lumby, Esq., J. P., from the Kamloops *Sentinel* of the 22nd January:

On Saturday evening, Jan. 15th, the principal residents of Spallumcheen valley, took the occasion of a hasty visit of Mr. Lumby's over the surveyed line of the proposed railway, to tender him a complimentary dinner at the Lansdowne hotel, to mark their appreciation of his untiring services in furthering the true interests of the district. The guests, to the number of thirty-four, met at the hour of 7 p. m., the chair being ably filled by Mr. T. M. K. Lambly, Mr. D. Graham, J. P., acting as vice-chairman.

Invitations were extended to the local clergy. The number of participants would have been very much augmented had it been possible for a longer notice to be given. After due justice having been done to host Furstenau's excellent dinner and the usual loyal toasts drunk, the chairman in a very neat and complimentary speech proposed the toast of the evening, remarking upon the projected railway what a boon it would be to our magnificent valley and the province at large.

Mr. Lumby was received with loud and prolonged cheering. On rising he said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I thank you most heartily for the honor you have done me, and regret that I am not an orator to express as I would wish to do, my feelings on the subject, but assure you that I do feel this public demonstration of appreciation of the work I am doing, and trying to do for the benefit of the district in which I hope to share with you all. When first I came out to this valley with the late Mr. Preston Bennett and F. Bennett in the winter of 1869-70, Mr. Fortune was the "pioneer" settler here, and on landing, for we came up by row boat, we had to cut our way through the brush in order to get to our present location. For many years we had to undergo considerable privations, often living on dried salmon, and I have known the larder to be reduced to turnips and peas, with, for a treat, bread made from flour ground in a coffee mill. But the country was here, and I believed then in its ultimate development. My dearest friend Preston Bennett, "whose death left a blank in my life that nothing can completely fill," often discussed with me the capabilities of our lovely country, and his ambitious views for its future. I would that he was with us now to carry out, so much better than I can do, the schemes I was trying to develop. Since that time such a wonderful change has taken place. Then our grain was put in and taken off in the primitive manner, mostly by implements of our own manufacture. Raw hide taking the place of iron, our hay was gathered by wooden forks taken from the willow brush, our grain threshed with the flail or trodden out by horses, and transported by row boats 150 miles to find a market. Now we have schools, mills, public hall, places of worship, and the most advanced agricultural machinery, including steam threshing. But we can't stop; this is an age of progress, the millions in the densely populated parts of this world must be fed supply. Christian churches on, and extends its iron arm across this vast continent from ocean to ocean, and the C. P. railway is an accomplished fact. This railway is not built for a sectional benefit, it is a vast national highway competing with others and fighting for success. If there be any part of this province capable of acting as a feeder to it, that part of the country will be benefited, otherwise stagnation is its doom. The producer and consumer must be brought together by the iron road. The good old days when high prices ruled have gone by forever, much as we may regret them. We must accept the inevitable, for the iron link is riveted which binds us to the older and more populous communities. The C. P. R. is for the benefit of the Dominion at large, and will be anything but a benefit to those portions of the country which cannot act as feeders to it. The Shuswap & Okanagan railway will open up the country so well calculated to be a valuable feeder, and afford a scope for agricultural and manufacturing enterprises and commercial undertakings, far beyond what is possible with inferior means of transport. I need not point out to you what railway lines have done in all parts of the world. This proposed line, by bringing consumers and producers together, will help to kill that sectional feeling which has standing in the way of progress, and like a canker is eating into and destroying our province. We will be able to ship to the coast and Vancouver island (rich in timber, coal, mineral, and fisheries), many articles of consumption now furnished by foreigners, thus circulating millions of dollars which are going out of the country. Gold taken out of the bowels of the earth may create good times, but the moment it ceases to be produced everything vanishes like the vision of a dream, as the crumbling walls of deserted mining towns throughout this vast continent can testify. It is not so with agricultural pursuits; every settler on the soil marks thereon the sacred stamp of home—that home, if not for himself, for someone in the future. It may be but a poor log cabin in the present, but who can say what it will develop into in the future. But I am somewhat digressing. I was talking of the imports drawing away large sums, which we ought to have distributed amongst ourselves. I will mention some of the foreign imports paying duty at the Port of Victoria for the year 1885:

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|---|---|---|---|
| Sheep | 18,992 dzn. | Duty | 20 ⅌ ct. ad. va. |
| Swine | 2,076 " | " | 20 " |
| Eggs | 77,651 doz. | " | free |
| Butter | 260,168 lbs. | " | 4 cts. ⅌ lb. |
| B. & Ham | 687,411 " | " | 2 " " |
| Lard | 156,500 " | " | 2 " " |
| Wheat | 926,880 " | " | ½ c. " |
| Flour | 7,534,000 " | " | ½ c. " |
| Ex Mill Feed | 27,346 100-100 | " | 20 ⅌ ct. ad. val. |

You can thus see what the Victoria trade alone is. What a mutual benefit it must be for us to have cheap connections. There is also New Westminster, Vancouver and Nanaimo importing largely. I doubt, if we, who have lived in this district so long are as well able to judge of its capabilities as many traveled observant strangers who come here. I am surprised at the high estimate placed upon its capabilities by men whom I know are thoroughly able to judge correctly. Look at the new enterprise started in our midst. I allude to the Columbia Milling Co., Mr. Lawes, the manager, a gentleman of vast experience in the different parts of the world, being satisfied by careful investigation, has thrown his lot in with us. I need not tell you how much we will benefit by those mills, and you cannot but see how much those mills will be benefited by this railway. With cheap handling of freight it will allow a higher price to be paid for wheat, and a cash market for everything produced, is the only thing that will cause our large area of productive land to smile with grain. And not being confined to a small local market the larger the amount of grain that can be grown amongst us the lower will be the rate of freights. There are many difficulties in getting money to be invested in new countries, although there are millions of pounds lying idle in England. No matter how good the speculation, its success must be guaranteed by large bonuses, or endorsed by the government, which means the people. The gentlemen who have taken up the S. and O. railway scheme are well known throughout the Dominion of Canada, being connected with some of their largest works. They have just completed the drydock at Esquimalt, fifty miles of the Island railway, and large undertakings in Eastern Canada. I sincerely hope that sufficient encouragement may be extended to enable them to carry out the construction of this line which you all desire. [Cheers]. There are many great disadvantages to contend with as we have no municipal organizations, through whom assistance might be rendered. I will show you how much has been given to railways by way of bonuses in the province of Ontario for ten years previous to 1881. Every township and village contributing its quota, amounting in all to about $14,000,000 (fourteen millions). What did this do? It enabled the different companies to grade track, purchase material, etc., on the security of these investments and the business prospects of the several undertakings, the companies obtaining loans from capitalists to complete the work and put the railways in operation. These caused an investment of thirty-five millions, and these important public works constructed which never could have been carried out without the people themselves coming forward. I get this information from the printed statistics of the province of Ontario. I will also mention an instance of the appreciation of a small community of the advantages to be derived from a railway. The Souris and Rocky Mountain railway, a branch of the C. P. R., receiving a bonus of 7,000 acres of land to the mile, laid out their line within half a mile of a young town called Rapid City, who gave the company a sum of $200,000 to divert their line that half mile. The worthy chairman was pleased to remark that I have worked for the interest of the district; I trust I have, and always shall work for this, my district and my home. I may at times err, I wish I could bring more ability to bear, but of this I am sure, that I do my very best. (Cheers.) I am glad to have this opportunity of publicly acknowledging the thanks I owe to Mr. F. G. Vernon for the very great assistance he has rendered me, and to testify to the great interest he takes in everthing connected with the welfare of the district, and I have no doubt that our other members will, on the floor of the house and elsewhere, study the interests of the districts and the province at large. (A voice: They must). We ought all of us put our shoulder to the wheel; each individual is able to do something. The *Inland Sentinel* is a paper which already is, and, I believe, will