

British America. The vast extent of territory comprised under the generic name of British America, and its wonderful resources of mineral and agricultural wealth, are hardly known even within its own borders. The scheme of confederating the provinces under a strong central government, with local legislatures guarding the interests of each province, and standing in the same relation to the general government as the States of America do to the Washington or Federal Government, is one to which we long since gave in our adhesion.

From the above statistics an idea will be gleaned of the greatness of the British Possessions in America, which are destined soon to be cemented under a Federal form of Government, with the local legislatures guaranteed to each province—and as has been said of the United States of America, "each colony a star revolving around the central government as a sun—distinct as the billows, yet indivisible as the sea."

The Estimates Passed. The struggle between the Lords and the Commons over the Estimates has ended. The 701,000 demanded have been voted, and it now remains to be seen how, when, and where the outrageous sum is to be raised.

Supposing the increase to have since continued at the same rate in all the Colonies excepting Newfoundland, where exceptional causes have interfered with the progress of population, the number of residents in British America, in January, 1867, which may be taken as the starting point for the proposed confederation, will be about four millions, distributed:

Table showing population distribution by province: Upper Canada (1,232,200), Lower Canada (1,288,580), New Brunswick (285,084), Nova Scotia (388,781), Prince Edward's Island (91,443), Newfoundland (130,000), Total (3,976,244).

The following is the statement per head of debts of all the provinces: Canada \$20 50, Prince Edward's Island 2 00, New Brunswick 20 00, Newfoundland 9 00, Nova Scotia 15 50, All British North America 19 00.

The account, we are told, is correct within a very few cents for Canada, the sinking fund being about equal to the adverse bank balance. Also for New Brunswick and Newfoundland. In Nova Scotia the construction of new railways is rapidly increasing the debt to the same amount as in Canada.

In Prince Edward's Island the "unpaid warrants" ought to be added, but even then the amount would not exceed \$3 per head. From the article on the banking systems and capital of the provinces, we find that the total amount of paid-up capital is \$34,800,000; circulation, including provincial notes, \$16,000,000; deposits, \$32,550,000; discounts, \$54,500,000. The shipping owned in British North America is as follows: No. of vessels, 7943; tonnage, 1,029,764; value, \$86,338,453, of which New Brunswick owns three times the number of vessels of any other province except Canada, and nearly twice the number of that province.

Table of ordinary revenues per head of population and portion paid for interest on public debt for various provinces: Nova Scotia (\$4 11), New Brunswick (\$3 99), Canada (\$3 16), Prince Edward's Island (\$2 84), Average (\$3 45).

Then my brick stores—on which I fondly thought, For bonded warehouses would soon be sought—Bring "nary red"—no revenue they raise—No ships arriving, no one duty pays! Some bills, too, which with Mortgages I gave, Have fallen due—nor protest could I save.

INSURANCE TAX.—The Insurance Agents have not made returns of their transactions as required by the Municipal by-law. The tax of one-half per cent is deemed to high, and as it will really fall on the insurer, its effect will be to narrow the insurance business down to a very small compass.

DETECTION OF SMUGGLING.—The passage of the ferry between Windsor and Detroit is now attended with a great deal of annoyance. Orders have recently been received from Washington by the Detroit Customs officers to allow no one to cross from Windsor without a careful, rigid and thorough search of his and her person as well as luggage, and female searchers have been appointed to examine lady passengers.

THE ENTERPRISE reached her wharf at eight o'clock last evening from Burrard Inlet, with Hons Helmcken, Stamp and Pemberton, Capt. Williams, and 20 other passengers. The Enterprise ran to New Westminster on Saturday; but on Sunday morning, owing to the large quantity of float ice coming down, was compelled to run round to Burrard Inlet for safety.

DIVERS AT WORK.—Divers were at work yesterday prospecting for holes in the bottom of the ship Nicholas Biddle. Three only were found, and the work of stopping them up has been commenced. The Captain expects to have the holes plugged and the water pumped out of the vessel before the close of the week.

COMOX.—By an arrival from Comox during the week we learn that the weather at the settlement is unusually severe; a cold snap had set in, and the snow covered the ground to a depth of several inches.

CITY & TOWN MAPS.—Messrs. J. P. Davies & Co. have had prepared several well executed maps of Victoria City and Esquimalt Town, which will be used in the sale of parcels of real estate.

THE CONCERT.—The last of the series of entertainments given in aid of the Female Infirmary took place last night, and almost caused us regret, in the knowledge that these recherche affairs would probably not be repeated for some time to come. The music was fully equal to that produced at the previous concert, and happily chosen. The ladies and gentlemen were in excellent voice, and realised all that had been anticipated from them.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Another Gem from the Amateur Performance. Here is another gem from the "Merchant of Venice Preserved" as performed the other evening by the Amateurs. It is well worth preserving as a witty record of the times:

ANTONIO'S LETTER FROM THE CAPITAL. Antonio to Bassanio, greeting: This shall inform Bassanio I'm done brown; My chance is up, my ship, alas! gone down! The noble vessel on her homeward way, Sir, Laden with the rich products of the Fraser—Berries—the jam'd sal lals! for making jams, And monster Sturgeon—Cranberries—and Clams; Bump'd on the sands and so a wreck became, (Captain, as usual not at all to blame.) The people here will say just as they like, And lay the blame on Titcomb or Pike; No sympathy I get—to them 'tis fun, Alas for me! I'm Capital-ly done.

Then my brick stores—on which I fondly thought, For bonded warehouses would soon be sought—Bring "nary red"—no revenue they raise—No ships arriving, no one duty pays! Some bills, too, which with Mortgages I gave, Have fallen due—nor protest could I save. No Son of Adam'er came to such harm, And Adamson's just seiz'd my Saanich farm: From Sorrows page I've sure learn'd all man can, And Cochrane's just sold off my grand piano!

DISMISSED.—The charge against James Kelly, for stealing a gold chain from a rogue and a vagabond, was dismissed in the Police Court. The prisoner however, was sent back to prison to serve out a sentence of three months as a rogue and a vagabond.

THE PIPE CASE.—C. J. Coates, charged with having received a stolen pipe belonging to N. Morrison, was discharged yesterday in the Police Court, for want of evidence. The pipe is detained by the Police for the present.

GREY SANDSTONE.—A fine seam of grey sandstone has been discovered near Nanaimo. The stone has a close fine grain, and is well adapted for building purposes, for which it will some day come into general use.

A GOOD CHANCE.—Mr Smith's fine farm at North Saanich is advertised for sale or lease low. The farm comprises between 300 or 400 acres of first class prairie land, about 50 acres of which are under cultivation. A fine orchard is attached to the farm.

SHADE AND SUNSHINE.—Yesterday the weather was as cosy as a young maiden; alternate rain and sunshine, accompanied by occasional fits of weeping, rendered out-door life anything but agreeable.

PHOTOGRAPHIC.—Mr Ashman, Photographer, who has studied and practiced the art in London and San Francisco, arrived by the Active, and is prepared to take portraits in every style at short notice, and on reasonable terms, at Gentile's Gallery, next door to the Theatre, Government street.

THE MAIL SUBSIDY.—Capt. Williams returned on the Enterprise yesterday. It is reported that the Council decided to accept any of the tenders, they being deemed too high.

WHITENESS.—The New Westminster papers are engaged in whitewashing the acts of the Government members of the Council. They will need to lay the whitewash as thickly.

CELESTIALS COMING.—We have been informed that a large immigration of Chinamen is expected this year, and that they are mostly bound for Kootenay.—Examiner.

REMAINDER.—Jim, the suspected robber of Mrs Coppersman, has again been remanded for three days.

M. M. S. Malacca arrived at New Westminster yesterday morning.

The mail sloop Mystery arrived at midnight from Puget Sound.

THE GRAND PROMOTERS OF HEALTH. HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.

The grand secret of attaining happiness is to secure good health, without which life is stripped of its pleasure. The great irregularity of any function should be checked and set right by appropriate doses of these fine purifying Pills, which strengthen the system by thoroughly cleansing the blood from all impurities.

- List of ailments treated by Holloway's Pills: Ague, Asthma, Bilious Complaints, Blisters on the Skin, Bowel Complaints, Colic, Constipation, Dropsy, Dysentery, Erysipelas, Female Irregularities, Fevers of all kinds, Gout, Headache, Indigestion, Jaundice, Liver Complaints, Lumbago, Pleurisy, Rheumatism, Retention of Urine, Scalds, Sores, Swellings, Ulcers, Venereal Affections, Weakness, from whatever cause, &c.

NOTICE. A DIVIDEND IN THIS ESTATE (No. 9) of 2 per cent, will be paid at the Office of Messrs Wilson Burgess & Sellers, Government Street, on and after the 31st day of January, 1867.

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The "Servants" and their "Master." Mr. Birch, notwithstanding, experience as Colonial Secretary, President of the Council and Administrator of the Government, has his back for the application of birch-rod with good effect. His marks in the Council on Monday show the foundation of all errors to be fairly education want of perception. The U. Secretary to whom he was private secretary, may have taught him private secretary was only a name for upper flunkey; but Colonial Secretary is a different animal. He is a servant of Government, not a servant of the same master. The other executive officers are equally free service to the upper servants. Mandates—Stipendiary or otherwise cannot be called servants; the title signifies the reverse—Magistrate, the derivative, meaning master. Birch's want of perception is denoted by his interpretation of constitution of the Legislative Council. The Executive Council do their commission from the source as the Governor himself are bound to give him advice in affairs of the Colony without prejudice. Their commissions held during Her Majesty's pleasure which means for life; not so the Governor, whose commission for a restricted period; their experience of the Colony enables them to be better acquainted with the requirements than the Governor expected to be; and their duty as a Council, is in ordinary cases to advise the Governor, and extreme cases to relieve His Excellency of responsibility. magistracy is supposed to be composed of intelligent and independent men, who are expected to know the requirements of the different districts or sections of the colony which they have magisterial rule in civilized communities are unenforced by fear of either Crown or people. The colonists are allowed make their wishes known through their representatives, and although permitted the controlling influence of the Council, most assuredly have influence beyond their votes with a wise Governor, who not believe that vox populi is vox dei, yet finds it politic to treat it as such things more than vox et preterea. If Mr Birch and some of his sap would consider the position in which their appointment as Council places them, there would be less to cry out for a new constitution for despising that which has thought suitable to our wants.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE. THE NEW WORLD.—The steamer World will leave Portland on Friday night, at seven o'clock, for Victoria, Oly and way ports. Capt Charles Winsor came round on the McNear will come her. The people on the Sound, through persevering and energetic efforts of owners, are about to have the finest perhaps fastest steamer ever on Puget Sound. The New World has an immense capacity, and her passenger accommodations will make the travelling public on the open their eyes in wonder. She was for the New York and Albany trade was shortly sent around to run between Francisco and Sacramento. On 1st of May, 1864, she arrived here, for the N. Co. to run from Portland to the Cascades. She is a first class boat, having been of excellent material, and is now as good every part as the day she was launched in Oregon.

SALE OF PIANOS.—Six cottage piano English makers, were sold yesterday afternoon by Mr Cochrane. A Collard & Co sold for \$100 to Captain Fleming; a Bechstein reaper for \$95 to Captain Raymond; a Stoddard for \$105 to Mr Raymond; a Collard & Co for \$125 to Mr McCrea; a Kirkman for \$220 to Mr Higgins; a piano van brought \$47 50.

WRECK OF A SLOOP.—The sloop Helen is reported ashore on Whidby at a place known as Ebeys Landing. She has sustained severe injury, and it is thought will prove a total loss.

NOTICE. In re the Estate of Honore Lions deceased. ALL PERSONS HAVING ANY CLAIMS against the said Honore Lions are requested to present the same to the undersigned, Executors, on or before the 1st day of February, 1867, at the office of the said Executors, Messrs Wilson Burgess & Sellers, Government Street, Victoria, B. C., in order to have the same admitted to the said estate. Dated Feb. 11, 1867. WILSON BURGESS & SELLERS, Executors.

NOTICE. In the matter of the Estate of S. Elasser, who has made an assignment for the benefit of his Creditors. A DIVIDEND IN THIS ESTATE (No. 9) of 2 per cent, will be paid at the Office of Messrs Wilson Burgess & Sellers, Government Street, on and after the 31st day of January, 1867.

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