

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday, September 7, 1870.

The Official Terms.

So completely does the terrible war now devastating the fairest part of Europe overshadow every other subject that there is very little relief for the more commonplace and less exciting themes of everyday existence. And yet the subject indicated by the caption under which we write involves considerations sufficiently important to every British Columbian to demand instant and earnest attention. In another column will be found the official Terms of Confederation agreed upon at Ottawa, and very soon to be submitted for the acceptance or rejection of the people whom they most nearly concern. And now that these Terms are no longer surrounded by the mist of diplomatic reticence, the consideration of them can be approached with more precision and less guesswork. It will be seen at a glance that, upon one or two points of considerable importance, we were a little astray; yet our forshadowings were for the most part tolerably correct, while the assertion that the Terms were returned to our Governor in a form really more favorable to this colony than that in which they left his hands will find ample justification in the text. To particularise, inasmuch as money generally constitutes the most interesting, if not the most important element in all such matters, let us take the financial part of the Terms first. It will be observed that the population basis falls somewhat below our reckoning. We were induced to believe it was fixed at one hundred thousand. It is put down at sixty thousand. This is just one-half of what the Government scheme ventured to claim, and forty thousand less than we were led to expect. The difference is chiefly important as influencing financial results. Let us see how far it will affect these. It will give us \$48,000 a year less from the per capita grant, and \$33,300 a year less from the interest estimated on the difference of public debt. And here its influence on the finances stop—\$81,300 less a year. But a set-off, and considerably more, will be found in the eleventh section, wherein it is provided that the Dominion Government shall, in consideration of certain land grants for the purposes of the Canadian Pacific Railway, pay the sum of one hundred thousand dollars annually to British Columbia. Section four also exhibits an advantage which was scarcely reckoned upon under the original scheme, and which, for present purposes, may be expressed in figures at \$25,000 a year. Thus we shall receive from the Dominion: Annual subsidy, \$35,000; interest on difference of debt, \$33,300; per capita grant, \$48,000; payment in consideration of land grants, \$100,000, making a total of \$216,300 which we shall receive half-yearly in advance from the Federal treasury with which to pay our Provincial way. We shall not now dwell upon the less direct money advantages, or attempt to strike a financial balance between the Colony and the Dominion, but shall take a hasty glance at one or two of the new and more noticeable features in the Terms before us. The provision for a semi-weekly mail service between Victoria and Olympia, to be performed by vessels adapted for the conveyance of freight and passengers, is a new and most important feature. Indeed, it will exert an influence upon the trade of this city, to say nothing at all about the mail accommodation it will extend to the whole colony, scarcely less felt than that of fortnightly communication with San Francisco. Looking to the completion of the Northern Pacific Railway, it is even more important than the San Francisco connection. It will be observed that section five, subsection D provides for the maintenance of our telegraphic system by the Dominion Government, thus relieving the colony of about \$10,000 a year. It will be seen that we were substantially correct in regard to the provision made about the Customs tariffs. Probably the most important section of all the fourteen is that which relates to the Canadian Pacific railway. And here we find the language employed as definite as the terms are satisfactory. May it not be permitted us to congratulate the colonists upon the final and complete removal of all that doubt with which certain parties in this colony so assiduously labored to surround this the greatest and, to us, most important enterprise of the day? After all the sneers we have endured for asserting the feasibility of the scheme and the certainty of its being undertaken by the Dominion Government it is peculiarly gratifying to us to find this item in the Terms couched in language at once so decided and unequivocal. The assurance of a liberal Indian policy as that hitherto pursued by the British Columbia Government sounds very like a piece of grim irony. We were not aware that our

Government had an Indian policy! The fourteenth section would be far from satisfactory were it not for a knowledge of the fact that it will be left to the representative members of the very first session of the Legislature about to be constituted to decide whether the people desire Responsible Government at once, or whether they will prefer to seek it through the less direct medium of the Organic Act. It is scarcely necessary to say that we believe the country will readily and thankfully accept the Terms.

Municipal Council.

TUESDAY, Aug. 30th, 1870.

Council met at 8 o'clock, P.M. Present, His Worship the Mayor, Councilors McKay, Russell, Allison, Gerow, Carey and Walker. Communication from Messrs. Sprout & Co. relating to the Moss, was read and ordered to be placed on file.

The Pound Keeper submitted a report showing the amount of revenue and expenditure for the month ending August:

From Arthur Strong for Sanitary labor, \$20. From W. A. Sayward for lumber, to build a Drain on Humboldt Street, \$12.50. From Mr. McCreight for legal services, \$60. From J. W. Green for surveying grades, \$15. All of which was submitted and referred to the Finance Committee for payment.

The sum of \$80 paid for labor on streets by the Street Committee was confirmed.

Permission was given to B. McDonald to build a cistern on the corner of Fort and Blanchard streets.

SOMERSET CREEK.—This creek—lately visited by Mr. Stephens and other prospectors—is a small stream eight miles west of Jordan river. It takes its rise in the Island Coast range, rushes with great impetuosity down the side of a steep mountain and throws itself into the Straits of Fuca. The width of the stream is about 70 feet. Numerous falls exist—one of them 30 feet in height—in fact, the river is supposed to be one great fall from source to mouth. The sides are thickly clothed with timber and salal bushes. The latter attain a height of 15 feet! From a crevice the prospectors got \$750 in gold of a beautiful orange color, some of the pieces the size of a watermelon seed. Most of the crevices are filled with cement as hard as rock and more difficult to displace. Near the mouth they found a bar composed of rock and debris, washings from a false bedrock of cement. On this bar they got 5 and 6 cents to the pan in the gravel and they think about 100 feet of the gravel will pay well.

GOING TO THE COUNTRY.—At the request of the managing committee of the Agricultural Exhibition, Mr. Norris, who has been so very successful in this community, will shortly proceed to canvas the country districts, less, however, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions than with a view to enlisting the sympathy and active co-operation of the farmers by explaining to them the object and advantages of the movement. While there is not a settler in the length and breadth of the land who should not be a subscribing member of the society, there assuredly is not one who should hesitate to evince sufficient interest in the matter to become an exhibitor.

SPIRITUALISM AT FAULT.—We are informed that, a few weeks ago, at a spiritual seance held in this city a communication was received from the other world that a young man, then absent, had just died in California. The name of the town and that of the hotel, in which he was said to have died were stated with emphasis and circumstantiality and the statement was repeated over and over again. The young man's friends immediately put themselves in communication with friends in California and yesterday received word that he is alive and well and quite indignant at the liberty the spirits have taken with his name.

THE LOAN.—Not long ago the telegraph alluded to a certain Canadian Loan Bill in its progress through the British Parliament. Some persons jumped at the conclusion that the loan could be none other than that for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway; and amongst those who rushed to so unwarrantable a conclusion was our contemporary, who, but a few weeks earlier, outlined the whole railway scheme. It turns out that the loan was one of \$5,500,000 for fortifications in the Dominion.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The result of the late elections has been to return, as is stated, an equal number of Confederates and Antis, and it is presumed that the present Administration, which is anti-Confederate, will not be able to command a majority. Doubtless the little island is tired of remaining out in the cold.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL. Capt. Anderson, sails to-day for London, via San Francisco, she has made a regular yearly trip between London and this port for the past fourteen years, and is one of the best and fastest ships afloat. At San Francisco she will load with wheat.

THE SS California arrived from Portland via the Sound yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The freight and passenger list has already appeared. She will sail for Napa to-day and sail hence for Portland about Saturday.

NEW CISTERN.—Work was commenced by the contractor yesterday on the cistern to be located at the corner of Blanchard and Fort streets.

MR. ROBERT LEARY of Seattle, paid the city a flying visit yesterday. Mr. Leary represents that excellent and progressive paper—the Seattle *Intelligencer*—and is also "mice host" of the Cosmopolitan Hotel of Seattle.

Later from Peace and Skeena Rivers.

A canoe with five men—among whom was Mr. John Mitchell—arrived here yesterday from Skeena river. Four of the men are from Vitale creek, having left there 34 days ago. They report that Madden and partner were met by them in a half starved condition on the trail 30 miles from Tash Landing. They had had nothing to eat save one dried fish for several days and were bound for Peace river, having discovered no diggings on the Skeena or its tributaries, neither had they experienced any difficulty with Indians. Our informants left about 150 men on Vitale creek and vicinity. Only one claim, Vitale's, was paying. The yield was \$10 to \$15 a day to the hand. Four companies were engaged in sinking holes at the head of the creek, but they had got no prospect. Prospecting was also proceeding on Quartz creek. A company of eleven men, were making \$5 and \$6 per day to the hand. Fifty Chinamen were at work near by and were making \$3 and \$4 to the hand. There had been no sickness or deaths at the mines. The weather was pleasant, with occasional falls of rain. On Silver creek, twenty miles from Vitale, a company of 16 men were turning the stream and expected to do well. Two parties of prospectors are missing. One party, headed by Black Jack, the mountaineer, started two months ago to prospect Nation river, and had not since been heard from. Another party, composed of one white and two colored men, started to reach Peace river about ten weeks ago. A few days afterwards their dog returned to camp in a half starved condition, and it is feared some accident has befallen the men. The country has been quite thoroughly prospected this year, but the results obtained are not flattering. The gentleman with whom we conversed yesterday left Tash Landing 34 days ago and traveled leisurely down, stopping at Indian ranches to recruit occasionally. At the forks of the Skeena the party met Mitchell and came down with him. There are now no white men on the Skeena, save at Woodcock's Store at the mouth of the river. On the way down the coast the party saw large schools of whales. They are very tame and come close in shore. Mr. Mitchell has spent some months in prospecting on the Skeena, but made nothing—the diggings being generally shallow and poor.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The exports of the island during last year were \$6,096,707, and its imports during the same year, \$5,254,152, leaving a balance in favor of the Province of \$842,047.

DISCHARGED.—Joseph McDowell, charged with assaulting Mrs. Timothy Roberts, was yesterday discharged from custody after an apology.

DR. TUPPER.—One of the most talented of Canada's Statesmen, has been returned to the Confederation Parliament without opposition.

GABRIEL SOREBARRE [what's in a name?] has pleaded guilty to a charge of selling spirits to an Indian.

NOVA SCOTIA COAL.—The French Government has been purchasing large quantities of coal in Nova Scotia.

AN INVOICE of Chinese beauties went forward for the mines yesterday per Enterprise, consigned to their husbands at Cariboo.

DIRECT STEAMER.—The next steamer will sail from San Francisco for Victoria on Saturday. Probably the Pelican.

TAS INQUIRY into the Plumper Pass murder continues and officer McMillan was dispatched yesterday on the Enterprise to make a further search for articles belonging to the deceased.

MR. DAVID HIGGINS, attorney-at-law of Seattle, Washington Territory, visited Victoria yesterday and favored us with a call.

FOR THE RIVER.—The steamer Enterprise yesterday carried forward 60 tons of freight and 34 passengers.

THE SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, for the East Coast carried a full freight yesterday morning.

THE FIRST CATCH.—Dawson & Co have just taken two large whales.

A CANADIAN GIANTNESS.—A girl named Tice, aged nine years, in the township of Gainsboro, County Lincoln, Canada, weighs 200 pounds.

The Terms of Confederation.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, 30th August, 1870.

The Governor publishes for general information, the following dispatch which he has received from the Governor-General of Canada, with a Report of the Honorable the Privy Council of Canada, embodying the terms to which the Government of the Dominion is willing to assent on the Union of this Colony with the Dominion.

By Command.

PHILIP J. HANKIN.

CANADA.

COPY.

A. MURRAY, JUNR.

NIAGARA, July 7th, 1870.

SIR.—It gives me much pleasure to be able to announce to you the satisfactory termination of the negotiations between the Delegates whom you dispatched from British Columbia and the Ministers of the Dominion.

2. The terms of agreement have been embodied in a Memorandum, of which I enclose a copy. I have been requested by my responsible advisers to add the assurance that

such provision shall be made for the retiring pensions of Public Officers in British Columbia as you may approve of.

3. The Hon. Mr. Trench goes to England by the Mail Steamer of the 9th instant, the other two members of the Delegation return at once to British Columbia, and will, no doubt, give you full details and information on such points as may require discussion.

4. I have announced the result of the negotiations, and sent a copy of the Memorandum to Lord Granville, on the 4th instant.

I have &c, John Young.

(Signed, John Young.

To His Excellency the Governor General, &c, &c, &c.

COPY OF A REPORT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF THE HONORABLE THE

PRIVY COUNCIL.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a Dispatch, dated the 7th of May, 1870, from the Governor of British Columbia, together with certain Resolutions submitted by the Government of that Colony to the Legislative Council thereof, both herewith annexed, on the subject of the proposed Union of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada; and after several interviews between them and the Honorable Messrs. Trench, Helmcken and Carrall, the Delegates from British Columbia, and full discussion with them of the various questions connected with that important subject, the Committee now respectfully submit for your Excellency's approval the following Terms and Conditions, to form the basis of the Political Union between British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada:

1. Canada shall be liable for the Debts and Liabilities of British Columbia existing at the time of the Union.

2. British Columbia not having incurred debts equal to those of the other Provinces now constituting the Dominion shall be entitled to receive, by half yearly payments in advance from the General Government, interest at the rate of five per cent per annum on the difference between the actual amount of its indebtedness at the date of the Union, and the indebtedness per head of the population of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (\$27 77) the population of British Columbia being taken at 60,000.

3. The following sums shall be paid by Canada to British Columbia for the support of its Government and Legislature, to wit: an Annual Subsidy of \$35,000 and an Annual Grant equal to 30 cents per head of the said population of 60,000, both half-yearly in advance, such Grant of 30 cents per head to be augmented in proportion to the increase of population as may be shown by each subsequent decennial census, until the population amounts to 400,000; at which rate such Grant shall thereafter remain; it being understood that the first census shall be taken in the year 1881.

4. The Dominion will provide an efficient Mail Service, fortnightly, by steam communication between Victoria and San Francisco, and twice a week between Victoria and Olympia; the vessels to be adapted for the conveyance of freight and passengers.

5. Canada will assume and defray the charges for the following services:

A. Salary of the Lieutenant Governor;

B. Salaries and Allowances of the Judges of the Supreme Courts and of the County or District Courts; and of the Justices of the Peace;

C. The charges in respect to the Department of Customs;

D. The Postal and Telegraphic Services;

E. Protection and Encouragement of Fisheries;

F. Provision for the Militia;

G. Lighthouses, Buoy and Beacons, Shipwrecked Crews, Quarantine and Marine Hospitals, including a Marine Hospital at Victoria;

H. The Geological Survey;

I. The Penitentiary.

And such further charges as may be incident to and connected with the services which by the British North America Act of 1867 appertain to the General Government, and as are or may be allowed to the other Provinces.

6. Suitable Pensions, such as shall be approved of by Her Majesty's Government, shall be provided by the Government of the Dominion for those of Her Majesty's Servants in the colony whose position and emoluments derived therefrom would be affected by political changes on the admission of British Columbia into the Dominion of Canada.

7. It is agreed that the existing Customs Tariff and Excise Duties shall continue in force in British Columbia until the Railway from the Pacific Coast and the system of Railways in Canada are connected, unless the Legislature of British Columbia should sooner decide to accept the Tariff and Excise Laws of Canada. When Customs and Excise Duties are, at the time of the union of British Columbia with Canada, leviable on any Goods, Wares or Merchandise in British Columbia or in the other Provinces of the Dominion, those Goods, Wares and Merchandise may, from and after the union, be imported into British Columbia from the Provinces now composing the Dominion, as from either of those Provinces into British Columbia, on proof of payment of the Customs or Excise Duties leviable thereon in the Province of Importation. This arrangement to have no force or effect after the assimilation of the Tariff and Excise Duties of British Columbia with those of the Dominion.

8. British Columbia shall be entitled to be represented in the Senate by three Members, and by six Members in the House of Commons. The representation to be increased under the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867.

9. The influence of the Dominion Government will be used to secure the continued maintenance of the Naval Station at Esquimalt.

10. The provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, shall (except those parts thereof which are in terms made, or by reasonable intention may be held to be especially applicable to and only affect, and not the whole of the Provinces now comprising the Dominion, and except so far as the same may be varied by this minute) be applicable to British Columbia, in the

same way and to the like extent as they apply to the other Provinces of the Dominion, and as if the Colony of British Columbia had been one of the Provinces originally united by the said Act.

11. The Government of the Dominion undertakes to secure the commencement simultaneously, within two years from the date of the Union, of the construction of a Railway from the Pacific, towards the Rocky Mountains, and from such point as may be selected, East of the Rocky Mountains, towards the Pacific, to connect the Seaboard of British Columbia with the railway system of Canada; and further, to secure the completion of such Railway within ten years from the date of the Union.

And the Government of British Columbia agree to convey to the Dominion Government, in trust, to be appropriated in such manner as the Dominion Government may deem advisable in furtherance of the construction of the said Railway, a similar extent of Public Lands along the line of the Railway throughout its entire length in British Columbia, not to exceed however Twenty (20) Miles on each side of said line, as may be appropriated for the same purpose by the Dominion Government from the Public Lands in the Northwest Territories and the Province of Manitoba. Provided that the quantity of land which may be held under Pre-emption right or by Crown Grant, within the limits of the tract of land in British Columbia to be so conveyed to the Dominion Government, shall be made good to the Dominion from contiguous Public Lands; and provided further, that until the commencement within Two Years as aforesaid from the date of the Union, of the construction of the said Railway, the Government of British Columbia shall not sell or alienate any further portions of the Public Lands of British Columbia in any other way than under right of Pre-emption, requiring actual residence of the Pre-emptor on the land claimed by him.

12. The Dominion Government shall guarantee the interest for Ten Years from the date of the completion of the works, at the rate of five per centum per annum, on such sum, not exceeding £100,000 sterling, as may be required for the construction of a first class Graving Dock at Esquimalt.

13. The charge of the Indians, and the trusteeship and management of the Lands reserved for their use and benefit, shall be assumed by the Dominion Government, and a policy as liberal as that hitherto pursued by the British Columbia Government, shall be continued by the Dominion Government after the Union.

To carry out such policy, tracts of land of such extent as it has hitherto been the practice of the British Columbia Government to appropriate for that purpose, shall from time to time be conveyed by the Local Government to the Dominion Government in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians on application of the Dominion Government and in case of disagreement between the two Governments respecting the quantity of such tracts of Land to be so granted, the matter shall be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

14. The Constitution of the Executive Authority and of the Legislature of British Columbia shall, subject to the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, continue as existing at the time of the Union and altered under the Authority of the said Act, it being at the same time understood that the Government of the Dominion will readily assent to the introduction of Responsible Government when desired by the inhabitants of British Columbia, and it being likewise understood that it is the intention of the Governor of British Columbia, under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to amend the existing Constitution of the Legislature by providing that a majority of its Members shall be electors.

The Union shall take effect according to the foregoing terms and conditions on such day as Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Most Honorable Privy Council, may appoint (on addresses from the Legislature of the Colony of British Columbia, and of the House of Parliament of Canada, in the terms of the 14th Section of the British North America Act, 1867, and British Columbia may, in its address specify the Electoral Districts for which the first Election of Members to serve in the House of Commons shall take place.

Certified, and made good by the Clerk-Privy Council, Wm. H. LEB.

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