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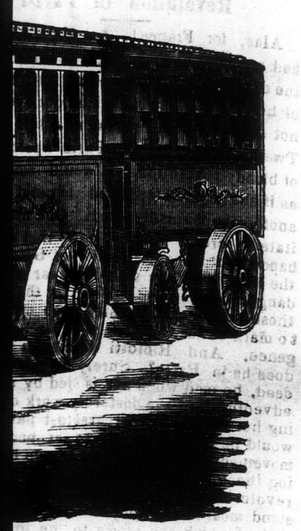

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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

VOL 12. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, WEDNESDAY APRIL 5 1871. NO 17

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PUBLISHED DAILY BY
DAVID W. HIGGINS

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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
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AGENTS.

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do do	Vanwinkle
do do	Richfield
do do	Barkerville
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NEWS! NEWS!

The "British Colonist" is the only Newspaper published at Victoria that receives the Latest Telegraphic Dispatches. Having, consequently, the largest circulation, its value as an Advertising Medium is apparent.

The Terms.

The readers of this journal were made aware on Sunday morning that the Terms upon which it is proposed that British Columbia should be admitted into the Dominion were finally passed by the Canadian Commons by a majority of eighteen; and that they would be debated in the Senate yesterday. Of their passage by the Senate we are not yet able to inform our readers in our next issue. It was scarcely necessary for our Ottawa correspondent to state that the opposition which the Terms met with in the Commons was strong. The smallness of the majority is more eloquent than words. The total number of members in the Commons is one hundred and eighty-one. It is fair to presume that there was a full House on Friday; and a full House means about one hundred and sixty. Assuming that to have been the number present on Friday, the vote would stand thus: Ayes 89; nays 71; majority for the Government 18. Our correspondent has not given us the means of knowing whether or not the Premier was present. The absence of Sir John A Macdonald would make more difference in a division than the mere count of his own vote. This majority is sufficiently small to demonstrate that the opposition must, indeed, have been strong. It was a question whether the vote upon the admission of British Columbia upon the Terms negotiated last summer would be made a strictly party one. It is already known that the press very generally regarded with favor the proposition to receive this Colony upon Terms which were admitted on all hands to be eminently favorable to it, and there appeared to be some ground for cherishing the hope that enough of patriotism still lingered on the Opposition Benches to induce all parties to unite in extending the western boundaries of the Dominion to the Pacific, to assist in the glorious work of making its position the key-stone of the great British North American Empire. It would, now, seem that this hope has been disappointed—that the Opposition did not possess sufficient patriotism to rise above party considerations in such a great national question, but that they were willing to grant office at the sacrifice of it. The small note of the majority by which the Terms were passed may easily be accounted for. Not only did the Opposition muster its full strength and make a desperate effort to oust the Ministry upon this question, but it must have brought to its side fresh recruits from the Maritime Provinces, and possibly from Quebec, not commonly found in such doubtful company, but willing to oppose Terms so well calculated to excite local jealousy. And here we are reminded of the recent visit made to the Maritime Provinces by the leader of the Opposition and by the recalcitrant ex-Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. It is possible that persons in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia had no higher motive than that of inciting local jealousy against the proposition to extend the Dominion to the Pacific and unite the whole by an iron band? But there is the Senate still to be encountered. How will the Terms fare in that body? We apprehend little difficulty and no danger from that source. The Senate is composed of seventy-two members, every one of whom has virtually been appointed by the present administration, and at whose hands a Government measure is not likely to meet with any serious opposition. Respecting the passage of the Terms by the Senate we, therefore, experience little or no anxiety. The subject suggests another train of reflection in which it may not be altogether unprofitable for the readers to indulge. The people of British Columbia have become too much accustomed to think that in her eagerness to reach the Pacific Canada would give us better Terms. It is to be hoped that the hard fight which the Canadian Government has had in carrying these Terms through Parliament will forever dispel this foolish idea. It is hoped that it will do more—that it will enable our people to realize somewhat the gratitude they owe the Governor for conceiving and propounding such highly favorable Terms; the Governor and the Delegates for so successfully negotiating them, and lastly, though not thankfully, the Canadian Government for undertaking to give us such terms. Is it not passing strange that, notwithstanding all these considerations, there are to be found in this community those who, styling themselves 'The People,' are ever ready, upon any clap-trap issue, or at the beck and call of any 'gutter politician,' to insult the Governor, hiss the Delegates, and cast suspicion and discredit upon the Government of the Dominion? The people had better be careful about permitting such things to be done in their name. The contents of a letter to be found in another column are no idle threat.

Important Tariff Changes.

It will be observed by reference to our special Ottawa dispatch that the Canadian Government has restored to the free list coal, coke, rice, wheat and other cereals and flour manufactured from the same. It was announced in these columns, a few days ago that the Government had decided to take off the five per cent. added to the customs duties a year ago. These reductions together will represent something like a million of Customs revenue. The policy of the Government in removing the five per cent is purely one of revenue. That rate was imposed because it was thought that more revenue would be needed. It is now taken off because the Exchequer is overflowing. The reasons for the restoration to the free list of the articles alluded to in our dispatch are two-fold. The revenue derived therefrom is no longer needed, and it is the fixed and announced policy of the Canadian Government to gradually lighten this class of taxation as the financial needs of the Dominion would seem to justify. This we find it, in pursuance of this policy, reducing the taxation under the head of customs duties this year to the tune of about one million dollars. But it is not solely upon revenue grounds that the duty has been removed from these articles. It will be remembered that the reasons for removing them from the free list, were those of international policy, rather than revenue. The measure was, in fact, one of reprisal towards a neighboring nation. Its withdrawal may be accepted as evidence of the establishment of amicable relations and a freer commercial policy between the two countries. We have seen that the United States Government has removed duty from coal, and it is not too much to presume that, amongst other things the establishment of a large and liberal reciprocity treaty may be the result of the labors of the Joint High Commission now sitting at Washington. It can hardly be doubted that the immediate effect of such a treaty would be to enhance the prosperity of the Dominion generally, and to increase the revenue in its share of the joint revenue. But we digress from the subject to which we desired to advert—the benefits possessing special interest to British Columbia. In advocating the immediate acceptance of the Canadian Tariff in preference to the retention of our own, we took occasion to say that the policy of the Dominion was in the direction of a gradual reduction of the customs tariff, and that British Columbia would, by accepting the Canadian tariff, come in for its share of relief consequent upon that policy. This assertion on our part was met by a flat contradiction on the part of those who advocated the retention of our present tariff. It will now be seen who was right. Those who, by a blind adherence to the present tariff, would debar this Colony from participating in the advantages of the Canadian policy tending, as it does, towards free trade, will find themselves occupying anything but an enviable position before the country.

The International Coal Company of Sydney, Nova Scotia, has contracted to deliver one hundred and fifty thousand tons of coal at New York next summer.

TUESDAY April 4

Meteorological Observations for the Winter ending March 31, 1871.

Month	Rainfall	No of days	av. fall per day.	Evap'n
October	1.83 in'n	8	.24 in'n	.81 in'n
Novbr	3.43 do	14	.24 do	.52 do
Decbr	4.15	11	.38	.31
Jan'y	5.99	19	.31	.34
Feb'y	2.08	10	.21	.42
Mar'h	2.27	16	.14	.62
Total	19.64	77		

Daily average fall of rain for the winter .26 of an in.

The max height of barometer for the month of March, 30.60 on the 20th at 10 a.m. Minimum 29.80 on the 9th during a S.E. gale of wind.

Maximum of thermometer 50 on the 26th. Minimum 28 on the 15th.

Total evaporation of water this month .03 of an inch.

Sunshine 18 hours.

Mean temperature of the month 39.

Prevailing winds, S.E.

Number of days on which it rained 16.

Number of days on which it snowed 2.

Number of days on which it hailed 1.

Number of days on which it thunder 1.

Number of days on which it lightened 1.

Number of days on which the sun shone 16.

Number of days on which it was foggy 16.

Number of days on which it was cloudy 15.

Number of days on which it was fair 16.

Number of days on which it was frosty 16.

Number of days on which it was windy 16.

Number of days on which it was calm 16.

Number of days on which it was warm 16.

Number of days on which it was cold 16.

Number of days on which it was wet 16.

Number of days on which it was dry 16.

Number of days on which it was pleasant 16.

Number of days on which it was unpleasant 16.

Number of days on which it was good 16.

Number of days on which it was bad 16.

Number of days on which it was fair 16.

Number of days on which it was foggy 16.

Number of days on which it was cloudy