

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Saturday, June 6, 1868.

The careful reader of the press of one of the leading countries in the world will be astonished to find that at present, the can scarcely take up a paper without finding something about British Columbia. We have recently, on occasion offered, called attention to this fact, and shown by copious extracts the prominent attention this hitherto despised country is attracting. As long as those whose duty it is to assist in moulding public opinion of her merits do not overstate the truth in this respect, but confine themselves strictly to her vast resources and important geographical position, it is well to let the world know we understand her importance and are determined to continue the battle until we receive the justice she is entitled to from those who have hitherto treated her with contempt and neglect. The best thing that can be done for a country in the languishing condition in which this Colony has been for years, is to revive a legitimate and honest confidence amongst her own people, and then they will more highly appreciate the attention which other people are disposed to bestow upon them. In this spirit we have endeavored to perform the duties devolving upon ourselves, and in this spirit we shall continue our labors, even at the risk of occasionally appearing prosy to some of our readers. One of the most important convictions to be created in the minds of our people in anticipation of the destiny which is rapidly shaping itself for them, is that Canadian statesmen have a sincere desire to do them justice. Thus, in a recent interesting debate in the Canadian Parliament upon departmental organization, we find Sir John A. Macdonald speaking thus of the wishes and demands likely to be made by this Colony when she entered the Union. "At present, in commencing their new system, the chief object, it seemed to him, was to have a large full Cabinet, as would secure a proper representation from all parts of the Dominion. By and by, when they were a more homogeneous people, every portion of the country might be satisfied with the representation in the Cabinet—even although sectional interests were not closely regarded. But at present it would be a great mistake to commence by a reduction of the representation in the Cabinet. Take British Columbia for a case in point. When that Colony came into the Union, would they be satisfied with their representation if only one man were in the Cabinet from that section. They would, not even although their population or resources entitled them to no greater representation. Setting aside altogether the question of expense, as one of no interest in comparison with the general question, it was, first of all and above all, the duty of every lover of the Union to see that no false economy was exercised; that there should be a full and complete system of administration, which would secure to every portion of the Dominion a fair representation in the Cabinet.

The extract we give above, and the expressions it contains may at first appear too trifling to be taken special notice of, but in connection with the individual merits of the colony, and the desire of Canada as expressed by her statesmen to do her justice in the important matter of representation it assumes quite a different feature. It shows two things well worthy of our attention—first, that the colony and her claims are seldom now out of the consideration of the months of those in whose estimation it is desirable she should stand well; and next, that in seeking through union with us, to establish Confederation beyond all reverses and danger we can put in no equitable right, no just claim, no natural demand, that we not receive a ready and honorable acceptance. This spontaneous consideration of what our wishes are likely to be in the important matter of representation is worth more than a thousand forced unmeaning compliments, and goes far, in our opinion, to silence those who have no confidence in the honesty, intelligence, and liberality of Canadian statesmen. It is well to maintain with resolution that which

we adopt upon principle. Let us all in our individual spheres attain a true knowledge of what the country really is and what she really requires; and then in those great events hastening to consummation in which she must play an important part hereafter, let us maintain her dignity and interests to the last. Adopting the liberal and enlightened spirit with which the colony is now regarded on all sides, let us ask nothing but what is just, and we shall ask nothing in vain.

Such is the state of famine in Iceland, that those who were employed to carry relief to the sufferers, have found several villages without inhabitants. The corpses of the poor, starved creatures were lying unburied in the streets and houses.

James Ferguson, of Barnes, Vt., now 97 years old, a native of Scotland, is in vigorous health and unimpaired intellect, and works every day. He wears a coat whose cloth was woven 150 years ago in Bushyhead, Scotland.

Mrs. Disraeli's late party was a grand affair. The Premier took the Princess of Wales to dinner, and Mrs. Disraeli leaned on the arm of Albert Edward. Other members of the royal family were present.

Mr. Harris arrived last night from Nanaimo. She reports the arrival of the Sparrowhawk to coal before leaving this morning on her northern trip. The Shooting Star was still on the berth loading.

The case of the Rev. Thomas Somerville, of the Trustees of Pandora Street Presbyterian Church, occupied the business of the County Court yesterday until late in the evening.

The steamer "New Enterprise" left yesterday morning for New Westminster, taking some freight and a few passengers. The Express to Kootenay also went by her.

Victor Emanuel has had several fits of apoplexy. The present state of his health causes much anxiety.

The ceremony of "drumming out" is dispensed with in future. So says the Army & Navy Gazette.

ALL the wars in Europe for the last fifty years are supposed to have destroyed more than 3,000,000 lives.

A PARISIAN paper, Le Petit Journal, has published 446,000 copies daily.

HOOPS are now restricted to street wear in Paris.

British-American Overland Route.

Sir.—No doubt the pressure on your space has prevented the insertion of a full report in your columns of the interesting paper read at the Geographical Society on Monday last by Mr. A. Waddington, on "The Geography and Mountain Passes of British Columbia with an Overland Route." Looking to the vast importance of the subject in a national point of view, I venture to ask for a little space to set forth very briefly a few facts which I feel must be of service to the public.

In the Times of the 6th inst. we are told of the commerce of China amounting in 1866 to 101 millions sterling, England's share reached 88 millions, whilst that of the United States was under 2 millions.

I am sorry to say that a very different account will be rendered for 1867. In January of that year a magnificent line of American steamers was put on between San Francisco, Japan, and China, by means of which the merchants of New York are now successfully competing with those of London for the whole trade, even with the great disadvantage of transfers at San Francisco, Panama, and Aspinwall.

If such is the case now, what will be the effect when the Union Pacific Railroad, two years hence connects San Francisco and New York? It will be a route (which will bring New York within thirty days of Hong-Kong, and London about forty days), then not only will the share of the Peninsula and Oriental Company be a drug in the market, but our Chinese business must fall into the hands of Americans, and New York become the entrepot of that trade which has cost us so much blood and treasure to attract to our shores.

The only means of averting such a fearful loss is to open up a route of our own through British America, connecting Vancouver Island, England's Cuba on the North Pacific, with Montreal and Halifax. This line of country through which the British Railroad would pass is far superior to that over which the American route is laid; and here, to my mind, the real solution of the Irish difficulty is to be had, were the alleged carving of the Irish for London, if true, be gratified to the utmost. Instead of an emigration of 200,000 souls per annum, a vast proportion of whom swell the ranks of the evil-disposed towards us in the United States, we might at one and the same time supply the necessary labor and settle the country, open an independent route, and add to our resources, reduce the power of the Americans for mischief to a minimum, and add to our own strength and that of Canada in short, both for Imperial and commercial reasons the British American overland route is a necessity; and supporting that Mr. A. Waddington's observations and conclusions will bear the test of examination, not a moment should be lost in taking up this matter with the very utmost vigor.

I have devoted many years of my life and much money to this transit question, and for the last seven years, as is well known, have concentrated my efforts on opening up a route across Central America, through Nicaragua; but I have no hesitation in saying that my project dwindles to very small proportions when compared with the gigantic interests depending upon the opening of a direct route between the Atlantic and the Pacific by way of British America.—I am, Sir, yours obediently.

BEDFORD P.M. Central American Association, 4 Westminster Chambers, S.W., March 14.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA, ETC., SAW MILLS COMPANY (LIMITED) v. NITTSBURY. This case occupied the whole of yesterday. It was an action to recover damages for loss sustained by the non-delivery of some machinery.

Mr. C. Pollock, Q. C., and Mr. W. Williams, appeared for the plaintiffs; and Sir George Hoeyman, Q. C., and Mr. Layton, for the defendant.

The plaintiffs laid before the jury a great deal of evidence to show the way in which the shipment of the various packages had been checked. According to the documents, the package 43 appeared to have been shipped, and the mate's receipt had been given for it.

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