

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, October 3, 1865.

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

By yesterday's mail we are placed in possession of Canadian intelligence of more than usual interest. The death of the Premier, Sir E. P. Tache, it appears, was nearly the occasion of a split in the Canadian Ministry. The Governor General sent for Mr. John A. Macdonald, on the ground of his being senior member of the Ministry, to assume the office of Premier, and afterwards stated the fact to Mr. George Brown. The latter gentleman at once tendered his resignation, asserting that the appointment of any one of the three party leaders—Macdonald, Cartier or himself—would be fatal to the coalition which was formed to carry out a great patriotic measure independent of political parties. The Governor did not accept Mr. Brown's resignation, but conferred again with Mr. Macdonald, when it was finally arranged to appoint Sir Narcisse Belleau as Sir E. P. Tache's successor. This appointment was not very satisfactory to Mr. Brown and his two colleagues, Messrs. Howland and McDougall, but it was on grounds of expediency accepted. The following list of the new Ministry shows the few official changes, consequent on the death of Colonel Tache:—Receiver General and Premier—Sir N. F. Belleau. Attorney General West and Minister of Militia—Hon. J. A. Macdonald. Attorney General East—Hon. Geo. E. Cartier. Minister of Finance—Hon. A. T. Galt. Commissioner of Crown Lands—Hon. A. Campbell. Minister of Agriculture—Hon. T. D. McGee. Commissioner of Public Works—Hon. J. C. Chapais. President of the Council—Hon. George Brown. Postmaster General—Hon. W. P. Howland. Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education—Hon. W. McDougall. Solicitor General West—Hon. J. Cockburn. Solicitor General East—Hon. H. L. Langevin.

The Parliament was opened at Quebec on the 8th of August, when ministerial explanations were given in reference to the matter we have just recorded. The most important subject, however, which came up was the report of the Canadian Delegates to England. It is an important document, but occupies too much space—three columns almost of the Toronto Globe—for re-publication here. We might, however, give its substance as follows: The committee of the Imperial Cabinet appointed to confer with the delegates comprised the Duke of Somerset, Earl Grey, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Cardwell. The first subject was that of Confederation, which was fully discussed in all its bearings, and the responsibility of the maritime provinces attempting to thwart the measure pronounced grave in the extreme. "The idea," however, says the report "of coercing the maritime provinces into the measure was not for a moment entertained;" but "we received assurances that Her Majesty's Government would adopt every legitimate means for securing their early assent to the Union. In the course of these discussions, the question of the Intercolonial Railway came up as a necessary accompaniment to Confederation, when we sought and obtained a renewal of the promised Imperial guarantee of a loan for the construction of that work." The delegates censured very strongly the frequent remarks in the House of Commons and in the English press, that Canada was incapable of efficient protection against invasion across her inland border, and asked the Imperial Government to order a military report on the question. "Such a report was obtained and communicated to us confidentially," say the delegates, "and we rejoice to say that it was calculated to remove all doubt as to the security of our country, so long as the hearts of our people remain firmly attached to the British flag, and the power of England is wielded in our defence." The arrangement entered into by the Home Government for Canadian defence has already appeared in our columns, but it may not be uninteresting to give the delegates' own views. "We pointed out that, while fully recognising the necessity and prepared to provide for such a system of defence as would restore confidence in our future at home and abroad, the best ultimate defence for British America was to be found in the increase of her population as rapidly as possible, and the husbanding of our resources to that end; and, without claiming it as a right, we ventured to suggest that by enabling us to throw open the north-western territories to free settlement, and by aiding us in enlarging our canals and prosecuting internal productive works, and by promoting an extensive plan of emigration from Europe into the unsettled portions of our domain—permanent security would be more quickly and surely, and economically secured than by any other means. We did not fail to point out how this might be done without cost or risk to the British Exchequer, and how greatly it would lighten the new burden of defence proposed to be assumed at a moment of depression by the people of Canada."

On the question of reciprocity the delegates could not see on what grounds the United States Government, who benefited even more than Canada by the treaty in "the increased foreign commerce of the States, the vast and

creative carrying trade, the free access to the St. Lawrence, and the invaluable fishing grounds of British America could desire to abrogate the measure." "We explained" says the report, "the immediate injury that would result to Canadian interests from the abrogation of the treaty; but we pointed out at the same time the new and ultimately more profitable channels into which our foreign trade must, in that event, be turned, and the necessity of preparing for the change if indeed it was to come." The result of the negotiations on this question was that Her Majesty's Government would order Sir Frederick Bruce, English Minister at Washington, to act in conjunction with the Canadian Government in the endeavor to get the treaty renewed. The most important subject, however, to us in the report is the proposed opening up of the North-West territory, and we cannot do better than give this part of the document almost in its entirety. "On the 11th of November," says the report, "a minute Council was approved by the Governor General in reply to Mr. Cardwell's Despatch. It set forth that the Government of Canada was ready and anxious to co-operate with the Imperial Government, in securing the early settlement of the North-West Territories, and the establishment of local Government in its settled portions; but that in its opinion the first step towards that end was the extinction of all claim by the Hudson's Bay Company to proprietary rights in the soil and exclusive rights of trade. It suggested that it was for the Imperial Government, and not for the Government of Canada, to assume the duty of bringing to an end a monopoly originating in an English Charter, and exercised so long under Imperial sanction; but that when the negotiations were brought to a close the Government of Canada would be ready to arrange with the Imperial Government for the annexation to Canada of such portions of the Territory as might be available for settlement, as well as for the opening up of communications into the Territory and providing means of local administration. Or should the Imperial Government prefer to erect the Territory into a Crown Colony, the Canadian Government would gladly co-operate in the opening up of communication into the Territory, and the settlement of the country. The minute finally suggested that the Hon. President of the Council while in England would communicate more fully to Mr. Cardwell the views of the Canadian Government. The negotiations that followed on this despatch satisfied us of the impossibility of enforcing the end sought by Canada without long-protracted, vexatious and costly litigation. The Hudson's Bay Company were in possession, and if time were their object, could protract the proceedings, indefinitely; and Her Majesty's Government appeared unwilling to ignore pretensions that had frequently received quasi recognition from the Imperial authorities. Calling to mind, therefore, the vital importance to Canada of having that great and fertile country opened up to Canadian channels—remembering also the danger of large grants of land passing into the hands of mere moneyed corporations and embarrassing the rapid settlement of the country—and the risk that the recent discoveries of gold on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains might throw into the country large masses of settlers unaccustomed to British Institutions—we arrived at the conclusion that the quickest solution of the question would be the best for Canada. We accordingly proposed to the Imperial Ministers that the whole British territory east of the Rocky Mountains and north of the American or Canadian lines should be made over to Canada, subject to such rights as the Hudson's Bay Company might be able to establish; and that the compensation to that company (if any were found to be due) should be met by a loan guaranteed by Great Britain. The Imperial Government consented to this, and a careful investigation of the case satisfies us that the compensation to the Hudson's Bay Company cannot, under any circumstances, be onerous. It is but two years since the present Hudson's Bay Company purchased the entire property of the old company; they paid £1,500,000 for the entire property and assets—in which were included a large sum in cash on hand, large landed properties in British Columbia and elsewhere not included in our arrangement; a very large claim against the United States Government under the Oregon Treaty—and ships, goods, pelts, and business premises in England and Canada, valued at £1,083,569. The value of the territorial rights of the Company, therefore, in the estimation of the company itself, will be easily arrived at."

ARE INDIANS TO BE COUNTED IN ESTIMATING THE RATE OF TAXATION FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL. To THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST:—The subject of our taxation has been already carefully and ably discussed in your columns, but it is so important that I trust you will excuse me if I endeavor to throw a little light on one part of the question, which I think admits of further consideration. The Colonial Secretary seems to consider that the Indians on Vancouver Island are to be counted in estimating the rate of taxation for each individual because they, as consumers—though they pay nothing directly—promote, in a limited degree, the prosperity of those who contribute by direct taxes to our revenue. There is something at first sight plausible in the remark, but a little inquiry will show its fallacy. If a theory is sound it will stand every test to which it can be subjected; and we will put a few sentences to see whether a consumer, simply as such, can correctly be looked upon as a taxpayer. We will suppose an Indian to purchase at a store in Victoria some guns, blankets, &c. By his purchase he increases the profits of the tradesman, no doubt, but so does the returned Boice miner, who while passing through Victoria on his way to San Francisco buys a few articles here; or a visitor from across the Sound, who avails himself of the opportunity of replenishing his wardrobe in a cheap market, and returns the next day. The character of this last transaction is unaffected by the circumstance, that the purchaser buys here in person. It is the same thing as if he sent an agent for the goods, or had them shipped over to him. He is in either case simply a consumer and no more. To argue that such persons are taxpayers is to argue likewise that the Cariboo storekeeper, and indeed the whole population of British Columbia, who for the most part draw their supplies from Victoria are Vancouver Island tax-payers, as well as the Portland or San Francisco merchants, who occasionally import our goods. The fallacy lies in confounding a consumer who at times promotes our trade by his purchases from us either in Victoria or along the Pacific Coast, with the tax-payer of Vancouver Island. The Indians here fall within the former description alone. If we had an import duty on goods the argument might have some foundation. In the absence of a duty a resident and non-resident Indian buyer must be looked upon in the same light. Again, if a consumer, as such, is to be looked upon as a tax-payer, then we, who import from various parts of the world, must also be looked upon as tax-payers contributing to the revenue of all those countries who ship their productions to us. In other words, according to this startling theory, our foreign taxes, if I may be allowed the expression, should be added to those we already know of to our cost in Vancouver Island in estimating the rate for each individual. If Mr. Gladstone was to argue in the House of Commons that the foreign and colonial consumers of British manufactures scattered over the globe were to be looked upon as English taxpayers, and to be counted as such in estimating the rate of taxation for each individual in the British Isles, he would doubtless be told that he had fallen into a great and mischievous abuse of language; I doubt much, also, whether the French Minister of Finance would argue that the increasing number of consumers of French goods in England are to be counted as French tax-payers,—a doctrine probably never propounded since the time of William the Conqueror or his immediate successors. Such theories would be ridiculed in those countries. Whether they really deceive our Executive I cannot say; but it is important that the long-suffering tax payers of Vancouver Island should clearly understand and expose them in view of the financial crisis with which we are threatened. I am, sir, your obdt. servant, A. T. GALT.

BRITISH COLUMBIA. LATER FROM CARIBOO. The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday from New Westminster with 67 passengers, and a Cariboo express in charge of Dietz & Nelson. Cariboo intelligence is to the 18th, and we are pleased to notice that the miners had to a great extent overcome the impediments caused by the recent flood. Our regular Cariboo correspondence, dated the 18th, will appear to-morrow. From B. Lichenstein, who left on the 18th inst., we have the following items: The majority of the miners will remain on the creek this winter. There will be more mining going on this winter than during any previous year. The health of the miners was generally good. Trade was improving, as more claims were taking out pay; and it was generally thought that times would improve. Flour was rising. Vegetables were being brought in to the creek at very low rates. Nothing had been heard from the prospectors at Bear river, but it was generally believed that diggings would be found there that will cause an excitement next year. Capt. Evans is spoken of as the future member for the district in case of an election. His return is next to certain. The damage caused by the recent flood has been repaired, and the majority of the claims are again at work, with varied success. The telegraph wires had reached within two miles of Mouth of Queenelle. It was doubtful whether they would be taken to Williams Creek. MINING INTELLIGENCE. WILLIAM CREEK. The effects of the late violent floods on this creek are scarcely visible now. The most active exertions have been used by the owners of claims to repair the damage, and their efforts generally have been crowned with success. On that part of the creek between Cameronton and Marysville the claims are still partially filled with water, but it is expected that when the 'cave' in the bed-rock drain at Adams' claim is repaired they will be able to resume work. With the exception of the claims being filled with water, they have sustained very little damage. The Drain Company are repairing the drain and the work will probably be finished in a few days. The Prince of Wales Co. have their pump in operation clearing out the water, and by Monday they will likely be able to get into their drifts again. A new company, called the Black Douglas, have commenced a tunnel in the hill opposite the Prince of Wales. The Baby Co. are at work again taking out gold. The Dead Broke Co. are also washing. The Cameron Co. are getting ready to start working from a shaft in a different part of their ground to that where they were lately engaged; this is rendered necessary by the ground having caved near their works; they will be washing next week. The Forest Rose Co. are doing well, taking out gold from both shafts. The Tinker Co. are at work again. The California Tunnel is laid over. The Last Chance Co. are preparing to resume work again. The Conedrate and Beauregard Co. have their machinery in motion again and are getting out the water preparatory to setting to work. The Prairie Flower Co. are doing much better of late than previously reported. The New York Co. are commencing operations. The Nevada Tunnel Co. are at work. The North American Tunnel Co. are in 180 feet. The Never Sweat Claim sustained no damage from the flood and is very promising at present. The Wake Up Jake Co. are working. The Aurora Co. have been working the ground lately in dispute with the Sawmill Co.; it has not turned out as rich as was generally anticipated. The Davis Co. struck an excellent prospect. The Morning Star Co. have been troubled with surface water coming through, which has impeded operations in this well managed and profitable claim. The Hit or Miss, Australian and Welsh companies are at full work again; the latter is taking out an ounce, a day to the hand. The Britannia Co. have been getting good prospects this week. The Sheepskin, Bald Head, and Eagle companies are at work. The Foster Campbell Co. are sinking a new shaft. Some of the hill claims above the canon are doing well; the hydraulic claim it is said pays largely. On various parts of the creek there are men engaged washing tailings, and in many instances are making good wages. Mining matters generally on the creek are in a satisfactory condition; the gold may not be coming out so freely as it was two weeks ago, but there is no reason for complaint on the part of claim owners at present. The water still keeps high in the creek, but there is a clear passage for it, which renders any apprehensions of further damage unnecessary. CONKLIN GULCH. Work on this famous gulch goes on spiritedly. The Ericsson Company are working from two shafts. Last week they divided \$400 to the share. The Saw Mill Company struck big pay on Monday last, and have been washing up large amounts every day since. They have above 1000 ounces for the week. The Reid Company are getting on well. The New Zealand Company striking coarse gold at the very extremity of the Reid Co.'s ground, five or six hundred feet up the gulch, from the place the Reid Company are working, is very encouraging to the latter company. The New Zealand Company are drifting from their new shaft, and although they have only just started they took out excellent prospects of coarse gold yesterday; this claim looks very well at present, and we hope the persevering owners, who have stuck to it for the last three seasons amidst great difficulties and at vast expense, are about to be well rewarded for their energy and pluck. The Britannia Company are taking out about expenses. LOWHIE CREEK. There is very little work going on upon Lowhie Creek this week; preparations, how-

Remedy. Ointment. London dispensaries... Stone and Grave... Old Wounds, Sores... PERRIN'S Hair Sauce... PERRIN'S Hair Sauce... AGNESIA!

ever, are making by most of the claim owners to resume operations. LIGHTNING CREEK. Work in some of the claims that were injured by the flood has been resumed again. NEW CREEK. A party of three men have arrived at Grouse Creek after a prospecting tour of 11 weeks. They report having found a new creek 140 miles away, on which they got in a canon \$9.50 to the pan, at a depth of eight feet from the surface. The new diggings are in the same range the Government and Vaughan expeditions are gone to. The party intend returning again with provisions; they consider the diggings will be extensive. CARIBOO MARKET REPORT. There is very little change in the markets here to note. We have had the arrival of several trains during the week with an augmentation of stock for our merchants. Vegetables are getting very plentiful on the creek, the Celestial population at Queenelmouth and Keithley's Creek keeping us well supplied. Potatoes are selling at 12 1/2¢ per pound. In previous seasons they never were sold at less than 30¢ per pound. The market is well stocked with prime beef and mutton, of a quality that would do credit to Smithfield. Beef is from 10¢ to 20¢ per pound. Flour, by retail, 26¢ per pound. TELEGRAPHIC. Special Dispatch to the "Colonist." THE STEAMER ACTIVE. PORTLAND, Sept. 26.—Steamer Active arrived here yesterday noon and sails for Victoria to-day. FEARFUL RAVAGES OF THE CHOLERA. WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—Government is in receipt of voluminous despatches to-day from our Consuls at Constantinople, Smyrna, Fort Mahon and Barcelona, giving further information of the ravages of cholera in various parts of Europe. The reports from Constantinople are most alarming, the number of deaths having reached two thousand per day! At Smyrna the epidemic was checked sometime since, but had broken out afresh, and is now spreading to a frightful extent. FEMALE IMMIGRATION TO PUGET SOUND. NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—Mr. A. S. Mercer, of Washington Territory, has procured the loan of the U. S. steam transport Continental for his purposes, the government wishing to send her to the Pacific. She will sail on the 30th September with 700 women of the surplus population of Massachusetts, who go to settle in the above-named territory. Three hundred of these women are orphan daughters of dead soldiers. They are all good industrious women. There is no fear but they will secure good husbands and occupy homes in the Territory. RAILROAD FROM CANADA. MONTREAL, C. E., Sept. 22.—Col. Rowland, as Commissioner of the Northern Pacific Railroad, is here. He is conferring with the Canadian government and others relative to acting with capitalists, and with grants of the U. S. government in the construction of the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Railroad. Col. Rowland is confident the commercial importance of the enterprise will cause Canada to lend its aid to this, the great international project. He has no doubt that his mission will be crowned with success. MORE ABOUT FENIANISM. NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—A Dublin letter to the London Daily Telegraph says there is reason to believe that the Government is giving Fenianism some attention. There are evidences of considerable official anxiety on that subject. The extent of the organization, especially in the county of Cork, is known to be very great. It is believed that arms in formidable numbers are in the hands of these men. Almost every steamer from the United States brings a handful, some times a good number, and also small bands of disbanded Irish volunteers. There is nothing astonishing in this, as they have just reached the end of a war in which the Irish population bore a very prominent part. The prevalence of Fenianism in Ireland renders the arrival of these ex-warriors somewhat notable. In a letter of an "Ex-Fenian" to the Dublin Freeman the following item occurs: "The Fenian is an American organization, commenced about seven years ago, and for a very different object than that of 'freeing Ireland from the English yoke.'" THE FENIANS IN IRELAND.—A man named Murphy, tried in Ireland for being connected with the Fenian movement, was convicted, and sentenced to seven years penal servitude. Murphy's crime was tampering with soldiers and trying to induce them to desert, and enlist in the American service. Chief Justice Monaghan, addressing the prisoner, remarked:—"Your crime is one of the next, in view of our law, to treason, and one of the gravest you could be guilty of." Mr. Gill, the Fenian candidate for Parliament in Tipperary county, was arrested just before the election, at the instance of a creditor, and thus was defeated. He received, however, over eight hundred votes. The Cork Examiner, referring to the organization of the Fenians, remarks:—"No sane man can doubt what the end will be, even should the movement Fenianism represents develop into any bloody issue. But few believe it can ever soar so high. The most probable end that can be assigned to it is a repetition of the fate that has befallen Murphy. To us we must confess Fenianism only appears an elaborate organization to get a number of young Irishmen transported."—S. F. Call. AMERICANS IN EUROPE.—It is estimated that there are about 100,000 Americans in Europe at this time. Probably there will have been altogether not less than 200,000 there in the course of this summer. Paris is of course their chief place of resort, but they penetrate into every country of Europe, from the Arctic Ocean to the Mediterranean. Their object is not to engage in business, work or speculation; but simply to enjoy the pleasures and advantages of travel, and to spend their money.