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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 8. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1867. NO. 28

WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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Confederation or Annexation?

In several recent issues we have taken occasion to point out the true condition of public affairs in this miserably-managed country, and to allude to the deep feeling of discontent that pervades all classes because of the indifference with which we are treated by the Home Government. We do not believe that the most ardent supporter (if it have any) of this Government, will deny that we are speeding swiftly towards the shoals of bankruptcy, and that however skilful may in future be the pilot of the craft, nothing will save our credit or our public affairs from ruin, if the present system be continued. From a white population of 22,000 in 1866, we have run down to less than 7,000 in 1867, and most of those who remain would welcome any change that brought with it a release from their present troubles One party has gone so far as to propose calling a meeting and preparing a "petition to the Home Government asking that this Colony may be allowed to annex itself to the United States." The thinking portion of our readers do not require to be told that no movement of that kind will meet with the smallest amount of success. The colony might be *taken* and held in the event of war, but a peaceable cession of the territory can not take place, for many reasons. Were Great Britain to consent to part with one portion of her territory, she might prepare herself to part with all. The hand that signed the bill of sale of this colony to a foreign power might as well, at the same time, sign another paper announcing England's repudiation henceforth and forever of all her American colonies. This would be the first effect of annexation. The other colonies would clamor for the same privilege, and how could England consistently deny them a favor she had just bestowed upon another colony? Were the principle once admitted, the whole power of the British army and navy could not prevent the secession of all the colonial possessions. One argument advanced by the advocates of the Annexation movement to show the willingness — aye, "anxiety" — of Great Britain to part with her colonies—is the withdrawal of the protectorate over the Ionian Islands, which was established by the Treaty of 1815; but the attempt to quote this as a precedent is absurd and dishonest, because Great Britain never owned those Islands. She merely accepted the position of guardian over them to protect them from the inroads of the Turks, and when the people expressed a willingness to join Greece, the protectorate was relinquished. There was neither a cession, transfer nor sale of the Islands by Great Britain. Neither were they ever erected into a British Colony. It is quite true, as is urged by some, that our connection with Great Britain has been anything but beneficial in consequence of the local form of Government under which we are placed; but had we possessed a constitution such as is guaranteed to other colonies, and been allowed to govern ourselves, as they are allowed, we should to-day have had no reason to regret the connection with the Mother Country. Perhaps, after all, the bankrupt state of our finances, will prove the very means to induce the [illegible] to disregard future Park Letters, Government Despatches and "cooked" newspaper articles written in the interest of the Government, and open their eyes to the true condition of affairs here. They will see a once promising young colony, peopled by enterprising men, and rich in every resource that will add to the prosperity of a country, reduced to a hopeless state of bankruptcy, bringing its balance-sheet to Downing street, pointing out that while it already owes $1,200,000, it is running into debt at the rate of $350,000 per annum, and praying that not only may its heavy debt be wiped off, but that ways and means for the payment of its officers may in future be provided by the Imperial Parliament. We should at least excite the sympathies of the British people, even if we had to reach them through their pockets. But that the colony will be sold or ceded to the United States, we cannot for a moment bring ourselves to believe. The recent erection of the Eastern Provinces into a Confederacy, the guarantee of a loan of £4,000,000 to construct a railway through Nova Scotia, and the army that has lately been sent across the Atlantic to protect the Canadians from incursions by the Fenians, show forcibly enough the value and importance that England is beginning at last to set upon her colonies. And when we reflect that she has only just awakened to a knowledge of the fact that the preservation of her colonies is essential to the preservation of her commerce and her workshops, how can we imagine for a moment that she is prepared to part with those Colonies whenever they express a desire to secede? The four years of bloody strife in America show how unwilling even popular Governments are to part with a portion of their territory; and when Governments of the people exhibit so marked a determination to retain their empire unimpaired, how can the man who will come forward and say that England will be only too glad to get rid of British Columbia, be in the possession of his senses? Confederation is within our reach. We have unanimously asked for it, and await an answer. Would it be wise or proper to hold another meeting asking for what we ought to be well aware is unattainable, before an answer is returned by the Canadian Government to the application already sent? In a few weeks, at the farthest, the Confederation of Canada will be proclaimed, and new life will be infused into the whole of British North America. The measure, though not all that could be wished, yet invests the people with unlimited self-government. Equal rights are secured to all, and the tie that binds the Eastern Provinces to the motherland is one of kindly sympathy such as a son who has gone out into the world feels towards his parent and the old homestead. The Eastern Colonies have considered the question of union in all its phases. The subject has been before them for years. The Colonies contain four millions of hardy, intelligent and industrious people, and, with the Red River and Saskatchewan countries, vacant land sufficient to sustain 50,000,000 more. The country abounds in mineral wealth, in timber, in coal—in all the resources that go to make a country great and prosperous. On the line of the St. Lawrence, from its mouth westward, passing through the basin of the great line of lakes, and thence through the Red River, the Assinboine, and the Saskatchewan, there is a continuous extent of water communication from the sea of upwards of 2500 miles. And looking at the lower provinces again, we find in addition to their well-watered interior they possess a continuous sea coast on their Atlantic frontier of upwards of 2000 miles, with countless bays and harbors and roadsteads teeming with fish—their ports occupied by our commercial marine. No man need expect us to believe that it is politic for England to cast off these magnificent possessions or do any act which would tend to lessen the ties which bind them to the parent land. If the American people possessed these colonies—and that they ardently desired it there can be no doubt,—they would then have an extended frontier from the Gulf of Mexico to the North Pole, with no enemy but the ice on the north. And while England would be pursuing her free trade policy she would find her products excluded from the markets of America, and be left to depend upon a more uncertain source of trade nearer at home. Again, England has made herself the workshop of the world. The prosperity of her people depends on a constant supply of raw material of all kinds and a constant sale of her manufactured produce. Any war, disturbance, or cessation of relations between her and the Colonies, interfering with this demand and supply must reduce a great part of her population to distress. The importance to England of her Colonies is therefore apparent. She cannot give them up if she [illegible] viously remarked, to release our Colony would be to release all. The question, therefore, has only one phase. Annexation we cannot get. To agitate it now would be to unsettle the public mind and prevent them taking hold of what is within their grasp. We asked for Confederation at a public meeting, held not many months ago. The Legislative Council have also asked for it, and Government has backed up the request with the recommendation that it is the best policy that can be adopted. If we consult our own interests, we will take steps to represent the urgent necessity of immediately including this Colony in the Confederacy, and a few months only will elapse before our request will receive a favorable answer. With delegates at Ottawa our wants may be pressed upon the Federal administration a cheap local form of Government secured in place of the present expensive and cumbersome system, and it will be our own fault, with everything that Nature has done to favor us if we are not soon rolling over the highroad that leads to prosperity.

Public Debt of the United States.

Many persons, both in and out of the States, have become possessed of the idea that the American debt is being paid off at a rate that will leave nothing of it in the next generation. The New York *Times* exposes this delusion. It gives irrefragable reasons for believing that "this generation is much more likely to double the debt than it is to pay it." Here are the facts on which this opinion rests:

"The country has been amused with the idea that we are paying it off at the rate of a hundred or a hundred and fifty millions a year; but it forgets that we are increasing it quite as fast in other directions. The Bounty bill of 1866 added about eighty millions. Another is under way which will add from two to four hundred millions more. Mr Schenck says this will do 'to begin with,' and pledges himself to vote for whatever sum the soldiers want—he does not care whether it is four or eight hundred millions of dollars. Mr Williams, of Pennsylvania, has presented another, and Mr Perham, of Maine, still another of the same sort. The soldiers constitute a powerful part of the great body of voters. They have one common interest, and nothing is more certain than that just so long as aspiring partisans want their votes, just so long will millions be voted out of the public treasury for the purpose of securing them. Neither party in Congress even now dare vote against any such proposition. No prominent public man dare take ground openly and boldly against the policy thus foreshadowed, ruinous and fatal as they know it to be. Whoever does so is forthwith denounced as an enemy of the soldiers—a rebel sympathiser—a traitor or a Copperhead more or less disguised. And an epithet or two of this sort is quite enough to silence any member who, in a rash moment, might have dreamed of consulting the public good."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Monday, May 20.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT—At the Colorado river on the 4th instant, a singular and fatal accident occurred. The driver of a stage wishing to cross the ferry halloaed for the ferryman without success, and called out to those inside the stage to discharge a pistol to attract attention. Mr C. L. Strong took his pistol to cock it, and finding the hammer difficult to raise, pulled it back with force, but not catching, the charge went off, and passing through an inch board killed the driver, Mr James Tuttle. An inquest was held and Mr Strong was exonerated without the slightest shadow of blame.

ITEMS IN BRIEF—The sawmill at Leech River started work on Saturday and is turning out lumber....Taylor, the Indian whiskey seller, has been again arrested for pursuing his nefarious business. Mr Pemberton has allowed him seven days in which to leave the country....Governor Seymour was enthusiastically received at Yale....A new steamer is to be built by Capt Irving on the Upper Fraser.....The H. B. Company are about to open a store on William Creek.

POISONED—Mr John Glassey rode his horse to Prospect Lake on Saturday and returned in the evening. Yesterday morning the animal was found dead in the stall, the body presenting every indication of having been poisoned. He was allowed to graze while at the lake, and, it is supposed, ate some poisonous weed.

THE OVERLAND ROUTE TO CANADA—Our readers will be glad to learn from Mr Waddington that this undertaking is progressing slowly but surely. It has been hitherto thwarted by the total want of confidence which has existed in the London market regarding this Colony, and which was such that the best investments have been refused, although money is at 2½ to 3 per cent. Mr Waddington's enterprise is in the hands of men of standing and [illegible] with the Government and who do not generally commence spending money on a scheme unless they intend to carry it through. At the same time, the Confederation of the British Provinces of North America has given a fresh stimulus to the proposed plan of an overland route. Influential people in Canada are once more taking it up, and the scheme is being revived of opening a communication from Lake Superior to the Red River Settlement; which latter offers to build the portion of road between Fort Garry and the Lake of the Woods, while there can be little doubt that the Hudson's Bay Company would put steamers on the Saskatchewan. Mr Waddington's Company was about to be incorporated, and an agent sent out armed with full powers to act from the corporate body. In short, the whole matter is in a most healthy state.

A QUARREL ABOUT TELEGRAMS.—The *Tribune's* special says Seward and Russia are quarreling over the expense of the telegrams relating to Russian America, amounting to several thousand dollars. Seward's telegrams were prepared at Washington; Russia's were paid by the Land Telegraph Company, which now presents a bill to the Government.

H. B. COMPANY ON WILLIAMS CREEK—The Cariboo *Sentinel* understands that the Hon. R. Finlayson, who arrived on Williams Creek on the 6th instant, has purchased for the Hudson Bay Company the premises occupied by Mr Strauss, Barkerville, for $2000, which will be opened by the Company as a store on or about the 15th June.

BONDED WAREHOUSE—Dickson, Campbell & Co., through their agent in this city, Mr Nicholson, have deposited the required security and bonded their stone warehouse. Bonded goods will be stored at the rate of three bits per ton per month.

THE New Zealand ship Parisian, laden with lumber and salmon, from Burrard's Inlet, was towed down by the Isabel on Saturday evening, and now lies in Royal Roads; she will sail in a day or two for New Zealand.

FRESH SALMON FOR EXPORT—Mr Fulton, who has commenced putting up fresh salmon in cans, has received an order for 250 cans, for shipment to New Zealand, per ship Parisian, now loading at Burrard Inlet.—*Examiner.*

VICTORIA RIFLE CORPS—The Corps will parade in full uniform on Monday, 20th, at 7:30 p.m., at James Bay. Musketry Instruction Tuesday, at 8 p.m. Third Class Firing Tuesday, at 4 p.m.—By order, J. GORDON VINTER, Lieut. and Adjt.

THE HORSE RACES—The final arrangements for the meeting on the 24th will be made at the St. George Hotel, this evening, at eight o'clock. All intending participants are invited to attend the meeting.

THE ship Byzantium, now loading at London for this port, is nearly filled with Government stores, and having only room for 40 tons of general merchandise, demands 90s. per ton freight.

DR. OBER, a physician of San Francisco since 1851, died suddenly of heart disease on the 15th instant.

FOR NEW WESTMINSTER—The steamer Isabel will sail for New Westminster at six o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE Princess Royal will commence discharging cargo this morning.

Late News from Cariboo—Arrival of $206,000 in Treasure.

The steamer Enterprise arrived at noon Saturday, having made the run down from New Westminster in six hours. She brought Messrs Lawson and Ormandy of the Banks, with the following treasure from Cariboo. For the bank of British North America, $130,000; for the bank of British Columbia, $76,000. Messrs Clarkson, Elliott and Woodcock, from New Westminster, also came by this arrival. The road is generally in a good condition, but near Deep Creek a mud hole exists, in which the wagon was sloughed for three hours.

Cariboo.

(From the Sentinel, May 6.)

If our mining report is rather devoid of exciting accounts of rich strikes, it is to be attributed chiefly to the scarcity of water.

WILLIAMS CREEK.

The Chinese co'y have been making from $10 to 2 oz. a day to the hand through the winter. The Taylor co'y are doing well. Jenny Lind co'y have struck a hill channel. The Bald Head co'y on Saturday washed up 40 oz. Cariboo co'y on Saturday cleaned up 120 oz. Caledonia co'y on Friday washed up 12 oz for four shafts. Forest Rose co'y worked the greater part of the winter in their background with one rocker, and [illegible] May 6—The Cariboo co'y washed up yesterday, as the result of 2⅓ days work, 92⅞ oz. They found a nugget containing a little quartz weighing 9¼ oz. The Bald Head co'y also washed up yesterday 55 oz.

LIGHTNING CREEK.

The Blyth co'y have worked during the winter with but little success, until the beginning of February, when they struck fair prospects, having washed out in two weeks about 27 oz.

GROUSE CREEK.

No indications have been found of the continuation of the Heron lead. From the time the Heron co'y began to take out pay, last summer, up till now, they have declared dividends to the amount of $17,000 to the share. The Discovery co'y divided $250 to the share for last week's work.

CONKLIN GULCH.

There is very good grounds for supposing, from present indication, the yield of gold at this gulch will eclipse that of 1865. The Ericsson co'y are preparing to wash from an incline run in from Williams creek. Their prospects are good. United co'y worked with a very small head of water last week, washed up yesterday 472 oz. Home Stake co'y have got into the channel and are preparing to wash. Hood co'y are in 250 feet, and expect to strike the channel soon. A number of shafts are being sunk by prospecting parties above the latter co'y, but nothing has yet been struck.

MARKETS.

With the exception of ham, bacon, butter and yeast powders, there is a fair stock of goods in the market. Gum boots and candles are rather scarce, but the supplies now on the way will be sufficient to meet the demand. Freights from Yale on goods to be delivered here between the 20th and 31st of May, average about 25 cents. The following are retail prices: Flour $24; sugar 50c; beans 33c; candles $18 to $22; butter $2; tea $1 25; coffee ground $1 25; green 75c; cheese $1; tobacco $2 50; rice 26c; lard $3 per 10 lb can; dried apples 62c; nails 50c; yeast powders $9 per doz; gum boots $18 to $26; beef 30c; fresh pork 65c; mutton 30 to 40c; potatoes 20.

ITEMS

A number of Captain Spalding's friends and well-wishers entertained that gentleman at a farewell breakfast at the London and Paris Hotel. Mr Oppenheimer occupied the Chair. The guest, in responding to the toast to his health, paid a high compliment to the miners as "an orderly and intelligent class."

Up to the 1st of May, 260 white men and 50 Chinamen had passed the 74-mile post this season bound for the diggings.

Be Loyal "So long as it Pays," Boys!

MESSRS EDITORS—A more pusillanimous and at the same time impertinent article than that which appeared in your cotemporary of yesterday was never printed, and I am surprised and shocked that a paper published in a British town should dare to give place to such a base utterance as the following: "Patriotism is a splendid idea, or sentiment so long as it pays, but when it empties a man's pocket and robs his stomach of that which is necessary to sustain life, it is no matter of wonder that it should lose somewhat of its charm." Is this the kind of talk men are to be allowed to indulge in here with impunity? Are we to be told that "*so long as it pays*" we are to be loyal, but that when it ceases to be profitable we are to haul down the British flag and run up the Stars and Stripes in its stead? What would be thought of the soldier, who, on the field of battle, deserts in the face of an enemy because his stomach is empty? Why, sir, soldiers brave hunger, thirst, exposure—even grim death itself—for the "idea" which the editor of the *News* flippantly says is only worth supporting "*so long as it pays!*" Mr Editor, I am much disappointed in my estimate of American character if any Briton expressing such sentiments regarding his own flag would be a welcome citizen of the Great Republic. He might answer in Mexico, among the Greasers, where they change their governments once a fortnight; but his efforts to destroy our form of government will subject him to the contempt of every Union American.

VIATOR.

VICTORIA HOUSE—Just received at this Establishment by Express, the prettiest Bonnets and Hats ever imported into the colony and of the fashions now prevailing in Europe, the goods having only left England on the 17th March; also, the latest styles of Trimmings, Lace Shawls, Silk Mantles, Jackets, Brilliants, French Prints, and every description of Spring Goods. *