

The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday May 18, 1870.

The Strong Man Armed.

The Island of San Juan has been 'paragorically' (as Mrs. Partington would express it) described as 'The Strong Man Armed, keeping the door of the British Pacific.' Considered apart from the merits of the international dispute, it must be perfectly clear that the possession of that intrinsically worthless Island is of infinitely greater importance to British than to American interests. To the former it constitutes the key to the only outlet on the Pacific. To surrender that key may be regarded as, indeed, tantamount to retiring from the Pacific. And does not retirement from the Pacific mean retirement from the Continent? To the latter the Island in question can really possess little or no value or importance, save in so far as it gives an undue advantage over a neighbor. If he really means to be an honest and peaceful neighbor, Uncle Sam has no need of San Juan. His frontage on the Pacific is ample enough, and his outlets are numerous enough, and why should he wish to hold the key to our sole outlet? His very desire to obtain possession of that key is calculated to create doubt and suspicion as to his motives and intentions. Looking at the matter in the light of the rights of the respective claimants, there would appear to be little doubt that to Great Britain the Island belongs; yet when we find our neighbors, from their leading statesmen at Washington down to their most obscure stump-politicians in Washington Territory, declaring in the most emphatic terms that the Island belongs to them, and that they mean to have it, to hope to settle the question by the 'You're another' argument would be as unwise as undignified. The wolf in the fable was not the less pronounced in its charges against the lamb because those charges were groundless. It rather sought, by the ardor of its declamation, to cover the badness of its cause; and, without any intention of accepting the full application of this figure, it may well be concluded that Great Britain cannot hope for either justice or a final adjustment of the dispute by protracting this assembly international wrangling. Let us have this dispute settled—peaceably if we can; but let us have it settled! Although this international question may not be regarded as forming any part of the programme entrusted to the Delegation now leaving for Ottawa, yet it is one which is most intimately connected therewith—one, in fact, which cannot well be separated from it. Confederation—a British Dominion extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, must, indeed, lose its true force and significance with the loss of that little, and apparently insignificant Island. Our neighbors know this full well; and knowing it, they are all the more anxious to put the key of the British American Empire in their pocket! Although this San Juan question does not strictly enter into the 'conditions' upon which the Government at Ottawa will be asked to admit this colony into the Dominion, yet it so greatly affects the whole question, that it would appear to be impossible to overlook it; and we trust, therefore, that the Governor will have instructed the Delegates upon this most important and urgent question. That the Government at Ottawa cannot settle the San Juan dispute we need not be reminded; but, having a very direct and deep interest in that dispute, they are specially entitled to urge upon the Imperial Government the necessity of a speedy settlement which will give the Island to the Dominion. Some two years ago, while in London on business connected with Canada, Sir George E. Cartier and the Hon. Wm. McDougall joined in a forcible and statesmanlike paper to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies upon this subject, pointing out that the claims of Great Britain to the Island were clear and incontrovertible, and that the possession of it was of the most important importance to the Dominion, and, at the same time, reminding the Secretary of State how apt British Statesmen were to allow American diplomats to get the better of them in these territorial and boundary negotiations, pointing to the irreparable national sacrifices which had already been made in this way, on both sides, as well as in the centre of the continent. Let our Delegates do with the authorities at Ottawa what those gentlemen did in London. It is alike our duty and our interest to look sharply after this matter. If it became the duty of Canadian statesmen to do so, how much more is it the duty of the Representatives of the British Pacific to attend to a matter possessing to us, both a local and a national importance!

Municipal Council.

Municipal Council. Tuesday, May 10th, 1870. Council met at 7:30 P. M. in the hall of the City of Ottawa.

Present: His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors: McKey, Russell, Gerow, Carey, and Walker.

MR. MAYOR.—The Mayor presented a bill for a commission for collecting road and school tax.

A communication from Mr. T. S. Allatt, asking for \$54, a balance due for constructing sidewalk on View Street.

A long consultation was had about the propriety of passing a By-Law for the destruction of thistles.

At 11 P. M. the Mayor adjourned the Council to meet again in the thirteenth of another election.

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Theatre Royal.

The performance of the evening was under the distinguished patronage of Admiral Farquhar and the Officers of H. M. Fleet.

Present: His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors: McKey, Russell, Gerow, Carey, and Walker.

Aladdin, or the Wonderful Scamp, a laughable musical extravaganza, will be given.

The result of the popular vote in France fully sustains the Emperor. A majority of 5,000,000 is a pretty strong endorsement of the liberal government.

France is gone forever and is succeeded by Responsible government with M. Ollivier at its head.

Last evening 'Aurora Floyd' was repeated with great effect.

Mr. W. Hebbard has been installed as leader-writer of the Little News.

The Fenian Brotherhood. A San Francisco despatch says that John Savage, Fenian Chief, has arrived.

Interesting Letter from Mr. Waddington. Ottawa, April 20th, 1870.

Dear Mr. Prakes: I wrote to you on March 16, giving you an account of the dangers we ran at sea and of my safe arrival.

As you will have learned, the City of Boston, less fortunate than ourselves, has never since been heard of and is undoubtedly lost.

Since my last I have been very unwell, nor have I yet entirely recovered, which I attribute to the change of climate and the deleterious alterations of sleep and snow which we have been enjoying here.

My proposals for the construction of an overland railroad, which I mentioned to you in my last, have now been before the Privy Council for nearly three weeks and will, I have reason to believe, be seriously considered.

But what with the Red River difficulties, which are every day becoming more complicated, the Fenian movements on the frontier and the approaching close of the Session, the Ministers have not a moment to themselves—so much so that they sit in council on Good Friday till past 6 o'clock in the evening.

Nevertheless, as the Government and everybody here are most anxious that the railroad should be built, my proposals are likely to be discussed and a negotiation possibly entered into in order to arrive at such terms as the Government may be willing to grant and with which a company could be raised.

So that a bill could be introduced to that effect at the next session in the Autumn, when it is to be hoped the Red River difficulties will be at an end.

As I see nobody here in a position to start a rival company I think I may in that case run a fair chance of success.

Riches and Scott, Bail's delegates from Red River, arrived here last week and have been arrested on a writ taken out by a brother of Scott, the murdered man's delegate.

Mr. Shultz, Mr. Maize and a dozen other refugees from Manitoba, their property has been confiscated and everything belonging to them plundered.

Mr. Shultz's store was plundered to the amount of \$19,000, and I knew a London merchant who will lose \$50,000 worth of furs.

A rather imposing force, composed of volunteers and troops of the line, will leave for Thunder Bay and Fort Garry as soon as the ice will permit, which will probably be in the course of another week—but it will take the expedition a full month or so to the end of May.

These Red River difficulties, unless settled, will be another obstacle to the federation of British Columbia, to say nothing of the proposed terms as prepared by the Governor in Council.

As I have the honor to remain, Sir, your obedient servant, W. P. Waddington.

Notice. Mr. Douglas has removed his office from Douglas Street, Westside, between Courtenay and Humboldt Streets.

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The Late School Meeting.

Permit me through the medium of your columns to correct a few grave errors, into which you have no doubt unintentionally fallen.

Mr. Wallace, in moving his resolution, took occasion to advocate the propriety of excluding religious instruction from the common schools.

Mr. Hebbard moved an amendment that the voluntary rate on the mode by voluntary subscription be adopted by the meeting.

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Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

For Diseases of the Throat and Lungs, such as Croup, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Asthma, and Consumption.

Probably never before in the whole history of medicine, has anything won so widely and so deeply upon the confidence of mankind, as this excellent remedy for pulmonary complaints.

It is the most effectual remedy that can be given for incipient consumption, and the dangerous affections of the throat and lungs.

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Sarsaparilla.

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