

The Weekly British Colonist

Wednesday January 26, 1870

## The Dominion Cabinet.

At the present time, when out of the scattered British North American Possessions is being created an empire, it is of the utmost importance that the management of public affairs should be entrusted to men of large progressive views and tried statesmanship. And it is not the least gratifying circumstance connected with the great scheme that just such men as the progeny of the times demanded have been brought to the front. Look at the three Knights occupying the most prominent positions. They are, all of them, men fit to stand side by side with Imperial Statesmen. The Premier is, indeed, a remarkable man. To deny him the possession of extraordinary abilities would be to fly in the face of the historical facts of nearly a quarter of a century. Through evil report and through good report, in times of especial trial has he succeeded for upwards of fifteen years, with one or two insignificant exceptions, in retaining the most important post for which any of his countrymen could be called; and that he is as novice in statescraft as the present proud possessor of the country testify. Crowding close upon the heels of Sir John, we have Sir George E. Cartier, who, if not so thoroughly up in statescraft as scarcely to rate second in ability. Of Sir George it may, perhaps, be asserted that Confederation made him, rather than that he made it. It was after many years of wrangling and fighting for ascendancy between the two great parties of Upper and Lower Canada, the latter of which looked to him as its leader, that Sir George was invited to come to view matters from the stand-point so long occupied by his fellow-countrymen and co-religionists, and unit with the Protestant party of the West in constructing a coalition Ministry, the chief mission of which would be to seek in Confederation a remedy for those loose and sectional squabbles, and although the changes were such as must forever deprive his own party of all hope of attaining a preponderating power in the Federal councils of the larger state, yet he hesitated not to identify himself with a former enemy, and work for the greater and more lasting object. In taking this bold and patriotic step Sir George risked much; for it was doubtful whether he would be able to carry his countrymen with him in a movement calculated to arouse prejudices of race and religion and designed to effectually curtail their political power. He ventured, and won; and to him the country stands much indebted. Few men placed in a similar position would have had either the nerve or the ability to play the same game successfully. If we rank Sir Francis Hincks third in order, it is that we conceive him to stand in that relation, in point of those talents which go to make up the statesman. Sir Francis is second to no man in Canada in that respect. Like the Premier, he is a self-made man, born though his hand must be somewhat out of Canadian politics. Yet we are greatly disposed to regard his return with satisfaction, and also think that, if spared for a few more years, Sir Francis will supplement his former record in such a manner as to give the country additional cause for cherishing his memory. Coming to the Hon S. L. Tilley, we find a gentleman of superior abilities, and of more than ordinary moral worth. Still in his prime, he is without doubt destined to attain very great influence in the councils of his country. A polished man, guided by high motives and liberal principle, Mr. Tilley may still be regarded as a rising statesman. The Hon Joseph Howe has established a reputation both in England and Canada of which he may well feel proud; yet there is no doubt that the unwise course he adopted in the first instance in regard to Confederation tended in some degree to impair his popularity and influence, but after making due allowance for that false step, the presence in the Cabinet of the veteran and eloquent reformer cannot but prove an element of no little strength. The advent of the Hon Alexander Morris should scarcely fail to be regarded with satisfaction by the great Confederation party. One of the first to realize the importance of opening up the Northwest, and to grasp the greater scheme of a Confederated Empire, Mr. Morris did much toward bringing together the leaders of the two parties, for the purpose of achieving a "link" bigger than all-party considerations. Such a young man, possessed of a liberal and honest mind, and endowed with a sense of no mean order, Mr. Morris bids fair to act an honorable and important part in the history of the young Empire. The Hon Mr. Dunkin is also a man of considerable promise, a lawyer by profession, and likely to make himself felt in the Cabinet; but with his history and political antecedents and ability we are less familiar. Of the other members

of the Government we know still less. There are two Canadians whose names from the Cabinet cannot but be a subject of very general regret. We allude to Sir Alexander T. Galt and the Hon. George Brown. Were these two men united with those already mentioned, Canada would possess a Government of sufficient strength and talent to undertake the administration of the affairs of a much more important country. The talents and past services of both entitle them to a front place, and a change which will give the country once more the benefit of their talents and influence would be hailed with very general satisfaction.

Friday Jan 21

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Enterprise, Captain Pamphil, returned from New Westminster shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday, bringing a few passengers and a local mail and express. The Cariboo express did not reach New Westminster in time to connect with the Enterprise, having been delayed by ice in the river below Yale, so that we are without any later news from the interior. As far as probability goes the express would reach New Westminster yesterday or today, and may be expected to arrive by the steamer Esme, now at Burrard Inlet. On her way up on Wednesday, the Enterprise met some floating ice in the river, but it was not of sufficient body to prevent any serious obstruction to navigation. At New Westminster the snow had fallen to a depth of about three inches, and Mr Lewis' sluices were raising between the city and Burrard Inlet. The weather had been very cold during Sunday and Monday, but a thaw set in on Wednesday. A number of ratemakers having presented a requisition to the President of the Municipal Council asking him to call a public meeting in order that Messrs Brook and Robson might have an opportunity of stating their views on the question of Confederation, the meeting was held at the Tyack Hall on Wednesday evening. W J Armstrong, Esq J P, in the Chair, and the meeting was very largely attended. A letter from Mr. Hulbrook, declining to attend, on the ground that his views were already known to the public, was read. Mr. Robson having addressed the meeting, a resolution was unanimously adopted, expressing entire confidence in him as the representative of the Districts. Mr. Barnard, being loudly called to address the meeting, the young lord was enjoying the duel on the ice on Baileys Lake since the cold weather set in. The Bank of British North America.—A general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of British North America was held at the London Tavern, under the presidency of Mr. A H Philpot, who announced that the Queen's warrant extending the privileges of shareholders until the 1st June, 1881, had been received. He was sorry to say that the confidence which was left in the bank in the Dominion of Canada had never been greater than at the present moment. The appointment of general manager vacant by the resignation of Mr. Paton, who had been in the service of the company since the year 1842, would be shortly conferred on Mr. McNab, the former secretary of the company, who had lately travelled through Canada, and had also visited New York, California, Vancouver Island, Brantford and other places. The directors believe that Mr. McNab would be a safe and capable man to fill the office. A. REVENGE.—Cornwall, France: after Frenchmen in custody on a charge of receiving stolen goods, now do from bloodshed to revenge.

TAX BRIG BYZANTINE, Calcutta, was loading at Honolulu, S. I., for Victoria, on the 15th Dec.

THANKS.—To Mr Emerson, Purser of the California and Mr Connor, W F &amp; Co's agent for usual courtesies.

TAX REPORT.—That Polly Lee had been killed at Honolulu by a fall from a tightrope was a hoax.

TAX CALIFORNIA brought up anchors and chains for the bark Ruby.

EUROPEAN MAIL SUMMARY.

Dated to Dec. 25th.

The master of a barge at anchor off Sheerness, finding his craft endangered by the violence of the sea, put off for shore, with his sister and five children, but the boat was upset, and all the children drowned.

The Marquis of Bute took with him from Scotland to Rome a magnificent silver cross of Grubis workmanship, adorned with Scottish stones, and presented it to the Holy Father, who directed that it was to be used at the processional cross of the Council. The cross was made by a well-known Catholic jeweller in Glasgow.

THE ESS OF LORD HUNTER ANDERSON.—The brilliant career of the impostor Dick Bedford, alias Lord Hubert L S. Ainsley, whose doings he has copied from time to time from the New York Post, has at last ended. The New York Post says, "A day or two ago his wife awoke from bed to find her diamonds, money, watch and her English Lord, all gone. On the table lay a note saying that he had gone never to return. The wife returned to her mother's Staten Island, where she is said to be lying dangerously ill of brain fever. It should be added that this impostor succeeded in making his way among a certain kind of wealthy society, in spite of the warning of the press, that he was able to persuade the daughter of a wealthy family to marry him, in spite of the fact that his pretensions had been exposed in public as well as in private, and that long after it was most clearly ascertained that he was an impostor, his followers, to deceive and other festivities were freely accepted by many persons who make pretensions to social standing."

FRENCH BORROW AT A DISCOUNT IN PARIS.

A great deal of astonishment is expressed in Paris at the number of Spanish orders and decorations which have recently made their appearance on the breasts and in the buttonholes of very obscure individuals. The secret has recently been explained by the curious fact that one of Queen Isabella's confidantes, who has more robes than he can pay, i. q. dictates his bills by telling the merchants that if they will give him receipts in full he will procure them robes of the various Spanish orders at the disposal of Queen Isabella the Second.

DECLINE OF TRADE IN SPAIN.—Official returns of the principal imports into Spain show a material decrease this year. The value of the principal articles imported into the country in the first seven months of 1869 was 43,527,548 escudos [or 2s each] being 10,748,255 escudos less than in the corresponding period of 1868.

M. S. Cameron (whose arrival at Honolulu we noticed three weeks since) sailed for Tahiti on the 13th December.

Cause and Effect.

This being the last week of the season,

we hope to see the Troup receive that de-

gree of public patronage to which they are

fairly entitled. Evening News of Tuesday.

This institution does not advertise in the

Evening News—Theatre advertisement of

Wednesday.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1870.

THE NEW STYL OF BILLIET DE MORT.

Funeral style in Paris consists in not issuing

the billet de mort till a month after the

death, and then enclosing a photograph, the

size of a postage stamp of the departed, with

scriptural extracts suitable to his life, and

with a request to pay for the repose of his

soul.

BUCKS' ANNIVERSARY.—The committee of

arrangements are hard at work preparing

for the approaching Bucks' Festival of the

Oxleido Society. They are determined

to make it the social affair of the season,

and they will not fall behind their deter-

mination.

THE LONDON LANCE asserts that the Emperor

of Russia is suffering severely from hereditary

hypochondriac disease. He often refuses to

take part of food for days at a time, and indulges

in other morbid practices, which are rapidly undermining his physical system.

THE REPORT that Sir Stafford Northcote had

been drowned through the loss of H M S

Deerhound had, it seems, not the least

foundation in fact. The Deerhound arrived

at Malta on the 14th inst, and letters have

been received from Sir Stafford Northcote

who is safe and well in Paris.

COLLECTIONS for the rebuilding of Christ

Church Cathedral have been commenced

simultaneously in England and Ireland. The

Bank of British North America has sub-

scribed £100 towards the subject.

A CLOTHING SALE.—J P Davies &amp; Co, at 11

o'clock this morning, will hold an important

sale of sugar, rice, ale, and porter, spiced

dried fruit, and assorted merchandise, on a

general reduction of 25 per cent.

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