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BRITISH COLONIST DHD WBBKLY

The Weekly British Colonist,

Wednesday, December 21 1870

Work for the People.

Ever ready to map out work for

people are too prone to neglect their own work. To the Legislature now about to convene unquestionably appertains work of supreme importance, and upon the manner in which that work is done must greatly depend the upon the sgricultural lands of the Coleny. success or unsuccess of every one of us That disposition has greatly increased of late. the prosperity or the declension of the Colony. But there is also work for the people to do, work which, if they will not do for themselves, nobody will do for them. It remains for the Government and the Legislature to consummate union with Canada upon Terms already prepared. These Terms have been pronounced very good by all, even by those hitherto opposed to, or, perhaps, it might be more correctly said, prejudiced against, Confederation. The public mind is buoyant, elated with the prospect of beneficial results. But does it ever occur to the public that they also have something to do in the matter, which, if neglected, may detract very much from the benefits to flow from these excellent Terms ? The people are by no means in a position to sit still and enjoy the good the gods—or, rather, Confederation - may send them, It will be for them, in a great measure, to give practical and beneficial effect to

the Terms. We will confine the pre-

sent remarks to two instances in re-

spect of which this proposition may be

regarded as especially applicable. The

Terms guarantee interest at the rate of

five per cent. for a period of ten years after the completion of the work upon a loan of one hundred thousand pounds pears, however, that the conditions are not likely to prove altogether satisfactory to English capitalists, to whom the Colony must, of course, look for the means of constructing the Dock,-that the gurantee must be extended over a longer period than ten years. It is known that the Canadian Cabinet re-

fuses to have the Terms so amended as to meet this difficulty. The Terms, as they stand agreed to, must not be tampered with; but it would be a great mistake to suppose that, for the comparatively trifling matter of an extension of a nominal guarantee, it is really the intention of the Dominion Government that the construction of the Graving Dock shall be abandoned, or even delay. ed. We use the word nominal, because it is presumable that the extension

would not involve any actual money payment, inasmuch as the Dock would have begun to pay the interest demanded. The possession of a Graving Dock The Canadian Government understands the ed. The possession of a Graving Dock important bearing of this question apon the at Esquimalt may almost be regarded important bearing of this question apon the lat Esquimalt may almost be regarded. Dominion interests. The Imperial Gov. influence upon the naval and general ment knows nothing about it, and probably in the light of a Dominion necessity. Its commercial and maritime interests of

might hesitate to make such a concession to the Province, self-interest and national prestige and advantage would forbid hesitation. It may be concluded, therefore, that what the Dominion Cabinet refused to do before union will readily be conceded after union, upon the matter being properly represented at Ottawa. Here is work for the people. The Terms guarantee the construction, wishin a stipulated period of a railway connecting the present system

of Canada with the seaboard of British Dolumbia. Now, the term " seaboard" is indefinite. It may mean Esqualt, or it may mean Burrard Inlet, Bute In let, Bentinck Arm, or, for the matter of that, it may mean Skeena Biver. An indefinite term was purposely employed. The location of the route and terminua of such a road must of necessity await efficient survey, cannot be hampered by local considerations. Divesting the question of all mere local interest and prejudice, it must be the general conviction that Esquimslt is the only proper and natural western gate for 'The True Northwest Passage' All mast feel that to have the railway stop short of Esquimslt would be greatly to neutralize its usefulness,

impair its success and circumscribe its in-fluence. Especially must this be felt when fluence. Especially must this be felt when the railway is regarded as having to compete with another transcontinental line terminating on Puget Sound. Vancouver Island has been filly represented as occupying the proud position of 'the streng man, armed, keeping the door'; but Vancouver Island would keep the door to little purpose did she relinguish so enormous and palpable an she relinquish so enormous and palpable an

be involved in having the Canadian Pacific Railway stop short of Esquimalt. Thus it will be observed that, while the Terms guarantee the early construction of the railway, the advantages, especially to this community, of that great work would be vary largely sacrificed unless its termination at Esquimalt be secured. Here, again, is work for the people—work to be accomplished not by

advantage in favor of a keen rival as would

obstructing or in any way prejudicing the scheme of Confederation, but by a clear, calm, dignified and businesslike representation of the whole subject at the proper time and in the proper quarter. Having thus briefly pointed out two important questions

in respect of which there is work for the people to do, it may be permitted us to re-mark in conclusion that the nature and importance of the work would appear to sug-gest the desirability of early and organized effort. What particular shape these should take it 1, not our present purpose to indiscate. We must content ourselves with remitting the whole subject to the serious coneideration of those gentlemen to whom the community naturally look to take the initiathe Legislature and the Government, the tory steps—only adding that it will be none

> Saturday, Dec 17. THE LAND FEVER. - Saveral weeks age we alluded to a growing disposition to settle ration and the recent important gold discoveries have, doubtless, mainly contributed towards bringing about this most desirable condition—one which it should be the earnest aim of the Government to turn to practical account. Every ressonable encouragement should be extended to those proposing to settle upon the public lands. In connection with this subject it may be remarked that there is a good deal of complaint about that provision in the new Land Ordinasce that provision in the new Land Ordinance which makes the term 'occupation' for the purposes of preemption mean bona fide resis dence of the preemptor, and of no one else. It is claimed to be a hardship that the pre-

THE COAST ROUTE AND THE TERMINUS.-There has been considerable talk within the past tew days respecting the coast-Skeepa route to the new gold-fields of Omineca, and there are those in this community who appear to entertain the idea that it will take precedence of the Fraser River route next eason. Without pretending to pronounce an opinion one way or the other concerning the relative merits of these two routes, we are greatly disposed to think that the setsterling, for the purpose of constracting the interests and the established means of a Graving Dock at Esquimalt. It apconveyance existing on the known route must long continue to give it an immense advantage over what we may, perhaps, be permitted to designate as the unknown route. Be this as it may, it can hardly escape the reader's reflection that in propertion to the importance of the coast route, it must exert an influence in favor of Equimalt as the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway. With large interests up the coast Esquimalt must become more central, as a distributing point, and more important as a terminus of transcontinental communication.

> SAN JUAN ISLAND .- With the near appreach of Confederation interest in the San Juan question increases. The lively interest taken in the matter by the Canadian Government three years ago leads us to believe that they will not be unmindful of it now that British Columbia is about to be a part of the Dominion; but the question is one involving such momentous interests that it might not be amiss for our Government to urge that of Canada te do all that can be dene towards ensuring a favorable settlement of this long standing international difficulty.

the Dominion on the Pacific Lower Fraser Items.—A young man would appear to entitle it to be who descried his ship, lying at Burrard Insert regarded; so that, even if Canada let, was brought up before the New Westminster Magistrate on Tuesday and sentenced to twelve weeks imprisonment, or until the vessel is ready to go to sea... On Monday a man was fixed, in the same Court, \$5 for interfering with a bailiff in the discharge of bis duty at Sumass Arrangements are being made for the presentation of the vawestminster Volunteers.

THEATRE ROYAL To-NIGHT, - The Pixley Sisters will give the last of their chaste and beautiful performances in this city this evening. In addition to the usual musical interlude, in which the young ladies and Mesers Melville and Ward will fill prominent parts, there will be offered the farce of the 'Married Rake,' 'Pat McCann,' Swiss Cottage 'and 'Snoo Fly.' As there is no other attraction of the kind on the tapis, the company naturally look for a good house.

No Express. The steamer Grappler sailed from Burrard Inlet at noon yesterday for this port, having a vessel in tow. Thinking that she would reach Victoria earlier than the Enterprise, Mr Barnard shipped on her with the Cariboo express. She had not arrived up to the time of our going to press, so that we are unable to lay the usual Cariboo news before our readers this morning.

FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Enterprise, Capt Swanson, arrived from New

GREAT ATTRACTION .- The varied, unique, beautiful, novel and exquisite heliday goods, fresh from London and Paris [the last goods that passed out of Paris before its doors were closed against the invading army will be opened to-day and on view at the London

SHOOTING MATCH. -The shooting at Calvert's four-mile House, for pigs, geese and

THE NELSON BROS are gyrating at the Bella Union concertroom, at San Francisco. sis the neld is in good health and spirite and is no childrent reason for its peasage.

tical fruits of the rich gold discoveries in left the colory for other parts had it not been for these discoveries. All feel the effect of this in present increase of business made, every steamer departure from the coland increased buoyancy in view of approaching prosperity. That there will be a considerable rush from California and the nearer

PICKETT'S GREAT HOLIDAY SALE .- The Standard excepts to our stating that Pickett & Co's is the only genuine sale of holiday goods yet amounced. As we never be-fore knew of chemises, nightdresses, pantallets, drawers, skirts, paper collars, onfis, revolvers, etc, etc, etc, being classed among holiday goods, we contend that our statement is correct. Pickett & Co's is the only real sale of holiday goods yet announced; and it will be to the advantage of the public

will commence at 11 o'clock, a.m. Point REYES .- The U S Government has at last placed a revolving white light on Point Reyes, the point on which the Labouchere and several other steamships were wrecked. It is elevated 296 feet above the mean level of the sea, and from the deck of a vessel 15 feet above the water it can be seen 231/2 nautical miles.

to bear this fact in mind to day. The sale

agent; and it is open to question whether some modification of this point might not be made with advantage. It does seem as though the man who is prepared to pay another for occupying and working his farm should enjoy all the privileges of a preemptor.

Good For Carisso.—It will be observed that our last night's dispatch from Cariboo is highly encouraging. The yield of the few claims mentioned, especially that of the Forest Rose and the Lightning, is better than common for winter weather. Altogether the Good FOR CARIBOO .- It will be observed mineral prospects of the country are looking

> MASONIC BALL - The announcement of a Masonic Ball on the 27th, appears this morning. The reunion will be under the auspices of the Fraternity, and an efficient committee has been appointed to earry out the arrange-ments. Albambra Hall and the best band the colony can provide have been engaged.

THE CALIFORNIA .- This propeller arrived resterdsy at noon from Sitks and way ports. She has a cargo of Nanaimo coal for Portland and will sail hence at daylight on Sun-day. The bark Shooting Star and bark-entine Victor are loading at Nanaimo for San Francisco.

Assault .- C. C. Parker appeared before the Police Court yesterday to answer a charge of striking J C Reate. The hearing of the case was postponed until Tuesday,

THE FROST on Thursday night was quite severs. Ice the thickness of half an-inch formed in the gutters and ponds and nearly all the numps were frozen tight, and had to be thawed out with hot water.

THE officers of the Fire Department have placed salt around the covers of the public cisterns to prevent their being frozen fast to

CATTLE SALE .-- Mr. Franklin's sale of cows, etc, yesterday, resilzed from \$40 to \$50 per head-better prices than have been obtained at any previous sale this season.

Some beautiful specimens of silver and brought to town by Mr Thomas Hankin.

PASSENGERS BY THE NEWBERN.-The following passengers sailed yesterday; Mrs J H Pitts, three Misses Pitts, A N Gunnison. THE bark Ada will sail on Monday for

Burrard Inlet via Nanaimo. THE U.S.S. Newbern sailed at daylight yesterday morning for San Francisco direct.

Real Estate Tax Deputation.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST : - I am willing to admit the verbal accuracy of your correspondent of yesterday, in correcting a statement of mine, into which I was led by the circumstance that the volume of Ordinances of the Legislative Council, issued from the Government press in 1867 did not contain the obectionable act. A short account however of the circumstances under which that act became law will speak for itself.

On arrival at the Colony his late Excellency found the Real Estate Tax had become the most obnoxious impost in British Columbia His opening addres, was emphatic : "The Real Estate Tax must be repeated."

On the 14th of March Government introduced a measure for the purpose, to which the clauses of which the pub-Westminster via Burrard Inlet, shortly after lie now complain were tacked. Owing 21 o'clock lest night, bringing a number of to the opposition met with, the Treasurer decided that the committee of the whole on this Bill be instructed to divide the same into two parts, one for the repeal of the tax into two parts, one for the repeal of the tax and the other dealing with the other mat-

ter contained in the bill,' At the memorable midnight meeting with which the 1st of April closed—the night previous to prorogation—a committee of the whole Resolved that the latter bill be read third time to-morrow, but that this Council is of opinion that His Excellency should be respectfully requested to suspend his assent to this ordinance until he shall have been satisfied, by such means as to him shall seem fit, of the truth of the preamble and turkies, will commence at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Conveyances will leave the Adelphi
Corner. A free lunch will be provided at
the Heuse. at the last moment of the session of remodeling an Executive measure affecting important interests, which had become so

THE FIRST FAUITS. - Already are the prac- | complicated as almost to require a Glade stone to arrange them. Omineca visible in the hundreds of men wintering here who would undoubtedly have

during which every transfer that has been made, every steamer departure from the colony, has added intensity to the grievance, which was so premptly acknowledged by His Excellency at the satisfactory interview Territory to the Omineca mines in the Spring recently accorded to the deputation.

may be considered as beyond all doubt.

J. D. PERMBERTON:

Electioneering Tour of a Defeated attedma Candidate. xuanda

WRITTEN FOR THE BRITISH COLONIST.

(Continued.)

THE election writ reached Kostenay late on the evening of the 4th ult. In no other district were there so many probable candidates spoken off aithough the legally constituted voters scarcely numbered forty. The first in the field was James Galbraith, but he came to the conclusion that the province of Manito-ba would be more likely to appreciate his political abilities than British Columbia, and he accordingly started over the mountains east about a month before the election. Secondly Mr McKay, of the H. B. C., had the greatness thrust upon him, but wiser than his younger and more inexperienced confriere, the member elect, he declined the hosor. The third candidate mentioned, and said to have been canvassing all through the summer, was R. T. Smith, the whilom member for Big Bend, during its palmy days in the first session of the Council after the Union of the Colonies. Somehow or other his candidature fell through either for want of popularity or eligibility, or both. In the fourth place steed Mr John Gal-braith, who also saw fit to decline the proffered honor. Fifthly, the renowned Fitstubbs was the coming man, who would undeubtedly have tried his chances had the Koetensies furnished him with an outfit becoming his position as a high-toned lirish gentleman and would be legislator. Mr Gardher, a popular

miner on Perry Creek, made up the even half dezen, who, if he had offered, would have carried his own camp and as many of the Wild Horse votes as would have ensured his return. Mr Robt Skinner stood seventh on the list, and the writer came next in order. No. Nine was no other than the redoubtable opponent of Mr Cornwell in the Yale-Lytten District. The same express that brought in the writ, new constitution, proclamation, etc., conveyed letters to some friends of that gentleman asking to be put in nomination and asserting that the newspaper reports with regard to his offering himself for Yale in opposition to Mr Barnard were all wrong—that Kootenay was his first love, and having secured the unanimous support of the Big Benders, he looked upon his return as a foregone conclusion. Yet one more to make the number even, Henry Holbrook, Esq. This British Columbian Legislator of many years experience, having been in constant communis-cation with his Wild Horse friends, will un-doubtedly feel much disappointed on his re-turn home in finding that he is no longer entitled to the appellation of henorable. Of this formidable list Nos 7 and 8 were put in nomination, polling taking place the same day. The show of hands being in favor of No 1, a poll was demanded for No 8. The potent influence of 'Skinner whiskey,' which was flowing in the freest possible manner, and had been for ten days previously, soon brought

a number of its devotees to the polls—the un-disguised support of the officials, constables disguised sapport of the officials, constables particularly, together with all the aid the HBO could muster—went in the same direction: Hence it is not to be wondered at that No 8 going in at the eleventh hour, after nearly every vote on Wild Horse Creek had been pledged, was left in a cansiderable minority. One of the constables, Carriagton, who was also deputy returning officer an Parry greak rated in ME beautiful specimens of silver and deputy returning officer on Perry creek voted in favor of the nominee of the Kootenay officer. cials as also did the other constable Nor-mansel, who acted as clerk of the poll on Wild Horse creek. The returning officer pro-tested in the strongest possible manuer against swearing in votes, which was done in every case by the opposing candidate when the parties were known to be American citizens, but born under the British flag, chiefly in Ireland. He feared that trouble in the shape of an attack on the party swearing them would ensue, in which case he expressed a doubt as to whether his authority as returning officer and magistrate would be sufficient protection. Several of the men did not besitate to acknowledge that they had forsworn their allegiance to Great Britain but they felt no scruples in taking the prescribed oath. These votes were then record. ed in every case for Skinner. In the un-avoidable absence of his appenent, a well-known American half-breed, born at Col-ville, Morisho and a French Canadian who did not know the English alphabet were burried in, and their votes received without a word of inquiry on the part of the returning officer or his clerk. In another case a said-to-be naturalized British subject named Lorenzo presented himself and was immedia ately put down on the Skinner list without being asked for whom he would vote. The man not liking such precipitancy, finally declined to vote at all, yet his name was allowed to stand. A formal protest was banded in against the illegal votes thus polled, numbering twelve, but the returning officer did not see fit to take any action with regard to them. On Perry Creek four well known American citizens swallowed the oath and voted for Skinner It does not seem

that the officials in any other district acted the role of partizans so thoroughly and efficiently as at Kootenay. No doubt their candidate will fully appreciate such valuable assistance and record his vote is behalf of official interests should an opportunity present itself for so doing FOR PUGET SOUND!

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