

Colony Weekly British Columbia AND CHRONICLE Tuesday, February 12, 1868

The question, "Why does not the Council meet?" is frequently asked, but has not yet been satisfactorily answered. The Governor, it is true, has written the honorable members for the flag of the districts that he hesitates to call the party together because he expects important dispatches from Home bearing upon the question of finance. These dispatches, it is generally understood, refer to a proposition carried by Baring Street by Mr. Birch, that a new loan to extricate the Colony from its pecuniary difficulties be effected with an Imperial guarantee. It would be absurd for British Columbia, already owing \$1,200,000, to go upon the London money market for a new loan of half a million dollars without the endorsement of the Imperial Government; and the anticipation formed by some that the Imperial Government will become security for us will prove, we think, equally absurd. The policy of Great Britain is to confederate all her British North American Colonies immediately, with the ultimate object in view, should the scheme work well in that section—to extend the system to the West Indies, to Australia, to New Zealand, &c., and thus, instead of having a number of petty little provinces eternally warring against each other's commercial and political interests, and jealously watching lest their prerogatives are trodden upon by a neighbor, to consolidate the various sections into groups or families of Colonies, by union imparting to them strength and vigor, and by a course of wise legislation removing the causes that now exist for local disputes and heart-burnings. To illustrate the unsatisfactory condition of the British North American Provinces prior to Confederation, it is only necessary to refer to the system of hostile legislation pursued by the Main and of this Colony towards Vancouver Island before Union. How of our readers will have forgotten the blow aimed at our commerce by the passage of the Differential Duties Act and the Gold Export Tax—measures which, it was openly avowed by members of the Council, were designed to draw trade from Victoria and centre it at New Westminster. There was also the Mail Subsidy—a liability guaranteed, as a period when the Mainland Government was in a bankrupt and sinking state, when its credit was even more than the whole Colony's has been since Union—and contracted for the single purpose of destroying the commerce of Victoria. To be sure the Mainland Government, in the matter of the subsidy, which was not to be paid until the year 1864, was in a position to have passed into history, and are only now valuable as references in demonstrating how even English Colonies, when bound together by no stronger tie than that of common nationality will resort to unfair and unseemable means to effect very unworthy ends in their intercourse with Colonial neighbors. If England had no other object in view than to remove all motive for strife, we think the scheme of Confederation was wisely conceived. Confederation, therefore, being the policy of the British Government, we can readily believe that the proposition of Mr. Seymour to raise a new loan on the faith of the endorsement of the Imperial Government will meet with a decided "No" at the Colonial Office. There will be no guarantee. England will advance no money upon the security of the revenues of a Colony which under its present system of Government presents so poor a prospect of repaying the loans already effected. What, then, will be done? Will England cast us off and tell us to seek our own livelihood and carve out our own destiny? or will she consent to the solemnization of matrimony between Mr. Birch and Miss British Columbia? She will do neither. She will simply say to Ottawa, "Here is our youngest daughter. She has been living beyond her income and is heavily in debt. She is fertile in resources and has millions of acres of rich arable lands; she

holds, besides, the key of the door through which your Confederacy must seek an entrance to the Pacific Ocean. Assume her debt, and she is yours. Canada will jump at the offer. This Colony would be cheap to the Dominion were her debt five times as great as it is. Seward would gladly give the Alabama claims and \$10,000,000 besides for the privilege of planting the flag of his country upon our soil and proclaiming it America's. That negotiations are progressing for the transfer of the Colony to the Dominion, we are now convinced; and that Governor Seymour is urging the adoption of that policy upon the Home Government, we are equally well satisfied. His Excellency's best interests prompt him to hasten the accomplishment of the scheme. Should he succeed he will claim that his individual exertions brought it about. But should the Colony remain unconfederated when His Excellency's term of office shall have expired, an investigation into public affairs will be instituted by his successors, and Mr. Seymour visited with the censure of the Colonial Office for general incapacity and habitual neglect of duty. The Governor's true line of policy, therefore, if he wishes to save himself, is to hasten Confederation—a policy we believe he is at this moment pursuing to the best of his poor ability. His Excellency was correct when he wrote that he deferred calling the Council together until despatches affecting the financial status of the Colony had been received. Such a statement is quite consistent with the truth. He has laid this proposition for a loan with an Imperial guarantee before the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, well knowing it will meet with no favor, and has placed the affairs of the Colony in a light before the Imperial Government that leaves it no alternative but to consent to our early admission to the Confederacy. We should not be surprised if Mr. Seymour never met the Council again, or that if he does it will be merely to announce the fact that Confederation has taken place. To the imminence of Confederation may be also attributed the failure of the Imperial Government to fix the Seat of Government of the Colony, and to take other steps which it is probable the Confederated Government would insist upon retracing immediately.

Wednesday, Feb. 12.
Supreme Court.
Before His Lordship Chief Justice Neidham.
Edgar, Maroon vs. Bank of British Columbia.—This is an action on the part of plaintiff to recover from the Bank the sum of \$9000, with accretion interest, claimed in payment of a check from the firm of G. B. Wright & Co. given in December 1864. It being a case for a Special Jury the following gentlemen were empanelled: Messrs Finlayson, Charles, Lowe, Lennox, Mainland, Beavers and Turner.
Messrs Wood and Walker, instructed by Mr. Greig, appeared for plaintiff, and Messrs McCreight and Walker, instructed by Drake and Jackson, for defendant.
The examination of Messrs G. B. Wright and Francis Tabbell occupied the day.
The Court adjourned till 11 a.m. on Tuesday next.

Plaintiff was examined at length, and afterwards Messrs Henry Rhodes and Godfrey Brown, whose counsel for plaintiff closed their case.
A motion for a nonsuit was made by defendant, but denied.
The following gentlemen were then examined on the part of the defence: Messrs Robt Greig and Wm C. Ward, after which Court adjourned until 11 a.m. on Wednesday.
In the report of Monday's proceedings we inadvertently omitted the name of Mr. Ross from the list of jurymen.
Wednesday, Feb. 12.
The Court was occupied the entire day in the trial of this suit.
After able addresses from counsel on either side the case went to the jury, who returned after a brief absence with a verdict for the plaintiff for \$9000, with six months' interest added, at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent. per month.
Two passengers from Portland, Oregon, arrived per Anderson yesterday. They crossed the Willamette and Columbia rivers on the ice. Loaded teams were crossing daily from shore to shore and the U.S. Quartermaster was engaged the day they left sending six mule wagons loaded with army supplies across both rivers. The cold had been very severe but it is believed that the heavy rain now falling will raise the water in the rivers, and partly the ice out to sea. The Old maid remained at Astoria rebound.
The Franks—A man who is desirous of purchasing a good piano at a reasonable price will have an opportunity of doing so by calling upon Mr. Digby Palmer, an advertiser in another column. The one with "check action" we believe is the only one of the description in this city.

Unfortunate Encounter.—An "array took place" between Messrs T. R. McElroy and A. J. Moses, last Wednesday evening, in Mr. William's store, which resulted in the serious injury of Mr. Moses. It appears that for some days past Moses had held a grudge against McElroy and had frequently denounced him in the most bitter language. On the evening of the affair he assailed McElroy with the most violent abuse, and the consequence was an appeal to "moral suasion." Mr. Moses' injuries may be summed up as a broken leg, caused by the falling of a stove upon him during the scuffle, and a wound upon the head inflicted by some cudgel or other instrument in the hands of McElroy.—*Olympia Standard.*

Last evening a farmer from the other side fell into the View street sewer, near the house of Mr. Budd, receiving serious injury. Mr. Budd, hearing the man's cries for assistance, proceeded to the spot and extricated him from a perilous position. The injured man was conveyed to the residence of Mr. Innes and medical assistance promptly sent for.

Missing.—Wm. Black, the insane man who ran into the prison a few days ago and was subsequently released, has been missed by his friends since Saturday. He is a tall, dark complexioned man, with a black hair, whiskers and moustaches.

Frozen to Death.—A telegram from Clifton last evening reports that Caleb Inman, a packer, while going from Clifton to Dog Creek, on the 27th ult., had his limbs dreadfully frozen and died from the effects on Friday last.

TRADES LICENSES.—The half-yearly trades licenses, ending on the 30th of June next, are due and payable at the office of the Stipendiary Magistrate. Parties selling without a license are liable to a penalty of \$250 for each offence.

The steamer Eliza Anderson, Capt. Finch, arrived from Puget Sound yesterday morning. Business on the Sound is dull owing to want of communication with the interior, the late floods having torn up the roads in every direction.

TIGER ENGINE CO. No. 2.—At the adjourned monthly meeting of this Company last evening Thomas J. Barnes was elected Foreman, and James Gillon, resigned, and Joshua Davies 2nd Assistant Foreman, vice Barnes.

Mr. SUTTON, formerly Chief Engineer of the New World, has placed us under obligations for copies of the Oregonian to the 5th inst.

The Del Norte will leave San Francisco for Victoria to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The U.S.R.C. Lincoln, came in from Puget Sound yesterday afternoon.

Another Growl from "Sniktaw."

EDITORS COLONIST.—If it is possible to form any opinion of what they want from the speeches and writings of Messrs Young, Ball & Co., they seem to be impressed with the idea, that this Colony should continue to remain governed at an expense of \$700,000 a year, because under Confederation Canada would act against us for nothing. Suppose we may reasonably assume that under Confederation the expense of our government would not be more than half that amount; that fact is no recommendation in the eyes of those sage politicians, because government is still going to cost us that much. They will not even concede to ask Canada whether or not she will give us the terms proposed, and why? because we have already made two or three changes which have proved mistakes. That is, we have lost our way, and because we have made two unsuccessful attempts to recover it, we must be content to remain for ever lost, rather than make another effort to find the road, the non-recovery of which is certain death. Why, sir, with any sense, any thinking, or any honest man, the very fact that these efforts have hitherto been unsuccessful, is the strongest possible reason why we should make another struggle to recover our lost position. Here we have a method laid down by the adoption of which we may reasonably expect to do so, and if the opponents of Confederation decline to accept that method it is clearly their duty to point out how we are to exist during the next four or five years; how we are to raise our present revenues; how we are to sustain our present and increasing indebtedness—all of which we must do if we retain our present Government, with our present system of Government—a Governor respecting whom a member of the firm of Young, Ball & Co. a short time ago, wrote, "that in consequence of his thorough unavailability, it is inconsistent with our self-respect that we patiently bear the continuance of Governor Seymour any longer amongst us," &c.; and yet, within six weeks, the writer of that scathing and principled mover in getting up a petition with the avowed purpose of retaining for an indefinite period that "thoroughly unavailable" Governor and his whole system. What can we think of such a politician? There can be no controversy with such an opponent, and when we find a man with so little regard for his own consistency—so little consideration for his own judgment—assuming the position of a leader of the people, our patriot but feel that his only claim to our courtesy is the claim which charity gives him. And that even charity can give him no just title to our respect. Such leaders should have some thoughts, some ideas, something like those

of purpose, it is impossible to combat mere opinion. No man has any right to resist a measure which is indispensable without being prepared to offer something better. These petitioners offer nothing, suggest nothing. They would sacrifice the best interests of the Colony to gratify their spleen against a political opponent; they would stick to the ship and go down with the wreck rather than go into the boat along-side, because Mr. DeCosmos already occupies a seat there. There is a grandeur and nobility about self-immolation when dictated by a stern sense of duty; but when that self-immolation is induced by a spirit of personal revenge there is something about it so "abject, mean and vile" that I shall not venture to characterize it as a "deed." If, instead of having the privileges offered us by Confederation urged upon us—almost thrust upon us by the British Government—the people of Canada had at the present moment been like the people of the United States some ninety years ago, in arms against the British Government, demanding those very rights which we now demand, we would have found the firm of Young, Ball & Co. in the vanguard of agitation, eagerly bounding on every man disposed to take the field; and perhaps in a moment of ardent enthusiasm these patriots themselves might have sheathed a sword and watched the conflict from some convenient knoll. And yet, because those rights and privileges which have again and again been thought worth fighting for at present so easy of attainment, are offered for our acceptance, are placed within our reach—these men think proper to reject them; they will not even deign to consider them; they will not even condescend to ask Canada what she will give; but they will upon what they call their dignity, and starve! Permit me to say, in conclusion, that if the people of Victoria are willing to be led like sheep, to the slaughter, by such leaders as these—the first, a man whose only claim to distinction is the fact that at some former period of his life he must have graduated with the highest honors in some school of coarse incentive—the man who has "established a name." The other seems to be a man whose ideas have got into such singular confusion as to leave no one idea clearly presented to his own mind, except an intense dislike of Canadians and everything Canadian. I say that if the people of Victoria are willing to range themselves under the banner of such leaders as these, they richly merit that ruin which under our present system the future will surely bring us.

SNIKTAW.

Letter No. 3, from "Victoria."

EDITOR COLONIST.—In my former letter I suggested for the consideration of the public whether the tariff of the Dominion might not prove very injurious to the agricultural, commercial and industrial interests of this Colony, and thus instead of offering inducements to people to settle, would rather tend to depopulate the country. Whether the admission of Canadian goods duty free would, not, devalue trade, compel merchants to seek new business relations, and whether it would not prevent the use of our progress, of manufactures or factories in our own territory? Of course all these inquiries to British Columbia might be beneficial to some of the provinces of the Dominion, but what we have to consider is our own interest. It would not comfort us to starve in order to fatten them. It is likewise suggested that two members in a House composed of one hundred and eighty or so, could have little or no influence in altering the tariff, the commercial system on general laws to suit the Pacific portion of the Colony, that the general course of legislation would be to encourage the progress of the four millions, and not those ten thousand situated fifteen hundred miles off; and in fact that if joined to the Dominion, British Columbia would be deprived of the management of her own affairs instead of having more control over them. It may therefore be worthy of consideration whether the people living in British Columbia had not better manage their own legislation, they being conversant with the country, and what it requires, than entrust it to those who have their own interests to attend to primarily and who may be considered for the most part ignorant of the conditions and requirements of this Colony, and of the peculiar relations, geographically, commercially and otherwise that it bears to the United States of North America, for efforts in legislation may transfer all the trade and commerce of our own country which we now enjoy into the hands of neighboring foreign territories. That the people of this Colony are as intelligent and as well able to judge for themselves as the Canadians, no one, of course, will deny; but where the shoe pinches is this, that the people believe themselves to be debarrd from the management of their own affairs; that how ever good our system of government may be theoretically, that practically it gives great dissatisfaction and that being unsuitable must be bad. If a man is troubled with an itching tooth, surely in order to cure it is not necessary to terminate his existence. If the government be bad, would it not be wiser to improve it, than to thrust ourselves into one which, being untried, might prove our death? The tale of King Log and King Stork has been practically rehearsed in this Colony heretofore; it is necessary to have a new and revised edition thereof? It is a fact that under our present form of government the people may be debarrd from carrying out their wishes; but it is a fact

that they have been? During the late session of the Legislature the elected members carried everything their own way when they were united, and it was probably owing to disunion that other reforms were not effected. Surely we have more power over our own affairs even now than two members, who would be snubbed mendicants from a mendicant province, could possibly have in the halls at Ottawa; by asking for improvements in our government we could have still more. It is not fair to attribute all the ills the country suffers to the government, but it is far more pleasant to blame the government than to accuse ourselves. The Colony has gone through a terrible ordeal of insolvency with which the government had nothing to do, therefore the suffering should not be visited on its head, still it is the baneful effects of this ordeal and the unpopularity of and dislike to the government that leads many to seek consolation in the Confederacy, they having a vague notion that it is a good thing. Let the question then of the evils of our local government be left out, because they can be remedied and let our material interests only be considered. We have a rich country, and it is absurd to say that it cannot support its own government. True it is that the government is now in difficulties, but the past year has been an exceptional year, therefore have been diminished by causes very well known, its expenses increased by having to pay off various unpopulous members, and the retention of the Seat of Government at Westminster, and the presentation of bills that were supposed to have been paid. A brighter era has dawned, and it is believed by those able to judge that this year a considerable influx of immigration will take place, and the funds of the government be at least equal to the demands upon it, and that the revenue will be nearer \$600,000. Let us wait awhile, and see what the condition of the country will be this year, and then we may have a greater or less love for it. It would be at least imprudent to rush into Confederation under a state of excitement; love at first sight may be romantic, but marriage is not unfrequently followed by years of sorrow. May not immediate Confederation lead to a similar result? If, after Confederation the people of British Columbia become dissatisfied, that dissatisfaction will be a source of weakness and exposure to the Dominion. It is better, therefore, for both parties not to be in a hurry. It is nonsense to say that this Colony will be forced into the Dominion against its will; neither the Dominion nor this Colony would allow it. But what is this Government of the Dominion. It means simply this, to take away all the present colonial revenues and apply them to the support of the General Government, and to such uses as that Government may choose; save and except that it must pay a Lieutenant Governor, judges and some few other officers; it may even be taken to pay loans and legions of loans which may be used for waste of no interest, or benefit to ourselves. Our loans expire in a few years—those of Canada never. Our debts, therefore, will diminish, our income increase. Again, under Confederation the chief expenses of the colony are left to be provided for by the local government by direct taxation. Suppose the people of this Colony to submit now to a Stamp Tax, that they will have to bear under Confederation; would they not be able to support their Government and carry on necessary works? There cannot be a doubt but that Confederation would to us increase the expense of Government; or in other words that this Colony should conduct its own Government at less cost than it will entail under Confederation. It requires very serious consideration whether it is worth while risking the destruction of the farming, industrial, manufacturing and commercial interests for the sake of \$100,000 per annum, which very soon they might pay themselves to the General Government. The people want to prosper. To ruin them and give the provinces \$100,000 is to be allowed to do so, does not exactly seem the way to make a country rich or prosperous. Depend upon it, the country is large enough and rich enough to support itself and sustain our own expenses, improve our government, and endeavor to develop our own resources; the people must do the latter and not the Government. The Confederacy is at best an experiment and none can tell whether it will succeed or not; even now it has discordant elements within itself which are disposed to promote its disintegration; surely it would not improve matters to have a dissatisfied British Columbia in it also. It may appear very liberal for the Government of Canada to give large sums of money to various provinces, but that money must be supplied by taxation, and if the present taxes be insufficient for the purpose others must be introduced. Canada is not generally believed to be rolling in wealth, and its resources will be sufficiently taxed to settle the Northwest Territory and pay for the Government Indian war, that are likely to be occasioned thereby. If the Dominion be a bad or indifferent thing, this Colony would not wish to have anything to do with it, if a good thing, the people will not be slow to discover. If, once negotiations are opened with the Dominion, and that is so rapid as grasps at its elbow, let us hide our time and events. I do not, Mr. Editor, lay these things down dogmatically. They are merely intended to induce the people of this Colony to think for themselves, to think coolly and quietly, and not to be carried away to do in a moment of excitement that which many might repent when reason returned and calmer reflection prevailed. The question is a momentous one, but to the land; but to themselves personally and to those who may come after. After mature reflection the people believe that their material interests will be better promoted by joining the Dominion upon terms, than remaining separate, who will deny them the right to do so? No one.

VICTORIA.
The Lot on Store Street, adjoining the warehouse of Janion, Rhodes & Co., 65,300 feet, was sold yesterday by Mr. Backus for \$1300.

By Electric

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Europe.
Lisbon, Feb. 6.—The Portuguese, while returning party near Prag, were fired upon by the guard returning some of the assailants. The royal party rode rapidly.
Vienna, Feb. 6.—The Czar is visiting on the subject which has protested Powers against her external service. The same passage of numerous armies of Belgravia is directed to the Danube. The royal party rode rapidly for Foreign Affairs the intention of the subject.
Paris, Feb. 6.—It is said has accepted the invitation visit Constantinople next London, Feb. 7.—The later Adams is announced has an article highly commended.
Berlin, Feb. 7.—It is said that negotiations for a confederation between the United States and man Confederation have progressing satisfactorily.
Berlin, Feb. 8.—Bismarck's absence from the office of the North German and will devote several months through Europe. The Emperor compels him to seek relations.
London, Feb. 8.—Duke of Devonshire has been appointed a new Cabinet (4) for President.
The notorious Fenian was captured at Cork while he was being taken to a great force and prevailed. The mob was the prisoner lodged in jail.
Paris, Feb. 8.—Younghusband is the Papal Zouave.
Berlin, Feb. 9.—At Biarritz told Carl Schornstein the good will of the United States. This regarded by Americans in view of the possibility the selection of some for between United States pending difference.
London, Feb. 10.—The easiness created by the snow in Northern Tuscany. The reports Danube were greatly exaggerated.
New York, Feb. 9.—Napoleon's policy towards the Pope and remarkable disposition to abandon the Holy See said of the existence of the Papacy from Rome relations with Rome there with Victor Emmanuel and Queen Isabella has the Papal Legion, rector in Madrid as Napoleon service in the cause of Farragut remains honored visitor.
London, Feb. 4.—Sir William Earle, as Court of Common Pleas Minister Adams April.
The Fenian Captain on Friday, and is charged with assault on the Mar cannop.
Paris, Feb. 9.—The Press Bill, after all changes of the heated debate.
The French Government expelled the American from Florence, Feb. 9, along the coast between Vecchia.
London, Feb. 1.—Amined for committing Martello Tower at once was conclusively committed for trial, man, barely 21.
Several rioters were Mackey were also injured.
United States.
New York, Feb. 1.—The Federal debt shows an increase of 1,000,000, owing to revenue.
In the House, to introduce a