

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Saturday, October 31, 1868.

Motives and Influences.

The excitement prevailing about the coming election seems at first sight somewhat extraordinary, especially when we consider that none of the candidates profess other than liberal principles, but if we look below the surface, as it is depicted by addresses and speeches, we can trace the reasons for the anxiety manifested by the people to send the best men that can be found, willing to undertake the trouble of public life, to represent them in the Council. Several false issues have been raised, partly we suppose, on account of the supporters of Messrs. Helmcken and Drake not having the courage to come out boldly, and state what are their real motives in contesting the city. We have heard it whispered in official quarters, and possibly the brick walls of the Hudson Bay-house echo back the gently uttered cry, "if we could only get rid of that firebrand, things would go on quietly." His opponents seem afraid to say who the firebrand is, but judging from the quarters from which the whisper comes, and seeing that much of the support of Messrs. Helmcken and Drake emanates from the same quarter, we are inclined to suppose, that the individuality of the firebrand will be found in the person of the candidate who, since the Union, has most consistently opposed the continuance of the system of Government, which deprives the people of all share in the administration, and who alone, amongst the Island members, has during the same period struggled to reduce the present extravagant public expenditure to within bounds suited to a Colony with so small a population as British Columbia. The people of Victoria, the working men of this city, those who, with the miners of Cariboo and Nanaimo, and with the farmers and laborers of the Mainland and the Island, are beginning to see through the ruse, and are determined to prove that it cannot be successfully played off upon them. Mr. Drake indignantly repudiates the charge of being a Government man, and he is opposed to the Government, why has he allowed himself to be made a tool for the furtherance of their views upon the present occasion. It is well known that the members of the Government will fight to the last in opposition to Representative Institutions; none can be more fully alive to the truth of the idea expressed by one of the leading Heads of Departments upon this subject, than those officials who sit in their places in the Council, not by the will of the people, but as the nominees of the Governor, and vote their own salaries. We know very well, and the gentleman to whom we allude, that when the people get any power in the Government of the Colony, our reign is over, and we shall oppose Representative Institutions to the last. Others who are supporters of Messrs. Drake and Helmcken are not ashamed to proclaim aloud that they are opposed to Representative Institutions. We believe therefore that we are correct in assuming the real issue, of the present contest to be Representative Institutions and Responsible Government against a packed Legislative Council under the beneficent control of the Governor. Electors of Vancouver Island beware how you cast your votes; if you are satisfied with the existing Government and wish things then to remain as they are, vote for the individual candidates you like best, if you wish for reform, vote for those men who have shown by their past conduct that they are true Reformers.

The Districts.

There are now two candidates before the electors, who aspire to represent the whole inhabited part of Vancouver Island, outside of Victoria City and Esquimalt and Nanaimo Towns; that so many districts should

be represented by only one man, is only on a par with the rest of Governor Seymour's policy—not only are the wishes of the people left uncared for and unnoticed, but they are positively insulted by being offered some semblance of popular institutions, whilst in reality the absurdity of carrying on an election all over the Island for the return of a single individual for the Governor's approval, deprives many of the inhabitants of the right of exercising such franchise as is allowed them. It is high time that an end was put to this humiliation of the people, and the electors of the Districts will probably send to the Council, the man who in their opinion will work most earnest to secure real Representative Institutions. The two gentlemen who have offered themselves are not unknown in the community. Dr. Davis is a scholar and a gentleman, a man of integrity, who is overflowing with kindness of heart, and is strictly honorable in his dealings. If his address had been somewhat more explicit on the great questions of Retrenchment and Representative Institutions, and if his views when explained, had been decided and sufficiently advanced on these points to meet the wishes of the people, he no doubt would have had the field to himself; as it is he has a battle to fight with Mr. Sobright Green, of whom, as he is officially connected with this paper, we prefer to say nothing; his address and his past course as a public man must speak for him.

The Meeting of Friday Night.

A meeting, large and influential, was held at the Theatre on Friday night, last to listen to the remarks of Messrs. Drake and Helmcken, political aspirants for the next Legislative Council. Hon. Mr. Macdonald took the Chair, and Mr. Robert Bishop was Secretary to the meeting. There were also present: Messrs. Burnaby, Davis, Findlay, Wood, Chadwick, J. Lowe, Fell, King, Cox, H. Lewis, Nathan, Allatt, &c. Dr. Helmcken came forward and said—I stand before you fellow citizens. (A voice—Speak out.) You can't expect me, I'm too small to speak out. I was told that at the meeting last evening imputations were cast upon my character; I'm told so, because I did not attend the meeting out of courtesy. When a man has a bad case the same course is usually resorted to. It was said, I'm a Hudson Bay man—I am glad to be in the service. (Hear, hear.) They always treated me well and I hope to continue there so long as they do—no doubt many amongst you would like to be with them too. As to the Company instructing me to change or form my opinion on the question of Confederation, with which I am charged, there is not a word of truth in it; you all know me long enough to believe me. I will admit I was mistaken in favor of Confederation and again voted for it, and again I am opposed to it; it is all true. Dr. Helmcken then proceeded to explain his course. At New Westminster towards the close of the first Legislative session by reason of the besieging and badgering on all sides I did consent to support Confederation, and I did support it to the best of my ability and I am told I made the best speech on the occasion. [Laughter.] Gentlemen I felt sore—having seen the country preciously prosperous and then nothing but ruin staring me, the country to all intents lost, our reputation gone, the colony over head and ears in debt, and everything forlorn and hopeless, it was then I was glad to seize hold on anything to effect a change; I considered that the Colony wanted a nurse—a wet nurse at that—to take care of her. I looked around to see what was to be done to assist her, and knowing full well the Canadian Government was anxious to get hold of the Colony, I thought that to give it to them was the best way to get out of our trouble. At that time the organic act of Confederation was not passed and a resolution was sent to Her Majesty's Government to put in a clause to make provision for our admission. We proceeded on to the close of the Session and came to the conclusion that no assent had been given by the people to our course and so sent down for to have a ratification meeting held at once. I confess we did wrong for had Confederation gone on, the colony to-day would have been in the position in which Nova Scotia is now. (Cheers and hisses.) Had we been in the Confederacy we would be equal to the men of Nova Scotia. The next step after the passing of the resolution, and in cooler moments, I began to think whether we had not done wrong. Next session I came to the conclusion that we had done wrong—then I altered my views and boldly opposed Confederation and I intend to do so hereafter. (Applause mingled with marks of dissent.) I have not done any more than others would do in stating my opinion and I had the honesty to confess it, and I claim an

honor for being one of the first to withdraw from the opinion I held then. Remarks were next directed against the Confederate League. The speaker said—If the people have a want let them combine and get what they want. If I had had time, I would have been present to oppose the actions of the League meeting. Further on, what is termed a Convention is called, not one of those members attending that Convention, were selected or elected by the people of this city. [Applause.] From other places persons went also in the same manner. You know who the Confederate League is? The Confederate League took up everything in his pocket. Amongst the proposed matters was one to send delegates to different places to sell this country [Hear, hear and applause.] On that I began to move to frustrate their endeavors. Nay, more, I sent a copy of a resolution to the Convention and that a paper was circulating throughout the city repudiating the actions of that Convention, and that it was signed by over 250 names; what became of that paper, perhaps the Chairman of the Convention can tell you? It was that very question which brought me out now, till then I had intended to retire from politics having had a dozen years—I believed I had enough. They tell me my opponent kicked Confederation to the devil, and that they do not intend to fight on that platform; I intend to fight on that ground. What did the Convention do? It takes upon itself to sell the Island to Canada for \$400,000, form an Executive Committee and send an address to the Queen, and one to the Governor General of Canada urging Confederation; they had the audacity to prepare an address to send to the Governor General of Canada—if that is not usurping the rights of the Government, I don't know what is. Gentlemen, continued the speaker, I saw it my duty to come forward now—I'm certain no one here would like to see the Colony sold for \$140,000. I don't think the Canadian Government perfectly innocent either, whether in ignorance or connivance therewith. I'm not prepared to say, but it looks uncommonly suspicious that the Canadian Government held communication with the people of the Convention. I say again, if those people had no authority for their course, why did they do it? I'm told they say Confederation has nothing to do with them now, and that the matter is dropped, the newspapers dropped it, when they found it would not do any longer; it is what I call a sneak. On the question of retrenchment you are asked to give your vote; but if elected, the question of Confederation, would be brought up again—it's a common trick. What is Confederation so far as the people of the East of the Rocky Mountains is concerned; the object was to combat the Government at a smaller expense than formerly. Some have not found it so. How would it suit this Colony?—Not at all, bully from another cheer and hisses.—Canada is more than 2000 miles away from us, therefore to connect with her you might as well just think of connecting the Colony with Australia. The condition of Canada is vastly different from ours, and the tariff of Canada would ruin this Colony. Had I voted for Confederation I would have voted for the ruin of numbers of the people in the Colony. Free trade was only done away with two or three years since. The speaker stated to the effect that, a state of affairs would ensue which would be very unsuitable to our farmers, who were now prosperous and contented—before this consolation, unhappy and miserable. The citizens threw away their trump card when they lost Free Trade.—Hear, hear.—And we can't get it back at present, certainly not until more unanimity is shown than there is at present. Other portions of the Canadian tariff would be injurious to our merchants, singular as it may appear, and with all the Confederation agitation, a copy of the Canadian tariff is not to be found, although that of almost every other country is to be had here; what we have had of it has been snatched from the Canadian News (London) and other newspapers. Let us go further and Dr. Helmcken—Confederation would have the Canadians to grant us the kindness of legislating for us as though we are not able to legislate for ourselves; we can legislate for ourselves, but if we tried to legislate for Nova Scotia or New Brunswick we would make a mess of it, and if they tried to do so for us, they too, would make a mess of it, notwithstanding the ability of my late colleague.—Cheers.—I will never do to throw ourselves on the Canadian Government, to allow them to legislate for us; the legislation would be general and only beneficial to the Atlantic provinces—there, is where the people are; and there, is where the money is wanted, and after all their necessities would be supplied, then you might get something for this Colony by begging for it. It is said we should belong to a big and a great country—the country (British Columbia) is big enough. We are proud of being Englishmen—I state not a word against Canada—she, like this country, is nothing more than a Colony, she has no nationality, notwithstanding it is not a new country. Don't be carried away with the idea that Canada will do everything for you. The first thing to be considered, is not that of being a part of a big country. As to Confederation, sentimentally, no one will object to it, but practically, we find it would do us a great injury, and I ask you to vote for me, that I may stop the progress of the Yale Convention.—Cheers and hisses.—In reply to a question the speaker said, the English Government would do this for the Colony—if they give nothing neither will it take any thing away—it would not be so with Canada. Canada would find this the most valuable part of their whole Colony. Don't believe that the whole thing is dropped—Confederation will be brought forward again sooner or later. The Governor told us in a year ago that nothing could be done in the matter, until the Hudson Bay question was settled—why was not the matter dropped then? It is dropped now because they find it will burn their fingers. I ask if I have not shown

sufficient reason why I once voted in favor of Confederation and am again opposed to it—No, no and yes, yes.—It is only on that point I fight them, and if they won't fight on that they are beaten. The Doctor, at this point of his address, offered to reply to any questions which might be asked him, but there were only a few faint attempts to respond from the body of the theatre. He resumed—I ask you at the poll to state that Confederation will be a voice, Free Trade, and you in favor of it.—Yes, but it is gone, everybody knows that our mines are prosperous and are our agricultural interests, we have new coal mines opening out, new industries are going on; outside of this city and New Westminster the country is in a prosperous condition, and if the country is prospering and going on favorably, why should you desire a change that is particularly doubtful of success; it is better to do well, than to be honored with a grand name and an empty belly. You little know what the increase of our own revenue this year will be—the revenue will be no less than \$650,000.—Hear, hear.—I know you will ask me what becomes of it, and why there are no public works going on; \$150,000 of bad and back debts will be paid off within a year from now, which includes temporary loans and which will have removed all difficulties and liabilities, and then there will be some money for public works. A voice—Give your sentiments on Free Trade. Another voice—Give yours on whiskey.—Remarks resumed: Confederation means that you shall give up to Canada \$400,000 a year and that Canada will return to you \$150,000 a year and pay certain expenses of the Colony besides—after a year or two there would be no advantage at all, however much those who would wish to sell the Colony would get for their percentage. Should you, at any time, after Confederation apply for public money, they would simply refer you to our stipulation. I tell you that if you joined Canada with your three representatives, their influence would be nothing in the midst of their number, if the Colony went in, it would require ten representatives to have any chance. I am not sorry, that there is an agitation in the matter, some day or other terms may be offered to make it advantageous to join the Dominion. I hope that when the polling goes on, those in favor of me will vote on this. I have purposely made it the test question—no shirking it, it is the point in my address; I don't want a vote from any man who is in favor of it.—Cheers and hisses.—I want to show that the proceedings of the Convention were not in accordance with your will; this is the point to go abroad even to Canada; if they have been taken in, it is not by the people, but by half-a-dozen of them. I know that many of you have a friendship for me—I am proud of it; but I would be wanting in self-respect if I did not tell you, you must vote on principle—cheers—and if any of you have promised me a vote on any other consideration, it is at liberty to withdraw his vote; I wish to go to the House for one purpose, that is to show the people of Victoria are not in favor of Confederation.—Cheers and applause. Mr. Drake, who was received with great applause, said, I have been requested by a large and influential number of the inhabitants of this city and Esquimalt, to come forward as a candidate to represent you in the Council, and I am here in obedience to the call of my fellow-citizens. I have been stammered, with being an untried man—in politics perhaps I may be so, but I believe I am pretty well known to most of you. So far as being untried goes, my opponent is somewhat like the American soldier who had fought for his country and bled for his country, and who, when he referred to his old services and wounds, in support of his claims to the office of City Scavenger, was told that he had done enough for his country and he had better let some one else come up to the front now. I am accused of being a Government man and of being part and parcel of the Hudson Bay Company. Gentlemen, I emphatically deny both the statements. I have no work for my living like the rest of you; and I am glad to do the business of the Hudson Bay Company and of the Government, their money is as good as other people's.—Cheers.—Did Mr. DeCosmos tell me the Government printing when he carried on his newspaper? I have never allowed politics to interfere with business; but I would never sacrifice my principles for the sake of business or gain. I have come forward in compliance with the wish expressed in a very numerous and significant manner, on non-Confederation, principles, I am proud to come before you on such a requisition. I have told you in my address what are my opinions on the leading topics of the day. I shall not change or go back from those opinions. I am not like Mr. DeCosmos, who says that he never changes. I would like to ask what this gentleman has done for us or I might ask what injury has he not inflicted upon us. We are suffering at present from the effects of this public act. Ten years ago we were quietly progressing in a simple and economical form of Government. Mr. DeCosmos, who fills the bubbles on the top of the kettle, had mustered to the top, cannot let things alone, he agitates until he separates the tea, Colonies end obtains for us two Governors in the place of Sir James Douglas. Subsequently, he gets up another party and knocks our Freepress on the head; he now wants another change, he desires to have Confederation. I believe, gentlemen, that the depression which at present exists is greatly owing to Mr. DeCosmos. I must, however, say that in the last two Colonies he has worked hard and done us good service.—Cheers.—But he is not satisfied with that, he wants, no doubt, to come out as Lieutenant Governor. Another point which I will mention is this, it is alleged that it is a Government move to give the Colony universal suffrage at this particular time, in order to secure the Government vote, and many of the foreigners think that it is no affair of theirs to take any part in our elections; I wish to disabuse their minds, in the first place universal suffrage has always been the system in British Columbia proper, and I think that the foreign population who outnumber us by three to two, should have a vote at our elections; I do not wish to see any man who is not a British subject, a member of our Legislature, but I do, think that they should have a voice in the selection of those who have to regulate the employment of the

money which they have assisted largely in contributing to the support of the Government. With regard to Confederation I can add very little after the exhaustive speech of Dr. Helmcken upon the subject, but I should like to give you an illustration of its operation; suppose for instance my friend Mr. Fell who is doing a large business and has plenty of money invested in it, comes to me being a small trader, who happens to have a note for \$100 running, and tells me that he will take over my liabilities and the note for \$100 provided that I back his note for \$8000; if I enter into this arrangement I find that I have to pay my own note out of my own pocket, and as I rise in the world my liabilities become heavier day by day by reason of my having to assist in paying Fell's liability of \$8000. Gentlemen this is the position that we are asked to assume towards Canada. Confederation may be advantageous to those who are sent as delegates to Ottawa, they would be made men for life, but if it is really so advantageous as we are sold it is in other respects, how is it that Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have not joined the Dominion? we hear of no Confederation League in either of those places. I am for Representative Institutions from top to bottom; if it were possible, I would have the Governor elected, but this is impossible. I would, however, apply the elective principle as far as it could possibly be extended; if I am selected as your representative one of my first objects would be to effect a change in the constitution of the Council. I have been accused of being a Conservative. I deny it entirely; I am an avowed Radical. I suppose I am pretty nearly a Republican, but nevertheless I have no desire to see the British Constitution infringed upon in any way. There is one thing that we have been told we shall gain by Confederation—that is, a re-employment in our public service, and I do not see how Confederation is to bring that about. [Cheers.] If we put our shoulders to the wheel and combine together, I have no doubt we shall be able to reduce our expenses. I should begin with the Governor; I would cut him down to \$22000; it is no use to cut down clerks' salaries, we must centralise offices and amalgamate the heads of departments.—Cheers.—I am of opinion that by judicious reduction, we may cut down the expenses of the Government by \$50,000 a year. I advocated a change in the system of taking bonds on the export of goods—the present custom is to compel the exporter to enter into a bond that the goods shall be landed at the port to which they are shipped, and a receipt returned by some official, shall be taken to the Custom House. I consider this course objectionable; it ought to be sufficient to take bonds; the goods are not landed in the Colony. The result is a restriction on trade; for why should our Collectors of Customs constitute himself the protector of foreign revenue? On the subject of drawbacks I am in favor of the adoption of the system here, compelling the exporter to pay a trifling percentage on all goods re-landed in order to pay for the additional work required. With regard to the question of Education, I desire to see it perfectly free, I will give my support to any measure which will tend to provide a sound and free education for the people; let us give to our Public Schools, to our Roads and to our Public Works, what money we can save by reducing the expense of our Government. We must by all means reduce our civil list as far as to bring it down to a reasonable and cheap form of Government. I think I have now touched upon most subjects; I trust you will excuse my shortcomings, as this is almost the first occasion upon which I have addressed a large public meeting upon a political subject. Mr. Drake stood amidst great applause. In a few moments Mr. Drake advanced to the front with a slip of paper in his hand, and said: A paper has just been put into my hand in which it is stated that I am in favor of increasing the salary of the Judiciary. This is utterly untrue. I am not in favor of increasing the salary of the Judiciary, I would rather reduce it. I am in favor of consolidating the courts and thereby economising the establishment, and any person circulating such a paper as this, is circulating an untruth.—Cheers.—Mr. Burnaby then made a few remarks and said: Dr. Helmcken and Mr. Drake have so ably stated their views that it is unnecessary for me to enlarge upon them; One point however I will notice; for the last eight years I have been a consistent political opponent of Mr. DeCosmos; I have watched him in the management of his paper, and as your representative he was the means of upsetting the Douglas Government and dividing the Colonies. I thought him again on the Free Press and on an unconditional Union; he has handed you hand and foot, and has no right to refer to what he did for you. With regard to the foreign voters, the Governor is in a position of a despot; he rules as far as he can, do it in accordance with the wishes of the people. The noise in the House called forth by this paradox prevented us hearing how the speaker got out of the storm he created. [Rep.] A gentleman from Esquimalt next amusingly detailed a little episode of the doings of the Yale Convention. A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, and the meeting separated with three cheers for the Queen.

Victoria Cemetery.

Editor, Colonist.—With reference to the projected improvement of the Victoria Cemetery which you have so kindly noticed, I would wish to make it known that the ground is public property and that therefore the improvement will be for the benefit of the public. This converting a spot which is now neglected and uncared for into a pleasant place meet for the visits of those whose friends and relations are there interred, an ornament to the city instead of a reproach. As soon as this desirable object is attained, the Committee intend to exert themselves to obtain a site for a new cemetery outside the Town. As some misapprehension exists on these points the insertion of this letter will oblige. Your obedient servant, E. GRAHAM GILSTON, Esq. Hon. Secretary.

By Elect SPECIAL TO THE Progress of EL Dr. Livingston THE ALA Spanish Further of t San East New York, Oc World says, we t convince Blair t strong if some oth for his. A p vapourings and m can change the we shall have a result which is primary contest. can aid us much, more and in a diff iron action, super BUFFALO, Oc graphs that he person, and will Buffalo on Thurs An Omaha des vote of twenty co Adams said the S loyal as any at he found friendly were peacable in they were excited Carpet-baggers. Presidency, he sa change, the elect ble. He never have carried the certainly not Democratic platf than the candid upon which they of the people was administration of hopes that peace WHEELING, Va show a largely in favor the Democr have carried the Republicans claim State and elected Chicago, Oct. special from Wash gencer has an so the Democrats w feated under the demands a chang either of Clase, Hendricks, Mor and declares the by radical money street that the out for Grant. LONDON, Oct. the Alabama clai Emperor of Russ MARRID, Oct. is progressing rap civil and military provinces. The assembled in vari have declared fo All men of the ag allowed to vote. PARIS, Oct. 20 Emperor favors Spanish prince to MADRID, Oct 9 ional Junta issued ish diplomatic re courts which expl gress of the revo cates the sovere religious freedom. tion is apprehend Government is no visional governm a level with th Tropes the friend governments with oppressiv regime broken Dr. Livingston day's march of T LIVERPOOL, O the Chamber vot congratulates hi money existing