

Wednesday June 28th 1871

The Coming Elections.

The reader will know that the process of registration of voters has already passed the initial stage. On the 1st day of July it will be the duty of the Collector of each Polling District to exhibit a complete list of persons who, on or before the 10th inst, shall have sent in applications to be placed upon the list of voters. This must be exhibited during a period of fourteen days, thus affording an opportunity for scrutiny and for entering objections to any of the applications being placed upon the Register. Between the 10th August and the 1st September, inclusive, the Registrar of each Electoral District shall make a circuit and hold open Courts for registration at each of the polling places in his District, and at any other place which he may deem expedient. At these Courts all objections to applications for registration shall be dealt with, and the Registrar shall, after such revision as he may think fit, cause the Register to be printed. It will thus appear that as the work of revision will not be completed before the 1st September, the elections cannot well be held before October. We have reason to think the elections will be held as soon after the completion of the voters lists as may be convenient, and all probability before the middle of October. It may fairly be presumed that an early session of the local Legislature is contemplated—in all probability sufficiently early to admit of the dual system of representation being adopted in the case of this Colony—that is to say, enabling the same individuals to be members of the local Legislature and of the Dominion Parliament, a system which, whatever objections it may be open to, considered as an abstract principle, may not be thought altogether undesirable under the present exceptional conditions of British Columbia. The great duty of the people must be obvious. It has for a whole decade and more been the bitter complaint of the British subjects of the Pacific Colonies that they were deprived of their national rights, denied a constitutional share in the management of their own affairs, that taxes were levied without their consent, and the revenues expended without their wishes, or their interests either being consulted. But this just ground of complaint is now removed, and the British subjects of the Pacific Province are having restored to them the political rights and constitutional powers which comprise the most precious birthright of a Briton, secured by the best blood of the race, but so long and, as we venture to think, so wrongfully withheld in this part of Her Majesty's Dominions. The new constitution under which this Colony is now passing into the Dominion of Canada, guarantees to every subject the full powers of self-government. To indulge in figurative language, it knocks off our political fetters and sets us free. But of what avail will that be if the released captive does not make practical use of his liberty? If he sits still and bides his time, broken fetters might as well be bound. Let him arise, assert his manhood, and make a wise use of his liberty. Important elections have doubtless taken place in this Colony; but we feel warranted in asserting that the importance of the approaching election will far outweigh that of any previous one. The Colony is to be placed upon its trial, as it were, as to fitness for self-government; and the primary power and responsibility rests with the people. According as they make a wise or unwise use of the franchise will their newly acquired political liberty and power prove a blessing or a curse. Let the people, then, earnestly endeavor to realize the new duties and new responsibilities incident to their new condition and relationships. Hitherto their political beliefs consisted in opposing a hated and bad system. It is their work now to build up a People's Government, not to pull down a bureaucratic Government. Hence their object will be to elect representatives capable of constructing the new Government—fit to be members of the Cabinet, instead of, as in the past, selecting representatives chiefly with a view to their ability to oppose and pull down a false and unjust British form of administration. To this end, for these new duties, caution, carefulness, responsibility, familiarity with the workings of Responsible Government, and an honest and intelligent purpose, will constitute the most important qualifications for a representative of the people.

Barker's Panorama.

The 'Four Rivers of the West' will be unraveled for the first time to-morrow evening at the Theatre; and the public will be glad to learn that His Excellency the Governor, with a proper appreciation of local talent, has extended to the entertainment his patronage. The entire panorama is conceived and executed at Victoria. The artist, Mr Stephen Barker, although an amateur, has succeeded in producing a series of views which all who have seen them pronounce lifelike and correct. The effect of all the views is pleasing, and the conception of not a few is grand. The moonlight views are exquisite, and an Alaskan scene is as natural as life. The entire panorama is carefully painted. No part is blurred over; every little detail is produced distinctly and clearly. As a work of art Barker's Four Rivers is destined to be admired in larger and older communities than this; and we sincerely trust that Victorians will extend to the artist here he sets out upon his travels the substantial encouragement which two years' of toil entitle him to.

William Creek.

William Creek.—The Forest Ross on last week washed 270 cu. The St. George's on 25 cu, but they cannot work to advantage till the freshet is over. The hydraulic companies are all at work running off dirt briskly, and from appearances will do more work this year than in any former season.

Revenue and Expenditure.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.—The total amount of actual revenue received during last year was \$495,352 61, the expenditure \$524,695 50. The estimated revenue was \$597,750.

Politics at Cowichan.

COWICHAN, June 19, 1871. Editor COLONIST.—Perhaps you will have heard before this reaches you of the great political meeting held at the Agricultural Hall, Maple Bay, on Saturday last; if not, a few lines concerning it may be interesting to your readers. It had been known for some time that Mr Morley, Mr Skinner and Mr Fry were anxious to be returned for the new local Parliament at the next election, and it was thought by many, including Mr Booth, another candidate, that there was some understanding going on. A requisition was got up and signed by a number of our best settlers for Mr Morley to call a public meeting at an early day. This gave all the candidates a fair show to express their political views to the electors. Saturday was the day appointed. Upwards of a hundred were present, and it was said by many to be the largest gathering of the kind in this Colony. Mr Morley and Mr Fry conducted a political meeting I ever saw. All seemed earnestly desiring to give the severest candidates a fair hearing, and this was done in a manner which speaks volumes for the intelligence and thoughtful care with which the people of this district mean to exercise in choosing their future representatives. Mr Morley opened the meeting by reading the requisition and said he had no remarks to make, but that the meeting was rather premature in his ministerial duties called him away, and he recommended Mr A. E. Keir to preside, and the way that gentleman performed his part fully justified the unanimous vote by which he was accepted by the meeting.

European.

London, June 17.—Insurrectionary placards are posted throughout Paris. The Emperor's departure from Brussels was a complete failure. Berlin, June 16.—The triumphal entry of the army and the dedication of the equestrian statue of King Frederick William the Third took place to-day. The city was crowded with people, the streets were superbly decorated and in the public square triumphal arches were raised. A platform was raised to accommodate the speakers. The procession—one of the most magnificent of modern times—was headed by eagles and standards taken from the French. It marched in the order set forth in the programme, from Tompis Heidefeld to Colar between two rows of cannon—numbering some 2000—firing during the march. At intervals along the line, magnificent trophies formed of captured arms, were erected. After the first division of the victorious columns passed Brandenburg Gate, the Emperor, with the German Princes in his train, was received at the portal by a detachment from the Municipal Government of Berlin and the principal cities of Germany. Addresses of congratulation and welcome were presented. When the Emperor, at the head of a brilliant staff, rode down to the triumphal arch, which had been constructed in honor of the occasion, the road was strewn with flowers as he advanced, and the people with wreaths and ovations. The way through the gate, the Prussian Guards at the head. It was mainly composed of detachments representing every regiment which took part in the war, each having the regimental colors. The enthusiasm of the spectators was unbounded. Some of the regiments which were well known to the Berliners and other who had particularly distinguished themselves during the campaign, received special ovations, the people breaking into the ranks, shouting, the men with wreaths and ovations. When the procession concluded its march, the Emperor proceeded to unveil the statue of his father, Frederick William III. At the dignities of the Empire, the victorious General and the members of the German Parliament assisted at the ceremonies, in the presence of the army and a countless multitude of spectators. The veil of the statue was removed amid tremendous cheering, the firing of cannon and music of military bands. The Emperor, standing at the foot of the statue, delivered a speech, closing with these words: "This monument, which was projected in time of peace, is now become a memorial of one of the most brilliant though bloodiest of modern wars. May the peace be firmly achieved by a lasting one." The ceremonies closed with containing honors on the various commanders.