

The Weekly British Colonist,

Wednesday March 1st, 1871.

The Franchise—The Three Rs.

In his personal organ, on the 19th October 1870, the member for Victoria District devoted an entire leading article to pointing out the previous injustice done by the 'six-by-nine' constitution in disfranchising all who could not read English. In his place in the Legislative Council, on Thursday last, the same political contortionist, discussing the new Franchise Bill, said 'Let the qualification be a moral and an intelligent one—let them read and write English, but stop there.' Not only is the author of the above words glaringly inconsistent, but he now proposes to aggravate the injustice of which he very properly complained in October, by adding writing to reading. To impose such a qualification for voters, as the member for Victoria District advocated on Thursday would be to disfranchise a very large number of British subjects, many of them having property and families. With the less severe restriction of being able to read, there were many instances of gross injustice at the last election. Quite a number of instances occurred in which men of considerable property, men who had resided in the Colony for a quarter of a century and raised large families, and had consequently contributed largely towards the revenues of the Colony, men, too, of average intelligence and of unexceptionable moral character, were turned away from the polls simply because it was their own misfortune to be unable to read the Queen's English. And yet this professor of liberal principles actually proposes to retain the qualification of being able to read English, and to add to it by requiring that every voter shall be able to write English! A party to write English is somewhat severe, but we can assure our readers that many good British subjects, qualified in every respect to cast an intelligent vote, will be disfranchised simply on account of their inability to read. Not is it alone French Canadians and naturalized British subjects who would be disfranchised by such a qualification being imposed. It would probably fall with equal severity upon native born Englishmen. And shall we deprive Englishmen of the right to vote because the detective educational institutions of their country permitted them to grow up, without learning to read or write? To do so would indeed be most unjust; and we hope to see the reading condition eliminated from the bill. The reading and writing test may be a very proper one under certain circumstances, but it is one we have no right to impose in this Colony at the present time. When the youth of the country shall have grown up under liberal educational institutions, when the State shall have done its part towards educating the subject, then it will be time enough to turn round and decide that he only who has attained a certain educational status shall enjoy political rights. When the colony shall arrive at that estate we should be in a position to impose such conditions as reading and writing, and we would not object to adopting all the three Rs as conditions of the exercise of the political franchise. Till then we should be opposed to the adoption of any one of them.

Sunday, Feb 26

CARIBOO SUMMARY.—The news from Cariboo is now so largely anticipated by telegraph that we can but little call from

* the columns of the *Scenes*, five of which we have to the 11th inst. A member of

the Ballarat co. fell from the top to the bottom of a shaft, distance 70 feet, and escaped unharmed. The men below rushed to pick him up, supposing him seriously injured, if not killed; but he declined their proffered assistance, exclaiming coolly, 'Where's the bowl of my pipe?' In the Police Court, on the 6th, a Chinaman charged with stabbing a fellow-countryman at the Forks of Quesnel, was brought up for examination, and was further remanded... On the 5th, Harry Wilton's steamer steamer was passing along the way from Kamloops to Vashon, a boat alongside came down, causing slight damage to the steamer, and horses over the precipice, and a considerable distance down the bank. Fortunately, no damage was done.... The weather was mild and pleasant.... The Rev T. Derrill delivered a very able lecture at Vandyke's, subject, 'Ethubism in its relations to Art, Science, and Human Progress.' The lecture was well attended, every one present was pleased with what they heard, and many left with better spirits for their prospecting. He contrasted the administration with the cold-blooded miners. The first are those who prospect Cariboo, and through their energy the second are carried along to success; but while the latter are stumbling-blocks to human progress by their constant grumblings about their misfortunes and the want of the earth being on the wrong side up, the first come along, and, while admitting the fact say 'We are the boys that can set it right side up.'

JOURNALISTIC ENVY.—Burning with envy at our success in placing before the public interesting and important news which it possesses neither the enterprise to procure nor the brains to serve up in a readable form, our local contemporary flies into a rage and calls us naughty names. 'Stale news, written speeches and free telegrams'—exclusive to the *Colonist*—appear to be the fulcrum upon which our contemporary stands. To these three counts let us briefly plead: For 'stale news' we beg most respectfully to refer the public to the columns of our contemporary. Yesterday it gave news from Canadian exchanges of the 27th ult. We did so on the 9th inst.—just sixteen days earlier! Since then we have called news from all parts of the world, twenty-four hours after every body has read it in the *Colonist*! Who is the stale-news monger? As for 'written speeches,' we have only published one 'speech' during the present session and it will scarcely be necessary to say that it was not delivered by the member for Victoria District. In regard to 'free telegrams,' it may be proper to state, since our contemporary has repeatedly indulged in similar invective, that we are not so fortunate as to receive any free telegrams. We pay for what we publish. Can our contemporary say as much?

In conclusion, we would advise our irate contemporary to devote its attention to internal improvement instead of following us.

REAL ESTATE TAX BILL.—It appears that, upon examination of its provisions, those most largely interested in the matter have concluded that the Bill which has been sent down by the Executive does not provide a remedy for the evil complained of; and an interview with His Excellency the Governor has been sought for the purpose of having such additional provisions imported into the Bill as will meet the case. It is probable that His Excellency will receive a delegation of gentlemen in connection with the matter to-morrow. Now that the matter has been taken in hand it would be a pity to let it rest content with half measures.

COMPLAINT FROM CARIBOO.—In the *Cariboo Sentinel* of the 11th inst. we find a leading article animadverting with no little severity upon the distribution of the Federal representation between the two sections of the Colony. Our contemporary appears to think that the Mainland is entitled to more than one-half, and talks about the people of British Columbia having been 'coaxed' into union with the Island against their interests, and now they reap the fruits. Now, all this sounds strange in the columns of a paper which, if our memory serves us, was a strong advocate of the very Union it now deprecates. There may be some reason to the complaint; but the complaint occupies a rather awkward position in the writer.

THE CAPTIVE GIRL.—R M S Sparhawk, Capt Mist, sailed for Neah Bay and Mud Island yesterday. Capt Laughton, interpreter, went in her. An effort will be first made to buy the girl through Indian agents of another tribe. Should that fail, extreme measures will be resorted to. It has been generally supposed that Mrs Thomas, the mother of the girl, was a native of Chile. A gentleman from Valparaiso, now in town, informs us that both Captain and Mrs Thomas were natives of Wales. A brother and other relatives of Capt Thomas remain at Valparaiso.

GERMAN DEMONSTRATIONS.—Our Toronto (Canada) exchanges give an account of the enthusiastic demonstrations of German residents of that city in consequence of the surrender of Paris. On the night of the 30th ult. about 300 German turned out in a torch-light procession, passing through the principal streets, headed by a band of music and the national flag.

SAVINGS BANKS.—Saturday's *Gazette* contained the general statement of the position of the Government Savings Banks at 31st December, 1870. From this statement it appears that the sums due to depositors at the various offices are as follows:

At Head office.....	\$62,270.00
At Nanaimo Branch.....	9,285.30
At New Westminster Branch.....	5,004.00
At Victoria Branch.....	5,742.82
At Cariboo Branch.....	1,000.00
Altogether.....	\$88,207.12

From New Westminster. The steamer Enterprise arrived yesterday afternoon with the following passengers and the *Cariboo Mail*—Miss Mary Irving, Miss Susan Irving, Capt Parsons, Messrs Claude J. Burr, John Thomas, W. K. Spear, B. C. McCord, D. Kennedy, D. McQuarrie, H. Hogan, Bulard, Kelly, McCandell, T. S. Ross, Mr. ...

Dog FISHING.—The business of catching dog-fish for the sake of their oil is beginning to assume considerable proportions in British Columbia waters. Parties have recently embarked in this class of fishing at Burrard Inlet, where the dog-fish is said to be very plentiful. The oil of the fish is very good for illuminating and lubricating purposes.

CENTRAL SCHOOL DIRECTOR.—The Inspector of Schools gives notice that Hope has been created a School District. The district includes all that piece of land comprised within a circle having a radius of three miles from the Court House.

PROTECTION OF FISHERIES.—Great Britain expends annually \$120,000 in protecting her inland fisheries. The Dominion of Canada, with a coast like rivers and fisheries far surpassing in extent those of the mother country, expends about one sixth of that sum.

TRADE IN HORSES.—A Montreal exchange informs us that quite a large trade is carried on in that city in selling Canadian horses to Americans. The trade last year is estimated at 5000 horses, representing about \$400,000.

FOR AUSTRALIA.—The bark Antipodes Capt Kirkpatrick, will sail for Sydney, Australia, on or about March the 5th. She has superior accommodation for two or three passengers.

THE DELAWARE.—The bark Delaware, Capt Hornsby, arrived from Burrard Inlet yesterday. She is laden with lumber for Guaymas.

KOOTENAY MAIL.—It is announced in the Government Gazette that a mail for Kootenay will be dispatched from Victoria on or about Wednesday, the 1st proximo.

THE FIRE HOSE.—The Executive declines to remit the duty on the fire hose. Why not apply for a bill?

POSTMASTER AT SKEENA.—Mr. Tom Hankin has been gazetted Postmaster at Skeena.

THE EXPLORATION RESOLUTIONS.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—The resolution passed by the Legislative Council yesterday asking for explorations, is a step in the right direction, because it is useless talking about the precise terminus of the railway until it is known where the railway can be brought to. The dominant idea of some is that the railway is fixed to come by the Fraser and that to go through the terrible Fraser river canyon eighty miles in length. They seem to forget that the Canadian Government has promised to make the surveys before fixing even upon the route of the railway, much more its terminus; in addition to which the Colony has been informed that the members from British Columbia will have their say in this matter before it is finally determined upon. Such being the case we may safely conclude that when the government surveyors inspect the canyon of the Fraser and find the appalling character of the difficulties of that defile through a sea of sterile mountains of enormous height and steepness, from which the land slides perpetually in summer and avalanches sweep down during winter carrying all before them, they will not hesitate to condemn it, particularly as the railway cannot be built upon it.

We willingly insert the above, but can not help thinking that 'Jositi' and the 'many readers' to whom he refers could not have read our article very carefully else they would have discovered that we gave the statement of the case as an *ex parte* one and nothing else. If our correspondent will take another look at the article he will come across the following passage in it: 'We have stated the facts just as they have been placed before us; nor do we hold ourselves in any way responsible for the correctness of these facts.' We may be permitted to add that a thorough investigation by the Legislature is precisely what we desire to see; and we may further state that should such investigation result in proving that no injustice has been done in this particular instance, we shall be greatly more pleased than if the reverse should turn out to be the case. We do not conceive ourselves to be at all open to the strictures with which our correspondent concludes. Ed:—

THE CAPTIVE GIRL.—
EDITOR COLONIST.—The Standard man, who always devotes the greatest portion of his daily (weakly) issue to blackguarding you (for want of a better subject), claims to have discovered the captive girl three months ago and have shed ink to secure her rescue.

Will you allow me to ask him, then, how it happened that no attention was attracted to the case until you took it up? Within four hours after the article appeared in *The Colonist* we had a deputation before the Governor on the subject; and soon as a garrison could be provided for the service she was sent to the rescue.

It can then be very well shown that Vancouver Island—as it will chime in with the term 'from the *Falstaff* to the Rocky Mountains'—is it offers the best site for a railway, intended for commerce both foreign and domestic—for the settlement of the country, for communication with Canada, and for defence. Not only is it so now but it will be more and more so as time advances and commerce and population increases. It possesses, then, both the present and future qualifications necessary for success of the railway and the Dominion. Those who advocate the Fraser route only advocate it from custom, and the habit of taking it as the only route, because it is the route of the main trunk road of British Columbia—a road bright and clear as it were, as it is eyesid, everlasting being destroyed in places by slides and of course as constantly wanting renewal at terrible cost. But what is the railway for? I presume the railway to be built for the country and not the country for the railway. This must ever be kept in view; the railway is to be built for the benefit of the whole Dominion and not for the few who now live in this colony but for the myriads of the future. The central line would probably be the least expensive, but even if it were not so, it would be more useful to both present and future generations. We must have regard then to the future as well as the present—and not avoid present expense if the future demands it.

It can then be very well shown that Vancouver Island—as it will chime in with the term 'from the *Falstaff* to the Rocky Mountains'—is it offers the best site for a railway, intended for commerce both foreign and domestic—for the settlement of the country, for communication with Canada, and for defence.

Not only is it so now but it will be

more and more so as time advances and commerce and population increases. It possesses,

then, both the present and future qualifications

necessary for success of the railway and the Dominion.

If the Dominion should fall into the erroneous idea that the Fraser opens the only route, the railway would be worse than a failure—entail enormous debts and hang like a millstone round her neck, sinking her deeper and deeper as she advances. It cannot be

supposed that the statesmen of Canada will

decide upon any route until explorations have

been made and the members for British Columbia heard from their seats in the House of Commons, but let nothing be taken for granted.

It is a duty to warn them—it is a duty

the inhabitants owe themselves to assist in

exploration and prevent Canada committing an

error so great that she would never recover

from the appalling consequences. The rail-

way being intended to build up and strengthen

the Canadian nation, must not be allowed to

bring it to ruin or at least to grief and disintegra-

tion. So far as I am concerned I am

not afraid to stand by the Central line.

For defence and the defence of itself

500 to pay—A central route not depend-

ing upon one source of income alone.

For the purposes of commerce and in con-

nection with this must be taken the rivalry

that will and must exist between the Cana-

dian and American line. There cannot be

a doubt the proximity to the Pacific is of

the utmost importance as it is likewise a

condition of the terms of Union. No such

intricate navigation as the Canal de Haro

with its narrow waters, rapid currents and

frequent dense fog, can come up to this

requirement. It may be true that ships go

to the Gulf of Georgia but that is a matter of

necessity—they have to go to get what they

want. There is not, neither must there be,

any necessity of making ships from China

take the same course, for if they do they

will pass on route the railway terminus of the

American line, which is situated south of

the dangerous Haro island and canal and San

Juan. The harbours of Vancouver Island are

open to the Pacific and therefore they fulfil one

condition at least, viz, that of being proximate

to the ocean and convenient of access at all

times. They likewise afford a far better site

for the terminus than the American line can

obtain—thus combining two essential condi-

tions.

For the settlement of the country it is ad-

visable that the railway should run through

the centre of the country, connecting all its

parts together and affording advantages to as

many as possible. Therefore it must pass

to the North of the frigid Fraser route and

traverse also Vancouver Island, which

being three or four hundred miles in length

requires it to be built through a difficult ter-

rainy region, but the cost of building it is

not to be reckoned with the cost of building

the Fraser route, which is a thousand miles

longer and twice as difficult to build.

By reasoning along these lines it is evident

that the Fraser route is the only practicable

route for the railway.

For the purposes of commerce and in con-

nection with this must be taken the rivalry

that will and must exist between the Cana-

Good till Another
been told."

COLONIST—In company of your readers I felt on Friday morning in part and unopposed by W H Kay of Lillooet you condemn the worthy gentleman the duties of Sipeau for Lillooet District. In your article you had enunciates you would have found whence Mr Kay al- been grossly misused the sions upon the unani- majority of the Committee and Assembly were favorable to the proposal to appoint Thiers chief of the Executive power.

By *Electric Telegraph*,
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

Europe

BORDEAUX, Feb 17.—Favre and Picard arrived here to-day.

A majority of the Committee and Assembly were favorable to the proposal to appoint Thiers chief of the Executive power.

The military force posted outside the Assembly chambers to-day was doubled.

All the elections in the Department of the Seine were confirmed.

Before the sitting was opened in the assembly to-day Kellier presented a declaration delaying the signatures of the deputies of Bas Rhone and Middle and protesting in behalf of the inhabitants against separating Alsace and Lorraine from France. The proposition was referred to a committee who subsequently submitted a reply expressing the strongest sympathy with Alsace and Lorraine and directing that the declaration be entered upon the records of the assembly and referred to the French negotiations when they came to treat with the Prussians.

The Assembly conferred the executive power of the Government on Thiers.

LONDON, Feb 17.—A dispatch says the destruction of heavy guns in the forte of Paris is complete.

The Paris government is stopping the pay of the National Guards.

Fritz is opposed to the entry of the Prussians into Paris.

Some journals say that if the Assembly con-

vens to the dismemberment of France the Prussian troops will protest and withdraw.

BORDEAUX, Feb 18.—Immediately after the vote in the Assembly, yesterday, the English, Americans and Russian Ambassadors visited Thiers and officially recognized the French Government.

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vens to the dismemberment of France the

Prussian troops will protest and withdraw.

The Japanese minister and suite leave for Washington overland to-morrow.

Some of the leading Chinese houses are giving magnificent exhibitions of fire works,

on the American Fourth of July style, this evening in honor of their New Year.

Arrived—Ship Commodore and brig Deacon, Ft Ladow.

Sailed—Star Ajax, Astoria. By Oakland Pt Madison. By Fremont, Tacoma.

Dr. Herold in San Bueno Ventura was

stabbed and killed at that place on the evening of the 16th by a German whose name is not given. After a dispute at cards they went into a back yard. At that time Herold and Herold was found dead. The German escaped.

SAN DIEGO, Feb 18.—At Jacumba, 35 miles east of here on the Fort Yuma road

the body of Mr Park, who had been murdered under very aggravating circumstances,

was discovered on the 10th under a pile of rocks. He had received a blow across the temple and a stab in the shoulder. No clue to the murderer has been obtained.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 18.—A circumstance came to the knowledge of the police at night which led to the discovery that the family of a deceased judge whose memory is highly esteemed by the people of this city, were in absolute want of the common necessities of life.

New York, Feb 18.—A letter was received from St Thomas, yesterday, by the steamer Missouri, bearing upon the subject of the Tennessee. No news was learned from San Domingo.

WASHINGTON, Feb 18.—The Alabama claims are said by lawmen to amount to eight millions and by others to reach thirteen millions. There were twenty-four

ships of all kinds captured during the month of January.

BOSTON, Jan 17.—The committee having the funds in charge for the sending in France, began to day loading the U.S. steam Worcester at the navy yard. Up to last night a little over \$71,000 had been raised for the purpose from all classes of the community, in sums ranging from \$1 to \$1000. The carrying capacity of the Worcester is estimated at 10,000 barrels. This will be filled up with provisions, the principal portion of which will be flour, some beef and pork and preserved meats.

PORTLAND, Feb 22.—The following report reached us by steamer Ajax, which arrived last evening.

WASHINGTON, Feb 15.—For the first time since the memorable Spring of 1861, when the Senate, from the South abandoned their seats to take part in the secession, the Senate of the United States contains Representatives from every member of the Union.

MONTREAL, Feb 17.—A little rock special says the Articles of Impeachment were presented to-day in the House against Governor Clayton, and adopted. Clayton had a lot of arms removed from the Arsenal in the rear end of the Capitol, and is sweeping everyone he can get as militia.

WASHINGTON, Feb 17.—The Senate Pacific Railroad Bill Committee at a meeting to-day discussed the question of the interest due on the bonds of the Pacific Railroad Co, but came to no conclusion.

The Secretary of War is in receipt of a letter from the commanding officer at Fort Dodge, Kansas, stating that a general outbreak of hostilities on the part of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes is expected during the Spring, and that the objective points of attack will be the frontier settlements of Kansas.

The presence of the Alabama and Fisher Commission will make Washington lively for the summer, for probably a tremendous international fussy will assemble over these claims, accompanied by a regular blockade of lawyers.

The Secretary of the Treasury expresses great confidence in the antic success of the loan, and has received assurances from many financial sources to the same effect.

It is thought that should the favorable prospects continue, less than a month all classes of United States securities will have an enhanced value.

The N Y World's financial article this morning says that the opposition of the United States and England to the High Commission to settle the Alabama claims and other questions at issue between the two nations, has the effect of giving an improved tone of confidence in financial circles, and that the abundance of available funds and the prospect of new well-receiving subscribers to the new loan and carrying out his programme of issuing the 20's, has given the impetus to investments in Government and other first-class securities. The impression is gaining ground that affairs are improving

both here and in Europe, and capitalists are more disposed to invest.

New York, Feb 18.—French Relief Committee earnestly request editors of journals to give the following appeal circulation: Mr Charles Tait, Treasurer of the Fund for the relief of the suffering population of France, represents subscriptions as follows: Total by Chamber of Commerce, \$67,000; Bank of France, \$10,000; Total \$84,000. Funds and Gold received by the League acknowledged the receipt of \$2276. Appeals were made yesterday to the clergy of the country. It is proposed that a simultaneous collection be taken up the second Sunday in March in the churches in the country for the relief of the poor of France. It is a matter of fact, with her distresses, that animates us all, that eight millions of people are suffering in winter for want of food and clothing. The neighboring nations, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, are making strenuous efforts to relieve their distressed kindred, and allow distance to stifle the cry of famine in our part. We know its extent as Christians, let us show our love to humanity by recognizing the claims of common humanity to a large sum of money. It is a consideration important that this collection should be taken up in all churches and that all be engaged in one good work—that a common prayer for mercy on the famine stricken may go up to God, and that a common feeling of sympathy may prevail among the passers of our streets.

The musical conductor who left us for Europe some years ago has returned to Paris to effectually show their zeal as Christians. Contributions can be forwarded to Charles Leiser, 27 Rue de la Paix, Paris. Signed, Charles H. Marshall, Chairman of the French Committee, and Anton Philips Stokes, Society Oberlin, Boston.

THE ONLY GOOD AUCE

DECLARED BY CONNOISSEURS

TO BE

CAUTION AGAINST FRAUD.

ASK FOR LEA & PERRINS SAUCE

PRINTED COTTON SHIRTS

WHITE LINEN SHIRTS

PRINTED COTTON SHIRTS

HICKORY SHIRTS

WHITE LINEN SHIRTS

PRINTED COTTON SHIRTS

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST NEW EDITION

Wednesday, March 1st, 1871.

The Franchise Bill.

The Franchise Bill is a good measure; and it has, of course, fallen into the hands of the British class of politicians. "Well, we are told that the qualification of voter 'marks the the silly & conservative old formers; and betrays their political stupidity." We approve the statement of the United Kingdom and of nearly all the Colonies must be intensely stupid, inasmuch as they continue to frame franchise laws, in most instances more liberal than our own. But, we are told that under the new Bill no man, no matter how good, who by some accident happens to have one of the qualifications of one of the qualifications is a Helot." Who says so? He may be a pauper, but he need not be a slave. It should be remembered that the best of rules have exceptions; and under the wisest and most liberal laws, exceptional instances of hardship may occur. Again, we are told that the new Bill is not a new Bill at all. Indeed, we should look in vain for a Franchise Bill less open to the charge. Was the franchise on Vancouver Island, when it possessed representative institutions, an American's liberty? See what the British do now! The Britons, in fact, have a desire to exclude Americans from British subjects. All residents of the Colony; but it must exact some evidence that they are bona fide residents, before it gives them a voice in the management of its affairs equally with the man who has adopted this Colony as his home, and has put all at stake in it. Men of substance have their rights as well as men of no substance; and the Britons hardly impose a less severe test than it does in requiring that any man willing to vote must be a bona fide resident. Indeed, the Bill, on the whole, is very vague, "universal suffrage" - principle which came so near being adopted in the few British Colonies that ever adopted it. There is one and a half clause imposed upon electors by the Bill, to which we would take exception, and that is unable to read." It will be time enough to impose upon the people of the United States the case is very different. To banish the 47 per cent of British shipping now engaged in the commerce of that country would be to seriously cripple its commerce, and that is already nearly intolerable burden imposed upon the people by a false policy of protection.

Public Debt and Taxation of the Colony.

At present, the public debt of the Colony is about \$1,000,000, and has placed the means of learning to read within the reach of all. The Bill contains very elaborate machinery for conducting the elections, and guarding against corruption. One of the most valuable provisions of the Bill is, that any person of military, naval influence, or treating at any election shall be expunged from the voters' list, and shall be placed upon a separate list, to be entitled. The list of persons disqualified for the right of suffrage, which has been appended to the list of voters, was drawn up by Whistler and Bullock, therewith wherever the same shall be or is required to be posted or published, and naught is made to do a fool's cap, and standing in former, as a punishment to himself as a warning to others. We think the Government has hit upon a no less effective method of quieting Quibby voters. So far, any rate, this new regulation will effect the price of beer, and may prevent a repetition of those disgraceful scenes enacted in some districts last election. We wish to correct a gross error made by a constitutional law, which makes it impossible for the colony to have a representative in the House of Commons, and paid no matter how poor, or what the cause may be, the person qualified by rank is not to be allowed to vote." Passing over the solecism in the sentence, we will say, it is simply queer that the public debt, or public tax, or charge, shall be deemed to be a charge or incumbrance on lands within the meaning of this Act." Taken in connection with the Canadian Act by which it has been passed, and the Canadian Federal Act by which it is to be succeeded, we are disposed to regard the Franchise Act as upon the whole satisfactorily measure. Certainly it does not sit on the side of liberality.

THE DEBT OF CANADIAN COMMERCE. - A recent Return recently submitted to the House of Representatives, indicates a favorable state of the finances of the Dominion, and the following statement of the condition of the Dominion, though it appears from this return that of the total amount of debts of the Dominion, Great Britain during the year 1869, 68 per cent were due to the United States. American, and 29 per cent from other foreign countries. It may be said that the expected British shipping would greatly predominate in British ports, and that American ports. According to the same Return, of the total amount of debts of the Dominion, the United States during the year ending June 30, 1870, 36 per cent was American, 30 per cent was British, and 17 per cent from other countries. Thus it would appear that British shipping largely predominates in United States ports, and has risen from 59 per cent in 1869, while during the same period American tonnage has declined about one-half. The former country has about 10 per cent of the shipping engaged in her commerce under her own flag; the latter has only 36 per cent. It further appears that since 1860 American shipping engaged in the trades of the United States has fallen off one-half, and that British tonnage has increased one-half.

The Franchise Bill is a good measure; and it has, of course, fallen into the hands of the British class of politicians. "Well, we are told that the qualification of voter 'marks the the silly & conservative old formers; and betrays their political stupidity." We approve the statement of the United Kingdom and of nearly all the Colonies must be intensely stupid, inasmuch as they continue to frame franchise laws, in most instances more liberal than our own. But, we are told that under the new Bill no man, no matter how good, who by some accident happens to have one of the qualifications of one of the qualifications is a Helot." Who says so? He may be a pauper, but he need not be a slave. It should be remembered that the best of rules have exceptions; and under the wisest and most liberal laws, exceptional instances of hardship may occur. Again, we are told that the new Bill is not a new Bill at all. Indeed, we should look in vain for a Franchise Bill less open to the charge. Was the franchise on Vancouver Island, when it possessed representative institutions, an American's liberty? See what the British do now! The Britons, in fact, have a desire to exclude Americans from British subjects. All residents of the Colony; but it must exact some evidence that they are bona fide residents, before it gives them a voice in the management of its affairs equally with the man who has adopted this Colony as his home, and has put all at stake in it. Men of substance have their rights as well as men of no substance; and the Britons hardly impose a less severe test than it does in requiring that any man willing to vote must be a bona fide resident. Indeed, the Bill, on the whole, is very vague, "universal suffrage" - principle which came so near being adopted in the few British Colonies that ever adopted it. There is one and a half clause imposed upon electors by the Bill, to which we would take exception, and that is unable to read." It will be time enough to impose upon the people of the United States the case is very different. To banish the 47 per cent of British shipping now engaged in the commerce of that country would be to seriously cripple its commerce, and that is already nearly intolerable burden imposed upon the people by a false policy of protection.

THE MEASURE FOR TOLeration. - Two families of children are down with the complaint

LANDS ALIENATED LAST YEAR.—According to a Parliamentary Return laid before the Legislative Council on Tuesday, there were thirty-four thousand and fifty-seven acres of land pre-empted during last year, of which 24,752 acres were on the mainland, and 17,210 acres, in the District of New Westminster. These were sold during the same period 10,504 acres, or 7,880 acres on the mainland, and 6,328 in the District of New Westminster. It will thus be seen that in the single District of New Westminster a little more land was pre-empted than in all the rest of the United Colony, while in the same District considerably more land was purchased than in all the rest of the Colony. These facts show that the District of New Westminster is making rapid and substantial progress. The Return also shows that during last year 16,939 acres of land were leased for timber-cutting purposes on the mainland, and 5,119 respectively leased for similar purposes. The number of acres of coal lands set apart on the mainland, being the Comox Reserve, was 1,100, and on Vancouver Island 1,600. The Comox Reserve was the greatest amount of land held in the Colony, and it stands second in pre-emption, after the lands and dependencies being the first.

CARIBOO. — An American writing from Paris about two weeks before the publication of the news of the commercial downfall of France, said: "The fact is well-established that Gen Trochu is a complete failure, and that he was not able to save France. He has been so flattered for his enormous success that he believes his own safety paramount to that of Paris, and has been led to believe that

he can balloon to avoid capture when the city falls. When urged not to do so, he told

that the French people would regard such

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The Weekly British Colonist,
Wednesday, March 1st 1871.

Blind Justice.

A JUSTICE HAS BEEN PAINTED BLIND. In some countries it is represented as having the eyes open—open, as it were, to a stroke of baseness. In some of the rural districts of British Columbia Justice might truly be painted blind; in some blind, blind in a sense different from that which blindness becomes Justice. An instance was brought before me yesterday by a person, and which will, we trust, receive such careful investigation and trial with such substantial relief as may tend to reparation and restoration. I am inclined to give the outline before the reader. In 1869 two presumption claims were taken up not far from Clinton, by Mr J H Brown and Mr W H Kay. It was intended to work these two claims as one farm; the dwelling was erected on the party line, one half standing on each of the claims, and the farm buildings were for the most part erected upon Brown's claim. In 1867 Brown returned to England, leaving Kay in actual occupation, as his agent. In 1869 one Edward Allan applied to the Stipendiary Magistrate of the District in which the land is situated for a portion of Brown's claim. Kay opposed the application, referring the Magistrate to the facts of which he considered the existence of improvements far beyond what the law required. The Magistrate insisted upon written evidence that Kay complied with Brown's consent. Kay asked that reasonable time might be allowed him to obtain such evidence. The Magistrate promised to grant such delay. Impressed by Allan, the Magistrate determined not to wait, and the trial was fixed for the last Court day. The case was, of course, decided against Kay, or, more properly speaking, against Brown, for want of written evidence. The mail which arrived the very next day brought written documents establishing the right of Kay to act for Brown and giving the intricacies of carrying legal proceedings in this case. Emboldened by his success, the same Allan, not satisfied with the half of Nabor's vineyard, made a bold stroke at the dwelling farm, including fenced lands, farm buildings and one-half of the dwelling-house in which Kay and his family resided. Without the slightest pretense on the part of Allan of having complied with the law, which requires stakes to be planted and pointed to be posted for one calendar month, the Magistrate granted the application on the same day on which it was made! In consequence of this grant, and without a writ, Allan proceeded to take forcible possession, tearing down and destroying fences, felling buildings, and even attacking, with his hand, the old roof-tree which sheltered Kay and his family, and that, too, during the inclement season of the year. A breach of the peace was the result,—as to how much it be otherwise? Let the peace of our Sovereign Lady, the Queen, be still endangered thereby. We have seen the facts just as they have been placed before us; nor do we hold ourselves in any way responsible for the correctness of these facts. But we cannot hesitate to affirm that, should the principal allegations set forth in the petition presented to the Legislative Council yesterday, be supported by evidence, and of the ability of the petitioner, which we cannot undertake to do, a case of flagrant injustice will have been established, one calling for the intervention of the Legislature. It must be observed that this is something more than an individual grievance. In so far as the petitioner is concerned, he is a British subject, entitled to justice, protection against injustice, to impartial indemnification. But every man in the Colony is concerned to know whether, as the result of the stupidity, or, possibly, something worse, of a certain Magistrate, his property is liable to be wantonly destroyed before his eyes, his heart rudely invaded, the old roof-tree hacked down and his wife and daughter, generally unhoused and heartily turned out in the piercing winds of early November. The colonists desire to be informed upon these points, and, under their name, we adjure the Legislature to make the most thorough, searching and impartial investigation.

Friday, Feb 24.

A Captive Girl.

AMONG THE MITINAKTS!

THRILLING INCIDENTS. It was intimated in these columns a short time ago that the Abenaki Indians at Barclay Sound had captured a CAPTIVE ENGLISH GIRL, and that she was now in their hands. It is now known that the English girl is one of the survivors of the John Bright disaster, nearly two years ago. That statement has since been contradicted; but information has just reached me through a thoroughly reliable channel—Ex-Senator Francis—which considerably establishes the truth of the story. It will be remembered that there were on board the ill-fated ship, the "John Bright," Captain John Bright, his wife and daughters, the Captain's wife, and daughters, of the Captain. It will also be remembered that the Indians shot the Captain's wife on the beach, she being too much exhausted to walk to the encampment, and that the body of the Captain's wife was subsequently found near the sea shore, being identified by the few remaining locks of golden hair which still adhered to it. Of the Captain's daughters, Jane, besides her two brothers, was also lost, as also was a LOST LITTLE GIRL. It is known that eight or nine years ago, trace whatever was found, and it was concluded, hoped, is lost, that she never reached the uninhabited shore which became the scene of the CRUEL DEATH OF JOHN BRIGHT. Her remains were put in a bag, and placed in her parcels. It would now appear, however, that for this innocent and lovely girl had been sacrificed a many more.

MURDERED HER PARENTS. Not long ago a fair girl and beautiful to look upon, was described by some Indians as another wife. She was seated upon a log on the beach near the scene of the terrible disaster of Negus, and was identified as HER DELICATE FEET WERE BARE; she wore a rude calico skirt, with a blanket which had carelessly dropped from her shoulders, while a trifling portion of gold ring was all about her. Her feet were LOVELY FEET. At last, however, the Indians were clasped, and she looked wistfully up towards the water, where, in expectation of a friendly ship coming to her relief. Learning that they were devoured by HORRIBLE BEASTS.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC. The subscriber of this paper, who appears to have been watching her from a neighbouring knoll, hurried her away to the village of Neskowin by means of a small boat, and, after the release of the fair captive, she was soon after seen in the village of Neskowin.

SOLD HER. She was sold to a native who had been captured by the Wyahita, opposite Cape Flattery. The Wyahita, however, soon learned that information of the white captive being in their possession had been communicated to Capt. Kay, and Neal, say, in consequence of which, fearing investigation and rescue, they

TRADED HER AWAY

to the Mitinakts residing between Cape Flattery and Barclay Sound, in exchange for an old mink to liven up their skins. This fact was communicated to Mr Francis, by most trustworthy Indians at Neah Bay, and there is no reason to doubt that the girl is still in their possession, anxiously awaiting deliverance from a fate

WORSE THAN DEATH.

There is no effort to be made to rescue this English girl. She is held by Indians within sixty miles of where we now write. Surely such a step should be taken without delay. To attempt a direct rescue of the girl we are told by those acquainted with such matters, would be less likely to succeed than by taking one or two of the Indians who are engaged in kidnapping and robbing the Indians.

TRADING TROUBLE. In the village of Neskowin, the same Allan, not satisfied with the half of Nabor's vineyard, made a bold stroke at the dwelling farm, including fenced lands, farm buildings and one-half of the dwelling-house in which Kay and his family resided. Without the

slightest pretense on the part of Allan of having complied with the law, which requires stakes to be planted and pointed to be posted for one calendar month, the Magistrate granted the application on the same day on which it was made!

In consequence of this grant, and without a writ, Allan proceeded to take forcible possession, tearing down and destroying fences, felling buildings, and even attacking, with his hand, the old roof-tree which sheltered Kay and his family, and that, too, during the inclement season of the year. A breach of the peace was the result,—as to how much it be otherwise?

STEALING. At least, a Chinaman, charged with stealing a quantity of clothing from Mr. Anderson, merchant on Johnson street, was partially examined in the Police Court yesterday and was remanded for trial for the theft of a quantity of clothing.

WEBS.—At least, a Chinaman, charged with stealing a quantity of clothing from Mr. Anderson, merchant on Johnson street, was partially examined in the Police Court yesterday and was remanded for trial for the theft of a quantity of clothing.

WEBS.—We can hardly believe it when we read of the principal allegations set forth in the petition presented to the Legislative Council yesterday, supported by evidence, and of the ability of the petitioner, which we cannot undertake to do.

THE OBSTRUCTIONISTS.—The San Domingo Commanders, who are supposed to have been lost in the U.S. Tennessee are Bishop Simpson, Ben Wade, and W E Dodge.

THE TOTAL EXEMPTION ACT.—This bill passed yesterday, excepting the flour and meal manufacturers in the colony from wheat, beans, peas, oats, barley and grain of all kinds grown in the colony, from liability to any rate of duty 10% in the colony, payable to the use of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors.

TAX MAINLAND MAIL.—Contractor Barnard's express for Hartshorn, etc., will leave with the mail and passengers for the Mainland on Tuesday next, per Enterprise, upon which trip the carriage of the mails will be handed over to the new contractors, Gerow & Johnson.

Legislative Council.

Friday, Feb 24.

THE TAXES.

By Electric Telegraph,

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

(BY MAINLAND TELEGRAPH.)

British Columbia.

New Westminster, 23rd.—Bernard's Cariboo Express W. Bristol, Messenger, arrived last evening.

Cariboo mining news rather meagre. Several claims on William, Grouse and Lefew creek and Stent's Gulch are taking out fair pay. On Lightning creek the Spence Company took out 110 and 140 tons for the last two weeks. The Lightning Company 57 and 112 ounces for the same time.

Sydney with the Omicron Express arrived at Quesnel on Monday, Jan 30th and left on return trip on the 2nd inst. He reported forty men wintering above Fort James. No new discoveries as it is impossible to prospect much in winter. He considers that there are sufficient provisions for those who are there now, but if any more come before supplies can be got in there will be a great scarcity. Jim May and seven others left for Omicron about the 1st inst.

The weather in Cariboo has been fine but little snow for the last two weeks.

Around Yale the snow is about 2 feet in depth and the river quite clear of ice between Yale and New Westminster.

The Grappler towing the ship Elmstone arrived at Burrard Inlet to-day, bringing the Victoria Colonist dailies and weeklies for New Westminster—a welcome visitor. She starts for Victoria at noon to-morrow.

Mr. Spence has commenced the repair of the Burrard Inlet road, which notwithstanding the unfavorable weather is progressing satisfactorily.

On Tuesday an inquest was held on the body of an Indian woman, when a verdict to the effect that the immediate cause of death was the explosion of a blood vessel in the lungs, was returned.

A slight fall of snow here to-night.

Europe.

LONDON, Feb 21.—It is believed that the French Assembly will name a Triumvirate, including an admiral and general, to arrange terms of peace and to shift the responsibilities of the reorganization of France on other shoulders.

PARIS, Feb 21.—A special says that the programme is to conclude peace on the best terms, to clear France of Germans, place the French army in Paris under Charranger, induce the Assembly to proclaim the Charter of 1830 as the supreme law, and to submit to a plebiscite the election of Count de Paris as King.

LONDON, Feb 21.—A dispatch from Havre says that upon Alencon refusing to pay a fresh contribution, the Mayor and ten Councillors were held as hostages.

The news from Paris are now forwarded by way of Calais.

PARIS, Feb 20.—Government declares to the Lower House that interference with the internal affairs of Romania is not intended.

LONDON, Feb 21.—Globe papers received by overland mail report that an assault was made upon Seward and his party during their visit to Hindoo.

PARIS, Feb 22.—Nothing is known of the French terms of peace. They say they are conciliatory. The Paris Moniteur says Trichon resigned at the request of the Prussians and returned to private life. The Versailles official journal justifies the German demand for two million francs, and cites the example of the Americans.

VERSAILLES, Feb 22.—The German Emperor received Thiers to-day. General Chancy was present at the interview.

PARIS, Feb 22.—It is considered as concluded, although it has not yet been signed. The Germans will probably enter Paris Sunday next without any triumphal ceremony.

BORDEAUX, Feb 23.—Minister Ricard has arrived here. Rochefort has gone to Paris.

PARIS, Feb 23.—Information from Versailles says it is determined that a portion of the German army shall march through Paris on its return home. Thiers continues to oppose this, warning the Germans of the responsibility they will incur. A placard was posted on Monday in the students' quarter, appealing to the insurgents to make a last struggle should the Prussians enter the city.

Nothing is positively known as to the conditions of peace. The financial journals say it is utterly impossible for France to pay 800 million francs or half of it even.

Thiers and Favre are at Versailles to-day.

LONDON, Feb 23.—Parliament was started, to-night by the declaration of Lord Hartington that disaffection exists in Ireland to such an alarming extent that it would be necessary to appoint a select committee to ascertain its cause. The Conservatives are exultant at this evidence of the failure of the Irish policy of the Government.

England is negotiating for the purchase of the Dutch settlement on the Gold Coast, Africa, for £32,000 sterling.

Lord Carnarvon announced a measure on national defences and argued for the necessity of early preparation in view of the astonishing rapidity of the Prussian campaign against France.

LONDON, Feb 16.—In the House of Commons this evening Sir John Haig asked whether the Government had authorized the statement by Odo Russell to Count Bismarck, on the 21st of November, to the effect that the state of the eastern question would compel Great Britain to go to war with Russia or without allies. Sir John wanted to know what preparations had been made to back up the threat.

Gladstone replied that Russell's arguments were unauthorized. Russell had been vested with a certain kind of discretion, and no certain instructions had been sent him. His course in this matter was sensible.

Viscount Enfield stated that the Government contemplated closing the British Legations in major European Courts.

LONDON, Feb 13.—The steamer Cuba on Saturday took Earl De Grey, Tenterden and Merton to Bernard.

TOKIO, Feb 17.—The Government organizes in relation to Sir John Rose declining to sit on the high commission, that the financial interest he had in him by the Washington

Government, constituted the main if not the only reason for his declining to accept the position.

A large loan is already advised by the Secretary of the Treasury for the purpose of consolidating the American debt with view to the reduction of the interest on it. There would be an impropriety in Rose accepting negotiations of a portion of this loan in England and sitting on the commission at the same time.

LONDON, Feb 14.—The House of Commons to-night, on motion of Mr. Gladstone, voted the down of £30,000 to the Princess Louise and an allowance of £6,000. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Gladstone denied that the Prussians had placed obstacles in the way of revolutionary Paris. The Premier also said the Government suggested to Prussia to make known the proposed terms of peace.

LONDON, Feb 13.—The Queen, preceded by the Horse Guards, in passing through Whitehall to open Parliament to-day, was greeted with mingled cheers and hisses, the latter predominating. The cheers were chiefly by the Germans. Strong police precautions prevented disorder.

The newspapers announce that a Catholic League has been formed in Belgium to prepare an armed expedition against Italy, with branches established in Austria, and a meeting place has been selected in some island in the Mediterranean. The Italian Government has received information of the conspiracy.

FLORENCE, Feb 13.—It is reported that demonstrations in favor of the Pope are in preparation in various parts of Europe.

The Italian Parliament has declared the library and galleries of the Uffizi to be national property, despite Ministerial opposition.

FLORENCE, Feb 13.—The Chamber of Deputies, 203 against 139, approved the policy of the Ministry relative to the inviolability of the Papal residence.

Serious disturbances are reported in Nice. The people besieged the Prefecture shouting "viva Italia." The troops were obliged to charge the crowd with the bayonet before they would disperse.

The Lower Chamber of the 10th inst., a committee reported an amendment to the Papal Guarantee Bill, empowering the Supreme Judiciary to authorize an official to enter the Papal residence. Minister Lanza opposed the amendment and considered the guarantee as necessary to tranquillize the Catholic conscience and to prevent accusations of bad faith. He announced that the Ministry had determined to consider the proposed modification bill.

OTTAWA, Feb 21.—The Dominion Parliament opened to-day with the usual formalities by the Governor General, Lord Ligonier. He referred to the Joint Commission and hoped the matters in controversy would be satisfactorily settled. Canada, he said, urges no demands beyond those to which she is plainly entitled by treaty and the laws of nations. She has pushed no claim to maintain extreme assertion and has only sought to maintain the rights of her own people fairly in a friendly and considerate spirit, and with all due respect to foreign Powers and international obligations. The thanks of the country are due to the Admiral on the Station and those under his command for the valuable and efficient aid which they rendered during the past season, and for maintaining order and protecting the fisheries from encroachment. He says he anticipates success in regard to the Acts passed by the Government, and recommends the early survey of the route for the Intercolonial Railroad, the encouragement of immigration, etc.

OTTAWA, Feb 21.—McKenzie, leader of the opposition, referred to the offensive language used towards Canada, not only by citizens, but by the President of the United States in his annual message, who seemed as if controlled by an irresponsible power of unkindness towards this country.

SIR FRANCIS BICKS, criticizes somewhat the submission tendency.

MR. EDWARD BLAKE said when the American Government insisted on any demands he did not believe in submitting. With regard to the fisheries, the three mile limit, counting from headland to headland, should have been insisted upon.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD replied at considerable length stating that the interests of Canada would not be sacrificed by England to our own advantage.

OTTAWA, Feb 17.—In the House Sir A. T. Galt pointed out the great importance of the House giving early expression to its opinion respecting the fishery question, and urged the great gravity of the interests concerned as a reason for the correspondence, so that the House might be informed respecting the apparent change of Imperial policy on the fishery question.

TOKIO, Feb 17.—Canadian papers representing the various political parties express great satisfaction at the appointment of the Commission to settle the differences between England and America. They consider that the appointment of two Canadian statesmen on the Commission secures a just representation of Canadian rights.

They express a hope that the result of the deliberation will be a fair settlement of all differences and that each country will go on its own way trying to do what is fair and right to its neighbor. They say: "We do not wish to be annexed to our friends across the line. Let both countries understand this, and if we cannot become one nation let us continue good neighbors and good customers to one another as in the past."

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CALIFORNIA.—Sir Francis Bicks criticized somewhat the submission tendency.

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