





The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday, February 9, 1870.

The Conditions.

Having alluded to the two great essentials of successful Confederation—the early construction of an interoceanic highway and the placing of rolling stock, so to speak, upon our ocean highway—and having, in a very summary way, disposed of the monetary part of the question, let us now turn attention to the subject of the commercial policy to be adopted by this colony. And this brings us to the crux of the whole matter—the generality of people will say we have nothing to do with this point, as it is purely and essentially a Federal one.

The United States is about to remove the duty from coal. The laws of political economy are inevitable and overpowering, and a whole nation could not long remain ignorant of the fact that it was suffering from the high price of coal, not for the benefit of the Federal exchequer, but pure and simple for the aggrandizement of the Pennsylvania monopolists. The suffering was not confined to coal alone, but permeated every article and every interest thereof directly or indirectly connected with it.

But there is another and still more important commercial change which, whatever others may think, we prefer to believe lies in the so distant future of the British American Empire. The original idea of a colony was some place into which might be transplanted the surplus population of the old country, and where home manufactures might be received without the possibility of competition.

The social sciences, philosophers of Great Britain are becoming alarmed. They have discovered that the disproportion between men and women is increasing so rapidly in the country as to threaten an overwhelming pre-eminence on the North Pacific. There is no desire to conceal the fact that this question is not wholly free from difficulties; but, when men are called upon to found an empire and create a system, they must not be deterred by these from making the attempt to attain so great a good. It would indeed be easy to show that to build up a great emporium here would be to promote the highest interests of the rest of the Province and the whole of the Dominion; but we do not propose to dwell upon that branch of the subject at present, the immediate object being to suggest to the Executive whether we might not, by proposing to join the Dominion, ask that the Provincial Legislature should be empowered to deal with the commercial policy, either to the extent of establishing a free port, or providing for the free admission of all such articles as we do not produce ourselves. It will hardly be necessary to disclaim any intention of advocating that this should be put forward as an absolute condition of union. At the same time, that it should be pressed upon the attention of the Canadian Government, as a matter which greatly concerns local well-being generally, and the only means of enabling the Dominion to once attain a commanding position on the Pacific, and to compete successfully with, and largely profit by the buzz of prosperity and development, which is here in every season to expect, we shall shortly be surrounded.

Elsewhere will be found a correspondence upon the most important subject of direct steam communication with San Francisco. Referring to previous remarks upon the same subject, and to which our correspondent takes exception, let us say that it was from no want of desire to see the entire year's service provided for that we suggested a three months' efficient service as preferable to a twelve months' worthless one. Our idea was this: If, as would appear from the Governor's reply to the petition presented a few days ago, there is not more meant at the disposal of the Government for the better promotion of the colony would be better now being thrown away, in the proposal of an efficient service during the three months that must decide our immigration projects for the year; and by suggesting that the balance of the year might be left to take care of itself, we desired to be understood to mean that during these remaining months steam communication would be none the less efficient for the discontinuance of the subsidy now being paid; we should still have an occasional direct steamer, as now, and probably often in consideration of increased population and trade; and we could, as now, have our mails via Olympia, once a week. It, however, an, feasible scheme can be presented whereby a more permanent service can be obtained, we shall be delighted to see it.

The steamer Polifofsky, Capt Quindoo, arrived from Port Madsen yesterday afternoon with three passengers. She came over to procure the services of Dr Powell for a child of Mr G.A. Meigs, who had been taken suddenly and dangerously ill.

How San Francisco Suffers. The following paragraph, taken from a Sacramento (California) paper, gives the clue to one of the several causes that are working great injury to commerce in San Francisco. Several merchants of Sacramento having goods cast to their clerks, the paper thus addresses you:—If you can buy in California from second hands and then job goods at a profit, you can buy from first hands at the East as cheap as any else, and by so doing you can sell your goods to inferior merchants at low rates as you are now buying your selves. This is plain English, gentlemen, and every word of it. Sacramento has no business to be leaping water from a mud puddle when she can sell what she will pack goods and place them on the cars at Sacramento to the order of the import merchant at as low a price as the importer of any wholesale point on this coast can deliver them from his warehouse door, and if you do not do it you can blame no one but yourselves when you see customers passing through your city en route to other points for supplies that they can buy from the same source from which you obtain yours, just as cheap as you can.

The Assurances of F. W. W. Perkins. The social sciences, philosophers of Great Britain are becoming alarmed. They have discovered that the disproportion between men and women is increasing so rapidly in the country as to threaten an overwhelming pre-eminence on the North Pacific.

Perkins v. Steamship Valparaiso. This was an action by the engineer of the Valparaíso for wages and board from the 2nd May to December, 1869—1870. Defendants resisted claim on several grounds, the chief of which was that Perkins had misconducted himself and that great damage had ensued. The judge's decision was in favour of Perkins, and the defendant was ordered to pay costs.

Trinidad. Chief Justice Needham goes to Trinidad and not to Bermuda, as stated yesterday. Trinidad is the most southern of the British West India Islands, and has an area of 2000 square miles. It is the largest, most beautiful and most fertile of all the Windward Group and abounds in the finest woods and game. Cocoa is the principal crop, but sugar, tobacco, in, coffee, cotton, and apparel are produced. The island was taken from the Spanish in 1794. The population is about 80,000.

Pacific Insurance Company of San Francisco. This first-class insurance company (fire and marine) with a capital stock of \$1,000,000 and available assets to pay losses and dividends of \$296,834, has issued its annual statement from which it appears that the income of the company in 1869 was \$1,184,223; disbursements, \$1,039,594, which includes \$120,000 paid shareholders as dividends. The losses of the company during the year were only \$594,811. This is a most gratifying exhibit.

The steamer Enterprise sailed for New Westminster on 6 yesterday morning. She will return to-day. The steamer Enterprise sailed for New Westminster on 6 yesterday morning. She will return to-day.

Polizei Court. Two Indians were yesterday fined \$20 for fighting in the public streets, and a drunken man was sent to prison for six hours to get sober.

English Mail Summary. The guardians of St. Panoras have had a lively time. A meeting was held in the Vestry Hall to elect managers for the Board of the Central London District Asylum, the Guardians split into two parties, and the place was turned into a battleground. The reformers, as they call themselves, were led by Messrs. Watkins and Nurb, who observed that a great many justices were present, thought it good policy to present any business being done. They accordingly invited the roughs in the gallery into the hall, and appealed to them every moment, each appeal being answered by an uproar of the most astounding kind. The justices were abused, hooted and threatened amidst incessant shouting from the mob, Mr. Wyatt in particular being told that he ought to be whipped at the cart's tail, and pushed and rustled; and Mr. Corbett, the Inspector, being singled out for hootings. Amidst all this, the

guardians sat smiling and placid, apparently under the impression that it was their duty to bear all this as part of the natural results of self-government. The very notion that they had a right to clear the hall, and order even disorderly guardians to retire, seems never to have entered their heads. The public journals commenting upon the President's Message, as reported by the Times, generally express disappointment at the tone in which the differences with Great Britain are treated. The charges made against the partners in the late firm of Barnard's Bank Company were withdrawn, and the prosecution abandoned after evidence had been given by an eminent accountant, who had investigated the accounts. The Duchess d'Aumale died at Twickenham after a short illness. The Archbishop of Canterbury is slowly improving, but still remains very weak. Cabinet Councils are expected to be resumed this week, but there are no indications of any intention to summon Parliament before the usual period. The Hon. Norman Grosvenor has been returned without opposition as a member for Chester in succession to his cousin, the present Marquis of Westminster. The vacancy for Southwark caused by the resignation of Mr. Layard is being warmly contested, three Liberals and one Conservative having presented themselves as candidates, but the election cannot be held until February. Lord Olaf Hamilton has been elected for Lynn, being the fourth member of the Duke of Abercorn's family now in Parliament. He was returned by a majority of 1,051 to 1,032, a result very creditable to the energy of the Liberals. Their last candidate was Sir E. Buxton, who was defeated by Mr. Bourke by 1,125 to 1,012, a very much larger majority. The borough is essentially Tory and though there is a rumour of a petition, it is doubtful if it will be pressed. At the Liverpool Court of Quarter Sessions quite recently, a man named Brady, a noted mock auctioneer, was sentenced to penal servitude for seven years, for imposing on a Mrs. Powell, and taking from her a sum of money for articles which he alleged she had purchased, but which proved to be utterly worthless. Mr. Fitzjames Stephen, Q. C. has received the lucrative appointment of legal adviser to the Indian Government in the place of Mr. Mayne, who retires superannuated, but still young and in vigorous health. The salary is (says the Law Times) to be no less than £10,000 per annum, and the term of service only 7 years. Mr. Peasevald, aged twenty-three, was on Nov. 22 in the Shoreditch Pauper Infirmary, and shouting for tobacco, Mrs. Hart, the paid nurse, angry at the noise, held a handkerchief over his mouth for two minutes, and on its removal Peasevald showed murder. A pauper wardman, Sam Clark then put a handkerchief over his mouth and was going to tie it behind his head, when Mrs. Hart stopped him, and saying, 'I'll soon quiet him, poured some morphia down his throat. The man never spoke or stirred again till twenty-three hours after, he died. The facts were clearly proved, and indeed admitted by the accused, but the morphia had been absorbed, and the struggle thought that, judging from the time that elapsed, it had not caused death. A verdict of death from dropsy was recorded, with a censure against Hart and Clark. Is the law against aggravated assault suspended in Workhouses as well as the Sixth Commandment? Note that, for the first time we remember, the public in Court hissed and applauded the officials. The Bishop of London replying to the Bishop of Lincoln, holds Dr. Temple to be exempt from the condemnation attaching to other writers in Essays and Reviews, and declares his perfect readiness to assist in the consecration of the newly elected prelate. John Kelly, a young thief, was brought before Mr. Lusham, the sitting magistrate at Hammer Smith, on a charge of stealing a pair of trousers. Mr. Lusham said he would try the effect of a flogging, and sentenced him to three days' imprisonment and eight strokes of a birch rod. The boy with the 'cokes' on, with the glass pile themselves, called out, 'Hurrah! I shall have some Christmas pudding now, upon which the magistrate, called him back, said he had made a mistake and increased the imprisonment to three months, and the flogging six times the original sentence. A letter has been published from Dr. Livingstone dated U. J., May 30, 1869. The recent appointment of the Rev. Mr. Hayman as Head Master of Rugby has provoked much criticism, and nearly all the aspirants of the school have joined in an appeal for the re-consideration of the appointment by the trustees. Frederick Hinson, who was sentenced to death for the murder of his partner at Woodgreen, was executed Dec. 17, at Newgate. He died penitent. The subject of education is being widely discussed, both the Education League and the Education Union are holding meetings in various parts of the country for the promotion of their respective objects. The Hon. Auberton Herbert has resigned his fellowship of Oxford, on the grounds of disapproval of the Church Articles and a general disapproval of the system of the University.

Direct Steam Communication. The United States is about to remove the duty from coal. The laws of political economy are inevitable and overpowering, and a whole nation could not long remain ignorant of the fact that it was suffering from the high price of coal, not for the benefit of the Federal exchequer, but pure and simple for the aggrandizement of the Pennsylvania monopolists. The suffering was not confined to coal alone, but permeated every article and every interest thereof directly or indirectly connected with it.

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By Electric Telegraph

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

Eastern States.

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Europe.

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California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 31.—Gold, 121 1/2. Legal tenders 82 1/2 @ 83. Flour, extra, \$5 25 @ 5 50; superfine, \$4 50 @ 4 55.

Delayed Dispatches.

Liverpool, Jan. 31.

Heavy gales along the coast continue. Disasters to shipping are constantly coming to hand.

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