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THE COMET.

Vol. 1. NANAIMO, MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 18, 1875. No. 1

SALUTORY.

The Comet makes its first appearance to night in the political firmament unheralded by astronomers but casting its bright light upon the Political arena and illuminating the important questions of municipality for the guidance of voters at the coming Election. We fancy we hear inquiries from our readers where did the Comet come from and for their edification we will describe our Editor as six feet three at his stocking's weighing 275 lbs avoirdupois—muscular and most irascible in temper, a blow from him would have the same effect, on a prying individual as the bursting of a Comet upon this old world of ours, it would knock him into space, he would have made a winning candidate for Mayor, but it would interfere with his (phat) contracts from the Municipality; our Sanctum is

“Down in a coal mine underneath the ground;
Where the printer and his devil never can be found.

We hope the public will excuse any errors typographical or otherwise in this our first issue as we had engaged a large number of Douglas Pit graduates, who unfortunately were not able to attend, as there is considerable water in our lower level. With these few introductory remarks, we take much pleasure in introducing our candidate

FOR MAYOR:

JAMES HARVEY

Now the nomination is over the Comet presents the following Candi-

dates for councillors hoping that the Electors of Nanaimo will be thoroughly alive to their interests, and Elect with a glorious majority the independant ticket, viz.:

John Dick,
R. Nightingale,
Edward Quennell,
Capt. John Sabiston
John Pawson
William Earl
J. McKay Sabiston.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The following Works are in course of printing at the “Comet” office and will shortly appear:

John. Hirst, on Municipal Economy.

Sound (Puget) Politics, by Brunton. Bate. and Co.

The art of serving two masters by M. Bate. (This work is fraught with deep interest to men of loose morals) Ed. Comet.

Engineering of Municipal Elections by Capt. Bryden.

The mysteries of the Chin-Hook language. by D. Hopkins.

The composition of the Company's Municipal Charter. by W. E. Webb.

Electors beware of the war cry of our side of the town which is started with an ulterior motive. The grand object is to divide the town against itself, while unprincipled Monopoly thwarts your best interests.

Mr M Bate's Career-His claims to the Mayoralty

To-morrow the first election of Mayor and Councillors for this city will take place. The event brings up many reminiscences of the past, and carries us back to the days when nine tenths of the people of Nanaimo, in public meeting at the Institute on the 11th day of April 1866, declared in terms most unmistakable, that they were prepared for the introduction of Municipal government. The opposition, led by Mr. Bate were about fourteen in number, and it may seem, an object of inquiring to strangers, or those whose knowledge of Nanaimo does not extend back for a period of nine years' how such a small number could defeat 170. To such inquirers if any, we would intimate, that at that time there was no general Municipality Act for the whole Colony as at present. At that time we had to get a special Incorporation bill passed through the Legislative Council. While it was before that body Messrs. Bate & Co., started a petition against the passage of the bill. This petition they circulated secretly, and by misrepresenting its object, obtained a large number of signatures, to which were added a large number of mythical men, dead men, and men living in distant countries, these Hiawathas, were pitted against real living hardworking, progressive men, and the government at Victoria at that time being inclined to extreme centralization disallowed the bill, and the people were defeated. Peck, Bate and Co., had a mock funeral, and buried the bill, making the funeral services of the Church a subject for ridicule & buffonery. they were told at the meeting on the night of the 11th of April 1866, that the bill was not dead but that it slept: and tomorrow we will see some of the fruits of its resuscitation.

WHAT WE HAVE LOST,

We will now take a retrospective view and consider what might have been gained for Nanaimo by those who fought her early battles for Municipal Government, had they been successful. In the first place, had we been a municipality nine years ago, there can be no doubt but we would have been allowed 2 Members in the local Legislature under the Municipal Constitution, one for the city and one for the district, and in the second place we would have had one Member in the Commons of Canada, the same as New Westminster, by our defeat on that occasion those political advantages have been lost, the first for years: the second it may be for generations, these are prizes that in other countries people value and sometimes fight for.

OTHER LOSSES.

In addition to this loss of political caste or status, let us consider the loss of revenue that has been drawn from the

town, during those ten years, and expended in other parts of the country, a loss that cannot be estimated at less than \$25,000, a sum which if it had been judiciously expended on our streets, would have placed them in a condition that would have impressed upon strangers visiting our town, that we were not entirely beyond the pale of civilization, as they frequently with a taunt assert we are at present: Another backward look and then we come to the times in which we are living, moving, acting, Nine years ago there was no Wellington Mine, Harwood had or was about changing its proprietary and was entering upon that long sleep, from which enterprise [is now] bidding it to awake and yield up its treasures, real estate at that time was almost worthless, men or industry and energy were leaving the town for different parts of the world, unless workmen swallowed the company's pill, or run in the groove which they marked out for them they were obliged to leave for other parts: Bellingham Bay, Coos Bay, Mount Diablo, Gabriolo Island, and Comox received a share of those who had sinned against the Company.

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, but men decay;
Princes and Lords may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them as a breath has made;
But a brave peasantry--a country's pride
When once removed, can never be supplied;
Except the causes pass away.

The opening of the Wellington Mine and now the starting of Harwood have run property into its former value and has more than doubled the population in three years and the Miner Mechanic, or laborer, can now if a good man, if discharged from one, readily find employment in one of the others, and men breathe freer, and make life more cheerful, and happy-

For those advantages, no thanks are due to the V. C. Co., or their little man; no had it not been for those outside enterprises we have named, what would Nanaimo be to-day, its condition might have been described as follows, viz, 20 miners (20 runners, 10 outside labourers, all Chinamen) 1 carpenter, 1 blacksmith, 1 machinist, 1 locomotive driver, 1 team, half-a-dozen indians and two managers, at good salaries. Outside of the Company there would have been say two stores, two saloons, and one bakery half employed outside of the Company's works. There would have been no blacksmith shop, or blacksmith, no carpenter or carpenter shop, no tin shops, or tinsmith, no shoe shop, or shoemakers no tailors, bakers, or mantle makers, no steam or water mills, no brewery from which to quench a

thirsty soul no teams, or teamsters neither doctors, dealers or druggists could have hoped to make a living in Nanaimo. Thanks then I say to those outside enterprises for our present prosperity, and we now arrive at the date of the circulation of the petition for a municipality. In December 1874 no sponor had we started than the old ENEMY OF PROGRESS exhibited the cloven foot, and started a competition to defeat the wishes of the people, and to curtail their privileges under a bastard claim of a bonus, which was no wiser object than to defeat the municipality, and although for once he has failed, in his deceitful designs, he has not failed to stigmatize those who signed for incorporation as a pack of fools. And now comes the climax of impudence. Who would have supposed that this arch enemy of liberal institutions, who for ten years has used every means in his power to stay their progress and when defeated could have the impudence to come forward and ask to be made the generalissimo of the system, as well give the devil the Scriptures and commission him to christinize the Fijis, as to give this turncoat the control of our civic affairs, with any hope that he will administer them with advantage to the system, or benefit to the whole people. I say therefore arouse ye citizens, and impress upon the youth of the town by your example, the brutish principle, that a turncoat who for selfish ends gives the lie to all his past actions should be despised and rebuked and let Mr. Uzziah keep [Bate] sing for his next song.

.. Oh what a tangled web we weave
When first we practice to deceive.

THE ANGLER.

There's going to be a jolly row in our quiet little town,
For the privilege of Freedom, or a case of the men down;
And the one who would be overall and hold the keys of State,
Is fishing with a rotten line—altho' a tempting bait.

Before the town could boast of a City for its name,
The people were kept down by this angler's little game,
But now they have a chance, their manacles to break;
If they only have the sense to shun this tempting little bait.

In a country where Freedom should be within the reach of all
Where honest men might settle, and where they surely shall.
If they hear the voice of reason and not rush unto their fate.
A right down case of slavery by sticking to this bait.

Why--can a man not rest from [weary] la ors here
Settle in a quiet way--from hardships long and drear
There is a reason for it all not difficult to state
For fish will be caught by a very little bait.

Why can a man not buy a little piece of land,
With money he has earned with an honest open hand;
There is another reason, just as easy to relate,
Men swallow rather easily this cunning little bait.

If you would be brave and free, as all true men should be,
Place the Miners' friend first on the Polling tree;
Release yourselves from thralldom, you now imprisoned state;
Remember underneath the hook there is a cunning bait.

Down with Chinese labour, down with Chinese votes!
Make Harvey your Mayor, then hurrah for cheaper lots;
Down with Slavery and Monopoly and Vancouver Coal Co rule,
Let us be freedoms sons once more, and cease to be their tool.

Keep them out the Council, withhold from them the sway,
They would have over you and all within their way:
They will seek to make the City what it was before,
And slaves, you will remain as in the days of yore.

They did not want a City, and you know the reason why,
And as soon as it was spoken of, they raised a Hue and Cry;
Now since they cannot keep it, they will try the best they can,
To be Mayor, Town and Council, and every other man.

Written by L. J. Harvey
RATHER COOL--The unblushing effrontery of Mr. M. Bate candidate for the Mayoralty who after strenuously opposing Municipal institutions for the space of seven years, suddenly turns his coat, and coolly asks the Electors to give him the highest Civic honors at their disposal, as a reward for his inconsistency.

Men with narrow selfish views oftimes misconstrue the best actions of nobler minds because nothing noble could be conceived within the narrow space of their sordid hearts.

NOMINATION.

We were happy to see the interest created amongst the Electors and Citizens of Nanaimo at the Nomination of Mayor & Councillors; the spirit of British Fair play seemed to predominate the whole of the meeting with one or two exceptions. We were glad to see that the importation of fifth ward Politicians of the Boss-Taxel Strip was a miserable failure when a case is desperate it becomes necessary to use desperate means after the meeting being called to order by the Returning Officer T. L. Fawcett Esq.

My sister
Mr. D. Gordon Nominated Mr. M. Bate. In his speech which was a résumé of Mr. M. Bates political career he strongly animadverted upon many facts that could not be controverted how for ten long years he had been a persistent opponent of Municipal Institutions, How up to the last moment he tried to defeat the people in obtaining self government and then spoke of the inconsistency of the candidate who could have the cool assurance of turning his coat and asking for the city's highest honors and stating that he was only moved by a strange infatuation to Nominate Mr. M. Bate for his cheek in asking to be placed in the civic chair.

Mr. Jas. Harvey was then Nominated by a party who thought himself a smarty from the sound, but unfortunately for the smarty he failed to tell the electors where the laugh came in so the only "goak" that he was ever guilty of making, was never seen, it so damped his ardour that he subsided into his boots and went away a sadder but a wiser man.

The candidates for the Mayoralty were then invited to take the platform, when Mr. M. Bate made a very weak and pusillanimous hurrangue to the Electors, maintaining their good sense by telling them that he could serve two masters, and although he had been an opponent to Municipal institutions, he washed his hands of the past (with the invisible soap). Leaving the Electors with a few exceptions impressed with the resolution of electing him to stay at home and serve one master.

Mr. Jas. Harvey was then called to the platform who came forward

amidst deafening cheers, he said that these honours were not of his seeking, but by a requisition of his fellow citizens; he had the honor to stand on that platform a free and independent candidate, sworn to no policy but the advancement of the City's interest; and after a fair résumé of the political issues, he said that if elected he could take the civic chair without being pledged to any sect or clique, and after a plain unvarnished speech conveying confidence to the Electors. The Returning Officer then asked for a show of hands which he declared in favour of Mr. Jas. Harvey by a large majority. Then followed the Nomination of Councillors which totally gave the lie to the assertion that Nanaimo was unfit for Municipal institutions because she could not get sufficient men;

To fill the Municipal offices for instead of seven there was fourteen Richmonds in the field eager aspirants to civic honors as Councilmen after hearing the views of the several candidates, and a demand for a poll being made, the Meeting gave a vote of thanks to the Returning Officer and dispersed.

Electors of Nanaimo before casting your vote for Municipal officers look at your streets which are a disgrace to the 19th century and if this is the result of anti Municipality elect the obstructionists to stay at home and return men with Progressive tendencies for your officers.

Electors beware of a man who can use subterfuge in asking for the bonus of Forty Thousand Dollars. Mr. Bate was aware that it was unconstitutional and if not it shows unpardonable ignorance in a man that would be your chief Magistrate For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain verily Mr. Bate is peculiar.

Give me fat sleek headed men for Councillors men that can sleep O Night. J. H. -t.

Electors beware of Brunton and his **BOGUS TICKETS.**

Errata read British for British on the third page.