THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
And Victoria Chronicle.

VOL. 8. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1867 NO. 50

WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST
PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY.
HIGGINS, LONG & CO.

TERMS:

Per Annum, in advance	$6 00
For Six Months	4 00
For Three Months	2 50
Per Week	0 25

PAYABLE INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

OFFICE—Colonist Building, Government and Yates streets, adjoining Bank of British Columbia.

AGENTS.

S. D. Levi	Nanaimo, V. I
Hellier & Hunt	Comox, do
Samuel Pierce	Cowichan do
Charles Ross	Victoria, W. Sooke
Barnard's Express	Quesnelle, B. C
do	Lytton
do	Yanwinkle
do	Richfield
do	Barkerville
do	Cariboo Town
do	Clinton
L. P. Fisher	San Francisco
Hudson & McCarty	do
F. Algar	11 Clement's Lane, London
G. Street	30 Cornhill, London

The Reciprocity Treaty with the Sandwich Islands.

On Saturday the full text of the Reciprocity Treaty between the Sandwich Islands and the United States appeared in this paper. The treaty has been approved by the Legislative Assembly of Honolulu with scarcely a dissentient voice. The United States Government grants the Hawaiians even greater privileges than those enjoyed formerly by the Canadians, and the treaty will prove of immense advantage to the sugar producers of the fertile group. Some such arrangement might be made between our Government and that of the Sandwich Islands were only an effort put forth. Through the exertions of the gentleman who acts as Consul for the Sandwich Islands at this port, our coal is now admitted duty free. Our lumber, bricks, fish and shooks, with other articles of Colonial production, might be included in the free list, and the Colonists reap an abundant return, were a proposal made by our Government to admit sugar, coffee, molasses, &c., the produce of the Islands, into our ports upon the same footing. It has long been a matter of surprise with us that an effort to secure reciprocal trade with the Sandwich Islands has not been made by our Government. Perhaps, now that the ice has been broken by the Americans, the British Columbia Government will be prepared to take advantage of the opening and ask the same privileges.

The Capital Slanderer.

The editor of the *Columbian* is nothing if he is not untruthful and abusive. His long career has made him an adept in both accomplishments, and he has come to be looked upon as a common scold. Had he been a woman, and lived in the olden time, he would have been drawn through the duck-pond that ornaments the main street of New Westminster for his incessant scandal. His tongue wags venomously against the best, the ablest, and the most honored in the land if they but dissent from his extreme and vindictive schemes. Even silence and unobtrusiveness are offensive to him. He delights in vulgarity, thirsts for notoriety, and fairly riots in obloquy with the gusto of a dog rolling in carrion. In the last number of his miserable sheet he pours out the vials of his wrath with unsparing hand upon the head of poor Mr Waddington for his efforts in behalf of the country. Happily the *Columbian* man is too well known in this Colony to carry any weight. He shifts his views even more rapidly than the quicksands of Frasermouth shift their position; and as for "principle," he is not troubled with the article. We assure our cotemporary that if he can survive the weight of his own abuse, Mr Waddington and his project can thrive under it.

FROM KOOTENAY.—Five Kootenay miners arrived by the steamer Lillooet on Sunday. They left Wild Horse creek three weeks ago, and the only news they bring in addition to what has been published is, that there was a little excitement on the creek in connection with Findlay creek. Some Frenchmen, it appears, had been prospecting there, and found diggings sufficiently promising to justify them and their friends, twenty-five in number, wintering on the creek. These diggings are situate above the canon on Findlay creek, where no prospecting has heretofore been done, and it is believed are richer than those that created an excitement during the past summer, and which were abandoned for lack of water to work them. Mining in Kootenay this year has been a very poor business, except with Chinamen, who had bought up the best claims. A large number of men, it is said, intend leaving Blackfoot next spring for the mines of this colony. Hard times prevail in the Blackfoot country. Many men are compelled to stay for want of means to travel.—*B C. Examiner.*

Monday, Oct 21st.

Agricultural Exhibition.

We are much gratified on being able to state that the Agricultural Exhibition at New Westminster opened last Tuesday was a decided success and, considering the short notice, exceedingly creditable to all concerned. One is only too glad to be able occasionally to turn from the contemplation of party jealousy and misrepresentation and meet on a neutral ground to extend the hand of friendship to all who in a liberal and Catholic spirit endeavor to develop the resources, both material and industrial, of the Colony. The name of the exhibition was not well chosen, as the agricultural part was very small, owing to the farmers of the Chilliwhack range being unrepresented from want of time to communicate,—some good specimens of wild Timothy, mummy wheat, flax and Indian corn being the only specimens. This is much to be regretted, as out of the grasses alone, such as the bunch grass, &c., an interesting collection might have been formed. The horticultural part was, however, much better represented; apples and pears of the most luscious appearance and larger than any we have ever seen were numerous, and in one case a second crop of pears, rivalling the first, was placed side by side. Onions, turnips, pumpkins, potatoes, cabbages, &c., were equally gigantic, and reminded one of the fruits of the Brodignag, while the mangold-wurtze was beyond any example seen elsewhere. Whether some of these may not by their excessive exuberance lose somewhat in flavor, is not improbable, but in the case of such of them as are used for feeding stock during the winter it does not so much matter. Most of the large specimens came from the alluvial lands at the mouth of the Fraser and on the Hudson Bay Company's farm at Langley. A few grapes and peaches were also exhibited, but in flavor were rather deficient. A small quantity of hops and tobacco was also shown. The department of the fish was perhaps one of the most interesting, consisting of salmon potted, spiced, smoked, salted, kippered; eulachon, smoked and salted; caviare and isinglass. The most of these were exhibited by Mr Syme, who owns a fishing station on the side of the river opposite to New Westminster, and who has lately gone into preserving salmon in pots, and set up an establishment with all the requisite plant for obtaining, curing and packing fish, and expressing oils, and we have no doubt, from his thorough practical knowledge, the undertaking will be a profitable one. When we consider how easily procurable all kinds of fish are, such as cod, salmon, halibut, sturgeon and eulachon, for which there is such a large demand in all the Roman Catholic countries of South America, the Colonies of New Zealand and Australia and Hongkong, we are surprised that so important a sphere of operation for skill and industry should have been so long neglected. The specimens of smoked and spiced were delicious, while the salted and dried specimens of both salmon and eulachon were also first-rate. The last department but one, perhaps the most important in its bearing on the development of the resources of the country, were a collection of specimens of the minerals, fossils and coal, selected and arranged by Mr Claudet, including Plumbago, from Fort Simpson; Galena and Silver Ore, from Cherry Creek; Copper, recently discovered in Howe Sound; Gold Quartz, from Canon Creek, yielding about 18 ounces to the ton; Glaubes Salts, Meerchaum; Asphalt, from Quesnelle; Sulphuret of Molybdenum, from Douglas River; Anthricite Coal, from Queen Charlotte; an interesting collection of fossils, illustrative o the coal seams. This collection was labelled with a short explanation and description, and was highly instructive. Mr Claudet deserves great credit for the trouble taken. We should have liked to have seen a collection of the native woods, many of which, such as the Yellow Cypress, Curly Maple, &c., are acknowledged adapted for fancy work, and which deserve to be more widely known. A collection of the Indigenous Grasses and objects of Natural History generally also we missed, but on the whole, returned from the building much pleased and strengthened in confidence in the future of the Colony.

LAYING OF TRINITY CHURCH CORNER STONE.—The ceremony of laying the corner stone for Holy Trinity Church took place on Wednesday afternoon last. Shortly after 3 p m., His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Capt. Price, H. M. Scout; Capt. Dawkins, H. M. Zealous; Capt. Porcher, H. M. S. Sparrowhawk, Lord Cecil, Lord Campbell and a number of naval officers, arrived rom the camp on the Leviathan, and were received by the clergy and churchwardens. The choir mustered in strong force and opened the service with the Old Hundredth, when the change from unison to harmony was well rendered, and unmistakably demonstrated that the building is well adapted to sound. The Rev. Mr Hayman read the service. At a signal from the contractor the stone was raised, and a jar containing coins of the realm, together with a parchment record deposited in the cavity by churchwarden Good. His Excellency the Governor then laid the stone, saying: This stone is laid in faith and hope, to the honor and glory of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen." After a short prayer and the hymn, "Lord cause thy face on us to shine," ably rendered by the choir, the service was closed, and a merry peal from the bells followed. The building will cost over $10,000, and when finished will be a most beautiful structure.—*Examiner.*

THE Alexandra, with forty passengers, reached her wharf from the river at 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. It is said that she will be laid up. It is high time.

FOR PORTLAND—The steamer Fideliter, with a fair freight and a number of passengers, sailed for Portland, Oregon, on Saturday.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION—The only candidates before the public for the office of Mayor are Mr Macdonald and Dr Trimble. The friends of Mr Franklin, up to the last moment, had hoped that he would have been put forward, but owing to the circulation of a report that that gentleman would under no circumstances stand, and that he had withdrawn in favor of Dr Trimble, many were induced to promise their support to the last-named gentleman. This report, Mr Franklin desires us to state, was untrue. He was not asked to stand, consequently he could not have withdrawn. Personally we entertain none but the most friendly feeling for Dr. Trimble; but we do not believe, if returned, that he will pay that attention to the duties of the office the people have a right to expect from their chief civic functionary. Mr Macdonald has faithfully discharged the duties of the position, and has thereby won the admiration of even political opponents. The only objection we have heard urged against Mr Macdonald's re-election, when we consider the depressed state of the Colony, is really a strong point in his favor. On public grounds alone, unless a better man than either of the gentlemen whose names are now before the public be nominated, we shall vote for Mr Macdonald.

THE ASSAY OFFICE—The B C *Examiner* states that a petition is in circulation at Cariboo asking the Government to continue the useless and extravagant institution known as an Assay Office. The office is maintained for the benefit of New Westminster, at an annual charge to the general revenue of several thousand dollars, and the petition is the work of the Executive, who wishes to prove that the extravagance is endorsed by the people. We do not imagine that many *bona fide* signatures will be attached to the document, but there will be enough bogus ones manufactured to effect the desired purpose. Were the office at Cariboo or Victoria, it might pay somewhere near expenses; but stuck as it is at New Westminster, it can never hope to pay expenses. How long is this fraud on the public revenue to last?

DEPARTURE OF THE CALIFORNIA—The mail steamer cast off her lines at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. She had 44 passengers, a full freight and a large amount of treasure. Among the passengers we noticed Alfred Waddington, Esq., Lieut. Needham, R. N.; Miss H Needham and Master Needham; Miss E Moore, Mr R. H. Adams, Mr T. N. Hibben and Mr H Harvey. A majority of the passengers intend returning to the colony after a brief period spent in visiting their friends. As the ship moved off, hearty cheers were given for Mr Waddington by the assembled crowd, the old gentleman, apparently much moved by the demonstration, briefly expressed his thanks.

HEAVY SHIPMENT OF TREASURE.—The steamer California on Saturday carried away $352,984 in gold bars, shipped by the following banking houses: Bank of British North America, $220,114; Bank of British Columbia, $108,174; Wells, Fargo & Co, $24,696. There will probably be two other shipments equally heavy before the 1st of January; the total amount shipped for the year will far exceed that of any previous twelve months.

DECLINES—Mr Lumley Franklin, in a card which we publish this morning, declines to stand for the position of Mayor. It will be observed that he does not resign in favor of either Mr Macdonald or Dr Trimble.

SEVEN tons of Cherry Creek Silver Ore have been got out ready for shipment to San Francisco. What a great pity it is that this ripe "Cherry" has not been picked by enterprising capitalists.

IN TOWN.—Among the recent arrivals from Cariboo we notice H P Walker, Esq, Hon G A Walkem, A R Robertson, Esq, and C E Pooley, Esq, Registrar of the Supreme Court.

THE Enterprise reached her wharf at 7 o'clock on Saturday morning. She brought a few passengers and the lower river mail and despatches.

☞ H. M. S. Sparrowhawk returned on Saturday from New Westminster,

From Cariboo.

(From Cariboo Sentinel of 7th Oct.)

WILLIAM CREEK.

The scarcity of water still impedes mining operations. The only claims that have been taking out any money on this creek last week were the Aurora co. which washed up 240 oz; Raby co, 66 oz; Never Sweat co, wages.

CONKLIN GULCH.

The United co. took out last week 35 oz. Reed co. have stopped for want of water, so has the Renfrew co. Lone Star co. are pushing on with their tunnel. Just Struck It co. have just struck about wages and are ready to wash.

STOUT GULCH.

In spite of the low stage of water in this gulch, the Alturas and Tafidale companies continue to work with good success. The former of these companies took out for last week's work 171 oz, and the latter 98 oz. All the other companies have entirely stopped.

ON RED GULCH.

The only claim we have heard from is the Discovery co, which washed up 31 oz, as the result of crossing the channel. They expect to do better this week. On

MUSQUITO GULCH

The Hocking co. washed up for the week ending Sunday, 29th ult., 76 oz. Minnehaha co. cleaned up 30 oz yesterday. Rising Sun co. made over wages for the week.

GROUSE CREEK

Is extremely dull at present, owing chiefly to the great scarcity of water. The Hard Up co are earnestly pushing their tunnel further into the hill, with good indications. Discovery co are making over wages. Ne'er-do-Weel co, who have started drifting, are making from $8 to $10 a-day. Reed co took out $100 for three days' work.

MUSTANG CREEK.

Very fair prospects were got on the rock, and it is the opinion of all the party that good pay will be found when the channel is reached. Over Urquhart's company were making $8 to $10 a day on the high rock, about 500 feet below where the party was prospecting, and this, too, with a very small stream of water.

LOWER CREEK.

The only claims taking out any pay at present are the First Chance co, which had about 50 oz last week, and the Calavaras co, which washed up for the same period 152 oz.

MUSQUITO AND RED GULCHES.

There are about 300 men at work on these two streams, and a mining town is rapidly springing up.

LATER.

Mr J. T. Scott, who returned from Cariboo yesterday, informs us that he was on Musquito Gulch on Tuesday the 8th. On that day the Minnehaha co washed up 24½ oz, being the result of 12 hours sluicing. They were only working a prospecting drift, and it is Mr Scott's opinion that when the claim is fairly opened up from 150 to 200 oz a-day will be taken out. He says that should present appearances not be deceptive there will not be men enough in the Colony to work Musquito and Red Gulches next year.

A prospecting party had arrived on Cedar creek, and reported rich diggings about 60 miles in a Southeasterly direction from William creek.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

A flour monopoly is anticipated, as parties have been through the agricultural districts buying up all the wheat.——Owing to the great scarcity of water all hydraulic and ground sluicing claims are allowed to be laid over until there is sufficient water to enable them to be worked.——The Canadian co have left Grouse creek *en masse*. The whole company, to the number of ten or fifteen, went over to Musquito Gulch and took up claims.——A telegram was received by Commissioner Brew, on 27th September, from the Governor stating that a telegram had been received from England placing the forces at the disposal of Government to quell any disturbance that might arise in the mines.——A rich strike was reported on Peterson creek, a tributary of Lightning.——A company on Canon Ravine, near the head of Canadian creek were reported to have struck rich pay, finding a 4 oz nugget.——A miner on Antler creek found a $152 nugget in a heap of "tailings."

The Great Oil Fire at Montreal.

600,000 GALLONS OF OIL DESTROYED—AN EXCITING SCENE.

The Montreal *Gazette*, of Aug. 20th, says; Between 12 and 1 o'clock on the morning of Aug. 18, fire was discovered in on of Middleton's coal oil stores, on the line of the Grand Trunk Station. The store was about 800 feet long and 200 feet wide, (we judge these figures by the eye), and contained, we are informed, 15,000 barrels of coal oil, each barrel containing 40 gallons, making 600,000 gallons. The hose was laid, but the firemen found that they could do very little good inside the building, for the barrels began rapidly to burst, and blow out the roof, which was covered over with sods and earth for better protection from fire without. These barrels as they burst scattered the fire around. The bursting of course went on with increased rapidity as the heat became intense within, and shortly hundreds and thousands went together. We should explain that beneath this building the St Pierre Creek runs toward the city in a northerly direction. Over this creek, and commencing at a distance of about two hundred yards from the coal oil shed, many hundreds of buildings are erected on wooden sleepers. In fact, it passed through a very populous suburb; and here lay a source of terrible danger. The barrels as they burst, poured the fiery liquid into this stream, bearing it toward the city, which was only 200 yards off. This roaring flame, on the surface of the creek, which, from the sudden pouring out of thousands of barrels of oil, overflowing its natural bank, making a stream of forty or fifty feet wide and a foot deep on the banks where it had overflown, went slowly rolling forward, a column of the most furious fire, threatening the entire suburb. The whole city was illuminated, and we are informed by passengers who came up by the boat that they saw the light thirty miles off.

On the other side of the railway track, within forty feet, were two other coal oil stores, containing 20 000 barrels of coal oil and benzine. To save these other stores, and to prevent at the same time the fire rolling into the suburbs, was the object of the hour, and the crisis was supreme. To arrest the column it became evident that nothing but stopping the current of water above, and throwing up dams or dykes in the intervening space between it and the city, would be effectual. This was accordingly commenced with extreme energy, men on the spot working with spades in intense heat, and men at a little distance from the stream cutting large sods, which others carried in their arms and threw on the dam. Before the first dam could be completed the liquid fire came on, but it was held in check for a while by the embankment already raised. The men retreated about a hundred feet, and commenced another. The heat at this point was very great. The men suffered greatly, but did not flinch. In about half an hour the second embankment was completed to the hight of three feet, and it was not ready any too soon, for the firey liquid now began to overflow the first, and come rolling along against the second. Again the heat compelled the men to retreat, and another embankment was commenced forty or fifty feet more distant. The fire, however, did not pass the second embankment, the back of which was kept wet by the hose playing upon it, to prevent the sods from burning and the clay from crumbling away. A still further embankment was thrown up at the bridge at Grand Trunk street, as a measure of ulterior precaution, and this was the last.

When the fire was at its height, the Assistant Chief sent word to Mr Perry, that unless he would come with assistance from this side, he was afraid the stores on the opposite side of the track (which were covered with earth and sods in the same way as that on fire) could not be saved, and with their ignition, nothing could save the Grand Trunk Works at Point St Charles, in the immediate vicinity, and a large portion of the city. Assistance was immediately afforded, but at this point the fire was most furious. A culvert passed under the track of the railway connecting the two sides opposite the Oil Stores. Through this culvert flowed the burning oil, which ran along the ditch immediately in front of the stores, and the fierce flame was within ten feet of their doors. The peril was very great. All that could be done was for the firemen to shelter themselves behind the embankment, keep the sods wet and throw water on the doors.

There was a shunting track alongside of the store which was burned, on which were four or five cars, and nothing can convey better idea of the heat than the appearance with the remnants of these cars presented after the fire. The wheels nearest to the sheds, which were of cast iron, were melted away, and the fire which melted these wheels was not 40 feet distant from the stores on the opposite side, and, in fact, it flowed only about 10 feet from their doors. The fire was set to this store, beyond a doubt, by an incendiary; and we regret to have to state that the first line of hose which was put down was cut open by some miscreant within three minutes after it was laid. Over a week ago notice was given to several of the insurance offices, in writing, that this store would be burned down, and two of the insurance agents, for a week past, have had watchmen there. The value of the oil destroyed is very great. We don't know the exact value, but reckoning 600,000 gallons at a shilling a gallon we shall have a value of $120 000, besides the sheds and cars burned and damage done to the railway track. The fire lasted in force from 1 to 8 o'clock.

A Genuine Ghost Story.

The Monongahela (Pa.) *Republican* says: Not very long ago, the young and beautiful wife of one of our citizens was called to her final account, leaving her husband disconsolate, sad, bereft. She was buried in the adjacent cemetery and the husband returned to his desolate home—but not to forget the loved one. She was present with him by day in spirit and in his dreams at night. One peculiarity of his dreams, and one that haunted him, being repeated night after night, was this, that the spirit of his wife came to his bedside and told him that the undertaker had not removed from her face the square piece of muslin or napkin which had been used to cover her face after death, but had screwed down her coffin lid with it upon her; that she could not breathe in her grave, but was at unrest on account of the napkin. He tried to drive the dream away, but it bided with him by night and troubled him by day.

In despair he sought the undertaker, Mr Dickey, who told him that the napkin had not been removed, but urged him to forget the circumstance, as it could not be any possible annoyance to inanimate clay. While the gentleman frankly acknowledged this, he could not avoid the apparition, and continual stress upon his mind began to tell upon his health. At length he determined to have the body disinterred and visited the undertaker for that purpose. Here he was met with the same advice and persuasion, and convinced once more of his folly, the haunted man returned to his home. That night, more vivid than ever, more terribly real than before, she came to his bedside and upbraided him for his want of affection and would not leave him until he promised to remove the cause of all her suffering. The next night, with a friend, he repaired to the sexton, who was prevailed upon to accompany them, and there, by the light of the moon, the body was lifted from its narrow bed, the coffin lid unscrewed and the napkin removed from the face of the corpse. That night she came to his bedside, but for the last time. Thanking him for his kindness, she pressed her cold lips to his cheek, and then came again no more.

THE famine which raged so severely in India last year still continues, and the mortality among the natives is absolutely frightful. The total number of deaths from starvation were estimated at the latest advices as one million and a half. The district of Orissa is where the famine has been most severe, and in a single city, Balisore, the deaths have been as high as three hundred a day. It is now two years since the famine commenced, and it must continue until there is a good rice crop. The partial failure of that crop in 1865 commenced the famine, and last year it proved a total failure. Orissa is a remote district, with no communication by railroads and canals with the rest of the country, and there has been very little relief afforded to the poor starving inhabitants. Late English papers mention a long and vigorous debate in the House of Commons on the 2nd in regard to the Orissa famine, and it is to be hoped that measures will be adopted to alleviate some of the distress which prevails.