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WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

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AGENTS.

G. D. Lovt	Nanaimo, V. I
Clute & Clarkson	New Westminster
Barnard's Express	Yale B C
do	Lytton
do	Vanwinkle
do	Richfield
do	Barkerville
do	Cameronton
do	Clinton
Crosby & Lowe,	Olympia, W. T
Mr Perkins	Seattle, WT
David Stires	Port Townsend
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The figures opposite the address on each wrapper indicate the date of expiration of the subscription.

Reciprocity—Reprisals—Robbery.

It would be an unprofitable business to speculate upon the probability of a reciprocity treaty being shortly established between the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America. Public sentiment in the latter country has become so fickle and perverse in regard to everything of an international character, especially where Great Britain happens to be concerned, that all human prescience must be utterly confounded. In his Message, in opening the National Assembly, the other day, President Grant constructively made an admission with regard to the enormous advantages industry enjoys in Canada over that in his own country, which one experiences no little difficulty in reconciling with the proverbial cuteness of his countrymen. But, notwithstanding the somewhat paradoxical assertion of the President that reciprocity would only benefit the Canadian people, it is freely stated in Eastern newspapers that the passage in the Message upon this subject was only intended to let a certain political party softly down from the untenable position it had taken, and that Secretary Fish is even now in communication with Ottawa thereanent. Be that as it may, it is not very easy to believe the American people sufficiently insane to allow little international heartburnings to stand long in the way of a return to reciprocal commercial relations with their neighbors. There is little doubt that the easy good-nature exhibited by Canada has had its share in rendering the Americans less anxious for a new treaty. While she has been completely shut out of the American markets, Canada has permitted her neighbors to enjoy nearly all that was secured to them under the old treaty. Their coal, salt, grain, and in fact nearly all the natural productions of the country have been, most unwisely we think, permitted to come into Canada free of duty, while the American fishermen have been allowed to fish in Canadian waters for a merely nominal license charge. Nay, it appears that they have, to a great extent, been permitted to do so in wanton violation of all law and even common decency. On this subject the Hamilton (Ontario) *Spectator* says:

'It is not unlikely that we may yet be brought into collision with the United States on the subject of the fisheries. A number of American fishermen seem determined to violate the existing law, and to fish beyond the prescribed grounds—fishing in Canadian waters. They know that by doing so they expose themselves to punishment; but so regardless of law, of justice, of decency, and of honor have these men become that they are resolved to continue their lawless pursuits and to revenge themselves, if possible, upon any British cruiser which offers to check them. For this purpose they are arming themselves with deadly weapons, and, apparently under the sanction of some American authorities, they mean to maintain their right to commit trespass and robbery, although in doing so they shall become involved in bloody fight and lead their nation into war. We learn these facts from American papers themselves, and we confess the prospect unfolded is not a very agreeable one. We do not like to think of any of our fellow men being so regardless of law, and so bent upon doing wrong, as to pursue the course which is here proposed, and we cannot contemplate with satisfaction the prospect of international strife as the result of the foolhardy and outrageous conduct of a few wrong-headed men. In the emergency, however, there is a very plain duty incumbent upon our Government. It is out of the question that we can allow our laws to be trampled upon and our rights sacrificed by a few desperadoes. Our Government, therefore, see to it that a sufficient force be kept in the Gulf to protect our own men and drive back the invaders. If needful, the matter must be laid before the Government at Washington and the interposition of President Grant must be requested for the suppression of the evil on the part of his countrymen. And above all it is a matter of important necessity that a higher license fee should be imposed upon the American fishermen who come into Canadian waters. The license at present imposed is a mere bagatelle. According to the last fishery report, it realized only $13,000. Against this our fishermen paid $200,000 in gold to the United States Government as customs duties on fish caught in their waters. The inequality is startling. There is a gross inequity in the whole arrangement. It really should not any longer be tampered with. Our forbearance in the past has given encouragement and boldness to these men; and it can be only by a firm hand and a resolute policy that they will be made to feel their own position and to respect our authority and law. This illegal fishing must be brought to an end; and if the necessary measures for this provoke collision, the sooner it is done the better. As matters now are, we suffer the loss of our fish and we suffer a reproach upon our name. This is one of those cases in which justice should be done though the heavens fall!'

The conduct of the American fishermen is scarcely to be wondered at, when viewed in the light of intimations from those high in authority that the common right of nations to the high seas must override the International Treaty, and that the Americans intend to disregard that treaty, and make forcible use of the so-called Canadian fishing grounds. It is scarcely surprising that so long as the American people were permitted to enjoy nearly all the advantages which a reciprocity treaty would be presumed to confer upon them, without being called upon to give an equivalent, there should be little disposition on their part to enter into treaty engagements which would secure reciprocal advantages to their neighbours. But they have imposed upon good nature a little too far. Canada begins to think that the point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue has been reached. The American fisherman will either have to pay a sum commensurate with the privilege of fishing in Canadian waters, or they will be excluded altogether; and when the enormity of the interests involved is considered, it is not too much to say that this single question will constitute a most persuasive argument with the nation in favor of a return to reciprocity. Some may call in question the ability of the Dominion Government to cope with the difficulty; but all doubt on that point must disappear before the fact that the whole British navy is pledged to support, if need be, the Dominion Government in enforcing obedience to its laws. Nor does this fishery question stand alone. It is already known that the Dominion Government has determined that, in the absence of the reenumption of reciprocal relations, American productions shall be met with a good smart duty. Canada can well get along without these productions; yet from the circumstance of their free admission, and the great facilities for intercommunication they have been entering somewhat largely into her consumption, to the injury of her own interests. The coal measures of the Maritime Provinces may well supply Canada with fuel, while the marvellously extensive and superexcellent salt deposits of Huron are almost equal to the consumption of the entire continent; nor is the agricultural capacity of the Dominion such as to require a supply from her neighbors. Let Canada, in mere self defence, mete out evenhanded justice in these international matters, and she will soon have Brother Jonathan coming to her hat in hand, and asking, with becoming respect, for the reestablishment of reciprocal commercial relations. In either event, however, the interests of Canada will be protected, and the interests of this colony, under Confederation, will also be protected. It is no little satisfaction to be assured that if we are to be denied the advantages of a free market with our neighbours for the coal, lumber fish and other natural productions of this colony, the Canadian Tariff will be so remodelled as to give us protection against the free entry of American productions. This consideration sets completely at rest the only objection urged with any show of reason or force of truth against Confederation.

BARNARD'S EXPRESS for Cariboo closes at 8 o'clock this evening.

From Alaska — Indian War at Fort Wrangel — Capt. Leon Smith Shot and Killed.

The steamship Constantine has arrived at Port Townsend from Alaska, bringing the following important news.

On Christmas Day last a serious disturbance occurred at Fort Wrangel, unfortunately attended with fatal results. The facts of the case, as gleaned from the officers of the steamer Constantine, appear to be as follows: The whole of the population, Indians excepted, appear to have been observing the time-honored custom of keeping Christmas Day and some appear to have been making too free use of the intoxicating cup. Among such the number was an Indian who, at an early part of the day commenced a brutal attack upon his wife, for which he was taken in custody by the proper authorities, but upon his promising to go home and not to commit any further breach of peace, he was released by Captain Burroughs. In the meantime his wife had been taken into the house of one of the residents and immediately upon the released prisoner learning where his wife was, he went to the house and tried to force her away. Mrs. Burroughs, wishing to prevent the brute from further illtreating his wife, tried to protect the latter from his violence, upon which the drunken rascal immediately seized hold of one of the lady's hands and bit her thumb right off. He then made his escape to the ranch. Upon Captain Burroughs being informed thereof he immediately sent a party of soldiers to apprehend him; but upon the soldiers going to the ranch the Indian refused to surrender himself to them, and his 'illicums' appear also to have resisted the soldiers. A skirmish ensued, which ended in the Indian being shot dead, and one or two others badly wounded by the soldiers. The same evening, Captain Leon Smith, a storekeeper, being outside his house after dark was shot, as it was afterwards discovered, by one of the friends of the Indian who had been shot. The following day Captain Burroughs demanded the surrender of the assassin, which was refused. They therefore commenced to shell the ranch, towards evening one of the chiefs approached the garrison bearing a flag of truce. The firing was suspended. He begged that the houses might be spared and promised the surrender of the murderer. He was allowed a certain time for that purpose. He went and returned with the culprit, who was tried and hung, and was kept hanging for twelve hours. It is said the prisoner declared upon the scaffold that he went with the determination of shooting the first white man he came across, which happened to be the unfortunate Capt Smith, against whom he declared he had no illfeeling. He said he was proud of what he had done, and when the rope was adjusted round his neck, he voluntarily jumped off the scaffold and thus became his own executioner. Capt Smith lived some few hours after he was shot. He has left a widow and three children to mourn his loss. He is said to have served during the late war as an officer in the Confederate navy, and was highly respected by all classes of the community in which he has lately been moving. Great excitement still prevails at the place.

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON, yesterday morning, to the few persons who were fortunate enough to see it, presented a singularly grand appearance. The atmosphere clear and frosty, scarcely a cloud to be seen, the full moon shining like a ball of molten silver, and the stars twinkling in brilliant splendor. A few moments before the time predicted the dark shadow of the earth heralded its coming by tints of a deep brownish hue, sweeping across the left hand surface of the moon, and it soon became evident that the earth's mighty shadow was fast approaching; and on it came, circular in outline, as dark as Erebus, looking terrible in its majesty and creeping stealthily across the silvery moon. Time wore on and now only a brilliant crescent remained as and the moon's western limit which, after a brief struggle, succumbed to the all-conquering shadow and the moon ceased to give her light. The lurid glare of the moon at this time can only be compared to a ball of molten iron, as seen in a furnace of dense smoke—its edges being brightened by the sun's rays on passing through the earth's atmosphere being refracted or turned out of their course and falling upon the moon rendering it faintly visible. This appearance lasted till 7:22, when the entire shadow passed over, leaving a beautiful crescent on the moon's eastern edge, gradually increasing in size until the rotund moon again appeared in its silvery sheen. The times at which the different phases occurred were within one minute of the time stated in our last issue.—*Communicated.*

COWICHAN DISTRICT.—The residents of Cowichan District have sent a numerously signed petition to the Governor, asking for the appointment of a second J. P. for the district, and suggesting Mr Daniel Lindsay as the person who would be most acceptable. The petitioners complain that the jurisdiction of Mr Morley, the present J. P., extends over too large an extent of country—viz: Cowichan, Salt Spring Island and Chemainus—for him to do his duty efficiently, and that crime is on the increase. The first proposition we are inclined to accept; but the second is incorrect. There has been a marked decrease in crime on the East Coast since the last executions.

A GOOD EXCUSE.—'Jimmy' Jones, arrested for being drunk and using threatening language, pleaded not guilty. He walked crooked, he said, because his boots were new and hurt his feet, and he 'talked crooked' because he had taken a dose of castor oil which had loosened his tongue and lost him the control of it. He was fined 5s. for wearing new boots, and remanded for one day that the effect of the oil may be noted.

From Queen Charlotte Island.

Among the passengers by the Olympia last evening was Mr George Robinson, mining engineer, who left the Queen Charlotte Coal Company's mine on the 9th December and proceeded to Tongass, where he took passage on the Constantine for Port Townsend, arriving at the latter port on Sunday. He reports the tramways at the coal mines as complete to within some 200 or 300 feet of the wharf. The mute was finished and ready to receive coal and Mr Gibbs expected to have the whole of his work complete some time in February. The weather was very mild, the thermometer not having been below 44 deg. previous to his leaving. The quantity of rain, however, which has fallen there during the past few months surpasses the conception of those who have not witnessed it, and it is owing to this fact principally, that Gibbs has not had the tunnel completed long ago. The mine has been opened ready for the delivery of coal since the beginning of September last. There are now four men employed in putting out coal. With a sufficient force, 1000 tons of coal per month, if required, can be obtained.

A COLD WINTER.—In January, 1862, on this coast was experienced the coldest term of which we have any record. At Victoria the mercury came within 4 degrees of touching zero, and at New Westminster it went some degrees below. At Quesnellemouth and along the wagonroad mercury congealed and the bulbs of thermometers burst. Many persons were forstbitten at the Cariboo diggings, which were then just being opened and much misery was produced throughout the country. In this city there was good sleighing for upwards of six weeks, and in the interior of the Island snow lay till April. Fraser river was frozen over from its mouth upwards and navigation remained closed till the following April. On the Island great distress was experienced in the outlying districts. Our farming interests were then just in the bud, and no preparations had been made for severe weather; feed was scarce, and the little hay in market was held at $50 and $60 per ton. Cattle and sheep died of hunger by hundreds in the woods, by the roadside, and in the very farmyards, beneath the eyes of their owners, who could do nothing to relieve the sufferings of the poor brutes—and it required years before our agricultural interests recovered from the terrible shock it then sustained. In Oregon and Washington Territory the same cold weather prevailed. Columbia river was frozen across until April and steam saw shed, as the sailors belonging to thousands for want of food. Men from the Salmon River mines, with frozen feet and hands, daily entered the towns of Oregon for treatment. In one instance a party on their way down Columbia River upon the ice with swags of gold dust, were overtaken by a snowstorm. They staggered on for miles in the face of the blinding storm; threw away blankets and food and finally gold, in the last effort to escape; but the cold penetrated their heartstrings and they fell and died on the icy bosom of the river. One man was found dead lying on his face, clutching in his hand a saddle bag in which were 40 pounds of gold. Even in death he could not part with his treasure. In Northern California heavy snow fell and was succeeded for many days by wind and rain. The rivers were flooded and the best agricultural lands, in the State were overflowed, houses, barns, orchards, were swept away—the valley of the Sacramento became a lake and when the waters receded from ten to twenty feet of river sands covered the fertile lands. The loss was incalculable and thousands were ruined. Since 1862 there has been no such winter known on the Pacific Coast. Whether the present 'snap' will carry us into one of similar severity, remains to be seen, but due precautions should be taken lest the scenes of '62 are re-acted.

DRESSES OF CALIFORNIA SILK will be worn in another year. Cocoons have been an article of export for some time, but their bulky nature and the injury resulting from pressing, have left small margins for profit. Now a company of San Franciscans, owning a hundred acres of mulberries near Davisville, have commenced reeling their silk. Girls are being trained to the business, preparatory for next year's crop. A Sacramento letter tells a very favorable story of his experience in a mulberry plantation. He commenced last Spring, putting out fifty thousand mulberry cuttings. The early planted have reached a height of five to seven feet and will yield six thousand pounds of leaves to the acre. Those planted late have failed, not being over a foot above ground. He realized a net profit of $700 per acre, and yet calls the last season the most unfavorable known for the silk worm. The total failures which other cultivators meet with is attributed to such errors as feeding from the green shoots of trees cut down to the ground in the Spring, and from the foliage of newly-planted cuttings. Such a practice may do in ordinary seasons, but in one like the past, with the mercury not below sixty any night, it would be fatal. Worms fed on natural foliage, grown on well-ripened wood, were perfectly healthy.

MUNICIPAL REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT ROLL.—The City Council have held two meetings recently to prepare the Real Estate Assessment Roll.

WE are indebted to T G Murphy, Esq. editor of the Alaska *Times*, for San Francisco papers to the 31 January.

THE schooner Favorite, Capt McKay, with lumber for Moody & Co, arrived yesterday.

THE ex-gunboat Grappler, we learn, will be used the coming season as a steam tender on Dawson & Co's whaling party.

THE WHALES—THREE MORE WHALES CAUGHT.—Messrs Douglass and Donaldson, of the Union Whaling Company—which has been so fortunate in its operations the winter season around Howe Sound, a few miles North of the Fraser—arrived in town yesterday. They report that four whales have been killed within a few days, and three of the four secured and turned into oil. One of the three secured was the largest ever taken on this coast. The blubber filled 100 oil barrels with oil. The remaining two produced 45 barrels each. The total product of the short cruise of three weeks is about 5800 gallons, which, at 40 cents per gallon, puts $2320 in the pockets of the enterprising spirits who form the company. Whales have become quite scarce in the Gulf of Georgia, but the party will start out again to-day.

FROM PUGET SOUND.—The steamer Olympia arrived at 9½ o'clock last evening from Olympia and way ports, bringing a large number of passengers and a fair freight. Among the passengers were Mr and Mrs Bunster, Mr Murphy, of Alaska, and Mr Geo Robinson, from the Queen Charlotte Coal Mine. Mr Lord, Customs House Inspector of Port Townsend, informs that the bark Osmyn, W H Mason, master, was driven ashore on Whidby Island, 5 miles east of Partridge Point, on Saturday last. Forty feet of her keel was carried away and the tide ebbs and flows in her....The steamer Eliza Anderson is to take the place of the Olympia on the Sound route....The Government buildings at Steilacoom have been sold for $850 currency.

BREAD WITHOUT FLOUR.—A method has been discovered of making bread without grinding the corn, and a patent has been taken out for the process. It is said that, whereas in the process of making bread from flour there is so much waste, so that 100 pounds of grain will yield only 112 pounds of bread, according to the new process 100 pounds of grain will produce 145 or 150 pounds of bread. The new bread is not only increased in quantity, but is also said to be of better quality. According to the old process, much of the gluten was decomposed and lost in the heat of grinding. It is preserved when grinding is unnecessary; and the new mode of fermentation contributes greatly to the wholeness of the bread.

FOR CHINESE.—The principal Chinese houses in this city have received intelligence from their friends below that one hundred Chinamen will leave San Francisco in March for Victoria. We hope every facility and protection will be afforded these people, and that the mines will be thrown open to them. If white men will not come in and gather the golden harvest to which they have been so often invited, they must not find fault if the country should receive Mongolians with open arms.

THE WEATHER.—The wind suddenly veered on Saturday night from the south to the north and a sharp frost resulted. Every pond and lake in the country was covered with ice a least three inches thick yesterday, and 'skaters' were out in great force. The mercury fell to 15 degrees below freezing point yesterday morning; last night there were indications of its going still lower. The snap will be felt severely in the upper country and the Columbia and Fraser Rivers will undoubtedly close.

THE SAN JUAN ISLAND TRAGEDY.—Friends of the late Augustine Hibbard have arrived in town from New Hampshire to take charge of his effects. Watts is still in prison at Port Townsend, but will probably never be tried. Ten thousand pities that he did not fall into the hands of the British officers on the Island.

WHERE'S THE WHEAT?—A local demand for wheat for milling purposes has sprung up, a good price is offered, and still the farmers hang back and won't bring their crop in. We are forced to the conclusion that the farmers are holding off for an advance, or that they have no wheat. Mr. Roeff, of Wharf street, will buy and pay cash for all the good wheat that can be brought him. This fact should encourage the farmers to sow an increased acreage with wheat for 1870.

THE steamer Enterprise yesterday took a quantity of furs and oil to Esquimalt for shipment to England by the bark Prince of Wales.

A Card.

EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST,—My attention having been called to a paragraph which appeared in your paper of yesterday, in respect to my being summoned for non-payment of my License as an Attorney. In fairness to Mr Theakstone, the Clerk of the Court, I would wish to state that I have ascertained that the summons, although not served, was actually issued against me before I tendered my $50. This I did not know until to-day.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT BISHOP.

Saturday, 15th Jan., 1870.

AYER'S AMERICAN ALMANAC, for the new year, has arrived for delivery gratis by Moore & Co., to all who call for it. This little annual has the largest circulation of any book in the world, made by the fact that it furnishes the best medical advice which is available to the people—enables them to determine what their complaints are and how to cure them. It contains the startling announcement of the *conflagration of the world*, or the combustion of one of the stars in the firmament with all its attendant planets. 142*