

Semi Weekly British Colonist
Wednesday, September 8, 1869

Agrarian Reform.

Of all the avenues conducting the colonist on to permanent well-being, probably none has been more neglected, perhaps we might say obstructed, than that which lies through the public lands of the Colony.

In earlier times this was especially the case. We find Sir Bulwer Lytton, with all his enlightened and liberal colonial views, admonishing the Governor of that period to keep up the price of the public lands.

In pursuance of these pernicious instructions lands were for some time held at a pound sterling an acre; and that, too, in direct contrast with the American free grant system in the neighboring territories.

gradual and material modification since the "dark ages" to which we have alluded, still our land system is far behind the age in which we live.

Separating more particularly of this section of the United Colony, there were other circumstances which contributed greatly to retard the settlement of the public lands and, consequently, the building up of a thrifty peasantry.

Speaking more particularly of this section of the United Colony, there were other circumstances which contributed greatly to retard the settlement of the public lands and, consequently, the building up of a thrifty peasantry.

perfectly clear that in this way, as well

as by preventing settlement altogether, the system of permitting people to acquire and hold agricultural lands purely for speculative purposes is a most pernicious one, and has already excited a blighting influence upon the young colony.

Having allowed these remarks upon a collateral branch to attain the proportions of an ordinary article, we shall reserve what we intended saying upon the main subject for a future occasion.

Tuesday Sept 7. AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A deputation, consisting of the President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the above Society, waited on the Governor yesterday.

His Excellency consented to become Patron of the Society, and expressed the warmest interest in its welfare and the success of the approaching Exhibition.

It is expected that exhibitors as well as articles for exhibition coming from the northeastern coast of the island will be carried by the str. Sir James Douglas free of charge; and it is probable that the river steamers will do the same by those who may come from the Mainland.

The seizure of the Veruna.—The Seattle Intelligencer furnishes the following account of the seizure of the Veruna at Port Orchard, W. T., after Captain Glidden and Judge Bates had gone ashore.

Spaulding was aboard and Capt. Jackson asked him how long it would be before they were ready, and he answered, "Very soon." At this point Mrs. Bates (who was in the saloon) asked Jackson some question, and, as he turned to answer her, Spaulding seized him by the legs and threw him overboard, at the same time drawing his revolver, and ordering Mrs. Bates, who, in her anxiety for the safety of her husband, had stepped forward to see what had happened, to get out of the boat.

The ship Shooting Star will be ready for sea to-day, and the ship Cowper on Friday. Both ships are loading for San Francisco.

BRITISH METHODIAN MISSION.—Although our remarks a few days ago were confined to a historical and political paper published in the Report of the Columbia Mission of the Anglican Church, we would regret very much if our readers or any of them should run away with the idea that there is nothing more of interest contained in a pamphlet of 134 pages.

The Veruna Case.—Captain Spaulding of the runaway steamer Veruna, appeared in the Police Court yesterday to answer a charge of drawing a pistol upon Capt. Jackson. The circumstances of the case are similar to those adduced at the examination of Jackson for drawing a pistol on Spaulding.

FROM PORT SIMPSON.—The ship Natch, Capt. Collins, arrived from Port Simpson yesterday. She left Port Simpson on the 3d August, when the steamer Beaver lay on the beach undergoing repairs.

The steamer Wilson G. Hunt, Capt. Wait, arrived at 7 1/2 o'clock last evening from ports on the Sound. Among the passengers was Judge Bates of the U. S. Bankruptcy Court, from whose possession the steamer Veruna was taken a few days ago.

THE PACIFIC MAIL STEAMERS.—Hereafter there will be but two steamers per month. The sailing days will be the 14th and 30th, except when those days fall on Sunday, when the day will be the Saturday preceding.

ALASKA.—A San Francisco paper says: The schooner Fanny sailed some time since for Alaska. She went on a big venture. Interested speculators calculated to clear at least \$100,000. She returned yesterday. Her cargo consisted of the Captain and one bear-skin, the mate, and a fox skin, and the steward and a half-starved dog.

THE CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS.—The California elections came off on the 1st of September. At San Francisco and throughout the State it is believed the Democrats were successful.

Wednesday Sept 8. County Court.

Before A. F. Pemberton, Esq. Dalby vs. Gaston.—Mr. Drake made an application to have the case stand over. Granted.

Who has Lost a Friend?—There is a strange mystery overhanging the circumstances connected with the finding of the human skeleton in a swamp near Langford Lake that ought, if possible, to be cleared up.

THE EXHIBITION.—We are requested to state that Capt. Wait, of the steamer W. G. Hunt, has kindly promised to bring over and take back all stock and other articles for exhibition from ports on the Sound.

CONSIGNERS.—Per Star of America—J. R. Stewart, Woodward, Bursley, Francis, Murray, J. Dale, J. Jackson.

DEATH.—In this city, on the 7th inst., Robert, only son of Mr. Thomas Kessell, aged 4 years and 6 months.

DRUGGISTS.—R. H. McDonald & Co. Importing Wholesale Druggists.

WANTED TO CHARTER.—A vessel of 600 to 800 tons carrying capacity, to proceed to Sitka, Bay, Queen Charlotte Island, to load with Coal, for San Francisco. Enquire of the

DIRECT STEAMER.—A special from San Francisco announces that the steaming Active will sail direct for Victoria Saturday next.

SISTERS OF ST. ANN.—Mr. Lee has tendered the Sisters of St. Ann a complimentary benefit, to take place on Friday evening. An appeal in aid of the generous Sisterhood always meets with a ready response from our citizens.

Shipping Intelligence. PORT OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ENTERED.—Sept 4—Star Consul Telfair, Shell, Portland. Sept 4—Star Consul Telfair, Shell, Portland.

IMPORTS.—Per GUSSEY BELFAIR, from Portland—200 bbls apples, 180 sds wheat, 2 keg butter, 4 pigs agricultural implements.

Dr. Joseph Walker's California Vinegar Bitters.

WANTED TO CHARTER.—A vessel of 600 to 800 tons carrying capacity, to proceed to Sitka, Bay, Queen Charlotte Island, to load with Coal, for San Francisco.

DRUGGISTS.—R. H. McDonald & Co. Importing Wholesale Druggists.

VOL 10.

THE BRITISH COLONIST PUBLISHED BY DAVID W.

Subscription rates: One Year (in advance) \$10.00, Six Months \$6.00, Three Months \$3.00, One Week \$0.50.

Shipping Intelligence. PORT OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

ENTERED.—Sept 4—Star Consul Telfair, Shell, Portland. Sept 4—Star Consul Telfair, Shell, Portland.

IMPORTS.—Per GUSSEY BELFAIR, from Portland—200 bbls apples, 180 sds wheat, 2 keg butter, 4 pigs agricultural implements.

Dr. Joseph Walker's California Vinegar Bitters.

WANTED TO CHARTER.—A vessel of 600 to 800 tons carrying capacity, to proceed to Sitka, Bay, Queen Charlotte Island, to load with Coal, for San Francisco.

DRUGGISTS.—R. H. McDonald & Co. Importing Wholesale Druggists.