

The Weekly British Colonist and Chronicle.

Saturday, November 21, 1868.

That the proposition to have Sir James Douglas appointed Administrator in the event of the retirement of Governor Seymour, will meet with favor at the hands of the gentleman proposed to be honored, we have not the faintest reason for imagining; nor should we again refer to the proposition were it not to correct an error or two into which it would appear that our esteemed correspondent "A. de C." has fallen. That gentleman, in his anxiety to prevent the return of Sir James to the head of the Executive, has allowed his zeal to get the better of his judgment, and has rushed warmly to the defence of the present incumbent. Where, when or how this newborn love for the chief Executive officer of the Colony first took root in the heart of "A. de C." we are unformed—but it is quite evident that it has obtained deep hold, and is already approaching the season of fructification. The system of Government, he writes, "is at fault, not the Governors, and he deprecates any change until a new Constitution shall have been provided. Now, we hold that both the system and the Governor are at fault, and that a plan which will rid us of one evil will pave the way for the removal of the other. Is it not clear to the unprejudiced mind that if Mr. Seymour were the efficient ruler 'A. de C.' claims him to be, he would at once suggest reforms that the most stupid tyro in political economy knows perfectly well are requisite and necessary for the growth and prosperity of the country; and that were he succeeded by a gentleman of energy and ability, actuated by a sincere desire to see the Colony advance in everything good and great, these reforms would be secured? Why, we have only to look back a few months to find 'A. de C.' complaining grievously at the action of the Home Government in depriving us of our Representative Institutions—a deprivation which Governor Seymour in his Paris letter urged as a necessary measure upon the Home Government—and today he objects to the return to office of the gentleman through whose efforts Representative Institutions were first granted us. How inconsistent! The attempt to place the burthen of Mr. Seymour's acts of omission on Sir James' shoulders, is another serious error under which our correspondent labours. Governor Seymour has been for two years ruler of the United Colonies, during which time, candor impels us to say, he has suggested no wise or beneficial measure, and has absolutely allowed to fall into disrepute and disrepute the good the Colony derived from the labours of the Douglas and Kennedy Governments. Take among the most prominent, the Free School system, with teachers unpaid, and school-houses out of repair. Look at our Mail Service, with passengers and letters detained at both ends of the route for an indefinite period. Look at the double postage collected on letters; and the dishonor of our Colonial Stamps by Imperial authority—at the state of our roads—at James Bay bridge, closed to traffic for upwards of two years and a-half—and will 'A. de C.' persist in telling us that with the exchequer at his control without a check upon the expenditure, Mr. Seymour did not have it in his power to remedy most of the grievances of which 'A. de C.' himself has expatiated so eloquently and often in the Council Chamber? Has the 'system' anything to do with these trifling 'omissions'? And what part or lot, pray, did Sir James Douglas have in them? The 'system' provides an Executive Council for His Excellency, but is our correspondent aware that at least three months have elapsed since that Council was called together, during a period, too, when the Angel of Death, in the form of a leathome and infectious disease has smote terror to the hearts of our people, and selected the victims indiscriminately from our midst? We do not ask these questions from a desire to blame Governor Seymour with dereliction of duty. We attribute the evils entirely to the unfortunate state of His Excellency's health, which is such as to unfit him for the transaction of business, and we ask every candid, thinking and unprejudiced person in this community whether, under the circumstances, with public affairs demanding prompt and vigorous action, His Excellency is justified in longer retaining the helm when it has become painfully evident to even himself that he is unable to steer the ship?

Monday, Nov 16. Nanaimo Election—Mr. Ring Returned Unanimously.

The nomination of a candidate to represent Nanaimo, took place in the Court-house on Thursday. After the usual preliminaries, Captain Spalding called upon the electors to nominate some gentleman to be a member of the Legislative Council. Dr. Grant proposed Mr. David Babington Ring as a fit and proper person to have the charge of our interests in the Council of the Colony. Mr. Gough seconded the proposition. No other candidate being proposed, a show of hands was called for. Everyone in the room being held up for Mr. Ring, he was declared unanimously elected. (Cheers.) Mr. Ring, in retaining thanks for the honor conferred upon him, briefly touched upon the different questions he should advocate, reiterating the statements made on a former occasion, and urging upon the electors the desirability of co-operating with him by petitioning for such grants and measures as were required. He alluded to the fact that the Government had decided to re-build James Bay bridge at Victoria, and he thought on that ground the Nanaimo bridges should receive attention from the same quarter. [Here Captain Spalding remarked that he had instructions to have the bridge across Commercial Inlet repaired. Cheers.] Mr. Ring strongly urged upon the electors the necessity of the united efforts of the colonists being exerted to reclaim the lost liberty of choice, without any restriction, who should represent the people in the Legislature. On the subject of protection, he said the best protection the farmer could have was good roads to the nearest market and to ports of shipment. In alluding to the cause of his not visiting Comox, he observed that owing to the delay of the Douglas, and the expectation of the enemy on the Isabel he deemed it best to stay at headquarters, leaving the pickets to guard the outposts. He concluded by assuring the electors that he should endeavor to the utmost of his power to have a portion of the revenue derived from Nanaimo expended in the town on works of immediate public necessity. (Long applause.) Three cheers were given for Mr. Ring and three for Captain Spalding, and the assembly dispersed. MASONIC FUNERAL.—Yesterday the earth closed over the mortal remains of Mr. Paul Medana, a kind husband and father, a conscientious Free Mason and a worthy and respected pioneer resident of Victoria. Mr. Medana died of ascariasis on Saturday evening last. His death, though not unexpected for many months, was extremely sudden. The funeral took place under the auspices of the Masonic Order of this Colony. The brethren met at Masonic Hall at 2 o'clock, p. m., and after the usual preliminary exercises had been gone through with, under the direction of Bro. Robt. Burnaby, District Grand Master, E. R., a procession was formed under the able direction of Bro. Lumley Franklin, Grand Director of Ceremonies, and preceded by the Volunteer Band. In the line we observed Bro. J. W. Powell, Provincial Grand Master, E. R., and officers; the officers of District Grand Lodge, E. R.; Victoria Lodge, 421, E. R.; Vancouver Lodge, 421, E. R.; British Columbia Lodge, 1099; together with members of other Lodges, and citizens. The regalia worn by the officers and members of the Grand Lodges were very handsome and attracted universal admiration. The body was borne from James Bay to the cemetery, where the burial service of the Order was read over the grave by Bro. Burnaby, and the solemn and impressive rites performed, after which the brethren returned to their Hall and were dismissed. The funeral was one of the most numerously attended we have observed here, the deceased being known to all classes as an amiable, upright and generous-hearted citizen. To imperfect punctuation is sometimes due the most laughable as well as the most absurd and grave mistakes. All our readers will remember the grammar example of 'Caesar entering on his head, a helmet in his hand, etc'; and the amusing jumble of ideas which therein occurs from the misplacing of a comma or two. An error of a similar character occurred to our New Westminster contemporary on Saturday. In speaking of the probable retirement of the Governor, by a mistake of a compositor he is made to assert 'unhesitatingly and fearlessly, that should Mr. Birch be appointed, ninety-nine out of every hundred on the mainland, at least, would join heartily with us in saying, 'Let it be Mr. Birch.' The evident intention of our contemporary is destroyed by the absence of a comma after the word 'be', and he is made to ensure an unqualified endorsement of Mr. Birch by a large majority of the mainlanders, when such a design was farthest from his thoughts. The paragraph as corrected in next week's Columbian will probably read something like the following:—'Should Mr. Birch be appointed (of which, fortunately, there is little prospect) as he stepped forward to grasp the sceptre, we unhesitatingly and fearlessly assert that ninety-nine out of every hundred on the mainland, at least, would join heartily with us in saying—'Let it be, Mr. Birch.'

CARIBOO WAGON-ROAD.—We have news from private sources to the effect that the snow lay about six inches deep on Williams Creek, and sleighs were running between Barkerville and Beaver Pass, a distance of 80 miles. The prospectors on Tom, Hard-scrabble and Sugar Creeks had laid in a supply of provisions for winter use and intended to prosecute vigorously their work on tunnels and shafts. A few claims were at work on Williams Creek. From Quesnellmouth west to within four miles of Clinton, there were 14 inches of snow on the wagon road. The road from Lytton to the suspension bridge is in an awful state and the telegraph wires lie along the road.

Imports.—In the last Government Gazette the Collector of Customs publishes the quarterly Table of Imports, ending 25th of June, 1868. The document is worthy the attention of those curious in figures, some of which we should like to see materially changed, and others materially reduced. For instance, against Ale and Porter we find the sum of \$6,112 75, and against agricultural implements \$6,450 88. Beef cattle are down on \$21,946, making an average of about \$57 each; sheep \$12,627; flour \$23 781, and opium \$11 270. With the present protection to our farmers, the sum of \$115,124 a year appears far too much to pay for imported flour. RIFLE SHOOTING.—The shooting on Saturday, in the match against the London Victoria Ten, was far below the average score made by the crack shots of our corps. The want of practice, and the heavy rain which prevailed most of the day, no doubt, were sadly against good shooting. The average score was only forty-three. Corporal Peale made fifty-three, the highest score, and Lieut. Turner was second with forty-eight. It was anticipated the average would have been over fifty. THE PORTAL 'BITCH'.—We have been shown two private letters from England in which the writers complain that they are charged sevenpence on letters and twopence on papers received from this Colony, in the face of the fact that the envelopes and wrappers bear the Colonial stamps. As we stated on Friday, the 'bitch' has been unheeded; but it is not too much to say that with proper care on the part of the officials, it need never have occurred. FROM THE RIVER.—A row-boat, steered by George Collins, reached Yale a few days ago in five and a half days from Quesnellmouth. The party report the water as at a low stage—lower than ever known at any time since the arrival here of the whites. A number of Chinamen are engaged in mining on the banks. The steamer Enterprise continued her trips from Soda Creek to Quesnellmouth. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—We understand that the Rev. Mr. Aiken of Canada will arrive by the next steamer to preside over this congregation and reopen Pandora street church. FROM THE MAINLAND.—The Enterprise arrived on Saturday night from New Westminster; she brought down over fifty passengers. Her news, of little importance in itself, will be found in another column. SUPREME COURT.—The Michaelmas Term of the Supreme Court will commence on 24th instant at 11 a. m., before His Honor the Chief Justice. A new story of Robert Hall is going the rounds of the English papers, to the effect that one of his congregation took him to task for not preaching more frequently on predestination. Hall was very indignant. He looked steadily at his censor for a moment and replied:—'Sir, I perceive you are predestinated to be an ass; and what is more, I see that you are determined to make your calling and election sure.'

The Surveying Cruise of the "Beaver."

On the 22d July we paid a visit to Port Tongas the American port of entry. It is situated on an Island of the same name forming one of a group of the rugged shores of Alaska. The approach to it is by a winding channel which narrows considerably in front of the fort; when we saw it in July, the troops were still in tents; there were a few temporary wooden buildings, including a hospital, and the officer in command inhabited a log house on a cleared bluff close to the flag-staff, which is a fine tree, stripped of its branches, and painted white; we remained here one night, and returned to Fort Simpson the next day; on the 24th July the Sparrowhawk arrived, bringing a mail; she went on to the Nass River to adjust some Indian difficulties, meeting us again at Metlakatlah on the 26th July and continuing her voyage the same day. The Beaver after her departure went into the Inner Harbor to take in coals and wood; being detained a day we got up a party to visit the salmon fishery of the Metlakatlah Indians. A prettier place than the Inner Harbor can scarcely be conceived; the numerous bright patches of land under cultivation, contrast with the dark green foliage of a score of islands; from our anchorage these islands converge towards a distant point with a background of purple mountains. Passing through this narrow channel we emerge upon a placid sheet of water; surrounded by high mountains, dotted with small islets here and there. Scotland, with all her lake scenery could not boast of a finer view. We did not reach the salmon station until the afternoon; and could scarcely have found it then, but for the guidance of a friendly canoe. We plunged suddenly into the channel, where the salmon were leaping in great numbers; inside was a small bay, on the shore of which was the fishing village, consisting of four temporary huts rudely put together. A magnificent waterfall fell into this bay, and a trail led up beside it to a lake some thirty feet above. Wooden cages were inserted, wherever practicable, through which the water rushed continually and hundreds of silver salmon were darting here and there endeavoring to leap the upper fall; but the volume of water beat them back and before they could recover themselves they were hurried gasping into the cage from whence they were promptly extracted by the Indians. The lake was full of fine trout, so hungry that they allowed themselves to be caught by a hook and line. The completion of the northern survey from Port Simpson to the head of the Portland Inlet occupied the Beaver from the 31st July to the 5th September. Our headquarters were removed to Nass Bay, called on the chart Salmon Cove; this, however, is not the Salmon Cove of Vancouver as stated by the author of the Sparrowhawk cruise; that famous navigator never pitched his tents on the spot now occupied by Mr. Tomlinson the missionary, so that the parallel drawn, though interesting, is slightly inaccurate. Vancouver, on the contrary, persistently ignored the existence of the British Columbian river, and is very severe on De Esch, for having presumed to discover the Fraser, Skeena, and Nass Rivers, which he (Vancouver) contemptuously designates rivulets. The real Salmon Cove is about fifteen miles up the Observatory Inlet. The shores on either side of the Portland Inlet consist of high pine-clad mountains, their summits being usually bare and full of gaps and fissures, the result of landslides; they rise so abruptly out of the sea that the landing on the rocks is in many places difficult and hazardous. Nass Bay is enclosed by lofty snow-covered mountains from which numerous waterfalls descend to the sea. It is one of the wildest and most romantic of the indentations on this coast. The Nass River which flows into it, through an imposing stream, is so shallow as to be scarcely navigable; the actual channel is moreover narrow and winding. It does not appear to shift like the Fraser bar, so Lieut. Coghlan who went in a canoe to the Nass Village, fifteen miles up the river, followed the same channel which was taken by the Gunboat Forward some years ago. At low water the falls and overfalls are dangerous for a canoe, and the wind rushing down from the mountains causes a heavy sea on the shallow bar which a boat would do well to avoid. The Kincolith mission at the entrance of the river where Mr. Tomlinson resides, is built in a cleft of a gap between two ranges of mountains. A small river flows through this valley, which has its origin in a series of distant lakes. It afforded good fishing. The Nass villages (three in number) are fine specimens of Indian habitations, grotesquely carved poles which adorn the residences of the chiefs are the largest on the coast; some of them being a century old. They required a hundred men to raise them. The houses (owing to the intensity of the winter) are peculiarly constructed, and are undoubtedly the finest on the coast, Metlakatlah not excepted. On the 31st August Lieut. Coghlan returned from the Portland Inlet. The following is his description of that famous arm: The

Portland Inlet was found to be about 70 miles in length and bearing the same general characteristics as the numerous other inlets; snow clad mountains 3,000 to 4,000 feet high down the sides of which numerous waterfalls run. The head of the Inlet was found to terminate in a low marshy swamp, with a high peak of 6000 feet in the background; reports as of distant thunder were heard at intervals caused by the avalanches as they rolled into the valley beneath with a dull sound which reverberated from peak to peak. Here we found camped the most powerful chief of the Nass Indians, Tobiacoquis, and a very large party catching and drying salmon. They were extremely civil, and when we landed insisted on carrying up to our tent all our gear. We pitched our tent near the camp on the Saturday; and on Sunday, Thomas, our interpreter, a Christian Indian from Metlakatlah, held Divine Service, morning afternoon and evening, in the Indian ranch. Thomas had a fluency of language that must have astonished the natives. The singing was very good, the female voices especially; but the smoke of an Indian house in which salmon is being dried, being anything but conducive to comfort, and our knowledge of Teimpehan being very limited, detracted somewhat from our pleasant participation in the interesting ceremony. We suppose that Thomas must take to himself the credit of being the first who taught Christianity at the end of British Dominion; we were then camped on the boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia, and it was quite a different matter to preaching the Gospel in a snug house at Metlakatlah, which was then about 130 miles away to the southward. The Nass Indians were at war with the Teimpehans; and strange to say a Teimpehan canoe with the father, mother and sister of a Teimpehan Chief, Nish-pilas, (who had murdered a Nass Chief, and the very man who was the cause of all the trouble), had been found by the Nishkahs, and treated with every kindness; this presented a striking contrast to the conduct of the Teimpehans, who, so the rumor went, had waylaid a Nass canoe, and murdered a helpless woman and child. On Monday we were to commence our work again, but to our alarm we found that a short distance down the river a terrific rapid had formed; we had entered the river at high water, and at that time there was no indication of any irregularity; but when the tide had commenced to ebb the sight was perfectly appalling. Several rapid torrents, caused by the melting of the snow from the mountains, met at one spot; and the combined body of water rushing on with increased velocity had its progress intercepted by a rock in mid-channel, and here lay the danger; to have attempted to pass down in our boat would have been simple madness, for had we touched anywhere the boat must have capsized, and we of course been drowned, or frozen by the icy cold water. The Indians here came to our aid and lent us canoes. The way in which they managed them was perfectly marvellous, shooting down, following the channel, now one side now the other, at an alarming pace; our very unenviable position came to a climax as we neared the rocks over which the water was foaming and leaping. Suddenly we seemed to be going right on to the rocks, and then in a second, just as our bow had all but touched it, the boat was reversed by striking a pole in the ground, and in a moment we had shot passed all danger. Tracks of bears were very numerous; there was no mistaking the large foot prints in the soft mud, and the Indian chief shot a large brown bear that was swimming down the river. Having completed our examination we were not loth to leave this dreary and most desolate of spots. The reflection from the snow during the day was very trying; and a scorching hot day was always succeeded by a frosty night, and this too in August; a change which we did not at all appreciate. The snow near the head of the Inlet was only 40 feet from high water mark. We took advantage of high water to get out of the river, glad to leave the monotonous mountains, and the still more dreary waterfalls.

On the 14th September we left Port Simpson for the southward, reaching the Bella Bella Village on the 17th September; the following week was occupied in surveying the Fisher Canal and making a large plan of Port John, one of Vancouver's anchorages. On the 26th September we crossed Queen Charlotte Sound, having been detained in Safety Cove one day by a dense fog, and made the land by Shadwell Passage where the ill-fated Suwaine lies bilged. The second whaler was here detached to re-survey the passage on a larger scale. The Nahnawite Indians behaved very badly during the boat's stay; a more filthy and degraded tribe are not to be found on the coast. They had plenty of whiskey in their camp, for which they had bartered plunder from the Suwaine, and divided their time between howling insanely and firing off their muskets. They were to have celebrated the boat's departure by eating a slave; but postponed that little orgie on account of her abrupt return for one day to escape a S. E. gale. The Beaver left Fort Rupert on the 10th October and was lucky enough to reach Nanaimo on the 24th; the fog lifted, and we left Nanaimo at 6 a. m.; reaching Esquimalt at half past five in the afternoon. The weather throughout the season (with the exception of the month of July which was wet) has been exceptionally fine, and the cruise has been thoroughly enjoyed by officers and crew.

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