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And Victoria Chronicle.

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AGENTS.

S. D. Levi	Nanaimo, V. I
Holder & Hart,	Comox, do
Sam'l Harris	Cowichan do
Clarkson & Co	New Westminster
Barnard's Express	Quesnelle, B. C
do	Lytton
do	Yawinkle
do	Richfield
do	Barkervill
do	Camerontown
do	Clinton
L. P. Fisher	San Francisco
Hudson & McCarty	do
F. Algar	11 Clement's Lane, London
G. Street	30 Cornhill, London

In another column will be found a letter from a firm largely connected with our mercantile affairs, on the question of the mail subsidy. The interest taken in this matter by our principle merchants is manifesting itself so strongly every day, and their complaints are becoming so urgent and numerous that we intended returning to it this morning if we had not received the letter referred to. No one can deny the necessity for immediate action in order to infuse new vigor into our commercial life. The general desire is to subsidize a boat which will keep the intercourse and communication with San Francisco unbroken. The Active running simply to Portland and this town is no advantage to our merchants, because the laws of the United States, as justly stated by the firm referred to, will not allow a reshipment of bonded freight at Astoria or Portland, so in this respect we are reduced to the *six weeks* trips of the Oriflamme or any other chance boat going to Sitka. If $2000 for two trips a month were given to the Wright, the only available boat to be had at present, it would only incur an additional expense of some $500 a month over what our people have hitherto paid, and that trifling sum in the additional business which would thereby be created, would soon be recovered. To excite a lively opposition during the ensuing summer, even as an experiment, would be worth the expenditure, for we have the authority of a high American official for stating, in the event of reasonable fares, a number of families would come here temporarily, and probably for good. There can be no doubt also that many people would come to our mines if they could only do so at anything like a reasonable price, but the present enormous fare from San Francisco to Victoria puts its altogether out of their power. The question assumes great importance at this particular time, and in conjunction with those who have thus laudibly brought it boldly before the public, we urge the Select Committee to do all that can be done and to do it without delay.

In the interesting letter we published yesterday from our London correspondent it will be seen that the late Colonial Secretary, Mr Birch, is vegetating in the West India Department of the Colonial Office, and in his generous condescension will not accept any office in British Columbia except that of Governor, for which he is an aspirant. If there is one thing more than another which should induce every man in Victoria to go in for immediate Confederation, no matter what his politics may be, it is the bare chance of such a calamity happening. The Colony has had quite enough of this 'brilliant young genius;' more, in fact, than it can ever forget or forgive. Many of the worst evils the Colony now suffers from were the result of his ignorance and presumption, and to send him out again as Governor would be the height of injustice and folly on the part of the Imperial Government. As a clerk in the Colonial Office he cannot do much harm, and therefore that's the place precisely where nature requires him to remain.

THE telegraph brings us, in its daily record of the events of the world, tidings of one of the most fearful calamities known in its history. A volcanic eruption has occurred at the Sandwich Isles, destroying in its resistless fury not less than *one hundred thousand lives* and an amount of property that cannot be estimated. The soul is sickened and bowed down in grief on hearing such misfortunes, and were we not furnished with details that cannot be rejected we should still hope there might be some mistake or some exaggeration. When we cast our eyes over the world and see the sufferings our fellow creatures have experienced in all parts from the convulsions of nature and the warring of the elements during the past year, let us gratefully remember the merciful protection vouchsafed to ourselves, and learn to know how little our trials are in comparison with those of other people

Shipping Ordinance Amendment Act.

Our readers will scarcely be able to gather from the reports of the Legislative Council proceedings the fact that the above ordinance is simply a reversal of that part of the Act of last session by which the Governor was empowered to employ *foreign bottoms* in our coasting trade, if at any time he thought proper to do so. The Hons. Helmcken and DeCosmos, our city representatives, used at the time every argument to dissuade the Executive from adopting a measure so contrary to British principles and so adverse to British interests, but failed to make any effect. The Act of 1867 was submitted to the Home Government and rejected upon the grounds stated above. Hence the humiliating position of the Executive in having to repeal this year an Act which they unreasonably sustained last year, and of vindicating the judgment and intelligence of our city members. It is always a wise policy for Governments to pay due attention to the collective wisdom of the people. Whenever a conflict of opinion or interest arises between the two great branches of Government, the people will, if *justice* demands it, sustain the Executive as soon as the Legislature. Were this truth more generally recognized many injurious conflicts between the two would be avoided in all parts of the world. It is to be hoped the sagacity of our members, as shown in this case, will be more respected in future.

As a proof of the general improvement of Ireland, and the absence of all necessity for rebellion to remove such evils as remain, we extract the following beautiful sentiment from the charge of Mr. Justice Fitzgerald who sentenced Pigott and Sullivan the seditious writers in the *Irishman* and *Weekly News*.

"The rebellion in which Emmet engaged was now passed entirely into history, and it was not treason to allude to it, or to express pity and commiseration for that gifted young enthusiast, especially when they recollected that the objects he sought in his unsuccessful rebellion had been nearly all since obtained, and were now the law of the land. If Emmet were now alive he would probably be found contented with the present state of things, setting his face against the tide of democracy, and endeavouring to stem the flood of Red Republicanism that had come over the land. Therefore he saw nothing in uncovering at the spot on which he had been executed. Whether that was done, not to express pity, but for the purpose of inciting the men of the present day to follow his example by joining in armed insurrection was a matter to be taken into account with reference to the character of the assembly."

In addition we present the concurrent testimony of the Lord Lieutenant given at the Lord Mayor's banquet on replying to the toast of 'Prosperity to Ireland.' His Lordship, himself an Irishman, gave a very encouraging view of the condition of the country. From his statement, it appears, emigration decreased 19,000 last year, and the reduction would be still greater this year. The disturbances of Cork might be considered exceptional, for certainly over *three-fourths* of the country was sound. Much of this improvement had arisen from a disposition shown of late years by the English people, to discriminate between the perpetrators of outrage, and the Irish people generally, and, as far as possible, to consider their greivances and sympathize with their wrongs. A most cheering account was given of the progress of Dublin. Its tonnage had increased from 880,000 in 1857, to 1,436,000 in 1867; and the revenue from £26,000 to £44,000 sterling in the same period. His Lordship pledged himself as to the desire of the English Government to give a more liberal and special encouragement to the Irish. It is always better to govern man by love than through fear. With a little patience and forbearance on both sides we see no reason against Ireland becoming in a short time as happy and prosperous as any other portion of the English Dominion. A liberal settlement of the questions of the Irish Church, and Landlord and Tenant, both now before Parliament, will smooth the way for the arrangement of all other subordinant differences and misunderstandings, which have so long aggrevated both countries, and made them enemies for centuries. Whatever is right let England do it—not from intimidation, but from a sense of Justice.

Thursday, May 7.

THE GEORGE S WRIGHT.—This steamer left the Hudson Bay wharf yesterday morning at half past ten for Portland. Among the passengers was D W Higgins, Esq., of the COLONIST, who, after a number of years of assiduous labor, has gone to visit his relatives and friends at home. Mr Higgins as editor of this paper has been an unflinching defender of Victoria and the colony, and has well earned the respect shown him on leaving. A few particular friends on the previous evening met him at the Colonial, where Driard served them up a *recherche* supper at which the kindliest feeling prevailed. In the morning a number of his fellow-citizens went down to the Wright to wish him good bye, and a safe and pleasant trip. Before returning to his editorial duties, Mr H. intends visiting London, and during his stay in England will lose no opportunity of doing justice to the colony.

THEATRE ROYAL.—On Tuesday night the comedy of Caste was presented to a very respectable and fairly filled house. There is no question that Caste is a beautiful piece, full of fine conceptions of character and lofty sentiment. Amy Stone as Polly Eccles played up to her reputation, but we doubt the propriety of making that character the *feature* of the play. The power and merit of Amy Stone's acting is its intensity and fervor in the delineation of the higher passions of our nature; the facile expression of contending and contrasting emotions; the sudden transition from gay to grave, and yet its truthfulness at each change with the particular emotion represented. In those sudden changes she never offends a strict sense of propriety, and that acknowledgment places her high in rank as a dramatic artiste. As Esther she would have shone brilliantly, for in portraying the great earnest battle of love her power is admitted to be immense. We do not by any means intend to insinuate Mrs Fowlis did not play the character well, for it was the general opinion she never acted better than she did as Esther, and we fully endorse that opinion. The suggestion is simply thrown out for future consideration as far as Mrs Stone is concerned. Mr Clarke as Captain [illegible] admirable. The hit of the night was made by Marsh as Eccles, the drunken, besotted father, for which he deserves the highest praise. From beginning to end his speech, motion and attitude were just the precise thing required, and drew down the house repeatedly. Few people give Marsh credit for his real ability as an actor.

THE lectures of Mr Harnett on British Columbia are drawing favorable notices from the American press. The Seattle *Intelligencer* speaks of them as follows:

TWO LECTURES ON BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We have received from the author, Legh Harnett, Esq., a pamphlet with the above title. The lectures have been delivered at different places throughout the Colony, and complying with the universal desire, Mr Harnett has had them published in a neat form for general circulation. Embodied in the work will be found a mass of useful information for the general reader, which the author has written in a pleasing style. To those wishing to acquire a knowledge of the country, we know of no similar publication that will impart as much.

H M SHIP FORWARD.—This vessel has been for some time on the slip at Laing's ship yard, James Bay, undergoing a thorough external cleaning. She was expected to be off yesterday, and rejoin the fleet at Esquimalt. The officers while staying with us have thoroughly ingratiated themselves with all classes by their gentlemanly and hospitable conduct, and their leaving will be a source of general regret. If consistent with the regulations of the Service, we wish the Admiral would allow the Forward to remain in the harbor of the Capital, which ought to have one vessel at least. In case of fire, etc., the crew would always be very useful.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY REGATTA.—We find we were in error in stating yesterday that this event had been postponed. It is now definitely arranged by the Managing Committee to hold the regatta on Saturday the 23d inst. It is also gratifying to learn that Admiral Hastings, who is ever ready to co-operate in all our public amusements, has promised the use of the Zealous Band, the steam launch and other large boats to take persons to the Arm, supply all the flags for the occasion, and subscribe towards the expense. It is to be hoped now our citizens will come forward liberally, and by their subscriptions enable the Committee to make the event worthy of the day.

THE steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster yesterday afternoon. Among her passengers were his honor Mr. Justice Begbie, Mr Pooley, and some eighteen others. The Cariboo mail did not come down this trip.

THE U S steamer Wyanda arrived yesterday from Port Townsend and will proceed to S after coaling. Officers, Capt J W White; 1st Lieutenant, G W Bailey; 2nd Lieutenant, A Horneby; 2nd Lieutenant G B Hansell; Chief Engineer, J A Doyle; 1st Assistant, B F Hawkins; 2nd Assistant, J B Lucas; Surgeon, T T Minor; Pilot, T A Ginsley.

BY THE usual politeness of Commander Liddell, of H M Ship Zealous, we are enabled to give the Rain Register for April:

	Inches.
Total rain fall, April 1868	.68
Greatest fall in one day	.20
Number of rainy days	Nil
Number of showery days, i. e., when less than .25 of an inch fell	.7

Friday, May 8.

From Fraser River.

We glean the following from the Yale *Examiner* of Manday:

A drove of 800 sheep and merchandise to the extent of 200,000lbs., left Yale for Cariboo during last week. Freighting to the interior is unusually low, cargoes having been taken to Soda Creek as low as 5cts ℔ lb. Barnard's Express coach started out on Sunday with nine passengers for Cariboo. Mr J. T. Scott and F. G. Richards, of this city were of the number. A public meeting was held at Lytton on the 25th ult, for the purpose of considering the advisability of seeking immediate admission into the Dominion of Canada. The meeting was large and influential, and was presided over by Mr William McWha, Mr John Boyd acting as Secretary. Mr Robert Smith, ex-member of the Legislative Council, moved the following resolution, which he supported with considerable ability, and which was carried unanimously: "Whereas the system of Government offered by the British North American Confederation would confur upon the people of British Columbia the same power of self-government as they themselves enjoy; be it therefore

Resolved—That it is the opinion of the population of Lytton city and district that the immediate admission of the Colony of British olumbia into the Dominion of [illegible] materially tend to the promotion of its future greatness, welfare and prosperity." Mr Hall and Mr McInnes also spoke in support of the resolution, and generally in favor of Confederation. A resolution was passed appointing Messrs Smith, Boyd and Hall a Committee for the purpose of corresponding with Committees formed at other points, and generally to promote the movement. The meeting, which is said to have been the largest and most enthusiastic ever held at Lytton, separated with three cheers for the Queen, and three more for the Dominion of Canada.

WE received the following item yesterday morning in an envelope, but by whom sent or from what paper taken we do not know. So far as a Fenian invasion of this country is concerned we have not the ightest fear although we would avoid no precaution to avoid it. The blustering resolution carried by Mizner through the California Legislature (which we referred to at the time) would not be considered very dangerous, if like ourselves the public knew the man's character. He belongs, it is true to the aggressive element of America, but his party have no power over the masses. The resolution in question was intended more for the accomplishment of a local political object than anything else. We understand American politics thoroughly; and see no more danger in this resolution than a thousand others of a similar character which in times past we have known placed on the records of the California Legislature. It would not astonish us to find Mizner and his party passing a resolution to annex Australia or even England itself; but there the matter ends. As to a Fenian invasion, our friend must not forget that 2500 fighting men could be concentrated in Victoria in six hours. Let the Fenians come if they want to die. We may be isolated; but we are not defenceless:

THREATENED INVASION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The Washington correspondent to the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes:—There are some reasons to apprehend that the rumors of a threatened invasion of British Columbia by Fenians are not without foundation. Fenianism has always been strong in that region. The Californians generally have recently taken up the idea of the annexation of the British Province with a singular infatuation, and their Legislature has recently petitioned the Congress of the United States to acquire or annex the same, It is to be feared that the legal authorities of the State are too much demoralised by the general spasm of covetousness to properly restrain a raid of the kind.

MR BANDMAN, the German-American actor, who a short time since created such a furor in San Francisco, and had a costly chaplet worked from native silver presented him by his admiring countrymen in that city, has recently appeared before unusually large and critical audiences in London, and made a profound sensation in his celebrated character of Narcisse. It is pleasing to see the old favorites of the Pacific coast receive as they do, one by one, the ovations of the old world, for it speaks well for our young and yet unformed taste. Of Mr Bandman's great and varied powers there is no doubt, and we predict he will be as popular in the rough 'Old Corporal' as in the more refined Narcisse.

THE town of Lytton has followed Victoria, New Westminster, Yale and Cariboo, o Confederation. On 25th ulto, the largest meeting ever known in that district was held, and the principle of immediate Confederation adopted enthusiastically. It is stated the organization of a League to further this great principle is about being established in this town, with a view to extend over the whole colony, and concentrate and vitalize the action of the confederate party. It is a wise idea, and worthy of being carried out vigorously.

NANAIMO.—The steamer Douglas arrived last evening with a few passengers and small freight. The miners have made a general strike for higher wages, in consequence of which the works are closed. The steamer Active was about half loaded at the time, but so down in the bows that she had to shift her cargo to enable her to steer. She was expected to leave yesterday noon, the captain intending, if possible, to sail for Portland on Saturday morning. The Douglas could only get ten tons of coal. The Isaac Jeans, Victor and Emily Harris were all waiting to load, but as things are they will have to wait until the men come to their senses.

POLICE COURT.—Charley, the Chinaman, indicted for stealing a coat from the house of Mr Howard, Esquimalt, was remanded. Wm. Allen, colored, for assaulting second mate of the British ship Ellen, on her passage [illegible] $20 or two months imprisonment in default of payment. Thos. Wilson (colored) for unlawfully disobeying the orders of the second mate of the same ship; sentenced to one months imprisonment.

COAL.—Few of our citizens have any idea of the great increase of coal shipped from Nanaimo. From a statement of each day's shipment for the month of April last, it appears, the total amount reached 4876 tons 15 cwt. At present the *daily* shipment averages 200 tons. It is much to be regretted the adjacent mines are not opened.

IT is said the premises on Broad street, formerly occupied by Messrs Fell & Co., are in such a shaky condition that they may fall down at any moment. The City Fathers should attend to this lest a serious accident happens.

A CRICKET MATCH between the British Columbia Eleven and the Fleet will take place at the Half-way House, Esquimalt road, to-morrow. The wickets will be pitched at eleven precisely.

HIS Excellency the Governor has kindly consented to give his patronage to the Queen's Birthday races. They will be held on Monday 25th inst.

SHIP ACCIDENT.—The Isaac Jeans on her way to Nanaimo got on a reef of rocks, but after a slight detention reached that place without sustaining the slightest injury.

To those not acquainted with the fact, we are requested to state the Active on leaving for Portland will take a mail.

THE Hudson Bay Co.'s steamer Otter sailed yesterday for Burrard Inlet and Port Tongas.

Canada.

The upper circles of Montreal are agitated by the suicide of a rising young physician—Dr Patton, who, having performed an operation on a young woman who had been seduced by a Mr Robert Notman, was so struck with remorse that he took away his own life. The girl is out of danger, and Notman is in jail. All the parties move in high life.

The Canadian papers come to us with accounts of the late floods, by which much damage was done, and several lives lost.

The steamer Empress, laid up at Gildersleeve's wharf, Kingston, took fire and burned to the water's edge. She formerly belonged to the Royal Mail line. Causes of the fire unknown.

Dr Tupper has been sent to England to confront Mr Howe and the Nova Scotia delegates who have gone thither to demand a repeal of the Union.