

### The Advantage of a Second Road to Esquimalt Harbor.

When we have a dock commenced at Esquimalt we shall probably have the old plan for Railway communication between the harbor and docks and the city of Victoria resuscitated, or some modification or improvement upon it suggested; no doubt it would be most beneficial to Victoria under the improved condition that is expected to result from the building of docks to have such communication; but this must be left for private enterprise to carry out; it is not so however with the ordinary communication by road; the roads and bridges must be kept up by public money, it is absolutely necessary that there should at all times be safe and direct communication between the fleet and the seat of Government in the Colony. So long as the bridges on the Esquimalt road are kept in good repair, no better or more direct road than that now in existence can be deemed a necessity. But we will suppose a considerable increase of traffic in consequence of the docks being constructed, and the occurrence of an accident which should render the bridge over the Victoria arm useless and impassable, even for a few days; what an immense amount of inconvenience would be occasioned, land communication would be practically cut off between the two places; the lessee of the Johnson street ferry might perhaps reap a good harvest, but the public would be terribly inconvenienced. So soon as this happened it would be discovered that with a good bridge over the gorge, and an improvement of existing roads, with the construction of no very formidable lengths of new roads, a second means of communication might be established between Victoria and Esquimalt; if the accident occurred in the summer, no doubt the second route could be made available in two days, but it would be otherwise in the winter. We would ask the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to turn his attention to this subject; no vested interests would be interfered with in any way by the establishment of this second road, for the difference in its length would prevent its being used except on emergency, and pending repairs to either of the existing bridges. It would be far more economical to construct a bridge and roads leisurely and when they are not required for immediate use, than to make them in a hurry, and we are not supposing an unlikely occurrence when we allude to the possibility of the temporary closing of either of the present bridges; it is not likely that they can escape accident always, and when we hear of their present rickety state, we cannot but expect an abrupt stoppage in the communication some day. It is always better to be prepared for accidents than to have to look about it in a hurry for a temporary remedy. In addition to the convenience that the route which we suggest would afford in case of stoppage in the communication between Victoria and Esquimalt, it would open up a shorter and better road than the present to Metohoin, Craigflower and all the farms in that direction, as well as shortening the wagon road to Goldstream by nearly a mile, this there is room to hope will be a matter of consequence if the expectations of the Wolf Creek explorers are realized to any extent; be this as it may, it is undeniable that a good road in the direction we have suggested, would be a very great public benefit. It is not improbable that the Admiral, who has always shown a readiness to give practical assistance to the Colony where it has been in his power to do so, might very probably allow some of the blue-jackets to be employed upon this road, which would certainly be a convenience to the Navy; labor is scarce at present and is likely to be so for some time to come; were it otherwise, and should it so happen that there should be any persons unemployed here during the winter, what could be better than to employ them upon a work which would be of public advantage.

lie advantage. Road making in colonies can never be time and money thrown away—if the Government surveyors know their duty and perform it by any means properly. Much good might be done by making public roads in the winter; if miners were sure of being able to get regular employment upon any public works in or near the towns in the winter, they would be more inclined to adventure in prospecting during the summer; it seems unlikely that much will be done towards developing the resources of this Colony by other than private enterprise. Let us then endeavor by all means to give public employment to our miners when they require it in the winter, a few thousand dollars spent in this way will benefit the Colony in every way; the people will never complain when they see public money spent upon legitimate works for the good of the Colony, rather than squandered upon useless expenses.

Room for More.—The success of our farmers and the additional impetus given to our agriculture of late, are sources of true congratulation. Still we are far from supplying our local consumption of flour. The steamer Active and G S Wright last trip, together brought 4,812 quarter sacks of flour, and this may be considered the average amount per trip. Thus it is evident that there is ample room for more farmers amongst us, and that farming can be made one of the most profitable occupations in the Colony.

Whaling.—News was received from Capt Roys' whaling party on Monday evening of a most satisfactory character. Since leaving here on his second expedition, about a week since, two whales had been killed, yielding sixty-five and forty-five barrels of oil respectively. A third had been wounded which it was supposed would be found. In that case they are doing well. Three fish in so short a period is encouraging, and shows what perseverance will do. The rocket gun under the improvements which Capt Roys made before he left, is said to work admirably.

Oregon.—We read in our Portland exchanges of very destructive fire having occurred along the banks of the Columbia and burning property to large amounts; even to the endangering of human life. Three more perpetrators of the Idaho recent mail robbery were brought down to Portland last week, to await their trial in November. The clipper ship, Hattie C. Bessie—Mercer's Pioneer line, is loading at New York for Portland direct. The Osmyr has already sailed.

Fire.—We regret to learn that the woods to the north of the city, are very extensively on fire, and that much apprehension is felt amongst the farmers as to the safety of their property and houses. At Mr Anderson's farm, at the head of the Arm, 15 men are engaged to keep the fire off his farm. Mr Foote of Lake District has lost at least 4000 feet fence rails. From the extent of country on fire, it is not strange we should suffer so much from smoke and ashes in the city.

New Steam Tug.—The steamer Sea Foam arrived here from Port Townsend on Monday to be transferred to Mr Odlin, who has purchased her for \$600. It is the intention of her new owner to keep her exclusively at Burrard Inlet as a steam tug. Such a boat will be a great convenience to the large vessels continually loading there with lumber and which often meet with delay navigating the straits and gulf.

Annexing.—The weather on Monday and yesterday has been exceedingly unpleasant. Owing to the northerly wind prevailing the atmosphere was charged with smoke and ashes from the fires in the interior, which together try the eyes and lungs severely. The city lies under a thick pall, giving it a dismal and gloomy aspect. A blow from the opposite point would be a great boon just now.

Fruit and Apples.—Received a further consignment of island fruit: Pears—such as island Bartlett, Winter Nellis, Flemish Beauty, Swanegg. Apples—Rhode Island Greening, Pearmain, Waxen, Golden Pippin and grown in the gardens of Messrs Shepherd, Trutch, Van Almen, Russell, &c. They are in prime condition for use. H. Waller, Fort street.

The steamer Eliza Anderson arrived from the Sound at noon yesterday, being detained by the thickness of the weather. She brought her usual freight of fruit, live stock, etc, and eleven passengers. She also brought an Eastern mail.

Olympia Oysters.—The first of these delicious bivalves of the season were brought over by the Eliza Anderson yesterday, and can be had in every style according to taste, at Levy's Arcade, Government street. We speak from experience.

The steamer Enterprise left for New Westminster yesterday morning at 7 o'clock, taking up a medium freight and a few passengers.

JAMES BAY BRIDGE.—This bridge was closed by the Mayor yesterday, to public traffic. It was fine fun for the boys who scaled the barricade, but it is a serious inconvenience to parties having to attend the Courts, and those living on the other side of the Bay.

SUNSTROKES.—From papers received by the last mail, forty-four fatal cases of sunstroke in New York and two in Brooklyn on 16th July last are reported. It is also feared that many of the cases in the hospitals—under treatment will prove fatal.

MAIL MATTERS.—Mr Higgins, of the Courier, writing from New York, states that he has received letters from this city via Port Townsend in the short space of three weeks.

England.  
PROBATION OF PARLIAMENT.—CLOSE OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE—SCENE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

[From the London News, August 1.]  
The third session of the nineteenth Parliament, and virtually the Parliament itself, was brought to an end yesterday by royal commission. There were all the usual accessories of a dissolution, and members looked and spoke and moved about as though they were assisting at a funeral ceremony. Many of those, perhaps felt that the place which they then knew might know them no more; for the approaching general election promises to be the most fiercely contested since that of 1841, and even Mr Speaker is threatened with an opposition in North Notts.

The right honorable gentleman took the chair about half-past one, and at once the questions commenced. Lord Stanley assured Mr Olway that the Foreign Office had no information of a projected offensive and defensive alliance between France, Belgium and Holland. Mr Alderman Lawrence was told by Sir Michael Hicks Beach that the government had prepared a measure providing for the assessment of single parishes in the metropolis on a fair and equal basis. Mr Darby Griffith was anxious to know whether in the event of any unforeseen contingency the pension of Lord Napier of Magdala would be continued to Lady Napier; but the Premier could not promise that the subject should be reopened. Then Mr Rearden catalogued the woes of Mr G F Traill, now a prisoner for debt in the Marshalsea, and was reminded by Lord Mayo that the executive had no power to interfere with courts of justice. The same honorable member next proceeded to move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the act of union between Great Britain and Ireland. He was proceeding to argue for a separate nationality for Ireland when the door-keeper shouted, "Black Rod!" the door was slammed in that functionary's face and the members for Athlone dropped into his seat, having had the last word in the House of Commons elected under the franchise granted by the act of 1832.

Three mysterious taps were heard, and as the silent M. P. within listened, the sounds seemed to fall upon the ears as the death knell of the Parliament. The attendance of Mr Speaker and the House was commanded in the House of Peers and thither the right honorable gentleman proceeded, attended by the Premier, Lord Stanley, Mr Hardy, Lord John Manners and a few other members, the whole scene forming a strange contrast to that impetuous rush to the bar which characterized the opening of the first session of the dying Parliament. The royal assent having been given by commission to a number of bills, the Queen's message proroguing Parliament with a view to its speedy dissolution was read in a clear and impressive voice by the Lord Chancellor. The Speaker bowed to the Lords Commissioners, and retired.

In the House of Lords the attendance of members of the House of Commons was unusually numerous. On the right hand of the Speaker stood the Prime Minister, and on his left the Minister for war, Lord Stanley Lord J Manners and Mr Hardy; Mr Adelerley and Lord Nass occupied the next row and the remaining space behind the bar was densely filled with members.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.  
The royal assent having been given to several bills above enumerated, the Lord Chancellor proceeded to read Her Majesty's speech.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN:—I am happy to be enabled to release you from your labors and to offer you my acknowledgments for the diligence with which you have applied yourselves to your Parliamentary duties.

My relations with foreign Powers remain friendly and satisfactory. I have no reason to apprehend that Europe will be exposed to the calamity of war, and my policy will continue to be directed to secure the blessings of peace.

I announced to you at the beginning of this session, that I had directed an expedition to be sent to Abyssinia to liberate my viceroy and others of my subjects detained by the ruler of that country in an unjust captivity.

I feel sure that you will share in my satisfaction at the complete success which has attended that expedition. After a march of four hundred miles through a difficult and unexplored country, my troops took the strong place of Magdala, freed the captives and vindicated the honor of my crown; and by their immediate return, without one act of oppression or needless violence, proved that the expedition had been undertaken only in obedience to the claims of humanity and in fulfillment of the highest duties of my sovereignty.

The cessation of the long-continued efforts to promote rebellion in Ireland has for some time rendered unnecessary the exercise of the executive of exceptional powers. I rejoice to learn that no person is now detained under the provisions of the act for the suspension of the habeas corpus, and that no prisoner awaits trial in Ireland for an offence connected with the Fenian conspiracy.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—I have to thank you for the liberal supplies which you have voted for the public service.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN.—I have had much satisfaction in giving my assent to a series of measures completing the great work

of the amendment of the representation of the people in Parliament, which has engaged your attention for two sessions.

I have seen with satisfaction that the time necessarily occupied by this comprehensive subject has not prevented you dealing with other questions of great public interest, and I have gladly given my sanction to bills for better government of public schools, the regulation of railways, the amendment of the laws relating to British sea fisheries, and for the acquisition and maintenance of electric telegraphs by the Postmaster General; and to several important measures having for their object the improvement of the law, and of the civil and criminal procedures in Scotland.

By the appointment of a Comptroller-in-Chief in the War Office a considerable reform in army administration has been commenced, which, by combining at home and abroad the various departments of military supply under one authority, will conduce to greater economy and efficiency both in peace and war.

It is my intention to dissolve the present Parliament at the earliest day that will enable my people to reap the benefit of the extended system of representation which the wisdom of Parliament has provided for them. I look with entire confidence to those proving themselves worthy of the high privilege with which they have thus been invested; and I trust that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, the expression of their opinion on those great questions of public policy which have occupied the attention of Parliament and remain undecided, may tend to maintain unimpaired that civil and religious freedom which has been secured to all my subjects by the institutions and settlement of my realm.

PUBLIC OPINION OF THE SPEECH.  
The London journals criticize the Queen's speech on the prorogation of Parliament. The Telegraph says it is unusually well written.

The London News says that the Queen is made to talk Disraelism, and discovers something unconstitutional in the allusion to the Irish Church question. The people have not to decide, as it is made to say, whether civil and religious freedom shall remain unimpaired. The question is, shall the past monuments and vestiges of the civil inferiority of the Irish nation, and of the ecclesiastical ascendancy of a scanty minority, be swept away, and civil and religious freedom receive its full development in Ireland?

The London Herald feels assured that the people will respond to the royal aspiration and signify their will that those institutions which are the guarantee of our civil and religious liberty shall be maintained unimpaired and not sacrificed for the gratification of party interests and individual ambition. The London Times remarks that the congratulatory reference to Ireland can only be satisfactory as the prelude to a resolute attempt to root out the cause of Irish discontent. In the paragraph alluding to the Irish Church the Times discovers an attempt to denote the way in which the new electors should use their power; but Mr Disraeli's phrases can exercise no greater influence because he has embodied them in a royal message.

THE ELECTION CANVAS

was actively continued. Mr Gladstone decided to stand for South-west Lancashire, and was to address a public meeting at St. Helen's. The name of his intended colleague will be shortly announced. Lord Amberley is spoken of as a candidate for Berwick.

Mr M T Baggall will again offer himself for re-election at Derby. Sir Dudley Majoribanks and Mr Mitchell both retire from Berwick. The conservatives had not brought out a candidate.

Mr Walter Baggall published a letter giving his reasons for finally withdrawing as a candidate for London University.

Mr W Jones Loyd (son of Lord Overstone) is canvassing Rye as an advanced liberal.

Aug 1.—The lists of voters for the new registration, as ascertained, will be exhibited on the doors of the churches and chapels. All claims and objections must be made on or before the 25th inst.

THE CONTINENT.

The Florence correspondent of the Paris Debates writes that everyone in Italy believes a war between Italy, France and Prussia is near at hand.

The Paris Opinions, a very moderate organ, says that diplomatists alone have the hardihood to deny the hostility of the military powers named above.

The North German Gazette remarks that the interpellation of General Della Marmora in the Italian Chamber was not intended as a defence of the honor of the Italian army, but as an act of hostility against Prussia—an act dictated by personal and political motives of the most obvious kind.

The Berlin Correspondence has also a very bitter article on General Della Marmora, which winds up by remarking that the production of the Prussian note after two years of secrecy will not bring him a whit nearer to victory.

The official Gazette of Berlin, of July 31, referring to General Della Marmora's speech upon the Prussian report of the campaign of 1866, says that Count Usedom's note to Gen Della Marmora was neither authorized nor approved by the Berlin Cabinet. The Gazette adds that the text of that note can consequently afford no safe basis for inferences as to the political intentions of the Prussian Government.

Our Puget Sound Correspondence.

PORT TOWNSEND, W. T., Sept. 14th.

THE COURTS.

Court adjourned on Friday last; but few cases came up for hearing. One individual was committed for larceny, one month; another for selling whiskey to Indians, two months; the person who committed murder on board the British ship Marquis, at Port Blakely, early in the summer, and who was to be tried at Seattle at the last term of Court, but was transferred for trial to this place on account of the sudden termination of the session at Seattle, has been re-committed for trial at the next session of Court at Seattle, which will transpire next Spring.

Judge Dennison ruling that the case could not legally be tried here, having been arbitrarily transferred by Judge Darwin on his own ipse dixit without the request of the parties to the suit. His honor also ruled that the Courts of the Territory have no jurisdiction in cases of grievances occurring on San Juan Island.

THE DARWIN-WILSON DRAMA.

The closing act in the somewhat notorious Darwin and Wilson drama, which has occupied so much of public notice the past year, was performed last week, by the dissolving of the matrimonial bonds, the application for divorce by the latter being granted by the Court, without alimony and the custody of the children to be vested in the plaintiff, and the defendant to assume her maiden name. All the prominent members of the bar, from the various towns on the Sound, were in attendance, except Frank Clark Esq. whose absence was occasioned by the death of his wife on the Sunday preceding, after a lingering illness.

ACCIDENT TO INDIANS.

Last week a canoe was upset in the bay (Port Townsend) containing three Indians, two adults and a boy; the latter swam to shore, the others were drowned; cause intoxication. The party who sold them the liquor has since been committed by the U S Commissioner to await trial at the next term of Court.

MEETING A COUGAR.

Last Monday night a cougar entered a piggery of Capt Pettygrove's, half mile from town, and carried off a porker; the same varmint, or some of his kin, has killed two horses in the same neighborhood and left his claw marks on several bovines. If some of your sharpshooters are spoiling for a shot, let them come over on this side for a hunt; they can be sure of royal game.

Confederation and the Self-elected Delegates.

EDITOR COLONIST:—Papers are now in active circulation through this city, calling for signatures for the purpose of expressing repudiation of any action on the part of the Delegates, now on their way to Yale, on the ground that they are merely the appointees of a Confederate League, in the formation of which League this community was not only not consulted, but positively shut out from the expression of opinion, inasmuch as several citizens were present on the occasion of its formation, and would have questioned the propriety of the appointment of a Confederate League, from non-belief in the benefits of immediate Confederation and were only permitted to be present on the condition of keeping silence, and yet these Delegates are paraded before us as if they had been duly appointed as the result of an appeal to the general community; various districts too have been called upon to elect Delegates for the Convention at Yale, whereas the legitimate and proper way would have been, to have asked them "to take into consideration the propriety of sending Delegates," and which, if not carried, would have spared the meeting the trouble of further proceedings. We have sometimes heard transactions like this called "Hole and Corner," and held up to contempt; surely if ever a movement was entitled to such a designation, this is one of them. I do not wish to be unnecessarily severe in stigmatizing the conduct of these gentlemen for their presumption, but I cannot help regarding it as about as cool a piece of impudence as was ever perpetrated before an intelligent community.

CENSORIOUS.

[We would say to our correspondent and others,—await the result of the Convention. —Ed.]

THE FENIANS.—At the great Fenian picnic in Buffalo on the 27th July, 'General' O'Neil said:—"The time for talk had past; the time for action was at hand. He remembered addressing many of his present audience two years ago. He thought then that the time was close at hand when Irishmen could meet their hereditary enemies face to face. He did not think two years would pass before another trial was made, but they have passed. He would say that the Fenian organization is stronger now than ever before. This he knew, for he had made it his business for some time back to feel the pulse of the people. Their hearts are all in the work and the Fenian army will soon be in the field. (Cries of 'When?') He would not say when. A public platform was not the place from which to make such announcements; but it would be soon, and it was in the power of those whom he addressed to hasten the movement. He would caution them against those enemies of Ireland who are always crying for a forward movement. To such he would say, 'We will go when we are ready, and not before. We intend to commence the fight when it suits us and not at the command of the British Government.'

Those who suffer from nervous irritations, itching uneasiness, and the discomfort that follows from an enfeebled and disordered state of the system, should take AYER'S SASSAPARILLA, and cleanse the blood. Purge out the lurking distemper that undermines the health, and the constitutional vigor will return. \*

Let us Cultivate

It is to be hoped the small exploring lately returned from Island, not having ant discoveries will rance to more being year in the same di but little informat interior of the Isl known to make it v re-search further; of its being really easy task for those ed to travelling i prospect Vancouver tural land, and for the main causes o been hitherto don energy have not c confine themselves and have sought n enterprise on the M mountains overhan the Columbia, feeli if they are unsuc Island is still left fact known to tho led through our co many of those who to cultivate their borders, nay, absol of the forest, are perhaps been thro British Columbia, Stekin, not a few fornia, and some in doubt these hardy endured privations fy most hard wo countries, when for themselves t right good settlers, neers who lead the patches of availab for they think n month's tramp th search of good la who are not so iured to bush a weary with as m and will hesitate to the interior, or to g journey from the se a year pas-es, but a tired of their hard seek for land upo set up their homest sets somewhat of a Island amongst the led most over Briti miners tire of the life, they generally to settle down in, out of reach of respect the Islan better than the m find land on whic earn a comfortable the rich prairies of in some respects farming than the ver Island, hemm by heavily timbe impracticable mo hardy pioneer e incapable of bein need prevent good roads to Island, that can able for farming p wages are never high in Vanouve they ever likely to parts of it which a access as in the m district of the m attraction which le prefer the island duces those who a for wages to stay all events within t journey of Victori the principal seap one of the first th the great majority elas, upon their country. But the ony can never ex land thoroughly exert themselves sources of the cou land; there is a co outlet for emigra try; the labor ma