is matter

# The Weekly British Galonist

Tuesday, January 30, 1866

## The Big Bend Gold Mines.

HOW TO GET THERE.

#### Reliable Information

Victoria, V. I., Jan. 11, 1866.

A. C. ANDERSON, Esq. DEAR SIR-The Chamber of Commerce

appointed a committee for the purpose of collecting information respecting the Big Bend gold mines, the superior advantages of the route to them via the Fraser river; and diffusing such information throughout California and Oregon.

I am instructed by the committee to apply to you, as one who is eminently qualified to afford the most reliable statistics on the subject, and to ask if you will kindly place what information you can at the disposal of the Chamber.

Yours faithfully, J. ROBERTSON STEWART, Chairman of Committee.

Victoria, V. I., Jan. 20, 1866. J. ROBERTSON STEWART, Esq. Chamber of Commerce,

Signature of the lith instant, requesting, on the part of the Chamber of Commerce, information regarding the facilities of access to that portion of the mining regions of British Columbia now known popularly as the "Big Bend."

Much of the information it may be in my power to give has already been communicated to the public in an article addressed by me recently to the editor of the British Colonist. To this article, written for the satisfaction of individual anguirers, I have

satisfaction of individual anguirers, I have the honor, in the first place, to refer you; remarking, merely, that on re-examining it I find little to correct in the statements made -little, indeed, to add.

I have computed the distance from Port-land to Gold Creek at 667 miles. Thus:

The distance between Portland and Walla Walla is travelled by steamer, with the exception of the breaks (or portages) at the Cascades and the Dalles, and I believe, a third break between the U mattila and Walla. This last, however, would depend on the contingency whether the steamers can ordinarily be brought above the strong rapid of the U matilla. I have not been incommend on this points At the Cascades formed on this point & At the Cascades portage there was formerly a tramway, now replaced, I am told, by a railroad. But whether the fifteen mile portage at the Dalles is performed by railway or with wagons I am not prepared to say. The natural road at this point, though billy, is a good one.

The tract lying between Walla Walla and Colville has been described in terms that might lead the reader to imagine a region dreary in the extreme and all but impassable. In the article to which I have referred you I strive to correct this mis-statement— for it is not by the misrepresentation of facts, or the undervaluing of advantages, that the relative merits of the rival routes are to be established. I say this irrespectively of other considerations, pointing to the same conclusion. Over the same ground, however, in the memorandum submitted to me by you, the distance, on the other hand, is greatly under-rated, as well as the time of trayel. Your memorandum shows a distance of 150 miles only, with a traveling time of five days. The distance is fully what I have estimated it; and in former times, with fresh horses and loads not exceeding 200 pounds to each, it was considered by the people of the Hudson's Bay Co. good work for a pack train to make the journey in ten days. In early spring, when snow frequently impedes portions of the route, of course a longer time was taken. It is, however, for practical packers, forewarned of the distance and knowing the rates at which they travel with the heavy loads they convey, to estimate in this matter for themselves. The wagon road, I should mention, is longer than the ordinary pack trail; but not having traveled by it I am at a loss to say how

1 am informed that it is proposed to extend the transport by steamer some twenty miles above Walla Walla, to a point near the mouth of the Yackama river, and there to commence the land travel by the trail followed by the Colville brigade of the Hudson's Bay Co. in 1852. The trail in question unites with that from Walla Walla a few miles above the falls of the Peloose. This measure, if adopted, would somewhat shorten the distance of land travel, and likewise save the troublesome crossing of the Snake river-an object, with the drivers of heavily burthened pack-trains, of no small importance. It would be possible, indeed, to extend steam communication higher up, as far as the foot of the Priest's Rapid; but no advantage, in connection with the land transport to Colville, would accrue from the

Referring to my previous letter you will perceive that I consider the strong rapid at the mouth of the Kootanais river to be a serious obstacle to the navigation by steamers of the portion of the route above Colville. Victoria for information on the subject. In repeating the doubt, however, I do not desire my opinion to be regarded as authoritative. The Arrow Lakes—fine sheets of water—are respectively fifty and sixty miles in length, with a connecting channel of nine miles. They are generally free from ice about the middle of April-in severe seasons somewhat authentic statements to which, for the most Fish ......

The term "Big Bend" arises from the abrupt turn which the McGillivray Branch (heading with the Kootanais River) makes at the point where it is joined by the Canoe River (heading with the Fraser) and the stream issuing from the Mount Hooker Pass. The three streams here unite to form the main Columbia; and here, at the issue of the last mentioned stream, is the Boat Encampment. Leaving Fort Colville annually about the 20th April the Hudson Bay Express boats generally reached the Boat En-campment (where the boats were deposited for the summer) in ten days; but they were always strongly manned and in light marching order. In 1842 I left Colville a week later than usual and reached the mountains only on the twelfth day, though my boats were unusually well-manned with Canadian and other voyageurs, and the most expert Iroquois conductors. The cause of this delay was that we met the freshets above the second lake, and had no small trouble to proceed. I mention these facts to show that the difficulties of the navigation of the Upper

the difficulties of the navigation of the Upper Columbia are not to be lightly considered. Of the ten days of travel usually occupied three were passed between the head of the Arrow Lakes and the Dalles des Morts.

I may mention incidentally that the distance from the Boat Encampment to Jasper's House on the Athbasca, through the Mount Hooker Pass of the Rocky Mountains is by my computation 88 miles—the trail in some parts rough, and in one place very steep for a considerable distance.

parts rough, and in one place very steep for a considerable distance.

In treating of the route from Victoria to Columbia River I shall proceed on my own general knowledge of the country, while acknowledging the information is regard to details and recent improvements kindly supplied to me by Captain Richard Layton and other centlemen. To commence with the other gentlemen. To commence with the distance :-

fer all lange name into that one at any	TIME
Victoria to New Westminster, by steamer	80
To Yale, by steamer	05
To investigation of	90
To junction of waggon roads above Lytton.	w13259
by stage	110
To Sovene's Person word and of The	
To Mayana & Ferry, West end of Mamioops	week!
Lake, by stage	23
To Kamloons Fort, by steamer	27
To Titale Character Tale	41
10 Little onuswap Lake, by steamer	371
Length of Little Shuswan Lake, hy steamer	43
To Big Shugwen Loke by steemen	014
To Dig Onuswap Lake, by steamer	274
Inrough Big Shuswap Lake to Ogden City.	
by steamer.	46
Ondon City to the Colombia Di	20
Oguen City to the Columbia River, by the	2.6347.2
new road striking the river 23 miles	1 10 11
shove the Arrow Lakes	94
	Ogden City to the Columbia River, by the new road striking the river 23 miles

re the Arrow Lakes... 34 To Gold Creek ..... 8

Deduct for sea-navigation from Victoria to New Westminster..... 80

Nett distance, New Westminster te Hence it appears that there is a difference in favor of the route by by the way of Fraser River of 257 miles as from Portland on the one hand, from New Westminster on the other the true points of departure in both

In regard to time of travel, the following Fure..... memorandum has been given me;

Total time from New Westminster to Ogden City ....

From Ogden City to the Columbia River might occupy at present about two days; but on the completion of the road-works in progress might be effected with ease in a single day. Thus a traveller could reach the point in question in five days from New Westminster, or in six from Victoria; on an emergency the journey could be accomplished in a shorter time.

The estimated cost of freight through from New Westminster to the Columbia, taking into account what is actually charged for transport at present for a portion of the distance, and including the objectionable road tolls, is ten and a half cents per pound, as

New Westminster to Yale-steamer..... 1c 

Add the Road Tolls, which it is proposed to abolish .....3c

In regard to the rates of fare for passengers, I am not prepared to speak; but every disposition exists to reduce them to the lowest possible rates. Public opinion, indeed, is very strong on this point, and its expression

has been cordially responded to. Concerning the fares or rates of freight by the Portland route, I am not able to speak with any degree of accuracy, and therefore refer you for information to other sources.

Having now laid before you, to the best of my judgment, facts which bear on the question. I can only repeat the remark made in my previous letter, that the advantages which the route via Victoria posseses over the rival route cannot be over-estimated, affording, as it does, a cheap, speedy and secure line of transit, available for throwing in supplies for the hardy miners at all seasons of the year. Whatever the delusion, in short, that may for a while possibly tempt miners to adopt a different line of route, a brief experience will correct the error.

In connection with the new developments in the interior, I rejoice to hear it rum red that the Government of British Columbia is about to alter some of those injudicious enactments which have for some time impeded the progress of that Colony, while materially affecting our own interests. 1 allude more particularly to the road tolls, and the still more unpopular and oppressive tax upon the export of gold. The abolition of these objectionable

comprised between the Little Dalles and the imposts will afford just satisfaction to the Hams.. 

haps even richer than has yet been shown or imagined; but my belief is founded on Furs..... 33837 Potatoes..... part, the public has had access equally with Fruit..... some of the New York papers, that the most fabulous statements have gone abroad—how Horns..... I know not. The truth, plainly told, is sufficiently alluring without resorting to fictions so unworthy. Such must have in the end an injurious effect, by tending to weaken that confidence in the good faith and good intentions of the colonists, which it shold be their first object by all means to foster and promote. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your Obedient Servant add to ALEX. C. ANDERSON.

9 91 9891 JESU	8147 J.	Mr. Countillor	1
IMPORTS T	O AIG	CTORIA, V. I	., FOR
		AR 1865.	
oovitta pad sisis	o sanda	ard. An impo	al bad
FROM SAN	FRANCIS	CO, PORTLAND,	AND
n aireo e di me	PUGET	SOUND.	m   -pi
Almonds	THE STATE OF STATE OF THE	Lime Juice	B 175
Ale & Porter	2137	Lumber	3951
Alcohol	1491	Laths	743
Acid	570	Matting	764
Apples	7828	Mdse	42026
Axes	430	Matches	3357
Bitters	3749	Machinery	659
Bags	5816	Molasses	1112
Barley	8654	Molasses	1849
Bacon	40120	Millinery	2970
Beans	3544	Medicines	1508
Boots &c	56490	Mdse.Chinese	3361
Beef	4220	Musical In	1201
Blankets	2664	Nails	7808
Brandy	1000	UVSIATS	3737
Bran	0044	1011	8051
Butter	21017	Cilman Stores	873
Brooms	2705	Oats	14009
Bread	3290	Opium	3335
Biscuit	1132	Onions	1292
Bil'd Tables.	3300	Pictures	100
Books	5420	Pails	341
Brushes	99	Paints	741
Corn	211	Paper	4957
Cattle	L14802	Pianos	500
Corn meal	3402	Pork	2308
Candles	10059	Powder, Yeast	9152
Champagne	9381	Pipes Perfamery	2646
Cheese	12319	Perfamery	421
Cider	952	Pepper.	178
Ligars	53144	Pickles	102
Coffee	20811	L'amps	413
Clothing	48585	Pers'al Effects	340
Clocks	1102	Potatoes	5977

Clocks..... 1102 Potatoes ..... Coal Oil..... 15022 Pitch ...... Coal .... 1749 Quicksilver .. 6504 Rice .. ..... Claret ..... 1301 Rope..... 450 Shingles.... Chickens.... Canvas.... 65 Soda..... 1783 Starch ..... Drugs..... Dry Goods ..

12182 Sheep..... 60749 Safes.... Dry Goods. 1359 Salt.

Duck. 138480 Ship Chan ...

Express Matt. 138480 Ship Chan ...

Eggs 7526
Fancy Goods. 1916 Stationery ... Eggs Fancy Goods. Flour. 253745 Sundries .... Furniture. .. 13503 Sugar ..... Fruit..... 16138 Stoves...... Fruit Trees ..

2113

36794

1776

236

380

1383

595

2389

162

620 Saddlery ... Fish.... Grain..... 3366 Sew'g Mac'nes 1467 Snuff..... Glassware ... 25495 Skins .... Gas fixtures. 810 Turpentine ... 440 Tea .....

Guns. ..... Hams ..... 13287 Tobacco .... Hardware ... 57834 Trunks..... Hats..... 7297 Trees ..... 5920 Tubs..... Hogs .... 3842 Vinegar .... 45 Vegetables ... Harness..... 11859 Wine.... Horses .... I1325 Woodware ... 780 Wheat ..... Hosiery ....

Hides ..... 15 Wagons .... 60 do Mat'l. Instruments ... 750 Whiskey ..... Iron .... 944 Windows .... 24259 Wool ..... Lard ...... Leather ..... 5571 Wearing ap'l. Liquors .....

TOTAL, from San Francisco \$1284687 Portland Puget Sound 222056 TOTAL, \$1,687,903

FROM ENGLAND. Ale & Porter\$ 50470 Leather ... .. \$ 600 Millinery .... Ammunition 200 Matting . . . 130 1350 Merchandise . 31881 Acid . . . . . . . . 520 Matches.... 290 Bitters..... 708 Machinery ... Blankets .... 52662 Musical Inst's 19018 Medicines ... Boots & Shoes Brandy. .... 87819 Nails.... 300 Oil .... Bacon ...... 1650 Oilman stores Bags..... 87 Oats...... 75 Oatmeal.... Brushes.... Olaret ..... 11920 Perfamery... Candles. ..... 9577 Pianos.... Champagne ... Crockery ..... 755 Paints .....

118881 Paper..... Clothing ..... Coffee ..... 1770 Powder ..... Confectionery 260 Pipes .... 2355 Pork ..... Coal .... 947 Pictures ..... 730 Private effects Corks .... Cheese .... 5076 Rum..... Drugs ..... Dry Goods .. 204441 Rope..... 370 Rice, ..... Cars..... 1155 Soap ..... 7372 Sugar ..... Furniture ... 277 Salt .... Gas Fixtures Gip .... 14420 Spirits ..... 9621 Saddlery ... Groceries..... Glassware ... 5750 Sandries .... 8815 Seeds .... Gunpowder ... 5092 Stationery Guns ..... Grain ..... 955 Turpentine ...

73778 Tobacco ....

2822 Tea......

127 Vinegar .....

FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA. Corn. .....\$ 14|Leather. .... \$ 1000 400 Oils..... 1770 Hides.... 358 Spirits..... Horses..... 3378 Sheep..... Horns..... 25 Tea....

60 Wool ... 60 Wood ..... 23 Whiskey .... TOTAL, \$73071 FROM SANDWICH ISLANDS. Coffee ... \$ 7558 Liquors .... \$ 1199 235 Lumber .... 20 Molasses....

Dry Goods .. Fruit ..... Horses ..... 100 Pala ...... Hides..... 1900 Sugar .... 75971 FROM SAN JUAN ISLAND. Barley ..... \$ 285 Potatoes .....\$ 52 Oats.....

Beef.... Chickens .... 24 Wheat..... Hogs.... 340 Wooden knees Lime..... TOTAL, \$4700 FROM CHINA. Chinese mds'e\$ 462 Paper.....\$ Groeeries... 1148 Wine...... 1761 Hams...... 11 Rice ...... 27316 Indigestion & Stomachic Weakness 4 Sugar ..... 223 Opium.... 4262 Tea..... 986

TOTAL, \$36198 FROM VALPARAISO. Barley .....\$3734 04 | Bran.... .. \$ 38 00

FROM SOCIETY ISLANDS. Fruit ..... \$1015 | Lime Juice ... \$ 50 Shells..... 50

RECAPITULATION. From San Francisco, Portland,

and Puget Sound, .... \$ 1,687,903 England, ..... British Columbia, ..... 73,071 Sandwich Islands, ..... 93,678 San Juan Island,..... 4,700 China, ..... 

TONNAGE. 1864. 1865. DECREASE
Tonnage entered, 186.774 162,568 24,206
Tonnage cleared, 184.712 158,320 2,639

1,387 1,128 1,367 1,119 Vessels cleared, GOLD EXPORTS. FOR 1865.

8312	January S February March	98672	0
3216	February	19146	Ž.
4699	March	148817	40
1297	April	12936	
621	May	44920	
4391	Jane	209587	
526	July	218777	0.000
53	August	240915	82
210	Septemper	345752	39
099	October	113887	
372	November	421265	64
2021	December	192382	
CHOA		CANADA STATE OF THE STATE OF TH	1. 10. 10.

\$2067061 30 do. 1864 2784226 41 Decrease, \$ 717165 11 VALUE OF EXPORTS (EXCLUSIVE OF GOLD) FOR THE YEAR 1865.

To California......\$254878 Oregon....
Washington Territory..... 1483

TOTAL, \$456856 1864, 303065 Increase, \$ 73,791

EXPORT OF COAL FROM NANAIMO For the year 1865, .. 32818 tons 1864...29069 "

3749 " Increase.

THE first of January, the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, was duly observed by the colored folks of Salem, at the house of one of their number. A gentleman, meeting one of the sable celebrators familiarly known as "one legged Jack," who was on his way to the observances, inquired where he was going. "Gwine up hea to celebrate de sassination of Mr. Linconln's mancipation proclamation," was the response. - Democratic Review.

ROYAL GIFT-The Empress of the French 550 has presented Mdlle, Patti with a superb diamond necklace, in return for an album with 24 portraits of that eminent actress in different poses and roles.

HOLLOWAY'S CINTMENT AND PILLS-Thes potent remedies constitute a materia medica in themselves, for there is no i-ternal or externa themselves, for there is no i-ternal or external disorder cont.ollable by med line for which the one or the other of them is not a positive remedy—eruptions, tumous, scrofula, scurvy, cancer, asthma, rheumatism, gout, and dropsy entirely subside and disappear under the action of these joint medicines; and in cases of indigestion, sick headache, bile, liver complaints, debility; and other disorders originating in the internal organs, the Pills produce the most astonishing, results imaginable. The student of Nature knows how sim-7063 aginable. The student of Nature knows how sim-2190 ple are her ways; if one preparation can throw now single out all the impurities of the blood, disease is con-414 quered and art is triumphant, because it adopted the simplicity of Nature.



TOTAL, \$982584 PICKLES, SAUCES, JAMS.&C (FREE FROM ADULTERATION,)

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Their Pickles are all prepared in Pure Malt Vinegar, boiled in Oak Vats, by means of Platinum STEAM COLLS, thus avoiding all possibility of contact with Corptes, or any other injurious metal; and they are precisely similar in quality to those supplied by them for use at

..... der majesty's table. Oxford Sausages, Tatent Precer per Hamin. Choose and Bacon, Yorkshire Game and Fork Pates, Fresh Cysters in Tina, Salmon Cutlets, Whitebatt, Fillets of Soles, Bologna Sausages, Herrings a la Sardines, Soups, Meats, and Vegetables in Tins, Fruits in Syrup, also in Noyeau and Brandy, Crystallized Fruits, all of which, as well as many articles to numerons to include in an advertisement, they can strongly recommend. Their Salad Oil is the finest imported.

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dries.

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127



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Judson's Simple Dves. Ten colours, Price 1s, 6d. 2s. 6d., and 5s. per bottle, These Dyes will also be found useful for impart-Feathers, Fibres, Grasses, Seaweed, Ivory, Bone, Wood, Willow Shavings, Paper, also for

Tinting Photographs, and for Illuminating May be had of all chemists throughout the United Kingdom and British Colonies. WHOLESALE DEPOT-19a. Ctleman st., London

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Wholesale Agents for Vancouver Island.

MESSRS.JANION, GREENJ& RHODES.

Che Weekly British Calani

Tuesday, January 30, 1866.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. Monday, Jan. 2: House met at 1:30, p. m. The Speake

the chair,
Members present — Messrs. DeCosm
M'Clure, Trimble, Dickson, Duncan, Ca well, Cunningham, Cochrane, Ash.

.omisas THE ESTIMATES. Administration of Justice, continued, clusive of establishments)-Contingent penses of unpaid magistrates, \$500. Mr. DeCosmos moved that the item

struck out. Dr. Helmcken said there must be son thing voted for this item. The Justices the Peace were sent about from one place another and other expenses were incur which they would not pay out of their o pocket. He moved that it be \$250. On a division the vote stood—Nees, Cosmos, M'Clure, Carswell, Dickson.

Ayes, Dr. Helmcken, Cunningham, Dr. can, Cochrane. The chairman gave casting vote in favor of striking the item c Reimbursement to Chief Justice for p sage expenses from England, \$750. Mr. DeCosmos moved that the item

struck out. In granting the pension it wastipulated that the late Chief Justice should be a stipulated that the late Chief I stipulated the stipulated that the late Chief I stipulated the stipulated that the late Chief I stipulated the stipulated that the stipulat hold office until his successor arrived. when a gentleman accepts office on the derstanding that his pay was not to co mence until he took office he could expect his expenses to be paid. He was a disposed to vote the amount out of gener Dr. Helmeken thought the House w

pledged to pay the amount. He read despatch from the Duke of Newcastle on t subject of the appointment. The item was struck out unanimously. EDUCATION. - School house, Nanain

Mr. DeCosmos moved a reduction to \$150 Mr. Cunningham thought it impolitie reduce the amount, as it was insufficient it stood to pay for the school house; the were 230 children at Nanaimo-the prese house would only accommodate some

children and the children of t ment held out to them to subscribe amounthemselves towards it, he would not und the circumstances be in favor of contributi \$1500, but anybody conversant with buildi in a new scountry would know that \$15 would build a very good school house. Cou the country afford it he would vote \$5000 \$10,000 for school houses in Victoria ar

Mr. McClure thought \$1500 ought to suffic at present, more might be voted by and by

Dr. Helmcken considered \$1500 sufficier as it did not include instruction. The motion was carried, Mr. Cunningha dissenting. Repairs and additions to buildings, \$500 reduced to \$100 partra edit

Books, petty expenses, &c., \$1000. Motion of Mr. DeCosmos to reduce t item to \$800 was carried. Rent of school houses, \$1080. Amou

Ayes, DeCosmos, M'Clure, Cunninghar Noes, Ash, Helmcken, Cochrane, Dou can. Carswell. Dr. Powell here entered the house

CHARITABLE ALLOWANCES-Miscellaneo Dr. Helmcken moved that the amount paid to the orphan school. Motion by Mr. DeCosmos to postpone-

carried. Hospitals-Contribution to Victoria Ho pital, \$2,000.

A message from his Excellency was re furnishing a statement of the position, receive and indebtedness of the Royal hospital, an informing the house that the government ha not deemed it advisable to pay the balance of \$3000 due to the hospital.

Mr. M'Clare commented on the cour pursued by the Executive in assenting to the payment of sums of money that could we be dispensed with, while amounts that we really indispensable were ignored. It was almost incredible to him how such urger claims as those of the bospital, the public schools and the fire companies should ha been neglected, while thousands of dolla were expended on a gubernaterial mansic While forty thousand dollars or so were bo rowed to build Government House, the E excutive did not dare to get into debt to lieve involved hospitals and overburdened i departments. (Hear, hear.) He propos the amount should be increased to \$5000. DradHelmoken said from personal expe

rience he could say that the indebtedne

of the Royal Hespital was as stated abou

\$3,000. During the year one hundred patier had been received, the daily cost of who was seventy five cents per head. The citsens and tradesmen had always behav most liberally sowards the Committee; mes provisions, &c., had been supplied at the lowest rates, but difficulty had always been experienced in getting money from the Go ernment. The \$3,000 was due from la year, and must be paid. He could not a why the Executive had refused to pay t \$3,000 and he coincided with the remar just made. In adverse times the Hospital re quired more support, and \$5,000 was all gether too little. The Hospital surgeons he charged nothing for their services, and the Committee would no longer bear the responsibility of the debts on their own shoulders In many instances the sick patients wh were supposed to eat very little eat a greated and it was really nourishment morthan medicine that they required. The Hospital authorities did not ask more than \$5,000 for the present year, and would did the best they could with that sum. The were ready at any time to hand over the e tablishment to the Government if required.

Dr. Pewell thought before so large a sun of money as \$8,000 was voted the Haus should know something more of the government of the Hospital by an irresponsible Committee. He had nothing to say against the Committee, but they had nothing to show o the House of the mode of expenditure.