

# THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST And Victoria Chronicle.

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WE believe that the interior of British Columbia even now produces all the wheat, oats and barley required by that section of the Colony, and that more would be raised if it could be profitably transported to the coast. This at once raises the question of the desirability of cheaper conveyance such as by railway or locomotive, and the necessity of producing other articles, such as tobacco or beet root for the manufacture of sugar. It is not our intention to proceed at present to the examination of these questions. The remarks about to be made will chiefly apply to Vancouver Island and the banks of the Lower Fraser. However much many in this section of the Colony may complain, and with justice too, of the want of business, there is one class that cannot, at all events, take part therein, namely, the agriculturists. In looking over the returns of the Customs House for the year 1868, we find that during that year no less than 53,000 bushels of wheat (including flour); 16,000 bushels of barley, and 11,000 bushels of oats were imported into the Colony, and that the value thereof amounted in round numbers to \$150,000. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars! To raise the quantity of cereals above mentioned will require the cultivation of nearly three thousand more acres of land than at present, or close upon five square miles. We would ask our farmers to make a strenuous effort during the present season to wipe out the disgrace of this Colony still being dependent upon foreign sources for the very bread consumed. If each agriculturist in the Colony were to break up a few additional acres, he would be doing himself and the country good, he having the option of making himself rich and keeping in the country the \$150,000 per annum now sent abroad, besides giving employment to a greater number of people. We know that agriculturists complain of not being able to obtain help, but we feel certain that that help would soon be forthcoming if permanent employment could be offered. The returns show that there is a good market for all that the farmers can produce; they therefore ought to have no fear in going boldly into the cultivation of the soil. By the Customs' returns we also are made aware that no less than 55 tons of butter were imported during the year 1868; the value thereof being \$40,000! To produce this quantity of butter 1000 more cows will be required. We do not suppose the dairymaid can do much more than she does at present; but surely the figures show how good an opening there is for any one acquainted with the dairy to go into the business upon a large scale. Nay, it would seem to be a good speculation for a joint-stock company. It is unnecessary to point out how large a field there is here for the employment of capital and labor. To maintain such a number of cows in a proper manner, at least a thousand acres more of land would require to be cultivated. This thousand cows may be presumed to yield a thousand calves per annum, the most of which would

probably be killed before arriving at any great age; but here again let us look to the Customs' returns, and we find imported during the same year more than three thousand five hundred head of cattle: so that two birds might be killed with one stone, viz., the production of butter and the raising of cattle. The skins, too, might come in useful for leather and help to retain the large amount of \$100,000, annually sent out of the country for boots and shoes! It is really astounding to think that with such a profitable field for enterprising farmers so few should be found to embark in the pursuit. Our climate is one of the finest in the world. Not a flake of snow during the past winter; the thermometer seldom below freezing point! While our taxes are lower, the price obtained for produce is greater than in neighboring American States, and the cost of land one dollar per acre, payable in four years! Of land there is plenty as well on this island as upon the banks of the lower Fraser. Why is it not people? We would ask our citizens, merchants, and others, to consider how much the business of the city would be improved were the lands occupied by an industrious and enterprising people, and would point out at the same time that as they would reap the benefit so they should make of themselves strenuous efforts and strive to obtain a rural population. Every one can do something. It is the duty of all to assist to benefit themselves, the country, and the settlers.

Thursday, March 25  
City Council.

Tuesday Evening, March 23, 1869.  
The Council met at 7 o'clock, his Worship the Mayor in the Chair. Present—Galloway, Allan, McKay, Russell, Allison and Groves.

Communication from M. Reynolds, applying for the sum of \$15 for certain kerb and paving-stones, placed at the intersection of Government and Fort streets, in 1863. The Clerk was instructed to inform the applicant that the Council had no knowledge thereof.

Account from F. W. Green, \$20, for surveying a portion of Pandora street, was referred to the Finance Committee for payment.

Kineman & Styles were authorized to remove the sidewalk and to use a portion of the street during the erection of Southgate's new store, subject to supervision by the Street Committee.

Permission was granted T. J. Barnes, Lunley Franklin and others, to lay down a street crossing from the corner of Reid st. to the Clippner Warehouse, Yates street.

The Chairman of the Street Committee reported that John Nicholson, a tender for grading and graveling a portion of Pandora street, (\$1755) was the lowest, and recommended that the tender be awarded to him.

Communication referred.

The Council then adjourned to Tuesday next at 7 o'clock.

THE RUSH TO WHITE PINE.—Like many other excitements upon this coast within the past twenty years, the news of the extraordinary success attained by miners in the White Pine District has attracted thither a large number of persons who risk life, health and happiness in pursuit of hidden treasures by which they may become suddenly rich. Steamboats, railway cars, stages, and all modes of conveyance are crowded to their utmost capacity, and yet the rush for the new El Dorado is daily on the increase. Though correspondents of the various newspapers are constantly urging cautious action in the matter, it has no effect, and people sacrifice business in the city (from which they will daily receive a fair remuneration for their labor), in the hope of becoming millionaires with but little labor. This mad rush for sudden gain, and the consequent neglect of regular and necessary mechanical business in the city, can but work evil to both employers and employees. As an evidence of the excitement in regard to the White Pine District, it may be well to note the fact that since the first of March there have been no less than fifty-six companies incorporated. *San Francisco Mail, 11th inst.*

WHOLESALE THEFT.—Nearly every day complaints reach us of the theft of window-sashes and doors from empty shops. Five of such occurrences have been reported within one week. These convenient sago-goats, the Hyades, having made themselves scarce, the conclusion that civilized bipeds are the depollers, is irresistible. Cannot something be done to make an example of one or more of these small sneak thieves?

SAD TERMINATION TO A ROMANTIC COURTSHIP AND HASTY MARRIAGE.—In looking over our files of San Francisco papers received by the Free Trade yesterday, we came upon the following paragraph under the head of DIVORCED.

BRUCKMAN.—In the Fifteenth District Court, February 20, by Judge Samuel H. Durand, Nellie E. Bruckman from Alexander Bruckman, on the ground of adultery, was granted a divorce.

From the fact that the parties thus put asunder by legal process were married in this city and resided at New Westminster for some time, the paragraph possesses for many of our readers a more than passing interest. Mr. Bruckman was for some years the assiduous agent of the Western Union Telegraph Company at New Westminster, where he has many friends. He fell in love with the young lady who subsequently became his wife through seeing her *carte de visite*. She then resided with her widowed mother at Philadelphia, U.S. Photographs were exchanged, a correspondence extending over several years occurred, which resulted in Mr. Bruckman's letter by letter a proposition of marriage. He was accepted and the young lady came out in the summer of 1867. They met for the first time on the steamship Active, at Brodbeck's wharf, and were married the next evening at the residence of a highly respectable family in this city. A few days thereafter they proceeded to the then Capital of the Colony, where they resided until about one year ago, when, as is too frequently the case with men and women who hastily tie a knot with their tongues that they cannot undo with their teeth, they separated, the lady proceeding to San Francisco, where she has since resided. With regard to the causes that brought about the separation and subsequently the divorce, we have nothing to do; and only mention the case as one of the most singular that has ever come under our notice, and as a warning to others who may be disposed to marry in haste and rue it at leisure.

CITIZENS' ENTERTAINMENT TO THE FREE.—Yesterday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, a largely attended meeting of citizens was held at the Mechanics' Institute Building. B. Enlayson, Esq., was called to the Chair, and G. J. Stuart, Esq., was appointed Secretary. Upon motion of Mr. Stuart, seconded by Mr. Fell, it was unanimously resolved to extend an invitation to Admiral Hastings and Mrs. Hastings and the officers of H. M. Fleet, for an entertainment to be given at an early day. The Chairman appointed the following named gentleman to act as a Committee to carry out the wishes of the meeting: His Honor the Mayor, Dr. Polmie, Mr. Drake, Mr. Fell, Mr. J. R. Stewart, Mr. Russell, Government street, Mr. Granini, Mr. Stuart, Mr. Ward, Mr. Nathan, Mr. J. Lowe, Mr. C. A. Bacon, Mr. Alston, Mr. E. Marvin, Dr. Tago, Mr. Burnaby, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Robson, Dr. Curran, Mr. McLean, Capt. Cooper, Mr. W. Wilson. Before the meeting adjourned, it was stated that the Hudson Bay Company tendered the free use of their elegant steamer Enterprise upon any day that might be decided upon by the Committee; and at a meeting of the Committee, which was convened at once, it was resolved that a picnic at Beacon Hill be given at an early day in honor of the friends who are soon to take their departure—many of them forever—from this station. The movement is one in which all classes will join with the hearty earnestness of good will and friendly regard for the gallant gentlemen and enjoyable ladies who will be for that day the guests of the city of Victoria.

NOTICE CONCERNING A MARRIAGE.—On Tuesday, as Mr. James Ritchie, of Lytton, was crossing Rock Bay bridge he observed a child struggling in the water; and without waiting to divest himself of a single article of clothing he leaped into the bay and brought the little waif to land. The child had been playing on the bridge with other children and had climbed on the railing, whence he fell into the water, where but for the providential arrival of Mr. Ritchie he must have been drowned.

EQUINOX.—We are at last visited by the equinoctial gales, which have arrived at the customary period of the month. They will, however, be received with favor; the long period of mild weather we have experienced, impressed us with the advantage of a storm occasionally, so that we may the better appreciate the glorious climate in which we have taken up our abode.

NOT CONFIRMED.—The Chief Justice has declined to confirm the sale of the big Byzantium for \$2800; and it is said that the vessel will be again offered at auction with an upset price.

THE IT.—The Olympia papers report the discovery of gold in the sands of Puget Sound, and a small number of men, it is said, are taking out \$4 a day to the hand. This announcement has resulted in bringing to our notice an incident which induces us to believe that the sands of the beach along our own coast are auriferous. About three weeks ago a lady and gentleman were walking bright among the washed-up sand in the gravies of a rock covered at high tide by the waters of the Straits. The gentleman examined the sand, took therefrom a few pieces of the shining substance and carried it to a jeweller in town here who pronounced the pieces to be gold, of the value of 75 cents. A few days thereafter the same parties were again walking along the beach when they examined the crevice alluded to and found a little more gold, which had apparently been newly washed up by the waves. It is well known that gold washing along the Colvioria coast has been carried on for a number of years, and the circumstances above alluded to favor the opinion that the golden sands are not confined to the beach of the Golden State, but are to be found in our immediate vicinity. Try it!

CANNOT some of our leading dailies offer a situation upon its editorial staff to the gentleman just returned from White Pine? His fitness is indisputable; he has furnished a large part of the current mendacity which has enlivened their columns for the last few weeks. We should employ him ourselves, but we are already supplied with a first-class liar, and our readers won't stand two. The capacity of the dailies, however, is absolutely unlimited; they secrete liars as the liver secretes bile. *S. F. News Letter.*

ARRIVAL FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—The American barkentine Free Trade, Capt. Biddington, 12 days from San Francisco, arrived yesterday morning and immediately heeled a longside of the Hudson Bay Company's wharf, where she will discharge her cargo, which comprises some 400 tons, two-thirds of which is for Millard & Beady. The Free Trade is a comparatively new vessel, having been built in 1867. Her Captain is an old-time visitor at this port, having commanded for many years the brig W. D. Rice, one of the most successful sailers upon the Northern Pacific. We are indebted to Capt. Biddington for one day's later papers.

COWICHAN DISTRICT.—An Indian was shot near Sayward's Mill, a few days ago by another Indian while on a spree. Mr. Oate's flour mill will be erected during the summer, and in anticipation the farmers are sowing large quantities of wheat. From the excellence of Cowichan cereals, we believe that in a few years Cowichan flour will be regularly quoted in the markets of the Colony. A large area will be planted this year. The trail to Cowichan is in a deplorable condition, being scarcely passable for man or beast. The steadily increasing population of the district renders the want of a good trail more apparent than ever.

MILLOBSON.—By the barkentine Free Trade a melodeon for the new St. Andrew's Church was received. The instrument is one of the largest of its class, and is said to possess a remarkably fine tone. It will be placed in position immediately.

ANOTHER ARRIVAL FROM SAN FRANCISCO.—The ship Mary, consigned to the B. C. and V. I. Mills, Burrard Inlet, arrived yesterday morning from San Francisco, having been thirteen days on the way. The Mary will be under the name of Sidney Australia.

FOR MEXICO.—The schooner Favorite, Capt. McKay, will go to Mexico. She was yesterday chartered to load with lumber at the B. C. & V. I. Mills for that coast, and will sail for Burrard Inlet to-day.

HORRIBLE.—A few nights ago a poor, inoffensive native of Ireland, named A. Spud, who had been stopping for a short time at a store on Jordan street, was grabbed and crammed into a sack by a gentleman of this city, who had heretofore borne a good reputation, and carried home, where he was subjected to every cruelty and indignity by the family of which they are several. They danced around their innocent victim with malicious glee, poured cold water over him and gouged out his eyes with a case knife; after which they placed him in a pot of water over the fire and boiled the wretched fellow until the skin of his body entirely peeled off and the flesh dropped sandier. And now comes the horrid sequel: for the sake of humanity and the fair fame of our city, we would fain not speak of it, but stern duty compels us. The boiled remains were taken from the pot and placed on a table, around which this family of cannibals arranged themselves and ate the last morsel. Where are our officers?

British Claimants Coming Forward.

(From the New York Tribune.)  
A fair specimen of the class of cases in which Great Britain hopes to recover from the United States, should the Clarendon-Johnson treaty be ratified by the Senate, is the case of the *Confederate States Navy*, 150,000 army buttons, 7 bales of army cloth, 20 bales of army blankets, a considerable quantity of saltpetre and other goods of a similar character, was brought into the port of New York, and vessel and cargo were condemned in the United States District Court. On appeal to the Supreme Court the vessel was discharged, on the ground that it did not appear that she was going to carry the cargo into any rebel port herself, but was doubtless intending to transship it at Nassau for some port in the rebel States. A large proportion of the manufactured supplies for the rebel army was then reaching them from England via Nassau, as shown by the fact that they captured prisoners with English rifles, English swords, English cannon, and pistols, and clothes, and not seldom with English features and accents. Nassau being only about two hundred miles from the Confederate ports, and the intervening three days' run the most stormy and difficult part of our coast, it was almost impossible to prevent vessels which could come with impunity under the British flag to Nassau from completing their voyage in Charleston. Our Secretary of State and Courts, however, were willing to concede that British ships might carry all goods, whether intended for army use or not, between British ports, and that such goods did not become contraband of war until it was shown that their destination was a Confederate port. If ultimately destined, however, for a Confederate port they claim the right to seize them between the neutral ports of London and Nassau. Indeed, it is evident that the use of Nassau by British merchants, as a place of barter for vessels or goods bound for the Confederate States, was itself a violation of English neutrality, and took away all its rights to be considered a neutral port.

The Supreme Court of the United States having discharged the vessel, and condemned the cargo, the English owners of the cargo are looking to a reversal of the decision of our Supreme Court by Reverdy Johnson's Commission. By way of preparing public sentiment for the allowance of their claim, the innocent owners of this cargo are circulating documents, on the title page of which is this threat: "Lord Palmerston stated to Mr. Adams that it would not do for the United States ships of war to harass British commerce on the high seas, under pretence of preventing the Confederates from receiving things that are contraband of war." To which a fair reply would be that "it will not do for British mercantile pirates to make a hostile port of the harbor of Nassau, for equipping rebel privateers and sending army supplies into rebel States, under pretence of carrying on commerce between neutral British ports." Should the Commissioners themselves disagree, it will be remembered that they are to decide by lot whether the claim is to be decided by the "empire" appointed by the two English Commissioners, or by that appointed by the American Commissioners. If the lot falls to the latter, the English Commissioners can withdraw it for decision by some European potentate. Is it not a somewhat undignified procedure to pull straws to determine whether a decision of our Supreme Court condemning English pirate vessels shall or shall not be reversed by some friend of the English pirates?

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BENNETT.—The New York *Mut* says: Just before the war a delegation of Southern men, anxious to secure the support of the *Herald*, finally urged that unless Bennett would sustain secession, his paper would lose the patronage of the South. This roused the Scotch blood of the old gentleman, who rose indignantly and retorted: "Don't your Southern patronage! The chambermaids of New York pay me more than the whole South." This was not only true, but effectually stopped any further argument.

"Have you got your task this morning, miss?" said one of the lady teachers of a public school to a pupil. "No, ma'am," said the artless girl, "but sister Ellen has the influenza."