

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND. TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1866.

NO 28.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

BY MORNING.
Sundays Excepted.
Published every Tuesday morning.
By the Proprietor, J. G. GARDNER.
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BIG BEND.

By our British Columbian telegrams we learn that a number of miners have left Big Bend for Cariboo. The latest despatch says by way of explanation that no mining can be done on the Columbia for two months yet. Glancing superficially at the news which has been recently arriving from the new mineral region, one is naturally inclined to take a gloomy view of the prospect, and it is astonishing what absurdities this imperfect contemplation gives rise to. Our population is, generally speaking, so easily elated and so easily depressed that a telegram recounting the good fortune or disaster of half a dozen miners will raise or lower the hopes of the community beyond calculation. It is a mischievous propensity to be too sensitive. The inhabitants of a mining country, or people who are depending solely on such fleeting resources as the gold fields, must be more philosophical, and view matters not as they are exaggerated by the feverish imagination but as they present themselves to the calm and dispassionate mind. Any one who takes the trouble to read all the facts which are published as about Big Bend must come to the conclusion that a large and paying gold field exists along that portion of the Columbia river. He knows that the yield of gold during last autumn was unprecedentedly large to the hand—that every one who labored in the mines went back to them—and that the diggings as a general rule were inexpensive to work. On Carnes Creek, it is true, the sinking was not what might be termed shallow—holes having been sunk thirty-five feet without touching the bed-rock—but we had the testimony of men who worked on some of the other creeks, to the effect that the diggings as a whole are shallow. Late news, and indeed the letter from our own correspondent, asserts that the sinking is not so shallow, as was reported, on French and McCulloch creeks—that parties had got down thirty feet on the latter creek without reaching the bed-rock, and that holes had been sunk on French creek to the depth of fifteen feet with the same result. Both accounts may be, and no doubt are, perfectly correct. Any one who knows anything of mining knows that there is often shallow and deep sinking in the same creek, and when we consider how large a stream French creek is—our special correspondent went up several miles and found no perceptible difference in its size—we can easily understand the circumstance of the bed-rock being reached at one place in fifteen feet, and at another place in forty. But supposing, for the sake of argument, the sinking as a general rule to be deep, the short telegrams about men leaving for Cariboo are inexplicable. It is simply preposterous to fancy that persons can prospect a newly discovered mining region in a couple of weeks. Up to the 23d of April none of the new-comers had reached the bed-rock on French Creek—everything, so far as the present season is concerned, was a mystery, and yet in a fortnight after this time we hear of men leaving the place disheartened. If any one in Victoria gets disheartened likewise at hearing the tales of such pitiful prospectors, they are easily terrified. If a number of men, incapable of testing the mines, either through want of means, want of experience, or want of pluck, leave diggings, that have had the celebrity of Big Bend, in a couple of weeks, how can such a circumstance in any possible way affect the real character of the mines? If all the men at Big Bend were to leave to-morrow, the proof against its auriferous character would still be wanting; for the very simple reason that the diggings would have had no test. We cannot, under ordinary circumstances, expect any substantial evidence pro or con for the next month;

and even then the time will be too short to admit of a very decided opinion. Nothing has so far occurred to shake our belief, or the belief of any one who has given the subject a moment's consideration, in the richness and extent of the Big Bend country. We have the same hopes now as we had when the experience of those who worked on the mines last summer was brought down to us, and we cannot in the nature of things give up hopes so well grounded, because a few persons, who never struck a pick in the ground, have, childlike, turned their backs on the country they went up with courageous intentions to prospect. It will require the whole season to give anything like a trial to Big Bend; in the meantime it is worse than folly to pay the slightest attention to the

no doubt to pluck the nuggets from the trees and shrubbery that fringe the banks of the Columbia river. Had the same ear been given to the ridiculous stories that were first circulated about Cariboo, we should not have had to day a single person on Williams Creek; nor would we have had the by no means insignificant sum of \$170,000—the amount shipped by the California—to send away as the earnings of a few claims during the winter months. The most lucrative gold fields in both California and Australia would have been lost to the commerce of the world, had the peculiarities of holiday miners been listened to. What developed these countries, and what made the name of Cariboo celebrated wherever a newspaper is read, was the unflinching determination of the hardy and vigorous miners—men who were not disheartened because they had to sink a few feet below the surface, and who were not frightened because they had little more water occasionally than they knew what to do with. It is only this class that will make anything out of Big Bend, and they will do it. They have gone to the diggings to give them a trial, and they will not return with their fingers in their mouths because they have seen a little snow. We are quite content to await their verdict, knowing as we do the truthfulness of the accounts brought down in November last. The season may be a little late, and some difficulties not anticipated may present themselves, but that Big Bend will turn out anything but a rich mining region, affording plenty of scope to the industrious and persistent miner, and raising the mineral reputation of British Columbia along the coast and throughout the globe, is what we cannot, with so many facts before our eyes, believe.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, May 17.
Council met at 3:15; present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, D. Fraser.
MESSAGE.
A message was received from His Excellency the Governor, forward copy of reports received from Her Majesty's secretaries of Embassy and Legislation, respecting Coal. The message was received, and ordered to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Council.
LIQUOR LICENSE AMENDMENT BILL.
This bill was read the third time and passed. Council adjourned till Friday at 2 p.m.
FRIDAY, May 18.
Council met at 2:20 p.m. Present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary (presiding); Attorney General, Treasurer, Donald Fraser, R. Finlayson.
HOMESTEAD BILL.
Council went into committee on this bill, the Hon. Treasurer in the chair.
Hon. Donald Fraser presented and read the following petition from the Chamber of Commerce:
To the Hon. the President and Members of the Legislative Council.
The humble petition of the Chamber of Commerce of Victoria, V.I., respectfully sheweth:
That it is the opinion of your petitioners that the passage of a properly devised Homestead Law, wherein the value of the property exempted from seizure would be limited to a moderate amount, say not exceeding the value of \$2500, would be beneficial to the colony, tending, as they believe it would, to attract population to the country and retain it while here.
Your petitioners, therefore, pray that your honorable body may be pleased to pass a Homestead Law, so framed that whilst protecting the interests of families, for which it is intended, it would at the same time guard the public against fraud.
(Signed) JAMES LOWE, President.
A. F. MAIN, Secretary.
Victoria, V.I., 8th March, 1866.
The Hon. Donald Fraser introduced a series of amendments, constituting a new bill, which he had prepared with the assistance of the Hon. Attorney General. He said the Assembly's bill was a copy of a California bill that had been amended several times.
The Hon. Colonial Secretary said as these amendments constituted in point of fact a separate bill, it would have to pass through the several stages, whereas the other bill had been read a second time and committed.
It was agreed that the amendment should be taken up as a new bill in order to consider it, and clause I. of the original bill was substituted by the first clause of the new bill.

EUROPEAN NEWS SUMMARY.

Mr. Tom Hobler, the English tenor, of whom much has been expected, will shortly make his appearance at the Royal Italian Opera in "I Paritani."
The Crown Prince of Denmark will, it is said, put off his proposed visit to the King of Greece, until after the marriage of the Princess Dagmar to the Czarowitz.
The hundredth representation of the "Africaine" took place on the 9th, at Paris. The bust of Meyerbeer was on this occasion crowned with laurels, and a cantata sung in his honor.
A satisfactory arrangement has been arrived at by the French and Italian Governments respecting the Papal debt. Italy assumes one-half the debt as it stood in 1860, and the interest thereon.
The inhabitants of Cambridge, in consequence of the late season and a new outbreak of the latter involving an expenditure of £20,000.
In a speech delivered the other evening, Dr. Gulburie said that in talking the streets of Edinburgh he saw more drunken people in a day than he had seen in Italy in seven weeks.
The Bishop of London is now living at the University Club, London, and is reported to be in the best of health.
The Duke of Hamilton came over on the 12th, on which occasion there were general rejoicings over the extensive collection of which he is the proprietor.
A society has been formed in Paris for the purpose of executing a total and complete translation of the Holy Scriptures. In order to insure impartiality the task will be confided to learned men of the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religions.
Paris is at present well supplied with fruit and vegetables from Algeria. Green peas, of the present year's growth, are plenty in all eating houses. Strawberries are selling in the central market at from 1s. 6s. to 3s. 6s.; the pot marigolds from 8s. to 10s. 15s.; to 21s. the bundle; green kidney beans at from 3s. to 12s. the pound weight; artichokes from 6s. to 10s. the hundred; cauliflower from 6s. to 10s. the dozen; green peas from 6s. to 12s. the pound weight. Turnips, so dear two months since, have fallen to 7s. to the pound weight. These, of course, are the wholesale prices.
Some benevolent persons in Dublin have imitated the example so worthily set by Glasgow, by establishing a workman's dining-hall, where a comfortable meal of wholesome food can be procured by the artisan at a moderate price. It is situated at the North Wall, and is of such dimensions that from 1,500 to 2,000 persons can be accommodated during the day. A novel feature in the arrangements is that the attendants are ladies who give their services from a praiseworthy desire to help the institution until it becomes self-supporting.
There is to be a gigantic aquarium among the wonders of the Universal Exhibition. The front alone is to measure 100 feet; every sort of fish is to be collected therein for the amusement of the public, and even peculiar habits and customs in grottoes and caves, which are to be excavated in the floor of the building, and filled with seawater.
In the last skirmish which took place between the papal brigades and the troops, the latter, being in ambush, inflicted a loss of two killed upon the former. One of the individuals thus shot was found to be a strapping peasant woman of about 30, armed and dressed like the male members of the band. She was subsequently recognized to be the wife of the chief, Cedrone, who is now inconsolable for his loss.
The Dramatic College have awarded to Mr. A. R. Slous, a member of the Stock Exchange, the late Mr. T. P. Cooke's prize of £100 for the best national drama. The title of Mr. Slous' drama is "True to the Core," and it is understood that it will soon be produced at one of the West End theatres.
At a court concert held the other evening at the Tuileries, the Emperor walked over to M. Allart to compliment him on his brilliant performance, and taking up the artist's violin, to the astonishment both of M. Allart and the persons near, began to finger the instrument with the touch of a master.
Fashion in Paris is becoming still more extravagant. The eccentricities of ladies of high life in matters of dress, are really beyond all description. Enough has already been said on this subject, but with all you have heard, you will not be surprised to hear that ladies, not contented with wearing corolines, the springs of which are made of pure gold and silver, have now taken a fancy to boots with heels plated with the same precious metals. These boots may actually be seen in the shop windows of some of our fashionable shoemakers.
Is it True?—The *Journal des Villes de Campagne* states that an ancient Jewish house has been excavated in Syria, and by its structure and interior arrangement would seem to belong to the second century B.C. It is further said that seven books were found in it, viz., the Pentateuch, the Psalms, and a volume of Hebrew poems hitherto unknown. The treasure is supposed to be on its way to our Asiatic Society—*Eng. paper.*

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CO.

Meeting at Liverpool.
Yesterday, at noon, a well-attended meeting of merchants and others interested in the Atlantic telegraph was held at Liverpool for the purpose of hearing explanations from Mr. Cyrus Field, Captain Anderson, Mr. Canning, and Mr. Varley, as to the present position and prospects of the undertaking. Mr. Field was voted to the chair, and he explained the circumstances under which the enterprise had been handed over by the Atlantic Telegraph Company to the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, which is now subscribing £200,000 for the purpose of laying the new cable and completing the old one. He explained that this course was imposed upon the carrying out of the project during the ensuing summer, in consequence of the decision of the Attorney-General that the Atlantic Telegraph Company had no power to issue 12 per cent preference shares. The new company will be answerable for the successful laying of the cable, and would then have a claim to certain amounts of the profits of the undertaking. If any shareholder thought this unjust, of course he was welcome to take many shares as he liked in the new company. Mr. Canning then gave a short account of the experiences gained, and the improvements effected, in the machinery. He had not the slightest fear that in their next effort in laying the new line, but in recovering and completing the one partially laid last summer, he had anticipated even worse difficulties than they met, and no difficulty had been met, and no need to meet, and overcome. He had the fullest confidence in the Great Eastern. Mr. Varley, the electrician, entered more fully into the details of the project, and showed the advantages which the new cable would possess over the old one, in having a greater breaking strain. He also showed that with improved apparatus the recovery of the old cable and its completion would be a work of very little difficulty, and of almost certain success. As to the earnings he showed that the Persian Gulf cable earned nearly £100,000 a year, and that with bad management and the great delays with the Atlantic cable, and the improved instruments for the transmission of messages, which were extremely sensitive and delicate, he believed it would be no exaggeration to say that at the proposed rate of charges it would be quite able to earn messages at a speed which would earn a million pounds per annum. In the course of his remarks, he explained the manner in which the splittings or joinings of the cables and fittings, he believed, said before the tests employed that it was often found that the state of an operator's nerves or skin seriously affected the work; and it had often happened that when a man had been living freely the previous day his work in repeating failed to pass the test, and was rejected. In answer to questions, Mr. Canning and Mr. Varley explained that the state of the cable at the bottom of the Atlantic up to the point where it parted was as perfect now as the day it was laid. Mr. Varley also stated that the first cable laid was destroyed by the immense power required, owing to the imperfect instruments and probable defective insulation to remit words at a rapid rate. As high a power as 5,000 cells to one battery had been then employed; but with the last cable an order had been made that no greater power than 20 cells should be used, and it was quite possible to obtain with the improved instruments a rate of five or six words a minute, with a power of only a single cell. A gentleman remarked that there was a letter in *The Times*, signed by an engineer, and apparently a man of some note, but he could not recollect his name who had declared that it was a mechanical impossibility to raise the sunken cable, because of its great weight. He wished to know if the company had thought it worth while to answer that letter. Mr. Field remarked that if the company were to answer all the letters addressed to them, they would soon have to employ the whole of their capital in the task. They had already given, that day, an answer. Captain Anderson said he had not answered all the letters he had received, because he could not do so. One writer, a lady, proposed to raise the cable with a magnet. There were lots of people who wrote to say they would raise the cable, but they must have £10,000 for doing it; £10,000 seemed a favorite sum with such people. Mr. Field said that one gentleman called upon him and proposed to sink a hollow tube to the bottom of the sea, and then go down in it, and look for the cable. He plucked him considerably, until one morning he (Mr. Field) told him that he had decided that the thing could be done, and he (the inventor) should have the appointment to go down and look for it. He hadn't seen him since. Captain Anderson said it was only fair to admit that many of the letters contained very sensible suggestions. The proceedings then concluded, with a vote of thanks to the speakers.—*Times, 15th.*

DEATH OF A FRENCH JUDGE FROM HYDROPHOBIA.

A few days since M. Blondel, one of the Judges of the Tribunal of Arbois France, died from hydrophobia. The unfortunate gentleman had been bitten two years ago by one of his dogs while out shooting.

INDIAN RAIN AT SWINOMISH.

The Indians stationed at Swinomish, in Washington Territory, have had a disturbance among themselves. The war-whoop was sounded, and about 150 Indians flew to arms. One of their number was shot.

A MOVEMENT IS ON FOOT AMONG THE PRESBYTERIANS OF THE NORTH OF IRELAND FOR INCREASING THE STIPEND OF THEIR MINISTERS, AND A CONFERENCE WILL IMMEDIATELY BE HELD IN BELFAST ON THE SUBJECT.

A movement is on foot among the Presbyterians of the North of Ireland for increasing the stipend of their ministers, and a conference will immediately be held in Belfast on the subject.

ACHIEVE WEAKNESS.

SINE.

MEDICINE for weak and feeble men, in the form of **LOBELLES IN BOTTLES**, ZENGES, the **POWDER** **UNALTERABLE**, and the **AGREABLE**, and containing the medicine. Manufactured by **SON & SON**, 11, South Street, London.

Chemicals, &c.

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THE ATTENTION of the public is directed to the fact that the **Wagon Poles, Hubs, &c.**, which we offer will at all times be of the best quality.

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