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THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

And Victoria Chronicle.

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NANAIMO AGENCY.

Mr H. W. Alexander is no longer authorized to act as Agent of this paper at Nanaimo. Our business at that place will in future be conducted by Mr B. S. LEVI, who is alone empowered to receipt for subscriptions, &c.

The Necessity of Speedy Confederation.

The steady progress of negotiations for the transfer to the Crown of the Hudson Bay Company's territory lying between Canada and British Columbia, is a guarantee that the Home Government is alive to the importance of speedily adding that vast and rich domain to the Confederation which has began its course under auspices so favorable to its permanency and prosperity. At the last session of our Legislative Council a resolution asking that this Colony be included in the Confederation was carried. That resolution was transmitted to Downing Street, and was referred by the Imperial authorities to the Government of the Confederation for approval or rejection. Since the passage of that resolution an honorable member of our Legislative Council—Mr De Cosmos, at his own expense, has made the tour of the Confederacy, and has everywhere endeavored to impress upon the minds of our Eastern brethren the importance of at once accepting this Colony while "Barkis is willin'." Only last week we had the privilege of perusing a letter from Hon. Mr Tilly, of New Brunswick, who occupies the position of Minister of Customs in the Cabinet of the Dominion. Mr Tilly says he is in favor of the admission of British Columbia—scouts the idea of Uncle Sam's ability to buy this territory, and pledges himself to press for our immediate admission. We are aware there are those among us who deprecate haste in closing with the Canadian Government. They think our condition would be just as bad if not worse in the Confederacy as it is in the Union. These croakers know that the Colony is saddled with an expensive and do-nothing Government; that it is rushing as fast as it can into bankruptcy; they find themselves degraded politically to the condition of Jamaicans, without a voice in the management of their public affairs or as to how their money shall be spent; and they feel and know that if a radical change in the form of government does not take place within the three years that the Seymour administration has left of life, the country will be reduced to a deplorable state of discontent and poverty. In the face of this knowledge they cry, wait! don't be in a hurry! Who among them, if he saw his house in flames, would not attempt to extinguish them? or, who if he felt a ship sinking beneath him would not fly to the pumps and make at least one effort to keep it afloat? The condition of our affairs is not unlike that of a house on fire or a sinking ship. We want relief, and Confederation with the Eastern Provinces will bring that relief. It will secure us cheap and responsible Government, an overland road, an energetic colonial man of Mr Tilly's type and ability—a man of the people—to rule over us in place of men who come among us crammed with the old country ideas of business—ideas very well in old and settled communities, but which have been proved, when applied to new countries, entirely useless. We are convinced that this country never can prosper under a system like that with which it is burthened. One might as well expect water to run up hill as to look for prosperity in a country where the official element devours threefourths of the revenue and leaves only the remaining modicum to meet debentures falling due and effect public repairs—improvements there are none. Confederation cannot come a day too soon; and so far as "terms" are concerned, our people should be content if placed on the same footing with the Provinces that are already safely within the Dominion fold. We ask no advantage that they do not possess, and in return for the magnificent country, the splendid resources, and the Key to the Pacific which we would hand over, would accept nothing less. Another class of our readers believe that immediate Confederation is highly desirable, but are afraid that the cost of it will be too great for our people to bear. We are proclaimed that the fleet will be withdrawn from our shores. This fear is groundless. So long as the British flag floats over the Confederacy, it is still a British Colony, and as such is entitled and will receive the full measure of protection that England has always secured to her children. In the East there has been no withdrawal of either arm of defence. Where there were but 12,000 regulars, before the Confederation Delegates went to England, there are 30,000 to-day; and the number of ships-of-war has trebled during the same period. What reason—what precedent—is there for supposing that the interest felt in our security after Confederation will be less than that felt now? or that the number of ships and men furnished for our protection after Confederation will not exceed those now on the station? Confederation is but one step towards the accomplishment of the great end which comprises an "organization of the Empire" and the admission of Colonial delegates to seats in the Imperial Parliament, when London shall have become the seat of Government of the Empire, when "Colonies" shall have ceased to exist, and when every foot of ground over which the national flag floats shall be comprised under the generic title of "Great Britain!" We repeat that our people will be content with the same terms on which the Eastern Provinces have been admitted to the Confederacy. They can, in reason, ask nothing more; their interests demand that they should accept nothing less.

Monday, Sept 30th.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM A PANTHER.—It would seem from the following that notwithstanding the gradual narrowing of his domain through settlement and his acquaintance with the odor of gunpowder, Mr Panther has lost but little of his ancient audacity. At Burgoyne Bay, one day during the present week, the wife of a settler named Ackerman was in the farmyard feeding some poultry, one of her young children being with her. On approaching the chicken house, near to which her child was standing, she was horrified to see a large panther within a few feet of it, apparently about to spring. Motherlike, seeing only the imminent danger of her offspring, and regardless of all consequences to herself, with a scream Mrs Ackerman ran forward, picked up the child, and was soon within shelter of the farm-house. The panther, no doubt, taken unawares by the bold action of the mother, did not recover his "presence of mind" till the prey was beyond his reach. At any rate he followed them only a few yards, and then made for the bush.—*Nanaimo Tribune.*

THE venerable editor of the *News*, who seems to take Captain Winsor's conscience as well as his body into his keeping during that gentleman's stay at this port, denies that the California stopped at Shoal Point (we did not say 'outside') on Wednesday to communicate with a 'small boat.' Notwithstanding our contemporary's positive denial we have the evidence of our own eyes and that of nearly fifty other persons, who saw the ship stop and the boat put off from the shore and go alongside of her.

POOR FELLOW!—They had a bankrupt named Sorrel before the Court at New Westminster on Thursday and Friday last, when the following formidable array of 'judges' sat upon his case: Judge Begbie; C. J. Prichard, Esq., J.P.; W. J. Armstrong, Esq., J.P.; and A. T. Bushby, Esq., J.P. The ordeal that Sorrel had to undergo ought to be enough to prevent another case of the kind occurring in that district.

BURGLARS.—On Thursday night the workshop of Mr Fox, cutler, on Yates street, was entered by burglars and a quantity of cutlery and tools stolen.....On Friday night a dwelling-house on Johnson st. occupied by a married woman whose husband is at Cariboo, was entered and a quantity of clothing, table-cutlery, &c., carried off. These robberies are attributed to prowling Siwashes who enter town about the hour of the morning, when they know the police force has been withdrawn.

POUNDING A MAN TO DEATH—Yesterday a Chinaman, while engaged in the heat of a difficulty with another Celestial, seized a ten-pound weight and committed the very *un* Celestial act of beating him about the head with it until he had reduced him to a state of unconsciousness. John's ten-pounder will cost him a five-pound note—half-a-dollar a pound—when he comes before the magistrate to-day.

THE equinoctial gales commenced yesterday, and the flying dust rendered out-of-door exercise anything but agreeable.

Arrival of the John L. Stephens.

The steamship John L. Stephens, Captain Dall, 80 hours from San Francisco, *en route* for Sitka, arrived in Esquimalt harbor at 8 o'clock last evening. Among the passengers are General J. C. Davis, U. S. A., and suite, and fifty San Franciscans for Sitka. Capt Raymur and H M Cohen, of this city, and ten others for Victoria also arrived. The Stephens brought a large English mail and an express. She will sail to-day for Nanaimo, and after coaling there will proceed on to New Archangel.

SALE SEEDS AND CRACKERS.—The seed harvest, which was an exceedingly bountiful one, is now nearly all housed. The increase in the number of cattle and pigs is considerable, and the animals are spoken of as in first rate condition. Beef and pork, our informant considers, will be both plentiful and cheap in Nanaimo and Victoria this winter. *Nanaimo Tribune.*

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—A sailor fell from one of topsail yards of the ironclad Zealous on Friday, and received such fearful injuries as to cause his death on Saturday. The funeral will take place to-day. The body will be brought round in the steam launch to the Hudson Bay Company's wharf, and the procession will be headed by the band of the flagship.

SALE OF REAL ESTATE.—P M Backus sold at auction on Saturday, Subdivision Lot No 50, 30x85, of Suburban Lot No 4, to Mr Norris, for $62. Subdivision Lot No 23, to the same buyer, for $65; and all the right, title and interest of the late John A. Walton in 158 acres land at North Saanich, for $20.

THE JOINT COMMISSION.—The U. S. steamer Ossipee sailed on Saturday last from San Francisco for the territory of Alaska, conveying Gen Rousseau and the Russian Commissioners. She will call at the port of Victoria and is expected to reach Sitka in advance of the John L. Stephens.

HARVESTED—The interior crops have been harvested and the yield is large. Sufficient grain to produce 150 tons of flour has been reaped. The Cariboo *Sentinel* calculates that $300,000 will be retained in the colony this year.

SOME Indians from Whatcom, while hawking a basket or two of potatoes about Westminster, were arrested by the Custom-house officer. They were subsequently released and the 'spuds' restored to them.

WE understand that the departure of the Governor for New Westminster, which had been set for to-day, has been postponed indefinitely in consequence of Mrs Seymour having been taken ill.

A NEW use has been discovered for crude petroleum. Saturate rags with it and put them in rat holes and the rats will leave the premises.

CRICKET.—On Saturday a match was played at Colwood between the Zealous and Scout elevens, which resulted in a victory for the latter.

BIG "SQUIRT."—The Deluge engine, on Saturday, proved her readiness for service by throwing a stream of water 150 feet from the nozzle of a pipe.

REGISTERED—On Saturday the deed transferring the Island of Vancouver from the Hudson Bay Company to the Crown, was registered at the Registrar General's Office.

BAYNES SOUND COAL SEAM.—The company to whom has been leased the right to work this seam will send a force of workmen to the locality on Tuesday next.

FLOUR, in Portland, has advanced 50 cents per bbl. The Fideliter brought very little over, owing to the new wheat coming in slowly and to large orders from San Francisco.

HON. MR. BALL, having been superseded by Mr Brew as Assistant Gold Commissioner at Cariboo, is on his way down to New Westminster.

THE VOLCANO was vomiting forth dense volumes of smoke yesterday, which were plainly seen from this city.

TREASURE—The steamer Alexandra, on Saturday evening, brought down $200,000 in Cariboo gold.

Mining Intelligence.

[From the Cariboo *Sentinel* of Sept. 12th.]

MUSQUITO CREEK.

The following companies took out for last week the amount set opposite their respective names:

Minnehaha co (commencing)	1½ oz
Ophir or Job co	11
Hocking co (comemncing)	1½
Willow co	20
Point co	10
Discovery co	20
Holman co	20
Jeffree co	60
Total	145 oz

CEDAR CREEK.

Discovery company made about $20 a day to the hand last week. Aurora company had 100 oz for the same period.

(September 16th.)

WILLIAM CREEK.

The increased supply of water caused by the late rains and snow, is of great benefit to the claimholders on the upper portion of the creek, and the result is that nearly all the companies have resumed mining operations. As far as the other sections of the creek are concerned, there has been but small returns for the week, if we except the Aurora and Raby companies, the former of which took out 645 oz, and the latter about 90 oz.

STOUT GULCH.

Still continues to give a good account of itself.

The Alturas company cleaned up for the week, 20oz. Tattvale company had 160 oz for the week. Mucho Oro company took out for the week 40oz. Jenkins company is making about wages. Floyd company who had stopped for want of water, commenced mining again on Friday.

Accounts from this favorite mining locality are very encouraging for the past week. A reservoir has been constructed by the miners at the head of the gulch, which is capable of holding sufficient water to enable all the companies to work during the day.

Minnehaha company have not yet got on pay, but are very sanguine of making a strike during the week. They washed out on Saturday one and a half oz. The Hocking company, which is situated on the south bank of the gulch, are reported to be taking out very rich pay dirt from a shaft 75 feet deep. They have no water to wash with, but it is said that between eight and nine oz were picked from the dirt during the week. Rising Sun company divided yesterday $30 to the share, after paying all expenses for the week.

We have not learnt the amounts taken from the other claims, but are informed that they are all doing well.

RED GULCH.

Butcher company made a little over wages last week. Montana company bottomed their shaft last Friday, and obtained very satisfactory prospect.

LOWHEE CREEK.

The claims at the bottom of this creek are taking out good pay. Those at the upper end are unworkable for want of water.

Calaveras company washed out for four days' work last week 100 oz. Fitst Chance company cleaned up for the week about 55 oz. The old claims on the bed of the creek have nearly all fallen into the hands of Chinamen, from whom it is next to impossible to ascertain the amounts taken out.

GROUSE CREEK.

Shaft sinking is being carried on with the utmost energy and perseverance, but none have yet reached bed rock in the claims situated at the upper portion of this creek. It is believed, however, that several will get down this week.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS:

Two professional gamblers were brought up before Commissioner Ball on the 6th and fined $242 50 and costs. Mr F Dally had completed taking photographic views on different creeks of Cariboo, and had started down. The workmen employed in the Aurora claim, having $6 a day, struck for $7. Others were employed in their place. The *Sentinel* complains of rowdyism at Richfield, notwithstanding the recent increase to the Police force. Adams' mill, at Soda creek, would commence grinding the new crop of wheat about the 20th of inst. Two men, John Tyack and William Trebelcock, were buried under a dirt cave, in the Tyack claim Richfield, on the 13th. When extricated it was found that Tyack was dead. Treblecock was seriously injured, and lay in the hospital in a precarious condition. The body of Tyack would be placed in a wooden coffin and sent to Victoria for interment. Mr Greavy's death is confirmed and is attributed to disease of the heart. He appeared to be in the enjoyment of his usual health up to the time of his death. Judge Needham, Hon Mr Brew, Lieut Needham and suite arrived at Cariboo on the 15th inst.

The North West.

At a public meeting held at Portage La Prairie, outlying portion of the Red River Settlement, Rupert's Land on the 31st of May, resolutions were passed appealing to the British and Canadian authorities for the extension to that quarter of the jurisdiction of the Canadian Government. There, as everywhere else in British America, the desire is rather for connection with Canada than annexation to the United States. The settlement is composed chiefly of English, Scotch and Canadians, with a considerable Halfbreed population, and a sprinkling of Americans. A correspondent gives us some facts concerning this new region, which will be interesting to our readers. The settlement is but a small one as yet, but emigrants from Canada are arriving this season, and there is a prospect of a constantly-increasing stream from this quarter. It is situated fifty or sixty miles west of Fort Garry, just outside of the circuit of the civil jurisdiction of the Hudson's Bay Company, and has, as yet, no government or machinery for dispensing justice. This appears to be the chief want of the settlers, and we hope before long the Government of Canada will be in a position to remedy that defect.

The climate and soil are such as to give assurance of early and rapid growth for the settlement. The winters are comparatively mild, so much so at least that horses and cattle can keep fat running at large on the praries. The snow seldom falls to any considerable depth, wheeled carriages being used at all times till Christmas. The soil is described as a black loam, varying in depth according to some authorities from three to six feet, or according to our correspondent, from five to eight feet. The substratum is a white clay, mixed with sand in some places, and of great depth. Comparatively little rain falls, but heavy dews maintain the degree of moisture requisite to fertility. The product of the wheat crop reminds us of the first crops on some of the best soils here—fifty bushels to the acre being secured by a Canadian farmer from Puslinch, who has made his home there. The wheat was the golden drop, and though left standing till it was too ripe, the weighed 67 pounds to the bushel, and we learn that 64 pounds is no unusual weight for wheat in that region. The same farmer reports 600 bushels of potatoes from three-fourths of an acre of land. All root crops give an enormous yield, and flax flourishes.

This fertile region is, moreover, very extensive, stretching away to the base of the Rocky Mountains. Its capacity for sustaining a population is practically unlimited—at least the limit is far beyond any point that can be reached for some generations. This vast expanse also contains the natural route for the interoceanic traffic of the Northern Hemisphere The cost of a railroad would be light across a plain which is almost a dead level. We hope that ere long the Red River settlement and the Portage La Prairie settlement, and all the other settlements out there will form a part of the Dominion of Canada. It is in that direction that our chief expansion must take place, and the more rapidly communications are opened up, and our influence extended, the brighter will be the prospect for Canada. Delays in this matter are dangerous, for a sudden rush may take place at any time to the gold regions of the North West, and a population seize on the soil, who will struggle hard to drag the country into the American union. An American politician and economist of some note, Mr James W. Taylor, of Minnesota, some months since spoke of the idea which prevailed among the miners south of the boundary line, that deposits of untold wealth exist not far from the line in British territory. He said that a sudden excitement might carry thousands into British America, and on that idea evidently grounded hopes of annexation. The British Government, or our own, should provide against the danger of losing, this splendid territory, that is now, we fear, in a precarious position. The want of a proper system of government and the dislike of the Hudson's Bay Company, aggravate the evil. Action cannot be taken too soon.—*Toronto Globe.*

TRANSFORMATION OF FOREIGN NAMES.—This process of changing foreign names is actively going on in our midst, thanks to the variety of European elements which flow into the great mass of our people. Occasionally the change can be clearly traced, as in local names. Thus we find the river *de la feve*, as the French settlers called the tributary of the Mississippi which passes Galena, soon changed into the more familiar name of Fever River. The same takes place among the Canadian neighbors, where a French population is slowly giving way to English settlers, and the old French names undergo strange alterations. Thus a place on the Ottawa, formerly called *Les Cheneaux*, or The Channels, has become in pronunciation *The Snows*, and the spelling will probably soon follow the sound. Another settlement, which for some reason or other was called *Les Chats*, is rapidly changing into *The Shaws;* and a third, *Les Joaquins*, is altogether transformed into *The Swashings*. A hill near the Bay of Fundy, once poetically designated by the Acadians as *Chapeau de Dieu* (God's hat,) is now called *Shepody* Mountain. Nor are these names confined to French names under English rule only, but foreign words of any kind, when used by ignorant men, have suffered in like manner. Thus the Indian name of a river in New Brunswick, *Pekantediac* (river in white birch land,) is there popularly known as *Tom Kedgewick*, and numerous instances of like transformations are found in every section of the United States.—*Studies in English.*

QUEBEC CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.—The western wing of the Parliament Buildings is nearly completed, and the different rooms have already been labelled with the names of the intended occupants among the clerks of the department. The building has been painted red outside, and inside the flooring and walls have had an entire overhauling. Work has been commenced on the Legislative Assembly Chamber in the centre of the building, but all is yet chaos and will take some time to fix up.—*Quebec Gazette*

A 'big sister' teaching her little brother mental arithmetic said; 'Now Charlie, suppose you have twenty sugar plums, and you want to divide them into four parts. You give baby five and me five; what would you do with the other ten.' 'Suck 'em, was the reply.