

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST.

VOL. 7.

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1866.

NO. 15.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

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Dickson & Co., New Westminster
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Richfield
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Clintor
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Clement's Lane, London
30 Cornhill, London

THE VOICE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The petition which we print this morning, emanating from the people of British Columbia, and praying for union of the colonies, is a "hard fact," for the few anti-unionists of New Westminster. Never, we believe, did a petition from any colony bear upon its face so large a proportion of the wealth, the enterprise, and the intelligence of the population as this document which is to be laid before Her Majesty. In Cariboo East and Cariboo West, in Lillooet and Douglas, in Lytton, Yale, and even in New Westminster, the principal men—the men who have got the largest interests and the greatest energy—are to be found praying for union. All the assertions in the world cannot change this fact. Take from Cariboo the men whose names appear in the petition, and the whole mining enterprise of the country collapses, take from the colony the farmers whose names are on the list, and not an article of British Columbian produce will go to the mines; take away the packers who have signed the petition, and not an ounce of freight can be carried to the interior; take away the merchants and there will cease to be a distributor of commodities; take away the steamboat owners and the manufacturers who pray for union, and river traffic and home industry will cease.

In fact, away from British Columbia to-morrow the men whose names are appended to the petition, and we shall have a picture of desolation compared with which Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" would seem a hive of cheerful industry. The most prejudiced person in New Westminster cannot gainsay this fact. The names speak for themselves—they are the principal miners, the principal farmers, the principal packers, the principal merchants, the principal steamboat owners and the principal manufacturers in the country. The petition is not confined, however, to these classes; we have every description of occupation represented. The Yale and Lytton petition embraces nearly every person belonging to and residing in the vicinity of these localities; and the same may be said of other places. The only thing to be regretted is that the same facility which was afforded the Fraser river communities with regard to signing the petition was not presented to the inhabitants of Douglas and Lillooet, who are all but unanimous, like Yale and Lytton, for the union of the colonies. As it is, however, the principal men of the former towns have been able to append their names, and to show unmistakably the feeling of the wealth and the intelligence of the community.

It is said that Mr. Birch, the Administrator of the Government, received the petition with gratification. If the hon. gentleman's demeanor argued a real desire for the consummation of union and not a mere diplomatic courtesy, he will put the question to a country by a dissolution of the representative element of the Legislative Council. He would then find that no member would be returned above New Westminster unfavorable to union. In East and West Cariboo the people are unanimous. In Yale and Lytton the same, and we are equally certain of the sentiment of Lillooet and Douglas. Neither Mr. Holbrook nor Mr. Cornwall could get to-day, we honestly believe, half-a-dozen of votes in his present constituency; and Cariboo, under any civilized system of voting, would return, almost unanimously, men pledged to union of the colonies. It is probable, as we have before said, that the colonies will be united by Act of Parliament before the union petitions shall have reached London, but this circumstance should not tend to diminish the exertions of the people of either colony. There are other questions to settle besides that of union—there is the constitution and the seat of Government.

The first of these is as important as union itself; for unless we obtain a constitution that will make the wishes of the people paramount, we may as well employ the steam subsidy in affording the population an opportunity to leave the country. No time should really be lost by the inhabitants of both colonies in settling the most important questions connected with union. Two years ago we advocated the assembling of a joint convention of delegates from Vancouver Island and British Columbia to deal with the question in its detail, and time has not lessened the force of our remarks.

TELEGRAPHIC.

(From the Columbian.)

EASTERN NEWS.

New York, February 4.—The *Herald's* Fortress Monroe correspondent says: Jeff. Davis' imprisonment and the public execution of his crimes have made him irritable and soured his temper; his attention is now chiefly given to fault-finding and reading the Bible.
MEMPHIS, February 7.—A fire this morning destroyed seven buildings. The fire originated in the dry goods store of S. C. H. Luggier, on the north side of Hanover street, and rapidly spread to other buildings. The loss is estimated at over \$200,000.
The fact is published that in response to General Grant's card of invitation, General Butler addressed a very curt note of declination, stating he neither wished to hold personal intercourse with the Lieutenant-General nor any of his family.
VICTORVILLE, February 3.—The steamer M. Carter exploded her boiler at 3 o'clock this morning, at Island No. 9. A large number of lives were lost.
New York, February 8.—A railroad accident occurred near Bloomfield, New Jersey. The train broke through a rotten bridge, and the cars were shattered against the stone foundation. One, Milton Holt, was killed and several others injured.

MEXICO.

The *World's* Washington special dispatch says: Our Government has arrived at an understanding with France, and to all intents and purposes, the difficulty is settled. The French troops are to leave Mexico, and the United States has waived all intention to interfere for or against Mexico. There will be no formal recognition of the Empire, but a quasi recognition of the *de facto* Government, whereby the necessary consular relations may be established on both sides. It is not likely that the French will leave Mexico before the close of the year. Their plans are being supplied by Austrians, Belgians, and such Americans as accept the Empire.

NEW YORK, FEB. 7.—

The following is a portion of Napoleon's speech to the Corps Legislatif on the 22d of January: "As I expressed the hope last year, that our expedition to Mexico was approaching a termination, I am coming to an understanding with Maximilian to fix the epoch for the recall of our troops without compromising French interests, which we have been defending in that remote country. The United States of North America, issuing victoriously from her late struggle, has re-established the Union of the States, and proclaimed slavery dead. France, which forgave no page of her history, offers up her sincerest wishes for the prosperity of the American Republic, and for the maintenance of amicable relations which soon will have calmer direction. The emotion produced in the United States by the presence of our troops on Mexican soil, will be pacified by the frankness of our declarations. The American people will comprehend that our expedition, to which we invited them, was not opposed to their interests. Two nations, equal and jealous of their independence, ought to avoid every step which might affect their dignity and honor."
New York, Feb. 5.—In contradiction of the reports that the French army is to be withdrawn from Mexico, orders are unrevoked for the embarkation of 2000 or 3000 more troops at Toulon.

THE WAR IN CHILE.

New York, Feb. 5.—A diplomatic correspondence of a somewhat important character, affected belligerents at sea, has passed between the British embassy at Madrid, and the Spanish Government. The former protests against the Spanish orders, that all crews of Chilean privateers, not of Chilean birth, should be treated as pirates. The Spanish Minister replies, that British ideas have not always been so strict, and that their construction of international law, is not in accordance with the views of most writers on the subject.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The State Department is informed, by our Consul at Honolulu, of the arrival of 600 seamen of American whalers, captured by the Shenandoah, en route for home.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 10.—Caroline Clark, a widow, has commenced suit against Michael Reese, the millionaire, for an alleged breach of promise of marriage.
The steamer Golden Age took \$1,200,603 in treasure and 338 passengers.
Legal Tenders remain steady; at the board 7 1/2% was offered with small sales.
Steamer Oregon arrived, four days from Portland.

MARKETS.

Alcohol.—The price of Eastern yesterday was \$3 07 @ \$3 50.
Butter.—Choice New York State 38 1/2 @ 39c per lb.

Flour—Market quiet and unchanged; superfine, half sacks, per bbl, \$6 50 to 6 75; quarter sack, \$6 75 to 7 50.
Wheat—875 sacks of good No. 2 sold at \$2 15; prime may be quoted nominally at \$2 20.
Barley is quotable at \$1 02 to 1 12.
Oats sold at \$1 95 to 2 10.
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 11.—The steamer Golden City, from Panama, arrived this morning, with 317 passengers, 105 packages nails, 7798 packages merchandise.
The number of deaths in San Francisco last week was 59.
Mr. Adams, Collector of Customs for the district of Oregon, who arrived by the steamer Oregon yesterday, was robbed of \$20,000.—The detectives have found no clue whatever to the singular robbery.

PORTLAND, FEB. 13.—

Steamer Pacific sailed at 5 p.m.

EUROPEAN.

The steamers Fulton, Hector, and Bavaria, from Europe, arrived today, but none of their news has been anticipated.
A Madrid dispatch of Jan. 2nd, says it is officially confirmed that the revolutionary General Prim entered Portugal on the 20th ult. He was delivering the horses and equipments of his followers to the Government.
In consequence of the disturbance at Valencia, that province has been proclaimed in a state of siege. Madrid continues tranquil. The reported death of Goldstone, the sculptor, is unfounded.
It is reported that France has rendered its mediation between the Pope and Russia.
Prince Otto died at Geneva.
Melbourne advices to December 26th say intense excitement prevails in South Australia in consequence of the Chilean war. All sales of copper have been stopped.
The rebels on the east coast of New Zealand have been defeated and have surrendered.

PORTLAND (Me.), FEB. 8.—

The steamship Peruvian, from Liverpool the 25th and Londonderry 26th, with one day's later news, has arrived.

Consols, 86 1/2; U. S. 5-20's, 66 @ 66 1/2.
The bullion in the Bank of England has increased £37,000 sterling.

The Paris correspondent of the *London Times* gives a minute account of the circumstances under which the Emperor Napoleon dispatched Mosel Bond on a special mission to Mexico. The Emperor said he wanted him to set out without delay for Mexico with a message to Maximilian, stating that he considered that he had fulfilled his obligations, and that the time had arrived when Maximilian must depend upon his own resources without the aid of the French army. M. Lallier asked for credentials, but the Emperor observed that there was no necessity for any documents; all he had to do was simply to represent Maximilian the conversation just had.
It is reported that the Spanish fleet in the Pacific will be increased.
A vessel has been detained by the Spaniards on the point of sailing for Peru.

IMPORTANT FROM JAPAN.

The news from Japan, received in San Francisco by the steamer Oriflamme, which arrived there from Shanghai on the 5th inst., is of great importance to the commercial world. It indicates that those populous islands are to be thrown open to trade with the rest of the world, and the segregation of the Japanese people from the rest of the earth is to continue no longer.

Special Dispatch to the "Colonist."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—The Birmingham, England, Association for the relief of destitute families in the United States, has just contributed another cargo of goods to General Howard for distribution, and the Secretary of the Treasury has ordered their admission free of duty.
The Canadian officials before they left threw out some hints that if the reciprocity treaty was allowed to expire without some action upon it the fisheries might lead to a source of difficulty under the treaty stipulations of the reciprocity treaty. When it expires we are limited to a very small margin on British waters, and if our fishermen get beyond that limit they will be forced back.
New York, Feb. 4.—The *Post's* Washington despatch says rumors are current, but not generally credited, that the President will soon issue a proclamation declaring peace and restoring the habeas corpus in all the States.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The trial of Semmes has been delayed this long for the reason that all proceedings requisite to its commencement are not yet agreed upon. The names of many parties of high position in the merchant service, including upwards of fifty captains who have suffered from his depredations are known, and some of them will probably be summoned at the proper time.
New York, Feb. 11.—Patrick O'Rourke, Treasurer of the Roberts faction of the Fenian Brotherhood, received a visit last night from some 100 persons claiming to represent the O'Mahony faction, demanding the funds said to be in his possession. O'Rourke sent for a policeman, who compelled the visitors to withdraw.
New York, Feb. 8.—Col. Rowland, on behalf of the Northern Pacific Railroad, notified the government two days ago that the company was prepared and about to commence construction; and that a strong effort would be made to push the work.
New York, Feb. 10.—General Hooker has ordered the following military districts to be discontinued: Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, the district of Maine and the district of Northern and Western New York.
On the afternoon of the 11th (?) Heller & Sons drug mill, Jersey city, were burned; loss \$20,000.
The soldiers of Gen. Hancock's corps are being mustered out daily and rarely enough remain to organize a company.

BRAZIL.

THE WAR IN PARAGUAY.

New York, Feb. 9.—Buenos Ayres correspondence says that the loss of all the Paraguayan troops that had invaded Brazil by crossing the Uruguay river, was followed by a retreat to their own territory of all their forces that were occupying Corrientes. For more than a week the work of concentrating the allied land and naval forces had progressed so that on the 25th of January they would make a grand combined attack with 45,000 troops and thirty war steamers on the Paraguayan stronghold of Haumaita: this is a place of immense strength, mounting 100 heavy guns and rendered difficult of approach by chains extending across the channel and by submerged torpedoes, etc. and having to support it a Paraguayan army of 15,000 or 20,000 men and a considerable fleet.
The march of the allied forces in pursuit of the retreating Paraguayans across the province of Corrientes to the Paraguay river for 200 miles through an almost unpopulated country is described as one of the greatest difficulties and suffering—hundreds of troops perished on the way and many others deserted.

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New York, Feb. 9.—The steamship Australasian, from Liverpool 27th, via Queenstown, the 28th, has arrived; she brings one day later news. The *Paris Constitutionnel* says, in an article on the Mexican question, with reference to Mr. Bigelow's dispatches, that Drouyn de Lhuys says he could not give the internal arrangements of Mexico, and that the United States can call resistance by plundering adventurers a war after refusing the title of belligerents to the confederates.

CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12.—New York gold and exchange quotations, Feb. 9, gold 140, exchange 107 1/2; Feb. 10, gold 139, exchange 107 1/2 to 107 3/4, legal tenders to day are firm at 7 1/2 to 7 3/4.

CHILE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 12.—Valparaiso dates are to Jan. 1st. Since the death of Admiral Pareja, the blockade had been raised on all the Chilean ports except Valparaiso and Caldera.

CANADA.

FAILURE OF RECIPROCITY TREATY.

CHICAGO, February 9.—The negotiations for the renewal of the reciprocity treaty with Canada have utterly failed, and the Canadian Delegation have left Washington disgusted.
The *Toronto Globe* says one happy result of the course adopted by the United States will be the speedy confederation of the British American Provinces, the absolute necessity of which is now apparent. With the confederacy comes the improvement of international communication, the throwing open of lands free to the actual settler, the gradual reduction of custom tariffs, the opening of new markets, the vigorous prosecution of fisheries and mineral enterprises, the establishment of an enlarged system of immigration, and the wise revision of the system of banking and currency. The people of British America do not doubt that brighter prospects in future are before them.

THE WAR IN CHILE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The steamer New York arrived from Aspinwall on the 1st. The news from Peru is that Dictator Jerardo had made an offensive and defensive alliance with Chile and declared war against Spain. It was hoped at Lima that all the South American Republics, especially Colombia, would accede to the treaty.
New York, Feb. 10.—The Panama correspondent of the *Herald* says the combined Peruvian and Chilean fleet is under orders to commence immediate hostilities against Spain. Callao is strongly fortified with heavy guns including eight of Blakely's cast steel 300-pounders. The Monitor Victoria and the ram Leo were also in port. Some of the batteries were officered by Americans. Torpedoes and other infernal machines for the destruction of the Spanish fleet have arrived at Callao. They were purchased by a Chilean agent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

From the London Standard.

TO THE EDITOR.—SIR: Your paper of the 30th ult. contained a report of a meeting of persons interested in the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Although the subject occupied but a very small space in your columns it nevertheless will have sufficed to open afresh the wounds of a great many of your readers who have been victimized or disappointed—whichever it may be called—in those colonies; and all such I am persuaded will watch with a very suspicious eye any movement which may even remotely have a tendency to encourage the emigration of individuals or families from Great Britain to Vancouver Island or British Columbia.

The meeting I perceive is stated to have been convened by persons interested in both colonies, yet I fail to recognize any British Columbian among the speakers. Of this, however, I am not surprised, as the people of British Columbia are generally opposed to union with Vancouver Island. This disinclination to union was formally expressed in a series of resolutions passed by the British Columbian legislature at its last session. And so recently as a few weeks ago many prominent citizens of New Westminster (the capital of British Columbia) in an address to Governor Seymour on the eve of his departure for England, took advantage of the occasion to express the same views.
But the incomprehensible part of the matter, to me, is that most of the gentlemen who thus render themselves prominent have

hitherto been the bitterest opponents of the union of the colonies. There are many gentlemen of position in Vancouver Island who have for several years consistently advocated union as the only possible means of rendering prosperous either one or the other of the colonies—but the gentlemen who met at the London Tavern are none of these.

In 1863 it required only the expressed wish of the Vancouver Island legislature (British Columbia at that time having no legislative assembly) to effect the union of the colonies; the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Duke of Newcastle, in a dispatch which was laid on the table of the House of Assembly of Vancouver Island, strongly urged the advantages likely to accrue from union, and recommended its serious consideration: But the local influence and determined opposition of the Hudson Bay Company, the Franklins, Drakes, Southgates and Burnabys of Vancouver Island, enabled them to clog the resolutions which were passed on the subject with so many impossible conditions that no answer from the Colonial office has, I believe,

With what grace these gentlemen, two of whom are members of the Vancouver Legislature, can now recommend to Mr. Cardwell the enforcement of union against the wishes of British Columbia, I am at a loss to conceive; of this I am certain, these gentlemen are not the representatives of the union party of Vancouver Island. The real friends of union would like to convince the British Columbians of its advantage, but have no desire to coerce them after the fashion proposed by the self-appointed delegates at the London Tavern. Without doubt the government of both colonies has been most disastrously administered. Vancouver Island has had advantages which has fallen to the lot of but few British colonies. The discovery of gold in British Columbia in 1858, attracted to the spot where Victoria, the capital of Vancouver Island, now stands, a population of, according to some, 20,000, and others 30,000. Again, in 1862, the glowing letters of the *Times* correspondent (the owner of a suspiciously large number of lots in Victoria) attracted to the spot certainly not less than 15,000 persons. England, Canada, Australia and New Zealand contributed that year thousands of desirable emigrants to Vancouver Island.

What the country must be, or its government, or both, can best be guessed at by facts published in the latest newspapers from the colonies; that at the present moment the population of British Columbia is estimated at six (6) thousand, and Vancouver Island five (5) thousand persons exclusive of the Indians. In Vancouver Island to govern this paltry number, four-fifths of the inhabitants of the population of which reside in the town of Victoria, and the most remote of the remaining fifth not 100 miles distant therefrom, they are blessed with governmental machinery sufficiently extensive to regulate a colony containing many hundred thousands of inhabitants.

Your readers will readily conclude from the above facts, notwithstanding that Mr. Franklin (who, I believe is a resident of California) calls out for more capital and labor—that too much loss of both has already resulted from its investment in Vancouver Island; and also that the sorrow and suffering consequent thereon to the great bulk of individual adventurers will not readily be forgotten.

I will not trespass upon your space further than to quote a few suggestive paragraphs from a "Report of the Committee on Crown Lands appointed by the Legislature of Vancouver Island, September 1, 1863."

Section XII.—3. "With the exception of a belt of land not exceeding two miles in width or thereabouts, commencing near and above the southern entrance of Johnson's Straits, and extending to Sooke Harbor in the Straits of San Juan de Fuca, the whole of Vancouver Island is mountainous."
2. "According to the testimony of Mr. B. W. Pearce, formerly Acting Surveyor General, fully eight tenths of the Crown Lands that remain unsold and unsurveyed in the surveyed districts is unavailable for agriculture."
Section XXIV.—"In the dispatch of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, the sum of £6200, or \$31,000, is fixed as the civil list charge on the territorial and general revenue, in return for granting the legislature control over the Crown Lands. But it must be self-evident, from the facts supplied in this report, that the Crown Lands will yield little or nothing towards paying it."

The Crown Lands, therefore, still belong to the Crown, and the present governor of Vancouver Island, Arthur Edward Kennedy, Esq., C. B., with a keen eye to business and for an ulterior purpose susceptible of explanation, has withdrawn most of the available Crown Lands that are of any value from the operation of the pre-emption law of his predecessor in office; the consequences are that many estimable but poor families have had the alternative presented to them of leaving the colony or remaining to starve. C. S.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?—According to our evening contemporary a telegram has been received by Mr. W. M. Seary, of this city, from Mr. John Cooper, chief clerk of the British Columbia Treasury, now on leave of absence, to the following effect: "London, January 26th. Keep every foot of my New Westminster property." We leave our readers to form their own conclusions as to the meaning of this extremely terse injunction, but there is evidently something going on behind the scenes which must leak out sooner or later. For our own part we confidently look forward to the speedy consummation of the much to be wished for union of the colonies.

AN ENCOURAGING DIVIDEND.—We understand that the last half-yearly dividend of the Vancouver Coal Company will reach the very high figure of twelve per cent. This is a most gratifying assurance to English capitalists, and we hope to see its effects displayed in the immediate opening up of the Harewood coal mines.



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Cervical Disorders.
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From the London Standard.
TO THE EDITOR.—SIR: Your paper of the 30th ult. contained a report of a meeting of persons interested in the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Although the subject occupied but a very small space in your columns it nevertheless will have sufficed to open afresh the wounds of a great many of your readers who have been victimized or disappointed—whichever it may be called—in those colonies; and all such I am persuaded will watch with a very suspicious eye any movement which may even remotely have a tendency to encourage the emigration of individuals or families from Great Britain to Vancouver Island or British Columbia.
The meeting I perceive is stated to have been convened by persons interested in both colonies, yet I fail to recognize any British Columbian among the speakers. Of this, however, I am not surprised, as the people of British Columbia are generally opposed to union with Vancouver Island. This disinclination to union was formally expressed in a series of resolutions passed by the British Columbian legislature at its last session. And so recently as a few weeks ago many prominent citizens of New Westminster (the capital of British Columbia) in an address to Governor Seymour on the eve of his departure for England, took advantage of the occasion to express the same views.
But the incomprehensible part of the matter, to me, is that most of the gentlemen who thus render themselves prominent have hitherto been the bitterest opponents of the union of the colonies. There are many gentlemen of position in Vancouver Island who have for several years consistently advocated union as the only possible means of rendering prosperous either one or the other of the colonies—but the gentlemen who met at the London Tavern are none of these.
In 1863 it required only the expressed wish of the Vancouver Island legislature (British Columbia at that time having no legislative assembly) to effect the union of the colonies; the late Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Duke of Newcastle, in a dispatch which was laid on the table of the House of Assembly of Vancouver Island, strongly urged the advantages likely to accrue from union, and recommended its serious consideration: But the local influence and determined opposition of the Hudson Bay Company, the Franklins, Drakes, Southgates and Burnabys of Vancouver Island, enabled them to clog the resolutions which were passed on the subject with so many impossible conditions that no answer from the Colonial office has, I believe, With what grace these gentlemen, two of whom are members of the Vancouver Legislature, can now recommend to Mr. Cardwell the enforcement of union against the wishes of British Columbia, I am at a loss to conceive; of this I am certain, these gentlemen are not the representatives of the union party of Vancouver Island. The real friends of union would like to convince the British Columbians of its advantage, but have no desire to coerce them after the fashion proposed by the self-appointed delegates at the London Tavern. Without doubt the government of both colonies has been most disastrously administered. Vancouver Island has had advantages which has fallen to the lot of but few British colonies. The discovery of gold in British Columbia in 1858, attracted to the spot where Victoria, the capital of Vancouver Island, now stands, a population of, according to some, 20,000, and others 30,000. Again, in 1862, the glowing letters of the Times correspondent (the owner of a suspiciously large number of lots in Victoria) attracted to the spot certainly not less than 15,000 persons. England, Canada, Australia and New Zealand contributed that year thousands of desirable emigrants to Vancouver Island. What the country must be, or its government, or both, can best be guessed at by facts published in the latest newspapers from the colonies; that at the present moment the population of British Columbia is estimated at six (6) thousand, and Vancouver Island five (5) thousand persons exclusive of the Indians. In Vancouver Island to govern this paltry number, four-fifths of the inhabitants of the population of which reside in the town of Victoria, and the most remote of the remaining fifth not 100 miles distant therefrom, they are blessed with governmental machinery sufficiently extensive to regulate a colony containing many hundred thousands of inhabitants. Your readers will readily conclude from the above facts, notwithstanding that Mr. Franklin (who, I believe is a resident of California) calls out for more capital and labor—that too much loss of both has already resulted from its investment in Vancouver Island; and also that the sorrow and suffering consequent thereon to the great bulk of individual adventurers will not readily be forgotten. I will not trespass upon your space further than to quote a few suggestive paragraphs from a "Report of the Committee on Crown Lands appointed by the Legislature of Vancouver Island, September 1, 1863." Section XII.—3. "With the exception of a belt of land not exceeding two miles in width or thereabouts, commencing near and above the southern entrance of Johnson's Straits, and extending to Sooke Harbor in the Straits of San Juan de Fuca, the whole of Vancouver Island is mountainous." 2. "According to the testimony of Mr. B. W. Pearce, formerly Acting Surveyor General, fully eight tenths of the Crown Lands that remain unsold and unsurveyed in the surveyed districts is unavailable for agriculture." Section XXIV.—"In the dispatch of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, the sum of £6200, or \$31,000, is fixed as the civil list charge on the territorial and general revenue, in return for granting the legislature control over the Crown Lands. But it must be self-evident, from the facts supplied in this report, that the Crown Lands will yield little or nothing towards paying it." The Crown Lands, therefore, still belong to the Crown, and the present governor of Vancouver Island, Arthur Edward Kennedy, Esq., C. B., with a keen eye to business and for an ulterior purpose susceptible of explanation, has withdrawn most of the available Crown Lands that are of any value from the operation of the pre-emption law of his predecessor in office; the consequences are that many estimable but poor families have had the alternative presented to them of leaving the colony or remaining to starve. C. S. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?—According to our evening contemporary a telegram has been received by Mr. W. M. Seary, of this city, from Mr. John Cooper, chief clerk of the British Columbia Treasury, now on leave of absence, to the following effect: "London, January 26th. Keep every foot of my New Westminster property." We leave our readers to form their own conclusions as to the meaning of this extremely terse injunction, but there is evidently something going on behind the scenes which must leak out sooner or later. For our own part we confidently look forward to the speedy consummation of the much to be wished for union of the colonies. AN ENCOURAGING DIVIDEND.—We understand that the last half-yearly dividend of the Vancouver Coal Company will reach the very high figure of twelve per cent. This is a most gratifying assurance to English capitalists, and we hope to see its effects displayed in the immediate opening up of the Harewood coal mines.