The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday April 6, 1870.

Laying Over Mining Claims.

Most of our readers in this colony at least will be aware that the mining claims in Cariboo as well as those in Kootenay are 'laid over' during the winter season—that is to say, the provision in the Gold Mining Ordinance requiring each claim to be represented or worked uninterruptedly by at least one miner, is suspended during the winter. This proceeding takes place upon the assumption that mining operations cannot be carried on in these goldfields during what is called the close season. Although such was the popular belief at the period the Ordinance was framed and this sweeping practice of laying over claims was inaugurated, matters are very much changed in this respect now; and although it is an idle and transparent exaggeration to say that mining operations can be carried on during winter as well as during summer in Cariboo, it is perfectly correct to assert that work can be carried on with advantage in many of the claims—that is, the deep diggings where work is prosecuted under ground and, consequently, beyond the influences of winter cold. Everyone must know, however, that the washing process cannot be carried on to any considerable extent during winter, and for two reasons, viz., the absence of a water supply and the influence of the cold. That the miners can winter in Cariboo with such a degree of comfort and cheapness as to render a trip to the seaboard an extravagant luxury is undeniable; but living with comfort and economy and working the mines through the winter are two distinct things. It by no means follows that because miners can now winter as comfortably, and almost as cheaply, in Cariboo as in Victoria, therefore they can pursue mining with advantage during the winter. We have long felt, however, that the time has come when this wholesale and indiscriminate laying over of claims during four or five months in the year should cease. In addition to laying over claims generally during the winter, the Ordinance makes provision by which the Gold Commissioner can, for cause shown, lay over any claim, at any time, and for which a fee of two dollars and a half is chargeable. For instance, a miner holding a claim comes to the Commissioner and satisfies him that, from want of water or other conditions over which he has no control, it is impossible to work his claim, save at a loss, and applies to have it laid over during the prevalence of such disabling conditions. It would, under such circumstances, be harsh, unjust, unreasonable and unmerciful to compel that man to continue his presence on such a claim in order to keep good his title thereto. It is in his own interest and that of the Colony that the man should have an opportunity of earning money meanwhile wherewithal to prosecute the development of his own claim with greater vigour, so soon as the disabling conditions shall have disappeared. This is the view taken by the law, and the Commissioner accordingly lays over the claim under certain conditions, in order that the owner may, without imperiling his title thereto, be free to employ his time to the best advantage. For this he pays $2 50, not as a tax for inability to work his claim, but as a nominal fee to meet the expense of enquiry, registration, &c. Our own impression is that the system of laying over claims indiscriminately during the winter season in Cariboo should cease, and that claims should only be laid over for cause shown, under the provision to which we have been alluding. The resolution brought forward by the Hon. Dr Carrall, asking that this fee of $2 50 charged for laying over a claim for cause shown should be made to cover a set of claims, as well as a single claim, is in perfect accordance with reason and fairness. As we have said the $2 50 must not be regarded in the light of a tax or fine for inability to work a claim; else it would partake of injustice and cruelty. As a fee to meet the expense of the operation, it would cover a set of claims just as well as a single claim. A company of, say, eight persons hold as many claims in common. They find themselves unable to work for a month or two in mid-summer, owing to the dryness of the season; and they wish to go out prospecting or working for hire. To lay over the eight claims would cost $20, although the expense to the colony is not greater than to lay over a single claim. Thus a tax, a heavy tax, is made to fall precisely where it can least be borne—these eight miners are subjected to an exceptional tax, *because* of their temporary misfortune. Nothing could be more unjust or unwise. It may be said that the $2 50 a piece is not much; but it is much to the man just at that time and under these peculiar circumstances. Mark, this fee has nothing whatever to do with the practice of laying over claims during the winter, and the proposition to make it apply to a set of claims as well as to a single claim cannot, therefore, be open to the objection of encouraging that practice. Neither can it be urged that the change would tend to facilitate and encourage the laying over of claims in the sense in which it does apply. Sufficient cause must be shown; and it is scarcely conceivable that men would remain idle upon their claims rather than pay $2 50 each for laying them over, even if it were desirable. We trust we have succeeded in making ourselves understood, as we find that the whole question has been mixed up in certain quarters. The recommendation of the member for Cariboo District is clearly in the right direction, and in no way contrary to the spirit of the Mining Ordinance, and we are bound to believe that it will be acted upon by the Executive. Possibly it may be as well not to attempt any cardinal alterations this session in a Mining Law for the most part very satisfactory and complete; but there is no reason why so simple an alteration, amounting to little more than an interpretation, in fact, as that recommended by the resolution moved yesterday, should not be made at once.

A Railroad to Winnipeg.—U. S. Senator Pomeroy, from the Committee on Public Lands, has reported in favor of a land grant to the St Paul and Pacific Railroad Company to extend their line from its terminus on Red River north to the Winnipeg frontier. Senator Ramsey, of Minnesota, has assurances that Amsterdam capitalists will construct this road to Pembina as soon as the Northern Pacific road can be built from Denver to Red River, which will be in the course of a year. A Washington letter says that this measure will be supported on political grounds, as the most tangible expression by the United States Government of sympathy with the struggle of the Winnepeg people for republican institutions and as a checkmate to the Canadian scheme of a Pacific railroad, which is about to be brought forward at Ottawa.

For the Upper Country.—A considerable movement in merchandise for the Upper Country was observed yesterday and the Enterprise will carry forward a large freight and at least 50 passengers. Much of the freight and a majority of the passengers are destined for Peace River. It is expected that the steamer Onward will experience little difficulty in making her way through the ice blockade between New Westminster and Yale, as powder for blasting a channel through it, if necessary, will be taken up by Capt Irving. Above Yale the wagon road is in fine traveling condition.

Accounts that reach us of the suffering and distress at San Francisco continue of the most deplorable character. Ten per cent of the population are reduced to a state of starvation and misery, commerce is paralyzed, manufactures are dead, labor unattainable and money scarce and high. A more distressing picture than is drawn by persons who have witnessed the state of affairs could not well be imagined. Real estate sales, which a year ago averaged $7 000 000 a month, now scarcely reach $1 000 000 with a falling market.

Black Justice.—Few persons, we apprehend, will be surprised at the result of the mock trial to which Prince Pierre Bonaparte has been submitted, for the cowardly murder of Noir. The feint served admirably to tide over a crisis which would doubtless otherwise have culminated in revolution; and it, at the same time, rescued the Prince from the juster verdict of 'Judge Lynch.' The award of 200,000 francs to the family of the murdered man is little better than adding insult to injury. Nothing will, however, relieve the Prince of the foul stigma of cowardly murder.

Police Court.—Yesterday, but for the appearance in the dock of Master James McGilvray, who is charged with being a rogue and a vagabond, there would have been a clean street at the Police Court. James is charged with being a persistent lazy-bones, a practical beggar, and a picker-up of unconsidered trifles, of which a liberal supply of dirt forms not the most unconsidered part. He was remanded for three days.

Cricket.—The match between Eleven of Victoria and Eleven of the Fleet and Esquimalt will commence at 10½ o'clock Saturday morning at Beacon Hill. The Victoria Eleven are: Richardson, Bacon, Gibbon, Walker, Wilson, Drake, Hemmingway, Marshall, Dewdney, Good and Pooley. The names of the opposing Eleven will be announced to-morrow. A great deal of interest attaches to this, the first match of the year.

City Collector.—Mr. Edward Mallandaine has been appointed City Collector. Mr Mallandaine is a stirring, active gentleman and is thoroughly honest and capable. The appointment is most judicious.

A London telegram states that strong evidence has been produced to show that the young claimant of the earldom of Wicklow is a foundling taken from the Liverpool Workhouse.

The steamship California, with lime and coal from Portland, arrived yesterday morning from Orcas Island and Nanaimo, and will sail at 5:30 o'clock this morning for her destination.

Puffing Home Productions.—The Chaplain of the California Senate made favorable mention in his prayers, the other morning, of the new National flags of California silk.

A scheme for a new and lighter trans-Atlantic cable than any yet laid, is on foot. There is also a project of connecting by cable Great Britain and all her colonies.

The Florence Sewing Machines.—Mr Robt Beavan has been appointed agent in British Columbia for the sale of these celebrated machines.

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To sufferers from the racking pains of Rheumatism and Gout this ointment will prove invaluable. After fomentation with warm water the soothing action of this Ointment is most remarkable; it seems at once to lessen inflammation, ease pain, reduce the swelling, restore natural circulation, and expels the disease. For the above complaints Holloway's Ointment, and Pills are infallible, specific.

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Dropsical Swellings.

Beware of this dangerous and stealthy complaint which frequently creeps upon us by slight queasiness or trifling jaundice, of which little or no notice is taken until the legs begin to swell. The cause of the evil must be looked for in the liver and stomach, therefore set to work earnestly by taking Holloway's famous Pills according to the printed instructions and rubbing the Ointment very effectively over the pit of the stomach and right side where those organs lie. Most dropsical cases will readily yield to the combined influence of the Ointment and Pills.

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These complaints are most distressing to both body and mind, from delicacy concealing them from the knowledge of the most intimate friends. Persons suffer for years from Piles and similar complaints when they might see Holloway's Ointment with instant relief, and effect their own cure without the annoyance of explaining their complaint to anyone.

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Are immediately relieved and ultimately cured if the Ointment be well rubbed twice a day, into the small of the back, over the regions of the kidneys to which it will radically penetrate and in almost every case give immediate relief; but perseverance will be necessary to effect a thorough cure.

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Sore Legs, Bad Breasts, Burns, Bunions, Bite of Musquetos and Sand Flies, Coco-bay, Chiego-foot, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Corns, (Soft)	Cancers, Contracted and Stiff Joints, Elephantiasis, Fistulas, Gout, Glandular Swellings, Lumbago, Piles, Rheumatism,	Scalds, Sore Nipples, Sore Throats, Skin Disease, Scurvy, Sore Heads, Tumours, Ulcers, Wounds, Yaws.

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