WELKEL PUBRITISH COLONISM

on Kamloops lake much sarlier than April ready to give the Executive credit for its BRITISH COLUMBIAN RESPONSI-

a Lorging was . Kraula ded. to Fred. I. in is a disagreeable task to be almost perpetually finding fault with the administration f public affairs in these two Pacific colonies : but it is a daty we owe to the public to pro-said by the feeble minded that if we miss the spring traffic we shall catch the travel in the autumn. There never was a more forlorn British Columbian authorities calling for hope Once let Oregon have the prestige of tenders for the construction of a steamboat opening the route, and all the efforts we may for Kamloops and Shuswap lakes. The ob. subsequently make will be made in vain ; ject was a worthy, one, and met with the apthe Gevernment of British Columbia will then probation of the people of both celonies. We have the supreme satisfaction of knowing cannot say as mach, however, for the means taken to accomplish it. It would now appear that will keep them prostrate for many a year to come. It is Vancouver Island's responsithat there is no probability of a steamer being placed on the fakes until the spring shall have gone. It is, in fact, tumored that the bility to have proper steam communication with San Francisco, and she will, as may be arrangement, which is most likely to be accepted does not call for a steamer before the 1sti of June, In the present state of the question, when no official announcement has been made, it would no doubt be unfair, in the matter to prejudge the action of the British Columbian Government ; but we cannot allow the opportunity to pass without peinting out the extreme folly of the terms of icial notice, and the great injury to both colonies of any such delay as is semiofficially tumored will take place. STEAM COMMUNICATION.

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Tuesday, December 26, 1865.

The questions that should have been taken into gensideration by the authorities at New The debate on Monday on the subject of Westminster were-first, obtaining a steamer steam communication with San Francisco on the lakes early enough to secure the spring traffic ; second, the capacity of the steamer was unanimous in principle, but very discordant in detail. There was first the idea and third, the rates of passage and freight. of having a regular and continuous steam Instead, however, of a simple notice calling for the construction of a steamer by a certain communication extending over a period of time, of certain dimensions, we have the comthree years; then a proposition to grant a plex idea that the proposals shall state " what subsidy for one year ; and lastly the proposal to enter into an arrangement for six months. schedule of fares and freights are proposed The first proposition, however good in the to be charged, and for what length of time; abstract, was far beyond the colony's capaand should further specify the dimensions and accommodation of the boat to be built, eity, and committed us to an immense outlay and her estimated steam power and average rate of speed ; as well as the number of trips to be made by her per week, and during how many weeks in the year; also the date at which the steamer will, be completed and ready to make her first trip." ossible flights into the distant future. It is We wonder Mr. Ball, "by command of the Administrator of the Government," did not further ask how much the captain and crew were to eat, how many hours they were to sleep, and what costume they proposed to wear. The notice is thoroughly in keeping with the New Westminster authorities, who appear to be as unacquainted with the duties of Government as they are with the that many of the things asked to be put down in the proposals could not be estimated at all until the vessel had commenced to rue. The notice is that ways a state of the figure. The figure. The figure. The figure to take and the figure. The figure to take the same results could be duties of Government as they are with the that many of the things asked to be put down in the proposals could not be estimated at all until the vessel had commenced to rue. at all until the vessel had commenced to run. The number of trips per week would of sourse have to depend on the amount of traffic, and the number of weeks per year on the same circumstance as well as en the con-dition of the weather. The whole arrange-ment, however, is a senseless one; no basis is laid down to the tundeters, and even with is laid down to the tenderers, and even with outlay. This is a sufficient argument against ligencer." If anything injured the miner regard to the time the vessel is to be finished extending the time for a year. By committhe Government shows no anxiety and insists ting such a blunder we should be plunging Conducted with neither fact nor ability, but the Government shows no anxiety and insists ting such a blunder we should be plunging blundering away in the most irrelevent per-on no limit. The boat that might suit the ourselves into financial difficulties right 'on away is for we do not believe we could afford in killing itself. The same gas that heralded Let us suppose steam communication on virtually paying at the rate of twelve dollars or capacity. person in the community who cannot per- properly ignored it. The last of the three ceive that the circumstance would be almost a death-blow to both coloaies? The great bulk of those miners who wend their way periodically to Cariboo, and a large portion for; and answers the real urgency of the A WILLIAMS CREEK MINER. of the resident population of Victoria will, case. The idea brought forward by the supthe ensuing year, start for Big Bend ; but porters of the yearly scheme about the unless the British Columbian route is opened | necessity of providing return boats for immiearly in the Spring, they will all undoubtedly grants, whether the latter be miners, artisans, hosts of Jehovah, as depicted in the pages of leave this city to go by way of Portland per agriculturists, bears on its face its own Milton, never fails to leave an enduring im-The California miners will go the same ways refutation. We have a substantial advantage pression upon our imaginations. Ever and ish Columbia. Thus we shall, during the summer, have about to set before the California, miners, summer, sum articles, and keep our storekeepers and in-habitants generally in profitable employment? It is not Victoria alone, however, that will suffer. New Westminster will go back to its primitive condition of '58, and every town on the Fraser will show the same indications of a total collapse—and all for what?—be-cause a few inexperienced people have been of a total collapse—and all for what ?—be-cause a few inexperienced people have been unfortunately placed at the head of affairs in British Columbia. We call upon these men, if they value that can save the country and give to it that high degree of prosperity which the resent aligovaries in the neighboring coleay reason-alig warmant. The public interests of both which is descent at the transaction. To catch the government assume the responsibility of the government assume the responsibility of the government assume the responsibility of yearly, and a twice a month as well as three times a month communication; but we think itself. There are boatbuilders in Victoria it was only complicating matters introducing steries introducing the desider advantages. who will guarantee to have a suitable vessel other terms into the tenders. We are quite rick.

if necessary. Let no such mischievous blunder promptness, but we cannot help thinking that be perpetrated, therefore, as awarding the suggestion of Dr. Helmoken in reference exclusive privileges to parties who will not to the whole matter being discussed in secret until a definite conclusion had been arrived Better a thousand times to let out no contat was the wisest in the end. At all events, tract, give no especial privileges, than award we hope that the notice which is advertised them to those who will delay the operation ; for to-day will be telegraphed to San Francisco; then private enterprise will step in and ex- so that companies who have got beats large temporise a steam communication that will enough and swift enough for the performance answer all immediate purposes. It may be of the service may get proper notification.

> OREGON estilo off The weather has been very cold in Oregon

de the Upper Columbia is full of ice. Skaters were in their element at Portland. [From the Oregonian.]

BOAT ENCAMPMENT -Some as pretty gold as was ever mined is on exhibition at Ladd that it has given both colonies a blow & Tilton's bank, from the new mines of British Columbia, on the Columbia river. Reports continue to reach Colville, of the most flattering character, regarding this new El

SHOCKING CASUALTY .- On Sunday last with San Francisco, and sne will, as may be seen by yesterday's debates, undertake it. Let British Columbia do her share of the work, and have steam communication on Kamloops lake early in the spring. We want no floating palaces—a boat could be want no floating palaces-a boat could be was the matter, want no noting paraces—a boat could be extemporised in a month or six weeks that would meet every requirement. There is, therefore, no excuse for the authorities at New Westminster. They can with ease supply to attend the case, and the woman is doing the want which every man in both colonies as well as might be expected, but is still in a knows must be supplied. Let them see to it. weeks old, was most miraculously preserved from a like fate, probably from the efforts of the mother to place it to one side before the convulsive strife had asserted full control ver her system.

ENTERPRISE IN MINING.-A party of miners have recently had constructed, at the boat-yard of Mr. Bruce in this city, a batteaux, 25 feet long, 3 feet deep and 7 feet wide, with which two of them, Mr. Frazar and Mr. Fuller, leave to-day for some point above Colville. They will take their boat and supplies by public conveyance, steamer and teams, until they reach the stream they wish to ascend. These gentlemen, Messrs. Frazar and Fuller, have spent the past season in the region for which they start to-day, and are confident of a big strike next year, as is extending over a very lengthened period. It evident from their preparation. Should ice might possibly be that we would be much better prepared next year than this, and bet. ter again the year following. Dut if there is ter again the year following. But if there is to their destination. Such enterprise deone thing which the history of new countries serves its reward.

eaches us, it is to indulge in the fewest A SCHEME TO SAVE THE COUNTRY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST. just as mischievous to look too far ahead as not to look ahead enough. The three years -SIR, -Fools are not supposed to be very discreet, and the soft-brained individual who "officer administering the Government" in under the most favorable circumstances so the advent of the inglorious and defunct be built until June or July; and the boat to be built for April, might not suit in the charges anybody, but when I see a scribbler connecting the ridiculous scheme of starting a sheet in Kamloops and Shuswap lakes postponed till per head. The scheme cannot be enter-June-the period talked about. Is there a tained; and the House of Assembly very rotten old free port, with the House of As-

"A" WORD TO THE WISE." "Fagit irreparabile tempus."

To THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST. SIR,—At this juncture it would be well to muse on this old adage of the Latin poet Phodras. Never have our prospects seemed so bright as at present, and yet never bave they looked more gloomy. This may seem to imply a contradiction, but it does not. The to imply a contradiction, but it does not. The discovery of gold in paying quantities on Bridge river, and of rich diggings at the Big Bend seem to encourage us to fook forward to the future with golden hopes. On the other hand these new sich diggings which ought to be out salvation, will result

in our ruin unless we lay aside all fonlish discussions and idle speculations and take, at once, a step in the right direction. The startling news from the Big Bend-we must not conceal the fact-will be the means of

unpeopling Cariboo next season. Who speak of returning back there in the spring ? Very few indeed. Who seem to care anythin about visiting Bridge fiver next season? But few. Big Bend and Big Bend alone seems to be the new El Dorado fewards which all hopes converge. What have we done thus far to secure a share of the traffic and turn

the tide of the spring emigration this way? Nothing. What remains to be done? Every-thing. If things are not done in proper time, with Cariboo almost deserted, what vill our houses and town lots be worth? No-

thing. Bankruptcy will stare us in the face. While we are foolishly wasting precious moments in childish babble and useless re-flections, invoking the advent of some Alexander to untie the knot of our present difficulties, our go-ahead and spirited neighbors. relying solely on their own abilities and energy, silently but steadily are pressing matters forward to secure the lion's share of the speil. They have already a steamer ply-ing between the old Forti Colville and Fort ing between the old forn bounds. Let us Shepherd on our side of the line. Let us take an example from them and adopt, at take an example from them and adopt. To once, their motto: "Time is money." do this profitably we must join hands with our colonial neighbors, at least until we have wrested the ship from the dangers of ship-wreck. It is not too much for all hands to save her from utter destruction. Let us, therefore, lay aside, at least for the present, all family strifes, and devise with them the best means of promoting our common inter-ests. Do not let us give to our cousine the sad spectacle of the two suitors in the fable by allowing them to assume the position of the judge, who set their difficulty at rest, by swallowing the oyster, giving one-half of the

shell to each. What do we need to make these new gold discoveries profitable to us ? Prompt, direct steam communication between this place and San Francisco. Furthermore, we need to have the road opened early in the spring to the diggings, and to do this efficiently a small nust be in running order on the Shuswap lake no later than the 15th March or on the 1st of April next at the furthest. In order to attain the above objects what

own part, I have no pretension whatever to suppose that I am able to solve satisfactorily suppose that I am able to solve satisfactority this vexed question. Still, if your readers will be indulgent enough to allow me to do so, I shall modestly point to some means which may be made practicable to help us in attaining the desired end. Let, for instance, the Chamber of Commerce at this place take the initiatory step in this matter. Let them call a meeting of all these who have anything to lose or to gain in the country, and appoint a committee of three or more, as the case may be, to devise the best means to arrive at a practical solution of the question. This committee might ascertain on what terms the Hudson Bay Company or any other par-ties would be willing to run a line of steam-ers between this place and San Francisco. As a special inducement to come to speedy terms, it would be well, perhaps, that mer-chants should bind themselves by contract or sembly of this colony, and when I eee, the otherwise to patronize exclusively this lines same fantastic enterprise mentioned as a of steamers, at reasonable fixed rates, for the period of one or more years, notwithstanding any future opposition, provided always that the Company would bind itself, on the other hand, to convey passengers from San Fran-eisco to Victoria at the same fare, if not cheaper, than they charge from the former city to Portland. For, if miners are made to pay a surplus, as is now the case from Port-land to this place, the consequence will be that nine-tenths will prefer going by the Walta Walla route rather than through Brit-Thus we shall, during the summer, have about to set before the California miners, sufficient anon in our solemn moments we conjure up A liberal Government subsidy would of articles, and keep our storekeepers and in as much as can be expected and what the intensity of interest his partial triumph in Our mutual interests are closely blended,

over that running through ritory. But I repeat it here, all the advan-tages lavished upon us by nature will be of no avail differs we help ourselves.

B. D. CITY COUNCIL. that's u

MONDAY, December 18th, 1865. Council met at 7, p. m. Present-His Worship the Mayor, and Councillors Gowen, Jeffery, Layzell, and Jeffery, jr.

o there and COMMUNICATIONS. communication was read from the Col-A communication was read from the Col-onial Secretary, informing the Council in reas-spect of the resolution seeking the services of the chain-gang, " that the gang was at present fully, employed, but His Excellency will not fail to give the request of the Coun-cil every consideration." Also furnishing the following

1979 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT OHIST BEGOIA CITY OF VICTORIA, Divolution Trasson of J Is account with the Colonial Government.

DR. and the set of the

48 et that frankt 44 1 26.972 25 To bal. City Debentures fall-ing due at Bank B. N. A, 31st December, 1865,..... but op oneums bee vie sidt essweed ! innotative and mainte CR. By amt. repaid by City on account advances during year. 1863. By amt. of Half Per Cent Tax \$ 5,362 lected during the year 4,485 82 1864. y amt. of Half per Cent Tax Sunda. collected during the year 1365, (to 12th December), 18,819 54

23,305 36 Balance due by City of Vic-toria, 12th December, 1865, 6.984 89 the uncertain and \$35,652 25

NorB .- In the above statement of account no charge has been made for interest on the out-standing balance; nor has the City been debited with the whole expenses connected with the collection of the Half Per Cent. Tax such as copying assessment rolls, stationery, advertising. Ac.

advertising. (Signed), ALEX. WATSON. Colonial Treasurer. Treasury, December 12th, 1865 of said to see of

Il miles - will be rothing for it is already Mr. Layzell said the Governor's teply was maeither yes nor no. The Council might have of been told whether the services of the gang of were or were not at their disposal. The

Answer was vague. Mr. Gowen also looked upon the reply as indefinite, and favored a second application on through the clerk to the Executive whether on the services of the gang could be obtained and when.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT. Consideration of this matter was deferred, npon motion of Mr. Gowen, for a full board. CLEANSING THE STREETS. Councillor Gowen's motion on this matter

of road is to open the real benogized oils to largest and best ar any and a structs in the

Further time was given to the committee to furnish their report on the smended Ordi-oH nances on Nuisances, glavilarsquoo a ei andt the streets. An accident was reported a day of two ago in the papers when a valuable 70 horse was mained and a gentleman (Mr. 00 Waddington) had unfortunately broken his leg from the bad state of the streets or side-walks. Fort street had been left in a bad condition by the Gas and Water Companies. His Worship alluded to the want of proper powers in the Council, and expressed a h that the necessary powers would soon be built and an vine bas solie and Mr. Layzell gave notice of motion prohibe ting street excavations without special er, three days' time and three days' anneusvae

In our reman munication we tisement of th tenders. When at stake, as well country, we ma recurring to the would again imp Government th the notice by tel papers. If this lic interests are tisement calls fo January, giving sideration for ject of the notice best and cheape tenderers are fe limited-the cha neither a cheap ance. It is j companies or p supplying all ou viding us with carry all the pas it would be a se Victorian effort have said before running frequent steamers brough we had as many on a single trip. able to bring, if now.

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A WILLIAMS CREEK MINER.

PANORANA .- The mysterious drama of the wars of the fallen angels with the mighty

toutes and point out the great advantages the one through British Columbia possesses

sary expanse, and waradine nahanah On motion of Mr. Jeffery, sen., the Couns cil adjourned to Wednesday, 3d January, 1866.

dentarante in bind in CORT TESNED HIGHLY DISINTERESTED-The Chronicle of esterday announces that His Honor the Chief Justice had directed all bankrupt in notices to appear in future in the Government Gazette, and says: "This order will be hailed by bankrupts with pleasure." No doubt it will, as the insertion of these notices doubt if will, as the insertion of these notices in that Lilliputian Government, publication, and that people hear about but never read, will be the means of enabling bankrupts to get over their difficulties very easily, while so creditors will be placed at great disadvantage, as and will simply knew nothing of what is be-ing done in bankrupt estates. The Chroni-ele's approval of the order may be understood from the fact that it seldom of never is " avored with the insertion of any bankruptcy. notices. 060. making 525,000 for a wagoisen . 600, 513

NEW JOURNAL- A prospectus has been out forth of a new weekly proposed to be published shortly in San Francisco, by Mr. George Wallace, formerly of the Evening Express and lately of the Cariboo Sentunel. Express and lately of the Cariboo Sentinel. " The journal will be devoted more especially be to the interests of these colonies, and, in view of the recent gold discoveries at Big Bend and Bridge River, will doubtless be highly beneficial to the advancement of this country, in inducing a mining immigration of to these shores. This is one step in the right direction, the next will be an independent steam communication. The paper is to be styled the "North Pacific Times and Co-lumbis Mining News."

HURBIGANE AT SEA. - The Oregonian mentions that the ship Live Yankee, 36 days from San Francisco, had reached Portland, having experienced tremendous weather. On Sunday, the 26th November, at 9.45 a.m., in latitude 469 02', N longitude, 126° W, the effect of an parthquake was felt very sensibly, jarring the ship and making the rigging tremble considerably for a moment.

think we have Portland com lessly behind i must not, how fore, lie dorme of our position to inform the California, th mineral riches the unequalled route. STEAM ! STE our advertisin of this Island from San Fr twelve month times a mon three times a Westminster times a mont at this port, b contract to co and not later further partic time allotted that persons barred from that the adver to San Franci of the leading SICENESS says, since th of November, dred and two

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