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THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

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"PROSPECTING" ON LEECH RIVER.

A sudden increase of wealth is sometimes ruinous. We have all heard of the poor man who, on coming unexpectedly into possession of a legacy, was plunged in melancholy, because it would fall a few pounds short in its annual return of the sum he desired to expend on his new establishment. While lamenting the sorry trick fate had thus played him, news came that the fortune was double the amount first stated. This, however, instead of mending matters only made them worse; for since he thought it necessary to live in a certain extravagant style on obtaining the former increase of wealth, he felt it now, with double the income, equally incumbent to double the expense; and so he had, a second time, to curse fortune for not giving him enough to meet the demands of his folly. Our Sooke miners furnish us with an equally good illustration of the same disconcerted characteristic of human nature. A month ago \$3 a day diggings would have been a windfall to every able-bodied workman on the island. The face of the most constitutional grumbler would have expanded with the smile of satisfaction, and every prospecting party would have been in a hurry to start.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster on Saturday, at 4:30 p. m., with 31 passengers and a small amount of treasure for Dietz & Nelson's express. We have dates from Cariboo to the 4th inst., with correspondence from our "special" giving the latest news from the mines, the reception of Governor Seymour, &c.

CARIBOO LETTER.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]
RICHFIELD, Aug. 4.

There is rather a dearth of mining news. Nothing definite has yet been heard from the prospectors who went out in search of the placer diggings.

Gentlemen of the Mining Board of Cariboo.

I receive with great pleasure the congratulatory address you have been kind enough to present to me on my first visit to the mining districts of the colony. I had fully intended to place myself in communication with you, and I am glad that our intercourse has commenced in a manner so gratifying to me. You may be sure that so long as I hold my present office my utmost efforts shall be devoted to the promotion of the interests of British Columbia. Though I have only been here a very few months, it has already fallen to my lot to see much of the country.

Over Friday the 5th (to-morrow) he intends to leave for New Westminster, which to the disappointment of many who expected he would have remained in Cariboo a week at least. The necessary fatigue and hardship which His Excellency has patiently undergone in his recent journey; and the spirit of enquiry displayed by him in all matters affecting in any degree the welfare of the community, augur well for the future of the Colony. A practical knowledge of its resources and its wants, will prove invaluable, and future administration will no doubt assume a shape that will successfully develop the innate vigor of this young giant offspring of the Mistress of the Seas.

His Excellency has made many friends, and his visit to Williams Creek will long be remembered with pleasure by the miners of Cariboo. Lieut. Cooper, Royal Marines, and Mr. Evans, constitute his Excellency's suite. The former gentleman is almost at home on the Creek, as his friends are legion. Mr. Evans is of course a stranger, but in his short stay he has made many friends.

The Bed Rock Flume Co.

Have now 500 feet of flume laid. Their ditch is being rapidly constructed and the portion from Jack of Clubs to Mink Gulch (about 1 1/2 miles) is nearly completed. On the 5th of the month 1000 inches of water will be turned into Williams Creek by the company. Their energy has not flagged, and where they got the money seems a mystery to all outsiders. The work speaks for itself, and the ditch alone will probably prove one of the best investments on this coast.

The Anchor Co.

Are progressing rapidly with their work. They are nearly through the canal, and have considerably extended their lead flume. Williams Creek. The Aurora Co. washed up 350 ounces to a little over two days work. The Barker Co. are taking out good pay again. Most of the rich claims are suffering from a scarcity of water on the creek. I have much pleasure in stating that the creek has received commercially a valuable accession in the person of Mr. Laumaiter. He has opened a large store at Richfield, and his stock of goods is already finding a good market. Mr. Winkler has sold out his business and gone to Victoria. The wagon road is being pushed forward with vigor.

rather disparaging accounts of the mines, although not one of them will dispute the fact that they afford abundant means of employment for those who are content with ordinary wages. It is this circumstance above all others which gives us such hope in the Vancouver Island gold mines. The diffusion of the precious metal is so wide in fact, that no man who works need be without sufficient to cover his expenses, while the chances of finding rich deposits are just as great for the work required to be done, as in other gold countries. From the commencement of the rush to Sooke river up to the present time, we will venture to say few creeks anywhere have turned out more gold, and diffused it more generally in proportion to the number of men and the amount of work performed. All we require is a population not carried away by the idea of turning up lumps of gold, but willing and able to work, and who will be quite content to make good wages. We do not want the miners of Leech river to despise nuggets; but we hope that a fair recompense will not be undervalued because some portions of the mines may be unusually rich; and we are also anxious, for the sake of the pockets of the adventurers, and the reputation of the diggings, that henceforward no one will start to mine in the Sooke district unless he is prepared to work, in properly supplied tools, and can stand the outlay of a month's provisions.

THE HAREWOOD COAL MINE.

The following letter from an experienced Welsh miner appears in the "Columbian of Saturday": "The Victoria papers are too much occupied with their prodigious gold discoveries at Sooke to pay any attention to their coal mines, which are much more important. They have certainly got a very fine coal field in Vancouver Island. As there is at present a good deal of speculation in this town about coal and coal mines, I beg to lay before your readers a few facts which I noted when I was at Nanaimo on Saturday last. I went over the Harewood mine with Mr. Robert Dunsmuir, the agent, and another gentleman. I have had a good deal of experience in coal mines, and according to my ideas, the Harewood mine offers more facilities for working than any other mine on the Pacific coast. The seam runs due north, dipping up from the sea. The slope is of very great advantage for the miners, as the company can tunnel instead of sinking a shaft, and so can draw their coal out instead of raising it; and again, they can drain a very large extent of ground; a mile and a half by three miles, from one opening, without being obliged to use pumps or any engines whatsoever. A tunnel is much safer for men to work in than a shaft, and this is a better tunnel than ordinary, for above the seam of coal is a good sandstone formation, which obviates the necessity of using any timber to hold the top. Not that timber is dear in this country, but the labor is. As far as I could judge by a cursory inspection the coal is of an excellent quality, with very little sulphur in it, and I think that it is very good for making steam. Much credit is due to Mr. Dunsmuir for his skill in tracing the seam. He has not been sinking holes here and there, as a less experienced man might have done, but he has followed the lead most persistently and to a successful issue. Hoping that this may interest some of our present coal explorers, who I hope will meet with luck, I conclude with yours truly, JOHN RENN PRICE, Harewood Mine, N. B. C. I. Yours truly, JOHN RENN PRICE."

ENGLISH MAIL SUMMARY.

London, Saturday Evening, July 2.

The disbelief in the maintenance of peace, says our correspondent, has never been greater in Paris. England, although she has sacrificed her honor, has not thereby removed the causes of war. Still there exists that vague fear—too probably the shadow of coming events—of a general uprising in Europe, the end of which the astute statesman or politician may not venture to predict. An anecdote goes the round of political circles in the French capital just now, presumed to be explanatory of the policy of our own Government at the present moment. It is to the effect that an eminent statesman said, the other day, in his drawing-room, something like this: "Perish Denmark! We must not miss our gross shooting." It is rumored that M. Drouyn de Lhays is shortly to be succeeded in the Foreign Office by Prince de Talleyrand.

The inquest at Plymouth on the body of Mr. Coy, the waterman who was killed by a shot from the citadel, was brought to a close yesterday after five adjournments. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Major-General Hutehinson, the General commanding the district, expressing an opinion that he was guilty of great negligence and indifference to the public safety.

A sad accident, by which six colliers were killed at a pit near Wigan, took place yesterday. It appears that eight men were descending the shaft, when the cage in which they rode came in contact with something, by which it was tilted over, and six of its inmates thrown to the bottom and killed.

At an early hour yesterday morning, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales made a general inspection of the fire establishments throughout the metropolis. His Royal Highness was attended by the Duke of Sutherland, Prince Leiningen, and Lord Richard Grosvenor. The party were received at the headquarters of the establishment in Watling Street, by Captain Shaw, and they rode on fire engines from one station to another. After witnessing the operations of the brigade when one of the horses slipped in the Strand, and the distinguished party were obliged to alight and drive home in cabriolet. The visit took place at such an early hour, that few persons were aware of the circumstances. His Royal Highness visited several other places in the course of the day.

The polling for the office of Sheriff closed yesterday, when the two aldermen, Bealey and Dakin, were elected.

The show of horses at the Agricultural Hall opened yesterday, when a large number of visitors, including many members of the aristocracy, attended. There are upwards of 300 animals exhibited, all of a high standard of merit, as may be inferred from the fact that the judges were unable to find a single pair of horses in the show.

Bankers and merchants in Paris, of all kinds and other goods to the value of \$20,000, were brought before Mr. Alderman Stone at the Mansion House yesterday, and further evidence having been adduced, the alderman committed all three for trial. A man named Seymour was brought up before the chief magistrate at Bow Street, on a charge of enlisting men for the Confederate service. From the evidence it appeared that four men were engaged by him to go as firemen in a steamer named the Gappan, but applied to the officers of the Rampanthorpe Confederate steamer, who repudiated the engagement made by Seymour. The men came home and appear to have informed against their employer. He was committed for trial.

A correspondent of the London Standard, signing himself, J. L., writes as follows: "A great deal of nonsense has been written and talked about the 'improved armour' of the Keatsarge, and the general notion is, that the vessel was hastily protected by chain cables shortly before the late action. Now, I have closely examined the Keatsarge about three months since. I saw her in the water and I saw her on a pontoon. She was then protected amidsthip by heavy chain cables, and paid with some red composition, the cables being covered with planking, a piece of which had been knocked off. Very few people are aware that the Keatsarge was several days in the Victoria Dock, at Blackwall. It was there that I saw her, and there it was that the Admiralty officers obtained full particulars as to her armament and the nature of the protection given to her engines. She is a long sloop, rather well-sided, barque-rigged, painted black, and looks very much more like an armed screw collier than a man-of-war."

The bazaar in Hanover-square Rooms in aid of the Asylum for Idiots has been opened to-day by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, who, accompanied by the Prince, arrived at half past twelve, attended by the Marchionesses of Caermarthen and Captain Grey, and was received by the committee, the band playing "God save the Queen." The stalls were draped in pink and white, and were very attractively furnished with things as beautiful as useful. A large number of ladies were present, admitted by ticket or payment, to sit in the orchestra and look at the Princess as she, with her suite, visited the various stalls, and made a few selections, beginning at the stalls on the right of the entrance facing the Royal box. After remaining for a considerable time their Royal Highnesses took their leave, and the regular business commenced.

It is stated by Mr. Alderman Mechi that a good deal of land about the Royal Exchange is now worth one million five hundred pounds per acre, and that a site in that neighborhood about the size of a nobleman's drawing-room, would command a ground rental of £1000 per annum, equal to the rental of a thousand acre farm.