

USEFUL "ON DITS."

Provisions in British Columbia are very dear, but in Vancouver Island they are more reasonable than in England, there being no duties on tea, coffee, sugar, spirits, &c. Flour in November last, at Cariboo, was at 38c. (1s. 7d.) per lb.; bacon 75c. (3s. 1½d.); beans, 40c. (1s. 8d.); tea, 1 dollar 50c. (6s. 3d.); sugar and coffee, 76c. per lb. Single meals at the *restaurant's*, consisting of beans and bacon and a cup of bad coffee, cost two dollars (8s. 4d.). A correspondent of one of the newspapers in Victoria, writing from Cariboo at this time, says:—A tin pan (worth 3d.) sold for 8 dollars (£1 12s. 9d.); picks and shovels, 6 dollars each; ditto, with handles, *i.e.*, shovels, 7 dollars 50c. each (£1 4s. 6d. and £1 10s. 6d.). Washing was charged for at 6 dollars a dozen pieces (£1 4s. 6d.)

The rocker is simply a wooden cradle, very much resembling a child's cradle, except that the back rocker is higher than the front one, forming, as intended, an inclined plane at the bottom, across which two or three wooden cleets are nailed a foot apart. Over the head of the cradle is a grating or tin plate perforated with holes, and on this the earth and water is thrown; the cradle being then rocked by a long handle at the side. The water and mud run out at the foot, while the gold lodges on the bottom beneath the cleets. The rockers are constructed of several sizes. Some are small and tended by one man only, who first digs the earth, then carries it to the rocker, and with one hand keeps it rocking, and with the other he pours in water from the stream with a tin pan. Other rockers require three and some four men to keep them continually at work. Generally they allow the gold to remain at the bottom till the close of their day's labour, and then one and all gather close to the machine to see if any gold "shines" there. These rockers being constructed of wood, are very light, easily taken to pieces or repaired, and can be worked on any ground.

As to taking out a cradle from England, the emigrant is advised against it. Cradles are but little cheaper in England than in California, and by the time he arrives at Victoria, he will find plenty of machines for gold digging purposes in that city, brought from San Francisco. Why, the carriage of such an article would make more than the difference in the price, and then the emigrant has all the trouble of looking after it on the voyage. The cradles made in California are of the most modern inventions.