

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST

VOL. 5. VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1864. NO. 32.

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HENRY WOODTON,
Postmaster.
May 30th, 1864.

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Published every morning (Sundays excepted) at Victoria, V. I.
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AGENTS: N. S. P. Fisher, 20 Cornhill, London. W. B. Barrage, 20 Cornhill, London. J. P. Fisher, 20 Cornhill, London. J. P. Fisher, 20 Cornhill, London.

CARIBOO!

\$130,000 in Treasure.
The news from the gold fields is to the effect that the steamer Alexandria arrived from New Westminster on Saturday morning with 10 passengers and \$30,000 in gold. The steamer Otter arrived at 6 o'clock on Saturday evening with 20 passengers and \$100,000 in treasure, of which \$78,000 belonged to the Bank of British Columbia.

The Alexandria brought the Cariboo express which had been left last trip at Soda Creek. The news from Cariboo is highly encouraging. The Ericsson, Rankin, Wake-up, Jake, Caledonia, and several other well known claims are taking out large quantities of gold, varying from 25 to 400 ounces per day. Conklin's gulch, McArthur's gulch, and the upper gulch are beginning to pay. An immense quantity of machinery is being put in in different parts of the creek, and the amount of work done and the quantity of gold taken out will undoubtedly far exceed any previous year.

The Benches, Hamilton, the deputy sheriff, had resigned; his place had not yet been filled. A tremendous fire broke out below Camerontown on June 1st, and spread rapidly among the dry brush and fallen timber, extending over to Barkerville and Richfield, doing a vast amount of damage at all three places. The towns were with difficulty saved from complete destruction. A great many cabins, with wheels, flames, lumber, firewood, etc., were destroyed. Several miners had narrow escapes from being burnt to death. Provisions were tolerably plenty, at moderate rates. A good many idle men were on the Creek, but there would soon be work for all.

LETTER FROM CARIBOO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)
RICHFIELD, June 1st, 1864.
The weather for the last month with the exception of a few days, has really been delightfully pleasant. At this time last year the creek presented a bleak, wintry aspect, not at all alleviated by an alternate fall of snow and rain. In a latitude 37° north of Quebec, where vast fields of ice are only beginning to move towards the ocean, it seems rather strange to the observer that the most desirable summer weather should reign. The altitude of this place is also much higher than that of the same latitude on the Eastern side of the hemisphere. The towns of Richfield, Barkerville, and Camerontown, have been much improved. The latter especially deserves notice. New buildings are dotted all over the place, and the majority of the business men of the creek all congregate here. Mr. O'Neill has arrived and has resumed his duties. Mr. Cox left on the 30th ult., to take command of the party of men who are to leave Alexandria for the Obedient country. Without intending to make any injurious comparisons, I may safely say that a more popular, upright and conscientious man has never filled a public position in this colony. Some of his decisions show remarkable ingenuity as well as justice, and great praise is due to him for the manner in which he has suppressed the dishonest tricks of jumpers. Decisions which give satisfaction to both sides are rare indeed in all countries; but I can assure your readers that Mr. Cox has generally pleased both parties. As to the mining prospects of the creek, they were never more flattering. On Williams Creek alone, owing to the early season and fine weather, I think great results may be safely predicted. The claims are nearly all at work. The Curries have commenced drifting for pay. The Barker Co. are sinking a new shaft.

The Bird Head and Welsh Co. are also at work. The latter Co. got some very good pay some time ago. The Curries Co. are taking out enough to pay expenses. The Lillooet Co. will probably get into pay in about ten days. The CALDONIA Co. have been paying well hitherto. The WAKE-UP JAKE Co. obtain a steady average yield of 70 ounces per day. The lead is supposed to come from Conklin's gulch. The BAUREGARD Co. are taking out a little pay. The NEVER SWEAT Co. are sinking a new shaft. The STAR Co. is also sinking a new shaft with very good prospects. The MOPPAT and CAMERON Co's shafts are full of water. The former Co. intend to apply to have their claim laid over till the new Bed Rock Drain is completed. The RABY and FRANCES OF WALES Co's are at work. The latter Co. are likely to have a law suit, as the unfortunate one drowned last fall in Fraser river (your readers may recollect the circumstances) but interests, which are now claimed by parties who recognized their first in the immediately after the accident.

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make money by such tricks than to labor honestly for a living. It is, I repeat, to say what the law may be in a Court of law, but under the circumstances the public should have been made aware of their exact position, before their property was disposed of. THE GREAT FIRE AT CARIBOO. (FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT.) CAMERONTOWN, WILLIAMS CREEK, June 2nd, 1864. EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—I send you a few lines to tell you of the greatest fire that has occurred on the Creek, and which has proved most disastrous to a great number of the Hospital, and the wood and brush being so dry, it spread with fearful rapidity; at one time great fears were entertained for the Hospital, but a number of men from the Cameron and other surrounding claims, gave such valuable assistance, that happily the misfortune was averted. The flames darted along the ground like fiery serpents, devouring everything in their way—cabins, piles of wood cut ready for shafts and staves, the entire winter stock of many men, all were consumed in a few short minutes. The burning of the Hospital, which was the greatest loss, did most damage. Conklin's Gulch, from Harston's saw mill to beyond Ericsson's claim, was one sheet of fire; not a cabin left, and it was with difficulty the saw mill was saved. It was hoped that the upper town of Richfield would escape, but it was leaving it at six o'clock, and the fire had already made its way through by Siskia's claim, and I have not heard this morning what damage it has done there. It was a truly magnificent sight; the whole eastern side of the Creek was one blaze, and the roaring of the flames was like heavy thunder. In the afternoon, the western side took fire also, the flames sweeping on towards Lowhee. The dense masses of smoke rolling over this way to-day, tell that it is still raging on, and the whole of the towns are enveloped in a kind of murky fog. Great destruction of property, such as blankets, provisions, etc., has taken place, but happily only one man has been hurt, and he though badly scorched is not dangerously so.

RECAPITULATION OF GOLD TAKEN DURING THE LAST WEEK.—The total amount of gold received from Cariboo during the week, as near as can be ascertained, is \$305,000; viz.: on Wednesday, Bank of British Columbia, \$95,000; Dietz & Nelson's Express, \$45,000; in private hands, \$165,000. On Thursday, Bank of British Columbia, \$78,000; private hands, \$10,000. "COLUMBIAN" ITEMS. RETURN OF MR. BREW AND PARTY.—The little party dispatched to Barkerville under Mr. Brew's command, returned yesterday evening, bringing with them the two Indians, "Squint-eye" and "Little George." They were at Nanaimo three days, expecting the war ship to call for the infant according to arrangement, but as the word of

did not come, they were obliged to return to Cariboo. The party consisted of Mr. Brew, Mr. Siskia, Mr. Siskia's wife, and a few others. They were at Nanaimo three days, expecting the war ship to call for the infant according to arrangement, but as the word of

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start from any point on the Sound, W. T. Victoria, New Westminster, Douglas, or Yale) I would say, go to Hope, B. C. through Similkameen, Soogon Lake and Rock Creek to Colville; thence by the new trail from Colville to the Kootanais. The trail, with the exception of that portion which lies between Hope and Similkameen, is a good one, with plenty of grass for animals and with an abundance of good water and wood. I understand the Legislature of British Columbia have appropriated the sum of \$5,000 for the improvement of the Hope road. If such is the fact the road can be—if the money is judiciously expended—put in good order.

A CARIBOO GRIEVANCE. WILLIAMS CREEK, May 28, 1864. EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST.—After waiting anxiously for an able pen than mine to notice one of the new Acts passed by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for the purpose of raising the revenue of the colony, but having so far waited in vain, allow me the privilege of pointing out some of its weak points, and also the cause. The object of the common method of new countries, who usually endeavor to all the means in their power to induce capitalists to invest, the Legislative Assembly of this colony has placed a tax on the very vitals of mining. Not satisfied with duties on the goods necessary for life and health; not satisfied with 10 per cent on the machinery necessary for working the mines successfully, besides toll dues equal to 2 1/2 cents on every pound of goods used by the miner (all of which doubles may be necessary), they have at last put the finish on the whole by taxing the capital brought into the mines and invested, in mining. Miners generally hailed with delight the Act which enabled them to hold more than two claims in their own name; knowing well that capital was the most essential requisite necessary to prospect thoroughly the Canadian country; but our legislators concluded, (most wisely) that the proper time to procure money, was before miners had time to spend it in prospecting; so now the list stands somewhat as follows: first license £1; secondly, for recording pre-emption 10s. 6d.; thirdly, for recording a bill of sale £1; and one per cent of the amount paid for the claim besides; fourthly, for every member of a company who requires leave of absence, 10s. 6d. each time; (leave of absence is when a prospecting company are unable to work advantageously; the whole number of men who own an interest in the company, and is annually granted for one month only, and then has to be renewed at the same rate); the next charge is one dollar to be paid for the claim besides; fourthly, for every member of a company who requires leave of absence, 10s. 6d. each time; 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