

THE LONDON TIMES AND QUEEN VICTORIA.

One of the most curious features probably in modern English life is the dictatorial position assumed by the newspaper. What would have been, much less than a century ago, looked upon as sedition, and punished accordingly, is now accepted by the people and the authorities as a legitimate expression of public opinion.

Every year the Press has been adding to its stock of power until at present we might say of it what one of England's most classic writers remarked of democracy—it is like the grave; it swallows up everything but gives nothing back.

Parish vestries or Chambers of Commerce, Houses of Correction or Houses of Parliament. Ministers of religion or Ministers of State, Courts of law or Courts of royalty, kings or queens, emperors or kaisers, it is all the same; nothing is now too high, nothing too low for its censorship.

A REDUCTION IN COLONIAL EXPENSE.

A correspondent in another column asks skeptically how a union of British Columbia and Vancouver Island is to make any considerable diminution in the expenses of the respective colonies, and confesses to seeing no more important reduction than in having one Governor instead of two.

It is quite evident that the writer has not given much attention to the remarks which have been over and over again made on the subject, and it is equally evident that his idea of union is drawn from that condition of affairs which preceded the arrival of Governor Seymour, and which was really no less a separation than the system at present in vogue.

Union of the colonies means one civil list—not two—means one Governor, one Colonial Secretary, one Treasury, one Attorney General, and one Surveyor General. It embraces, however, still further reductions. It gives to British Columbia, who that colony unfortunately does not at the present time possess, a power to economize in its extravagant expenditure.

Thousands of pounds squandered at present on salaries, in the interior, as well as in New Westminster, and over which the tax-payer has no control, would be saved yearly by a united representative Legislature. The public money economized in British Columbia is an economy for Vancouver Island: for where so many of our population are hard at work during one-half of the year, and where so much of our capital is one way or another implicated or invested, it is of the very greatest consequence that the public burdens should be no greater than the population can bear.

Some assert that the reduction in the governmental expense of the two colonies would, under union, reach as much as fifty per cent. on the present outlay, and we believe by proper management such retrenchment could be really effected, without impairing in the slightest degree the efficiency of the administration, or the carrying out of the public works.

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER MEETING.

The yearly meeting of the members of No. 1 Company Victoria Rifle Volunteers was held on Monday evening at 8 o'clock in the Orderly Room, James Bay.

LETTER FROM PORTLAND.

PORTLAND, Oregon, Oct. 12, 1865. TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST. Sir: Although you have weekly communication with us and are posted on matters and things generally through the medium of our keen-eyed reporters, still a few lines from the dull pen of an old Portlander may not be amiss.

PORTLAND CITY stands about where it always did and "a little more;" for the industrious hand of the mechanic is daily extending her wings in divers directions as the increase of population and business demand it. Her growth is steady and sure, and what well thinking and far seeing men might call fast and not mushroom-like, up to-day and down to-morrow.

The fallen edifice from the quaking of mother earth in other sections of the country, is to her an impetus for a new building. Whilst she thankfully accepts the income from the mines around, she keeps a keen eye to her agricultural resources.

Portland has often been called a "mud hole." Well, 'tis true; we have had in our streets some mud, which has called into requisition very much the use of "web feet," as they are able supporters on the unstable soil. But now we want them no longer, and wish Nature would not be so bountiful in her pedestal gifts, or at least that our neighbors would drop that loathsome title, "web-foot."

Please do what you can for us in your quarter in ridding us of that ugly name, and if you happen down here, by way of recompense, we will treat you to a drive over our macadamised and planked streets, and undertake not to plunge you into the mud. In the principal streets we are now burying the mud beneath a thickness of one foot of plank. Some are macadamised by way of variety.

"BLACK FOOT" is now the watch-word, at the mere mention of which a gleam of hope is seen to spread over the countenance of almost every miner here. You can hardly turn a street corner without "Black Foot" striking your ear.

It is the new Eldorado to which thousands hereof were disappointed as well as lucky ones will fondly their weary way the coming spring. One man speaking of its (supposed) richness thought enough of the precious ore could be taken out in one day to pay up the national debt! So high does the fever rage.

IMMIGRATION is steadily pouring in. Daily can be seen the war-worn and way-worn from Missouri, Iowa and Illinois passing through our city to find their new homes. Many of them, no doubt, will find their way to the rich bottoms on Puget Sound, as the most available lands in this section are taken up.

FENIANS. The Fenian society is in full blast. They have their regular meetings, drill, etc. They number pretty high here. It is strongly asserted that they have a future eye on Vancouver Island. It would be a joke, if the tables were turned, if after freeing the mother country, they would try to play a high hand in colonization and the acquisition of territory. However, you need not be alarmed up there until danger is imminent.

The weather for the past two weeks has been pleasant. Yours truly, A PORTLANDER.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir: Since my arrival in the colony I have paid some attention to its agricultural progress as shown by the annual exhibition which takes place in Victoria, and delighted to have been to greet any new development—any fresh bud to our tree of permanent strength—upon visiting the annual show; with what regret therefore do I take up my pen to suggest that there is some screw loose in the management of the exhibition.

Not only is there general dissatisfaction at the distribution of prizes attributable to partial, interested or ignorant judges, but that the judges are obliged to give certain prizes to ensure the support of the exhibition by certain parties. I am aware these sentiments more or less exist in all institutions of the kind, more particularly in the unsuccessful candidates. But what palliation can be given for the non-payment of the prize money? Last year when any inquiry was made it was met by a shake of the head, a shrug, and a hint that there was "something rotten in the state of Denmark," but that matters would be altered. Time has rolled on; the year has come round, the exhibition has passed, the prizes have been published, a wife has been promised a gown, the children are to have new frocks, or the five or six dollars are to be expended in a cask of Bunster for general family comfort. But the wife withholds her smile of gratitude, the children's minds are infected with jealousy by the contemplation of the picture of "Little Red Riding Hood," and Bunster alone is jolly in happy ignorance of the intended compliment, for Mr. Editor Denmark is still in a state of decay—the prizes have never been paid.

We are now going in for a tariff, let us try to set our agricultural exhibition in such a position as to ensure the least possible complaint, in order to encourage and foster experiments amongst our farmers, so that we may see from year to year what we can rely upon as our own resources.

LANDLORD AND TENANT—LENDER AND BORROWER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir.—Your correspondents "Fair Play" and "An Interested Party" in calling attention to the anomaly of high rents in bad times, have opened up a question which extends far beyond the range of landlord and tenant. Rent is but another name for interest, and if there be any prospect of landlords using up their tenants by high rents there is an equal probability of the banks and money lenders using up their customers with oppressive rates of interest. I am aware that the doctrine that a thing is worth what it will fetch applies to money as well as merchandise, but I would suggest to our capitalists and bankers that by exacting all they can get out of the merchants and traders in this community at the present critical time, they may be so far weakening their customers and tenants as to injure themselves. It matters little whether bankruptcy result from high rents or excessive interest, all kinds of property, both real and personal are depreciated by it. In this small community we are so interwoven with each other that what injures one affects all, and I think it a matter well worthy of the serious consideration alike of borrowers and lenders, landlords and tenants, whether it would not be for the benefit of all that interest and rent should be reduced to something like what is paid in other young countries, and then, perhaps, they would bear some relation to the powers of endurance enjoyed by those who have these burdens to bear.

Yours, &c., CAMEL. PORTLAND ITEMS. [DATES TO THE 20TH.] (From the Oregonian.)

BOAT ENCAMPMENT.—On Saturday we were shown letters from Colville giving the most encouraging reports from the new mines on the upper Columbia. The cloud which has been held over Colville valley, suddenly broke away by the appearance there on the 27th of September of a party who returned with evidence of the richness of the region in which they had spent the summer. They had not been heard from for many months, and the uncertain report, or rather no reports at all, was severe for the prospects of the country. The party, however, returned and they report fabulous yields to the pan or day's work, from the bottom of shafts, showing a richness equal to Cariboo. Silver ledges, veins of lead, copper, etc., have been found in abundance.

ACCIDENT.—District Attorney Hodgkinson and Judge Wait yesterday morning started for Hollesbro, with a horse and buggy, but before getting out of the city something about the harness gave way, which frightened the horse and it ran off, smashing the buggy up pretty badly, and injuring Judge Wait so that he was obliged to stop in the city.—Mr. Hodgkinson was slightly injured.

THE INDIANS.—The Indians have again run off all the stock on the Boise and Chico stage line and destroyed most of the stations. The coaches will not be started again till next year. Meantime the mails, it is said, will be carried on horseback.

CABLE OUT OF ORDER.—Dr. Plummer and Mr. Whitley, of the Telegraph Company, were fishing for the cable in the Willamette opposite the city yesterday, it having lately failed to conduct the electric current to the eastern bank. They failed to find Neptune or any mermaids on it.

DREDGING.—Ten or twelve days, in the opinion of Mr. Lowndale, one of the committee having in charge the river improvements, will be sufficient time for the dredger to complete a channel of depth for any vessel visiting this port.

STILL THEY COME.—The Cascades steamer last evening landed several more waggons from the plains across, in this city. The stock looked to be in good condition.

A MAN BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE.—One of the most horrible deaths possible for a man to meet is awaiting Mr. Jacob Shuester, a farmer near Waupiton in this county, who was bitten last Saturday.—Mr. Shuester was in a field mowing hay, when he came upon the snake, and it attempted to crawl away. He cut it in two with his scythe, and as it still gave signs of life, he severed it again within about three inches of its head. It then seemed to be dead, and he stooped down to examine its mouth. He was approaching its mouth with his right hand, when the snake sprang and fastened itself to his right thumb. He sprang to his feet, and after several seconds succeeded in loosening its hold and flinging it to the ground. The thumb pained him terribly, and he ran to the house. It immediately commenced swelling and his agony increased. Neighbors were sent for, who applied remedies of which they had heard. But they did no good, and in ten minutes Mr. Shuester commenced vomiting blood. All the remedies suggested by his neighbors having failed, they "doctored" him until late Sunday afternoon, when Dr. Staples, of this city, was sent for. He arrived at the house, a distance of twenty miles, Sunday evening. He found Shuester in a horrible state of body and mind. His right arm was swollen to four times its natural size, and was nearly black. This color had reached his breast and was spreading over his system. Below the elbow the poison had affected the arm so that its surface was covered with large blisters which were filled with blood. From one of these the doctor drew nearly a tea-cup full of blood. The palm of the sufferer's hand, although calloused by labor, was puffed out like a sugar loaf, and blood continually flowed from the wounded thumb. His breath was awfully offensive. Mr. Shuester retains all his senses. Before he was bitten he was a large, well-built man, and possessed great strength. He is now haggard, as white as a sheet, and his eyes are ghastly. Dr. S. administered powerful neutralizing medicines, and Mr. Shuester felt somewhat relieved almost immediately. The doctor stayed with him all night, and left him at ten o'clock yesterday morning with slight hopes of his recovery. When the doctor left, Mr. Shuester complained of a feeling which was then coming on him for the first time—a sort of numbness, yet painfully itching sensation, which affected his whole body. He was alive a few days ago. Since that time we have not heard from him.—Dubuque Times.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The steamer Otter arrived on Wednesday from New Westminster, with 90 passengers, among whom were the Hon. A. N. Birch the Hon. H. P. Crease, Mr. McKay, H.B.C. from Kamloops, Capt. Layton, from Shuswap, and others.

From Cariboo our dates are to the 17th instant, at which time the Aurora, Wake up Jake, Sheepskin, Prairie Flower, Saw Mill, Cameron and Yellow Virgin Companies were taking out pay, particulars of which will appear in our next. Some strikes had been made on Burnes Creek.

Highly gratifying intelligence had been received from Kootenay and Big Bend diggings.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir.—Your correspondent "Agricola" in today's issue, complains of the management of the above Society, and puts his grievances in the form of a charge against the honesty and capability of the judges of the late exhibition and a complaint that the premiums have not yet been paid over. The gentlemen who kindly undertook the unthankful office of deciding on the merits of the articles exhibited on that occasion, were men, the justice of whose awards could not be questioned by any person who was not an interested party or an unsuccessful competitor, and the only reason why the monetary affairs have not been concluded ere this, although only about a month has elapsed since the show took place—is the fact that in this, as in most other societies of the like nature, nearly all the work has to be done by one person, the calls upon whose time for many weeks previous to and after the annual exhibition are numerous indeed. If instead of writing letters on subjects he is little conversant with, "Agricola" would lend his aid towards collecting subscriptions and other work of a like cheerful nature, it will tend materially to lighten the labors of

THE HONORARY SECRETARY.

IS IT SO, OR NOT?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.—Sir: I often hear it said that if British Columbia and Vancouver Island were united under one Government that it would be a saving of 50 per cent. on the expenses. And when I enquire how it is to be done, no one can tell me, more than that is what it will do.

The only saving I can see in it is in having half a Governor, and even he will be put to extra trouble and expense, and that is not the only extra trouble and expense which will occur when the connection takes place.

Will you be kind enough to explain how or in what manner this saving is to be made, otherwise it will only seem like so much gammon intended to gull the public.

JOHN BIRKELL.

LATER FROM KOOTENAY.—Mr. McKay, of Kamloops, brings the intelligence that a nugget of gold, worth \$4,000, was taken out of the Kootenay or Wild Horse Creek diggings. The news reached Mr. McKay through the Hudson Bay Co.'s officers out there. It is also stated that the reaction consequent upon the rush to the Blackfoot mines, was beginning to make itself felt in the return of considerable numbers of miners to Kootenay.—Columbian.

BOUND FOR BRIDGE RIVER.—We understand that ten or twelve persons left this city on Saturday, bound for the Bridge River mines. We also learn that a considerable number have gone to these mines from Lillooet, Pemberton and Douglas, with the intention of doing what work they can before the winter sets in, and making preparations for next season's operations.—Columbian.

A CAKE OF GOLD.—A very splendid cake of gold, got from the Prince Alfred Company's claim, Victoria Reef, Bendigo, will be exhibited in the window of Messrs. Baillie and Batters' office, Collins-street West, during the next day or two. It weighs close on 1,200 ozs., and its value is nearly \$5,000.—Melbourne paper.

BELL'S LIFE.—The score of the Cricket Matches played by the Victoria Club against H.M.S. Sutlej at Colwood, June 1st, and the match played by the Victoria Club against the New Westminster players at the latter place on the 8th June, appear in a recent number of Bell's Life.

THE SIERRA NEVADA left San Francisco for Portland as previously announced on Saturday last.

Sporborg & Rueff, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, Importers and Wholesale Dealers

Groceries, Provisions, Boots and Shoes. WHARF STREET, VICTORIA, V. I.

Michael Fitzpatrick. INFORMATION WANTED BY MICHAEL FITZPATRICK, a native of New York City, who left Clayton, Contra Costa County, California, two years ago last August. A little more than a year ago he was in Victoria, V. I., intending to go to Sooke river. Information, addressed to Fitzpatrick, post office San Francisco, California, will be thankfully received by his father and sisters.

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FARTHER POINT Scotian, from Live donderry 6th, has a meeting was interested in such rites as have been in consequence of forming a comm respect to which are the bonds of Carolina, South sissippi, and the in those States, the a very heavy am article says if t separately arrang dends, it is pr be disposed to me gard to the publi by the Confedera are put forth. T cle, calls the list says the statem Times is a holder amount of \$10,0 plete falsehood; comments which original falsehood founded. No rep too great for the imputations on the New York Herald of affected indign having included and called on his lishes the followi that gentleman: "LIVERPOOL—chequer to the E I see that my n Confederate List, Hon. E. Ashley at no time had b the Confederate tor of the Post v never had applie if the rest of the to him no depend

Important Ame took place at Ch direction of Don presence of the Numerous opera important being sailing frigate T torpedo was pla below the vessel spark communi the vessel quiered t down on an shot into the air Fenian arrests all places is abo A suspicious flag, supposed with arms, app again put to se said to have se was opened and \$5000 in favor the Fenian organ The annual m Association wa Lord Brougham In France the portan. Boura semi-official Be meeting between Count Von Bili be without polit The publicati the names of the rate Loan had Laid authorities that he never w stock.

The examina was concluded dence developed ere were commi The prisoners o an indiscrimina class was med various parts of It is stated, has proposed to for the purcha tory.

The new stea had arrived in her place on the LIVERPOOL, O O'Brannan, o committed for treason and fel Paris letters cently delivere societies was d bishop Mannin this manner o Fenianism.

Admiral Elli Telegraph Co. Times containi Transatlantic establish com Portugal and tion from the F such a concessi to the Ocean T soon as it is o formally launc John P. Ha was received Sept. 30th. Denials, made of friendship that all differ had always b expressing hop and prosperity that she rejoic the two count sure that they She also exp termination o only won by hoped that all happily remov The Pope bation, which is This time be sons, remindi