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THE BRITISH COLONIST

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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The anticipated revenue of British Columbia the present year, as we previously stated, is £153,000. The Customs receipts now before us of almost nine months of 1865 would indicate that the neighboring Government has been as egregious in its calculations as our own. In the estimated receipts the import duties, export duty, harbor dues, head money, &c., are put down at £95,000, and the roads' tolls at £26,000. Up till the 16th of the present month we find on calculation that the import and other dues covered by the £95,000 have only reached £52,000, which added to £3000—the probable returns of the two weeks following the 16th instant,—will give for the nine months £55,000. Allowing £15,000 for the next three months—a large amount when we consider the great falling off which is always shown towards the end of the year—and we shall have £70,000 as the result for the twelve months, or £25,000 less than the amount estimated. The £26,000 anticipated from the road tolls will not necessarily undergo a proportionate diminution, as the decrease in the estimate of export duty on gold cannot exist there, but we may safely put down a decrement in this part of the revenue of £5000—making a total deficit in the Customs and the road tolls of £30,000. If we approached the other sources of revenue—the mining receipts and certificates, spirit and trading licenses, fines, forfeitures, fees of Court and fees of office, amounting in the whole to £28,500, we should find, as a necessary sequence to the diminution of population indicated by the Customs receipts, a falling short of the estimate of at least £8,000. Out of £150,000, therefore, anticipated, the British Columbian Government will discover, staring it in the face at the end of the year, the startling deficiency of £40,000 or thereabouts. How Mr. Gladstone would look in Parliament with a deficit of twenty-six per cent on his estimated revenue! We are really afraid our colonial Chancellors of Exchequer will have to give up their calling. It is bad enough to see official salaries unduly raised at any time, and it is equally disagreeable to witness a totally unwarranted increase in the official staff; but to find these inflictions based on an anticipated augmentation, which turns out after all to be purely the creation of heated official imaginations, is enough to make one desire a condition of political life akin to Rousseau's state of nature.

The official strain the present year will bear pretty equally on both colonies. In British Columbia as well as in Vancouver Island will be felt the distressing effects of bungling extravagance on the part of those in power. Both colonies will have large deficiencies to meet, and this after sustaining a Governmental pressure on their finances beyond precedent. Surely it is time that the people on the mainland as well as on the Island showed the sagacity and the determination to stay that ruin to which the respective Government are hurrying the inhabitants. This is not a time to cut and carp at trifles. Another year like the present and both countries will be hopelessly and irretrievably ruined. Let the people of the Fraser as well as the miners of Cariboo demand with one voice the removal of the tinselled millstone which the camp at New Westminster has hung round their neck: Let them rise in their united might and sweep the £40,000 officialdom into the nothingness from which it sprung. They may be told by the few infatuated individuals, puppets pulled by the officials at the capital, that all this is merely a political cry for union of the colonies; but we appeal to the cool reason of every man of sense—even to the misguided anti-union clique in New Westminster—if it is merely a political cry that seeks to stay a ruinous extravagance; that desires to inaugurate a cheap and simple mode of Government, and give to both colonies not only stability, but a healthy progress? Is it merely a political cry that seeks to diminish the taxation of both colonies more than one-half; that demands for the public who pay the money a potent voice in its expenditure; and that endeavors to keep the miner—the British Columbian mainstay—in the country? We opine not. If there be a political cry in the matter it comes from the Camp at New Westminster. It shouts beware of union; for Vancouver Island has the ulterior motive of seizing on your revenue; but it is the cry of "stop thief" over again; and the revenue is coolly pocketed by the individuals who shout so loudly in its behalf. These are the men—and they alone—who have an interest in retarding union. They know that the first act of the new *regime* would be a sweeping blow at that £40,000, which is boldly taken from the public pocket by an official Council to pay an official staff. What Vancouver Island wants is what British Columbia wants, not an advantage over her neighbor—for that is simply preposterous from its impossibility—but a rigid economy with a popular system of government. We, as we observed yesterday, could cut down our expenses and carry on the Government of the Island with a *hundred and twenty thousand dollars less* than the sum paid by the sister colony for officials alone! But retrenchment in Vancouver Island is really only a reduction in one part of our expenditure. We feel the heavy taxation of British Columbia as visibly as if we were on the mines of Cariboo. We want, therefore, the same system of economy in both colonies. Had British Columbia representative Government and a thorough control of the public money, we should not have so much dread of the future, even if the colonies remained separate; for the good sense of the people would at once point out the necessity of a cheap administration founded on some such municipal system (the gold mines excepted) as we advocated yesterday. But there is no immediate prospect of representative institutions being granted, and the necessity for financial reform is urgent. Both colonies have been "outrunning the constable," and will like individuals have to return within their means. We on our part do not want to come under the administration of an Admiral, or a Captain in the Navy as in the Falkland Islands, a President of a Council as in Montserrat, or a Colonial Secretary as in St. Lucia; but if the colonies are to remain separate, we shall be obliged to make such reductions in our official expenditure as will, with the non-acceptance of the civil list, force the Home Government into recalling a Governor at £3000 a year and giving us one at £1000 or £1200.

EXECUTION OF DR. PRITCHARD.—Dr. Pritchard was executed in Glasgow, on the morning of the 28th July, at ten minutes past eight. He slept more soundly than ucual. Rose at five o'clock, and was attended by several clerical gentlemen, until Calcraft was introduced. On being asked whether he had anything to say, in a clear, firm voice he replied: "Simply to acknowledge the justice of my sentence." He mounted the scaffold without assistance; but when the drop fell, he appeared to suffer considerably. About 80,000 persons were present. The convict hesitated about going to bed the night previous, apparently from nervousness, or a feeling that his time would be better spent in devotion, and it was only after much persuasion that he consented to go about twelve o'clock. He slept well until five, when he rose refreshed, and having taken a cup of coffee, he calmly engaged in prayer with the prison chaplain and two other clergymen until he was summoned to meet Calcraft, the hangman. He conducted himself very firmly from this time. Calcraft had some difficulty, by reason of the culprit's long hair and beard, in arranging the rope and cap, which was drawn over the convict's head,

THE ENGLISH ELECTIONS.—The English elections are now over, and according to the *Spectator* the Liberal working majority will be at the least sixty. The position of parties is thus described: Liberals (including one double return), 361; Conservatives (including one double return), 286; Irish independent opposition, 11. The press generally acknowledge that "the elections of the new Parliament have been more than usually distinguished by violence and quite unusually by fraud." Among the very many amusing incidents connected with the recent contests may be mentioned that of Sir Patrick O'Brien, in King's County, making a melancholy speech to his supporters under the erroneous belief that he had been defeated. A mistake had occurred which was subsequently rectified by the Sheriff, and Sir Patrick won the seat by six votes over his very formidable opponent, Mr. Pope Hennessy. The loss of the latter gentleman is greatly deplored by the Conservatives, and regretted by some of the more magnanimous Liberals. Of him the *Spectator* says:—"There was no better Tory terrier in the party, when it was essentially desirable to hunt out a Liberal hedgehog."

TELEGRAPHIC.

[From the Columbian.]

EASTERN NEWS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 21.—Seventy-two million dollars have accumulated in the Treasury up to date. This is the first time since the outbreak of the rebellion that there has been an increase of funds.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 20,—The Montgomery Convention to-day adopted a resolution requesting the Provisional Governor to call out the militia in each county to suppress the lawlessness which exists.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21.—Judge Jas. Steel, Acting Clerk of the Indian Bureau, leaves to-morrow to attend a council of the tribes now on the Platte River, to be held on 4th prox.

FORT SMITH, Sept. 21.—A treaty was signed to-day between the Commissioners and the Choctaws and Chickasaws, providing for peace and friendship between the United States and said tribes. The Indians pledged to exert themselves to compel the Indians of the plains to maintain peace with each other and with the United States; that slavery shall be abolished forever; that the freedmen shall be suitably provided for; that lands shall be issued to the Indians of Kansas and elsewhere; that the right of way be granted to railroads, and that the consolidation of the Indian tribes with a territorial form of government shall recommended to their respective councils.

GREAT FIRE IN MAINE.

AUGUSTA, ME., Sept. 17.—The most destructive fire that has ever occurred in Maine, swept through this city this morning. The entire business portion of the city, extending from the passenger bridge to Winthrop street, and from the river to the railroad track, is in ruins. The fire broke out in a wooden building on Water street, and spread rapidly in all directions. The utmost efforts of the firemen could only confine its destructive progress to the limits above mentioned. Every lawyer's office in the city, all the banks, two hotels, the post office, express, and telegraph offices, all the dry goods, book and clothing stores, in the city have been reduced to ashes. The United States Quartermaster, Commissary and Pension offices, the new depot, the *Age* newspaper office, and many other buildings, in all numbering more than forty, occupied as places of business by more than one hundred individuals and firms, were burnt. The banks succeeded in saving all their papers and treasure. The fire was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary. The losses cannot now be estimated, but cannot fall short of half a million.

THE WAR IN PARAGUAY.

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.—The Buenos Ayres journals contain some farther very interesting items concerning the Paraguayan war. There is said to be much apathy regarding it among the people of the Argentine Confederation, who are slow in joining the army. In order to stir them up Gen. Arguza, formerly President, has issued a proclamation in which he says the contest with Paraguay is so sacred that he would go to join the Legion in the field even if he should be deserted by his own children. Meantime the Government has made arrangements for raising troops in Europe in order to drive the Paraguayans out of the Brazilian Province of the Rio Grande. The Emperor has ordered that every fit man in the province shall be put under arms 30,000 from other provinces must be moved at once. It is thought that Lopez has an army of 100,000 men under arms. He is well supplied with material of excellent character.

FREE LABOR IN THE SOUTH.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—The *Tribune's* Washington special says some of the original planters are directing attention to the importation of foreign laborers to conduct the departments of Agriculture. A gentleman in Charlotte, N. C., has introduced 22 Swedes as laborers, who have proved themselves patient, industrious and energetic; but some apprehension is entertained, lest the climate, so far south, may operate unfavorably on their health and powers of endurance,

MONTGOMERY, (Ala,.) Sept. 15.—A test vote was taken this morning, in the coevention, and it was decided 58 to 34 against the repudiation of the Confederate State Debt.

SAN FRANCISCO NEWS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22.—At midnight last night a fire broke out in the 'Crystal Palace Saloon' on Montgomery Street, which threatened to be very extensive but was extinguished before it had entended to do much damage.

Yesterdy afternoon Patrick Mooney and Henry Olderme, two soldiers of the 14th regiment, recently arrived, attacked Henry Atleman, a soldier of the 2nd artillery, on Post Street, near Lone Mountain, for the purpose of robbing him. He received several bayonet wounds, bu saved his money, amounting to $34, by throwing it to the bar-keeper of the saloont in which the assault was made.

The judge granted a divorce to day to Emma Fahrbeck, from her husband, Geo. Fahrbeck, and to Elizabeth F. Nesbit, from her husband, Benjamin R. Nesbit; also to Robert Colborn, from his wife.

The Alameda ferryboat Sacramento burst her boiler yesterday, and was obliged to haul off.

Greenbacks 74.

MARKETS.

Butter: Isthmus, 37½c.

Liquors: improving.

Rice: good No. 1 China, 7½c.

Sugar: sales, 600 hf-barrels Hawaiian, No. 1, at 10½c. to 12½c.

Flour: spirited. Superfine, $5 25@$5 50. Extra, $5 75@$6.

Wheat: No. 1, sold at $1 87½.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Sailed on Sept. 21st, ship Caroline Reed, for Puget Sound; bark Legal Tender, for Puget Sound; brig Sunny South, for Victoria.

Special Dispatch to the "Colonist."

NEW YORK, Sept. 17—The new steam propellor "Lincoln," built at Baltimore as a revenue cutter for the Pacific coast, has been ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury to start for its destination to-morrow.

FORTRESS MONROE, Sept. 17—The officer of the guard placed over C. C. Clay's casemate was withdrawn yesterday. It is believed that Clay and Mitchell will soon have their privileges extended, upon their parole.

HOLMES' HOLE, Mass., Sept. 17—Steamer Chronometer, bound from Calais, Me., to New Haven, Ct., arrived here to-day. She reports having yesterday run into the schooner Friend Melbridge, of Elizabethport for Boston, the vessel sinking in thirty minutes. The crew were saved.

MEXICO.

CAIRO, Sept. 16—The New Orleans *Times* City of Mexico correspondent, under date of Sept. 11, says:—News from the United States causes great anxiety. The most zealous adherents of Maximilian are discouraged; every one seems to feel increased despondency. The Liberal forces are increasing rapidly in every direction; the city papers daily chronicle continued fighting. The town of Santiago near Orizaba has declared for Juarez. Gen. Garcea, as the Liberal governor of Vera Cruz, offers great advantages to the Liberals as it puts them in connection with the States of Tobasco and Chiassa. Immense bodies of Liberals have united there and are seriously menacing Orizaba itself and the railroad from Vera Cruz. The Imperialists attacked the place twice and were severely repulsed, which caused a great sensation. The Austrian Conut Therise has been operating in the Mountains near Pueblo; he captured some prisoners of importance. An Austrian detachment in a Hizatlan composed of a company of Lancers and others of infantry, with mounted howitzers, was compelled to surrender to the Liberals. The Austrians were commanded by H. N. Kuzink. The Imperialist officers were shot.

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.—The *Herald's* Brownville correspondent says—An Imperial wagon train bound from Monterey to Matamoras, was attacked some time ago and driven back by the Republicans. It contained $250,000 in gold. Gen. Sheridan's military display along the Rio Grande is making the Imperial officers very nervous, and by balls and other entertainments they endeavor to conciliate the dreaded Northmen. Juarez and his cabinet, on leaving Chihuahua, went to El Paso, but it was thought he would be followed by the Imperialists and be obliged to take refuge on the American side of the Rio Grande.

NEW YORK, Sept. 21—The special Mexican correspondent of the *Times* under date August 20, says—Military operations will be actively resumed in October. The country is rapidly going to destruction, between the French and Liberals and Guerrillas. Cortinas had made a haul of $100,000 in silver. Juarez is still in Chihuahua. There are reports of many arbitrary arrests by Maximilian's government. The Liberals are masters of Durango, and have captured several hundred Belgians. Maximilian promises a line of steamers between Vera Cruz and New Orleans.

CALIFORNIA.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 19—James J. Ayres and A. B. Fisher, two of the proprietors of the *Daily Morning Call*, were arrested last evening on complaint of Capt. R. F. Ryan, who charges them with doing him an irreparable injury by publishing an alleged libellous article copied from the *News Letter* of this city.

Legal Tenders are 72⅛@72¾.

Candles tend upward; sales 250 boxes, Knapp's, at 23¼. A vessel of 1,000 boxes of Grant's at 22¼, and to arrive about 5,000 boxes of Grant's and Knapp's on private terms.

Coal Oil has again sold higher; salcs 150 gallons of Devoe's at $1 62, and 500 cases of domestic to arrive on the Robin Hood—private.

Sugar—the local refineries have advanced prices; yellow C to 12¾ to 13 cash for whole and half bbls.

Sales at auction.—Rice, 2,700 mats of China at $5 95@$7 37½ ₱ 100 lbs. Sugar, 210 bales No. 2 China, $10. Tea, 26 bales basket, 80c; 400 bxs Young Hyson, 46c; 50 half chests Oolong, 43c.

Flour scarce, the local mills having orders on hand for three weeks to come, and the market rules in favor of the seller. We quote superfine in qr and hf sks at $6 12, and extra $6 25@$6 50 per bbl.

Wheat—no change in the market; the demand continues moderately active, in part for export; $1 85 for very poor smutty; $1 80½@$1 90 for ordinary to good; also previous to our last, not before reported, 1,025 sks chiefly to arrive, $1 75@$1 92½ per 100 lbs for inferior to strictly prime.

Barley scarce and wanted at full prices. Sales 2,600 sks at 92½c@$1 02½ per 100 lbs, for ordinary feed to prime for brewing.

Corn, 100 sks light new white Stockton sold at $1 87½ per 100 lbs.

Oats in better request at full prices. Sales, 2000 sks at $1 35@$1 42½; common to good, $1 50 per 100 lbs choice.

Hay, 500 tons ordinary sold at $10, and prime $12@$14 50 per ton.

Potatoes scarcely so firm.

Sailed, Sept. 18—Bark W. A. Banks, Puget Sound.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

HALIFAX, Sept. 14—The following is additional news by the Asia:

The great fetes at Portsmouth in honor of the French fleet were conducted in the most splendid manner and concluded with a reception accorded to the French officers by the English people which was exceedingly enthusiastic. At a grand banquet given by the Duke of Somerset in behalf of England and M. Chassaloupe in behalf of France, an earnest hope was expressed that the two nations might ever live in peace, and on terms of the most cordial friendship and good will. This exchange of naval hospitalities between France and England is pronounced a favorable epoch, not only in the history of these two great powers, but even of the civilized world, and is universally regarded with great satisfaction throughout England.

IMPORTANT FROM LILLOOET.

Gold Discoveries.

The following letter from Mr. F. W. Foster, of Lillooet, to a gentleman in this city, has been kindly handed to us for publication:

A miner named Jim McIntosh desired me to send word of the prospects from our exploring party. The boys found, on the first creek they tried, called Muddy Water or Gallager's, $10 a-day diggings to the rocker, on the banks. In the bed they could not bottom at 18 feet; the water drove them out and they had no show to make a wheel and elevators. I cannot say if the diggings are general. Two places which they pronounced payable are shell slate reefs crossing the creek; the gold in the gravel and rock is like Cottonwood solow. Jameson, the manager of the party, says he has found coarser gold on three other creeks—how much I cannot learn. We do not expect to hear again from them for six weeks, when I think they will have to return. The official report will be published. Don't believe all of it without you get word from me to do so; people are too apt to get excited about a little dab of dust or a few colors to the shovel. The distance from Lillooet is four days walk or 100 miles; the country is stated to be like Cariboo—bed of creek or water-course about twenty feet wide and shallow, running through a flat about 150 yards wide; the creek is forty miles long. My opinion is there are good mines there; for this reason—in my experience of years on gold fields I cannot remember a creek whose banks prospected moderately well close to the water that did not pay better and have coarser gold in the bed of the stream. Let us fill our meerschaums, meditate, and go anyhow after the snow has cooled things down.

CONSTANCE KENT.—The sentence upon Constance Kent has been commuted to penal servitude for life. The order for her respite was received at Fisherton Gaol, a suburb of Salisbury, on the 27th of July. The governor immediately communicated the information to the convict. She did not exhibit the slightest emotion on hearing that the Queen had exercised her prerogative of mercy in her behalf. Since her sentence, as indeed before the trial, the prisoner has shown no signs of sorrow for her crime. It is not true, as has been reported, that she has made any further confessiou; and she regrets having admitted, as she has done in conversations, that her first intention to murder related to others than the child whom she ultimately selected as her victim. She appears now to wish that she had made no statement beyond the original bald confession. The *Pall Mall Gazette* states that orders have been received by the governor of the Wilts county gaol at Fisherton for her immediate removal to the female convict prison at Brixton, previous to her being sent out to Freemantle, Western Australia.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE BIG BEND.—The steamer Onward, Capt. Irving, arrived last evening from Hope and Yale, bringing 122 passengers, mostly men who had been working on the roads, and, nearly as we could ascertain, $30,000 in trsasure. Mr. Romano had written to his family at Yale, stating that extensive diggings had been struck in the Big Bend country, paying from $20 to $30 to the hand, and that the most unbounded confidence was felt in the mines, those traders who had deposited their goods at the head of Shuswap Lake, pending the news from the diggings were eagerly rushing them in.—*Columbian.*

ANOTHER POISONING CASE.—Another medical man named Sprague, practicing at Ashburton, England, has been brought up on the charge of attempting to poison with atropine his wife, his father-in-law, mother-in-law, and his servant girl. The father-in-law evidently has faith in Sprague, for he offers bail to the amount accepted by the magistrate, who bound the prisoner in £1000 and two sureties for £500 each.