

The Weekly British Colonist.

Wednesday April 13, 1870.

The Ocean Mail Question.

Probably no single question concerns us more at the present moment than that of establishing a line of British steamers between this colony and San Francisco. Perhaps at no period were conditions more auspicious for such a project. Arrangements are in actual progress for establishing a line of British steamers between San Francisco and Japan and China; and also for establishing a line between San Francisco and Australia. It would suit either or both these lines to extend a branch service to this colony, with a view to obtaining a coal supply. Two steamers of a class not unadapted to the necessities of this colony might make fortnightly trips here, taking down cargoes of coal, and bringing up passengers and merchandise. Under some such arrangement no very excessive subsidy would be needed, and arrangements could be made for carrying freight and passengers at such reduced rates as would tend materially to the prosperity of the colony. We have said 'a British line of steamers' because, somehow, we always come to grief with American steamers. It seems that the American companies have always some little game of their own to play, and that game generally runs counter to our interests. Besides, the Americans have always sent us a class of steamers that would not be tolerated on any other route, upon the principle, we presume, that anything is good enough for British Columbia, and thus a deep-rooted prejudice has grown up against the colony. It may possibly be in the mind of some that as we are presumably on the eve of Confederation, and as it would devolve on the Dominion Government to establish and maintain such a line of steamers it would be unwise for the Colonial Government to take any action in the matter just now. We must differ from this view. In the first place Confederation is not certain. It does appear imminent just now; but there is the old adage has it, 'There's many a slip between the cup and the lip.' In the second place, Confederation may be certain, as we are disposed to believe it is, but it may be less near than some think, than we think. It may not take effect for two years or so; and no one will say that the Government would be at all justified in leaving the Colony dependent upon existing means of communication for two years or even one year. In the third place, no matter how near Confederation may be, that can form no valid objection to establishing such steam communication, as the exigencies of the Colony demand. Until relieved of the financial charge involved therein the Imperial Government would, as now, pay one moiety of the subsidy; and the circumstance of Confederation finding us in possession of an efficient line of steamers would constitute an additional guarantee, so to speak, that the interests of the Colony would not suffer in that respect under the new political relationship. The Dominion Government could not put us off with any less efficient ocean mail service than they found us in the enjoyment of at the time of Union. In view of all these points, the presumed imminence of Confederation forms an additional argument for, rather than an objection to, the immediate establishment of an efficient ocean steam service between this colony and San Francisco. But, altogether apart from what may, perhaps, to some extent be regarded as strategic reasons, it is essential to present well-being, we had almost said existence—that facilities of communication should be at once established. We must have population. Population we cannot hope to obtain under existing conditions. Population we would obtain to the full extent of our need and ability to employ and absorb it were such a line of steamers established. There is no need to go farther than California for population now. There are many thousands of British subjects, to say nothing of others, in that country who would gladly come here and settle did they but possess the means of information and easy transit. We know there are those who say that population is not our great want—that we want capital most and first; and that population would be an evil were it not preceded by capital. But such persons must, indeed, be superficial thinkers, indifferent observers, or captious abolitionists. How are we to get capital before we get population? As well might we expect water to rise above its source. Water can be made to rise above its source, but that is the result of artificial means, not of natural laws. It is greatly to be feared, however, that all the artificial means that this colony could command would not suffice to reverse the order of things and cause capital to precede population. If it does not come with population, it is certain to follow close upon its heels; but it will never precede it. In this sense Population means Capital.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, April 6th. Council met at 1 p. m. CADRELL'S PETITION. Dr Helmeke—To move the consideration of Mr P Cadrell's petition. RITCHEY'S BILL. Dr Helmeke—To bring up the petition relating to British ships controlled by foreigners in the colony, on Friday. CROWN LANDS. The Chief Commissioner—To bring in a bill to consolidate Crown Lands. SCHOOLS. Mr DeCombes—To take into consideration to-morrow the petition from Cowichan respecting schools. TELEGRAPH BILL. Mr Dewdney, as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Telegraph Bill, submitted a report, which was read and laid on the table. The report suggested that the money for the purpose of supporting the line be raised by a loan. The Crown Costs Bill was read a first time. GAME BILL. Mr Dewdney obtained leave to introduce a Game Bill which was read a first time. WATER BILL. Mr Drake obtained leave to bring in a Water Supply Bill, which was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on the 13th inst. COUNTY COURTS BILL. Mr Drake introduced the County Courts Bill, which was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on Friday. FIRE COMPANIES' ORDINANCE. Mr Drake obtained leave to introduce a Fire Companies' Aid Ordinance, which was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on the 12th inst. ROAD TOLLS. Mr Bernard asked the Chief Commissioner whether any action has been taken by the Executive in regard to the recommendation of this Council relating to road tolls. The Chief Commissioner replied that he could not now give any information. He did not know of any action yet being taken. COMMON SCHOOL BILL. Mr Alston moved the second reading of this bill, and the President declared it not a proper bill to be entertained by the Council, it being a money bill and should originate with the government. The second reading was postponed until to-morrow. COUNCIL ADJOURNED TO MEET TO-MORROW AT 1 P. M. MR SEWARD ON THE ANNEXATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND MEXICO.—Upon Mr Seward's return to New York he was asked by a caller what chance he thought existed for the annexation of Mexico and British Columbia. 'Well, sir,' replied he, 'you will never have it, at least with the consent of the Mexicans, as long as you show you desire it. It is very much in this case as it is when a man is courting a woman: if he shows an undue anxiety and haste to get her, the chances are against his getting her at all. If he shows no particular anxiety about it the probability is that he will get her very easily. Now,' continued he, 'when George Francis Train proposed to go to British Columbia to preach annexation, the people there objected very strenuously to his coming, and opposed him with great bitterness. But, when I went there—I, who had been so much identified with projects of annexation—though at first they seemed a little afraid of me, yet, when I assured them that I had no design or thought of taking any step or making any attempt toward the annexation of their country, they became very friendly, invited me to a banquet as I returned from Alaska, and now it seems they are getting up petitions addressed to our Congress in favor of annexation.'

Licensing Court.

Park Hotel.—Pagen Bros applied for a license for the Park Hotel. The application was well backed by responsible parties. Mr Courtney opposed the application, because J. Murphy, his agent, had a lease of the premises. F. Pagen said that in accordance with an understanding with W. Lush on the 2nd of April, he was to apply for a license for the house; he understood however, that two other parties were in treaty for the premises, and that the party who received the license should have a lease of the Hotel at \$100. Mr Bishop applied for a license on behalf of Tisdale & Porter which he said was sent in first on the 25th of March. He found that several gentlemen who had signed in favor of Tisdale & Porter had also signed in behalf of J. Murphy. Mr Courtney said that Mr Murphy would bind himself to clear all the "live stock" from the premises. [Laughter.] Mr Bishop produced a receipt from Mrs. Lush approved by Wm Lush for \$50 to bind an agreement for the lease of the Park Hotel from 1st of April. The Magistrates decided that as neither Tisdale nor Porter are residents, and as they were not supported in their application by any parties residing in the neighborhood of the hotel, the application must be denied. As regards the two remaining applicants, each was equally well recommended and whichever secured the lease of the premises would be acceptable to the Court. FROM THE MAINLAND.—The steamer Enterprise arrived from New Westminster at 4 1/2 o'clock yesterday, bringing 16 passengers, amongst whom were Hon Mr Holbrook, Capt Irving and Mr Barr. The Onward, with 22 passengers and a few tons of freight, reached Yale without experiencing any obstacle from ice of which the channel of the river is free. The water is at its lowest stage and considerable difficulty was experienced at Murderer's Bar. Two of Barrard's stages left Yale on Monday with Cariboo and Omnesse passengers. A public dinner was given to Hon Mr Holbrook, which was presided over by Mr Armstrong, President of the Municipal Council. Mr Morrow, ex-cis officer, died at New Westminster on the 31st March. Indians and Chinamen are working the low bars on the river and making good pay. THE LEGAL PROFESSION.—At a meeting of the Law Society yesterday it was unanimously resolved to recommend to the Council the passage of a bill admitting attorneys at present practising in the colony to the same privileges and status as barristers. This is enlightenment. Henceforth we shall not have to fee two men to do one man's work. The Attorney General, we believe, will introduce the measure. This is enlightenment again. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.—The copy of a memorial to the Queen, from the Dean and Churchwardens of Christ Church Cathedral, praying for assistance in the reconstruction of the edifice, will be forwarded to Her Majesty by the next mail. The memorial has been beautifully engrossed on parchment by Mr J. J. Austin, of the Land Office. COURT FEES.—The machinery of the Supreme Court of British Columbia having been set in motion on the Island, suitors and attorneys find to their dismay that the Court fees in nearly every instance are double what they were under the Island Court. 'Why is this thus?' FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE NAVY.—Williams & Arthur, of Esquimalt, have constructed a ditch to lead the water from Millstream, back of Parsons Bridge, to a point at the head of Esquimalt harbor, where it is proposed to supply H. M. ships with fresh water. The quality of the water is said to be excellent. GOOD DRINKING.—The low stage of water on the Fraser has brought out many bars that have not been seen for ten years. A number of Chinese and Indians have gone to work on these bars and are realizing good wages. This is a hint to idle men in town. LIBERTY-BELL.—A number of liberty-bells from the Mohican were on shore yesterday. They are as well behaved and neat-looking a set of bells as one could wish to meet in any service. THE SURVEYING STEAMER BEAVER steamed yesterday into Esquimalt harbor, and will sail in a few days for the North to complete the survey of the N W Coast. COURT CASES.—The Court yesterday heard the suit of Goodacre vs Hall and gave judgment for plaintiff in the sum of \$10. Adjourned till to-day at 11 o'clock. SUCCESSFUL.—Messrs Pauncefort and Ellerton are playing to large houses at the towns on Puget Sound and giving immense satisfaction. A HALFBREED is in custody upon a charge of shooting an Indian near Esquimalt Town in November last. THE BARRARD INLET ROAD will be repaired immediately. Mr Spence is now on the ground. NOTHING LEAVES US AS IT FOUND US.—If a sheet of paper upon which a key has been laid be exposed for some minutes to the sunshine, and then instantaneously viewed in the dark, the key being removed, a faded spectre of the key will be visible. Let this paper be put aside for many months where nothing can disturb it, and then in darkness be laid on a plate of hot metal, the spectre of the key will appear. This is equally true of our minds. Every man we meet, every book we read, every picture or landscape we see, every word or tone we hear, leaves its image on the brain. These traces, which under ordinary circumstances are invisible, never fade, but in the intense light of cerebral excitement start into prominence, just as the spectral image of the key started into sight on the application of heat; it is thus with all the influences to which we are subjected.

Letter from White Pine.

We have been permitted to make the following extracts from a letter written by a Victorian now at White Pine to a friend in this city: HAMILTON, March 13, 1870: * * * I have read the newspaper you sent me containing full accounts of the Peace River region, with a great deal of interest, and if there is any truth in the statements published therein, I consider that country a 'big thing,' and the prospects of the colony brighter than ever before. The news of the discovery of the new goldfields pleased me more than anything I have heard for a long time, as I do not think any one takes a greater interest in the prosperity of British Columbia than I do. Several men have already left here for Peace River and more follow shortly. White Pine appears to be 'fizzing out' gradually and by and by will certainly revive for a short time during the summer and probably collapse in the fall. To-day it is snowing and blowing at a fearful rate and Charley has just run in to tell me that the house next to our 'shebang' [occupied by some Fenians] has blown down. I think our own will stand, as it is made of stronger canvas than the one owned by our Celtic neighbors. This is the most singular climate I ever saw. Half the time during the winter it is as mild as June, and then it suddenly turns cold and blows and snows as it is said to do in Siberia. We expect considerable bad weather before summer, as on these mountains 'winter lingers in the lap of Spring a long time' [with wicked things]. THE POPULAR MEMBERS IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THEIR POSITION THEREIN. EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—With respect to those popular members whom it has pleased His Excellency to place also in the Executive Council, it appears to me that their position in that Council is very much misunderstood both by themselves and by the real Executive members. Now, this new experiment of placing some of the popular members in that Council for the purpose of giving their advice therein, was of course considered a great favor and boon to the people—that in fact they, through their representatives, would have the power and privilege of advising the Executive on all subjects. I maintain, therefore, that they sit in the Executive Council as Privy Counsellors only. They are there to advise, and if they are there for any other purpose, so much the worse for the people. They are as truly and solely representatives of the people in the Executive Council as they are in the Legislative Council, and in no way form a portion of what is called the Cabinet. It is the same in England—all Ministers are Privy Counsellors; but there is a crowd of Privy Counsellors who form no part of the Cabinet. Since, therefore, in the next Council we are promised a large addition of popular members to seats in the Executive Council, the people will be grievously gulled and deceived, if this subject is not properly understood. When, therefore, a popular member is placed in that Council, let his constituents closely watch his conduct, for he is there to advise in their behalf and for that purpose is quite unlettered in his votes—and as I cannot too often repeat—in a Privy Council only, and is not a member of the real Executive. CANTAB. "BRITISH COLUMBIA COAL COMPANY, Limited." VICTORIA, April 4th, 1870. EDITOR BRITISH COLONIST:—It is a question for the Government to consider whether a title in 'fee' can be given to intending purchasers of the 'embryo' towns lots of Granville on Burrard Inlet. As a shareholder in the British Columbia Coal Company, (Limited), my opinion is that the said Company have an equitable claim to the site of the proposed town. It is probable this will meet the eye of His Excellency, and he can inform himself of the facts by perusal of the correspondence in connection with this subject, and, by an inspection of the Company's books, which can readily be forthcoming, if wanted. An expenditure of over \$700 was made by the Company in a 'bona fide' attempt to discover coal, they having entered into contracts with the Government and I for one claim an interest in the engagement of the Government that the land should be granted to the Coal Company on condition that \$500 was honestly expended in prospecting for coal. A SHAREHOLDER. DANGER OF RADIATING FLESH.—Often corpulency is a protection thrown out by the system against some threatening disease: If the corpulence is then successfully attacked, the victory may cost the person his life. A case is recorded by Dr Mascoy, where an obese child was reduced in flesh, but became ever after subject to epileptic fits. A number of instances have recently been published in medical journals, where ladies have brought on a fatal disease of the kidneys by a too determinate and unwise reduction of their weight. A case came recently under our notice, where a young lady weighing nearly two hundred pounds, entered upon the reduction of her size with great zeal but little discretion. She succeeded, but developed in the process the seeds of hereditary consumption of the lungs. No such attempt should ever be made, therefore, unless some skillful physician has not only explained to you any lurking signs of disease, but has inquired carefully into the personal and family history, and to the extent of human power, satisfied himself there is no danger.

The Corvette Oneda.

FURTHER ACCOUNT OF THE DISASTER NEAR YOKOHAMA, JAPAN. NEW YORK, March 10.—The Tribune publishes Yokohama correspondence on the Oneda disaster. The writer says the whistle of the Oneda was blown and three guns fired, still the Captain of the Bombay declares he neither saw nor heard a signal. Yet the steward of the Bombay, on arrival at Yokohama asserted that the Oneda had been run into and cut to the water's edge. But the worst of the story is the evidence of a British lieutenant that Captain Eyre told him he had 'cut the whole quarter off a damned Yankee frigate and served her bloody well right.' Capt. Eyre's own evidence is to the effect that the collision was too slight to be much regarded, and his pilot told him a spit of land was very near and there was no danger, and he was a good fifteen minutes looking after the ill-fated ship. The statements of the Captain's Clerk, Crownshield, and Master Yates, agree that the Oneda's whistle was blown fiercely, and that if the Bombay had stopped, or sent boats, nearly every man would have been saved. Yates says as the ship was fast sinking, Capt. Williams, who was on the 'brig,' was asked to get on board but refused, saying, 'No I shall stay on my ship if she goes down.' Lieut. Commander Moldaer walked up and said, 'Sir the ship is going down.' 'I know it,' said the Captain, 'But what can I do? I have repeatedly asked for boats but could not get them.' At this moment the ship settled. Her smoke stack came over and forced the cutters from the ship's side, and she went down stern first. I handed the Captain's Clerk, Wm T. Crownshield, on board and made a great effort to save Lieut. Commander Stewart, but he sank just before I reached him, saying, as he went down, 'For God's sake save me.' He was quite ill at the time. DOMINION MAIL SUMMARY. A few straggling exchanges reached us on Monday night, but they do not bring us down to any later date than previous mails. The Hon Wm McDoagall was lying ill of smallpox, but was expected to recover. The Legislature of Prince Edward Island was opened on Thursday the 3rd March. The Lieut Governor in his opening speech, after referring to the visit to the Island of Prince Arthur, Sir John Young and others, thus alludes to Confederation:—'Since their return to Ottawa proposals for such union have been received. These proposals, together with copies of dispatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies addressed to the Governor General, and the Governor of British Columbia, bearing on the same subject, will be laid before you, and inasmuch as they convey in earnest terms the matured opinion of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the great scheme of Confederation, I bespeak for them your calm and deliberate consideration.' The Toronto Leader, a prominent Ministerial organ, has a leading article upon the 'Bill of Rights' recently adopted by the Council held at Fort Garry, from which we make the following extracts:—'One can hardly doubt that the representations of the people of the Red River country as thus expressed through their leaders, will have great weight with the Dominion government in the legislation which is to take place, this session. But it may well be questioned whether our Northwestern friends do not ask a little too much. It is hardly possible that any legislation will be proposed which shall give to the local representative body the power to pass a law, after the manner of the United States Congress, which may be objected to by the Lieutenant-Governor; or, in other words, which may be reserved for the approval or disapproval of the Governor-General in Council.' So unconstitutional a proceeding is not to be thought of. So far as representation in the Dominion Parliament is concerned, that might possibly be granted, though one member in each House would be quite as much as 10,000 inhabitants in a newly acquired territory—one which we have purchased with the hard cash of the Dominion—would be fairly entitled to. We assume, of course, that as it is the desire of the people of the Northwest to have a local legislature, one in which their own leading men would be largely represented, the Dominion Government will have no objection to granting this concession. For we feel satisfied it is the earnest desire of the Ottawa government to do all that can with anything like fairness be done to give the people of the Northwest a leading voice in the government of the Territory. * * * * * Through out the proceedings of the Council a strong desire was manifested for communication both with Canada, through Lake Superior, and with the United States, at Pembina. One of the resolutions embodies this desire. Our government cannot be remiss to this expression of opinion on the part of the people of the Northwest. A railway through our own territory east and west, as well as a connecting line between Fort Garry and Pembina, is a necessity, if British rule is to maintain its supremacy north of the dividing line. We fully sympathize with the resolution bearing upon this point, and earnestly trust that the legislation of the present session will be in full harmony with it. What is the difference between a farmer and a seamstress? One gathers what he sows and the other sews what she gathers. 'This tough steak makes me think of a fat mous old English poet.' 'That's queer. What poet does it make you think of?' 'Chaucer.'

By Electric Telegraph. SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH. Europe. PARIS, April 1.—The Gazette announces that weeks will be proper examination into affairs of France against Napoleon's life. LONDON, April 1.—Popular Ireland seems to be increasing papers of this city publish a rages recently committed the Evening Post says emigration of the United States has increased ably to the passage thro of the Bill for the preservation of property in Ireland. LONDON, April 1.—It is reported that the attempt to conciliate in the Council of Ministers has failed. Geroldini insists on of the Cabinet. The boat race between the Tyne crew and the St John's crew (Paris) crew is defeated off at the close of July on the river near Montreal. The rowing near a coxswain, and wickers adopting the same A NEW YORK, April 2.—A states that an indignation meeting adopted resolutions adoption of a bill now under of Parliament as threatening of liberty remaining. A committee was appointed Gladstone and represent policy of the government in coives the censure of all claim to modify the bill. He also adopted urging the re existing between England and the interests of both countries. MADRID, April 2.—Angry fested here in regard to the bill, and trouble is apprehended demonstration to-morrow by of measure. PARIS, April 2.—La Libera day that M Daru has advanced sending a special Ambassador Marquis of Bonnevilliers Paris, will therefore, return immediately. The reason for the failure of M Daru in his tions at Vienna, Madrid, an plan looking to concerted act PARIS, April 3.—A Parliament. The Emperor of the new order of things people and the Ministers a permit discussion on the Sel by the Corps Legislatif. on this point is known now from the Cabinet are expected Prince Pierre Bonaparte it is said he will go to Belg LONDON, April 4.—The able is completed and the is excellent. Sandmore, director gene telegraph services, has caused avoid sending more messages to Ireland as the channel ford is broken and until the none but messages on urgent matters of life and death mitted. NEW YORK, April 4.—Late wires of telegrams from a minister the commencement of a crisis at that place. Letters dated that yesterday work com the mines, the men declining of miners twice endeavored of the workshops and forged back by the workmen. Eastern States. WASHINGTON, April 2.—The Executive Committee of colored proclamation, to-day being of the fall of Richmond, the salute. In the House to-day the Land Bill was remitted a tax on tea remains as reported, the Internal Revenue reported, reduces the total \$30,000,000. The motion the line taxing coffee 4 cent rejected, as was also the tax the tax 3 cents. The tax on Catcago, April 2.—The ington special says everyone the recent legal tender de fully and the constitution vally affirmed. RICHMOND, April 2.—The street to-night. The U writes on Ellison to surrender the City Hall and other refused. The Marshal was try, but up to 3 p m no ELLISON held possession of the WILLIAMSON, DR., A election to-day negroes voted in this State. CHICAGO, April 2.—The York special says several left that city last night in Canada. Rumors of a raid in the vicinity of Rosse's station, but nothing positive quantity of rifles stored in wick street have been sent pane of the premises being destination. NEW YORK, April 4.—A full of Cuban independence night at the Cooper Institu spices of the Cuban Lega States. It promises to be an station. Mayor Hall will p are promised from Gen Bank OREGON. PORTLAND, April 5.—The mia sails for Victoria on We the steamer Montana has San Francisco, being due la celebrate to-morrow evening Stormy weather with con PORTLAND, April 7.—The this evening