

The Weekly British Colonist, AND CHRONICLE. Tuesday, June 25, 1867.

Cariboo vs. Montana.

If we are to place faith in the statements of more than one old Caribooite who has returned penniless from Blackfoot, "all is not gold that glitters" in Montana. Last season several hundred of our best miners were induced by glowing accounts in the Oregon papers to desert their claims at Cariboo and cross the mountains to the Blackfoot country, where they confidently expected fortunes were to be had for the picking up, and where the poorest diggings paid from \$25 to \$50 per day to the hand. The whole country was represented as wealthy beyond parallel; every gulch was said to yield untold riches to the eager delvers, every hillside to glitter with great seams of gold bearing quartz. Scarcely had the poor deluded Caribooites reached the Promised Land before they realized how completely they had been the dupes of designing men. They found thousands of half-starved men hanging about the towns, unable to obtain employment at any rate of wages. Around the mining camps they saw other thousands vainly endeavoring to stratch an existence from diggings that at Cariboo the poorest man would not have deemed worth his while to linger a day upon. In place of large fortunes they found starvation and misery on every side. Instead of diggings that would pay from \$25 to \$50 per day, they ascertained that the average yield did not exceed \$2 50 per day to the hand. The shallow surface diggings had been worked out in 1865; "big strikes" were among the things of the past or existed only in the imagination of the persons who had reported them. The country was overrun with men from all quarters, and whenever a small prospect of gold was obtained by a prospector, there was an instantaneous rush to the coveted spot by hungry thousands, anxious to work for their "grub." And as for gold-bearing quartz, in one district alone, our informants say they counted nearly two hundred large freight wagons filled with quartz-mill machinery from the East, drawn up at the road side, and deserted by their owners, who had been unable to collect the freight on the machinery, and had started back for the "States" disheartened, and, in some instances, hopelessly ruined, because the "quartz" would not pay to crush. The condition of wretchedness into which the country was plunged, and the impossibility of remaining in a territory where every third man was next door to, if he was not actually a beggar, presented themselves so forcibly to the Caribooites that all who have the means to do so are preparing to return. One by one they come dropping into our mines, telling the same woeful tale of deception and disappointment, and pronouncing Cariboo the richest mining district on the coast, where there is a larger amount of gold produced in proportion to the number of diggers employed than in any other country in the world. It is true Cariboo has had its drawbacks, and many men who have gone thither have not realized fortunes; but the yield is steadily increasing. New creeks are discovered every season. In old claims that were supposed to have been worked out years ago, new strata have been reached that promise to pay abundantly for years, while quartz leads crop out everywhere and bid fair to prove permanent sources of wealth to the country. The news from the diggings, though not exciting, becomes daily better. The population, though small, is contented and prosperous, and the prospect of a steady and healthy growth was never brighter than to-day.

Forebodings of a Crash.

A gloomy state of uncertainty exists in business circles throughout the Western States of the Union, and the public journals—like faithful sentinels on the watchtowers—have begun to sound the tocsin of alarm. A serious panic is anticipated by the best informed authorities. The paper currency the war called into existence gave every interest a fictitious importance and value which the gradual return to specie payments is dissipating. The prohibitory tariff—modeled, we almost think, after the exclusive system of the Japanese, when the Americans (then great Free Traders) sent to that country a fleet to open its ports to trade—has also wrought great evils that must soon fall with withering effect upon the commercial and financial interests of the country. There are certain immutable natural laws, the operation of which nations no more than individuals can escape, and which bring their own punishment or reward as they are violated

or observed. The establishment of a system of trade and finance upon an unsound basis is just as certain to entail distress and disaster as a house that is built upon an insecure foundation will inevitably tumble about the ears of the occupants. The Chicago Tribune, in an article foreshadowing the evil results of overtrading and prohibition, says:

"The attempt of those who have embarked in all manner of speculative enterprises to realize their investments and hold the same in cash, is but a prudent measure to avert the crushing effects of the storm, should one come. There is an unhealthy condition of things proceeding from all this. The annual strife between landlords and tenants has an extraordinary intensity in all parts of the country this season. Capital trembles as it looks into the future. Labor is demanding an increase of wages in the face of the impending panic and prostration. Never was there a time when the man of large means should hesitate and weigh well the probabilities of the future before embarking in new enterprises, and never was there a time when those who live upon their earnings, be they great or small, should so retrench their expenditures in every possible means to be able better to meet the impending difficulty. It may be that the country will escape a season of financial disruption and disaster, but it may not escape it. Those who are hesitating to embark with their capital in real estate and in improvements, may well consider whether they are likely to obtain any compensating return upon that investment during a season of financial disaster, and a consequent return to actual value."

The Chicago Times, in its Springfield (Ill.) correspondence, holds out an equally discouraging prospect:—

"Business here continues very much depressed with no immediate prospect of relief, notwithstanding it was hoped that the opening of spring would bring the farmers into the city in large numbers. It is now feared, however, that the farming population are contenting themselves with their purchases made during last fall and winter, and are practising economy to a greater extent than for a number of years back. In the meantime the New York, Chicago and St. Louis runners are scouring the country in every direction, offering goods by sample on long credit, thus forcing sales upon merchants, and, as a consequence, flooding the country towns with their wares, at a time when the demand for them is more limited than usual. On the other hand the manufacturing interests are unusually depressed, their profits diminished, and the amount of their sales lessened. A greater number of persons than usual are also to be found in the streets out of employment; and I learn that, on account of the extravagantly high price of flour, the consumption of corn meal in this city was never so great as during the past month. It is with difficulty that many persons are able to pay their taxes. I have even heard that many heretofore well-to-do citizens have been obliged to borrow money on pledge of articles in order to do so. In fine, a distrust of the future on the part of all, from the large capitalist to the small real estate holder, appears to be the main feature of financial and commercial affairs. No prudent man appears inclined to enter into new engagements. The merchant only buys for immediate consumption. The manufacturer works his establishment in the most economical manner. The prudent banker contracts his loans and discounts."

Friday, June 21, 1867.

Licensing Court.

(BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE, THE MAYOR, AND G. F. FORTER, ESQ., J.P.)

THURSDAY, June 20, 1867.

King's Head.—Mr Courtney applied for a transfer of the license from the King's Head Saloon, Johnson street, to the Colonial Market. Granted.

Patrick Everett applied, through Mr Bishop, for a license to retail spirits on the Esquimaux road, in Victoria West. Mr Bishop said that Mr Trahey, who had opposed the granting of a license on a previous occasion now withdrew his opposition because Everett intended to open a general store. All the landholders in the vicinity, with the exception of two, supported the application.

Mr George Robinson and Mr Drake appeared to oppose, and the application was refused.

P. Manetta.—Temporary permission to sell at Pioneer Saloon, corner of Oriental Alley and Johnson street. Approved.

C. Houslow.—Application to retail at the N.E. corner of Yates and Government streets. Approved.

Edmund Griffin.—To retail at the S.E. corner of Fort and Broad streets. Approved.

P. Gilligan.—To retail at the corner of Pandora and Store streets. Refused.

P. J. Hall.—To retail at Star Hotel, Fort street. Approved.

C. F. Green.—To retail at Steamboat Exchange, Esquimaux. Approved.

J. Crumshaw.—Wholesale license, Wharf street. Approved.

N. C. Bailey.—To retail at Bailey's Hotel. Approved.

FROM FRASER LAKE.—Mr Burke, a gentleman connected with the Collins Telegraph Company, who wintered at Fraser Lake, some 600 miles in the interior of the main-land, came down on the last trip of the Enterprise. He reports a severe winter at the lake. During part of the season the mercury congealed. Snow lay to the depth of three or four feet in the valleys; and in the woods it was five and six feet deep. Several head of cattle belonging to the Telegraph Company wandered off during the winter and were lost. Some twenty head of pack animals died during the winter. They were principally taken out by the summer's work. Communication with the other telegraph stations was had by means of snow shoes, and the line was maintained intact during the season. Small game was plentiful and our informant and the other telegraph employes managed to pass the weary time quite comfortably.

THE BRITISH DELEGATIONS.—Dr Guthrie and Earl Dalhousie, delegates of the Scottish Free Church, with their families, were to sail for New York on Saturday, April 12th. The Earl of Dalhousie is better known as Hon. Fox Maul, an eminent debater on the Liberal side of the House of Commons. He was Secretary of War, under the title of Lord Panmure, during the celebrated Crimean struggle. He is a warm-hearted Christian man, and an earnest advocate of the union between the different branches of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and in favor of a closer fellowship between all the branches of the Presbyterian family in all lands.

AGRICULTURE.—We receive daily accounts from Sooke and Metchoin districts of a promising condition of the crops there. The rain of the past few days has revived the cereals and vegetables, and fall crops are looked for. There is a much larger quantity of land under cultivation this year than ever before, and live stock is increasing rapidly. The panthers and wolves are numerous and very bold, and the settlers are compelled to be on the alert all hours to thwart their designs on the young stock.

A gay and festive pleasure excursion to the newly acquired territory in Russian America has already been arranged at Washington. The expedition will embrace several national vessels, with full crews, a detachment of the army, and a large number of persons connected with the Government in various ways. It will sail early in July, and be absent till the end of September. The party will be a large one, and they will take with them everything necessary for comfort. Expense, of course, no object, as the Treasury will foot the bill.

The Young Men's Christian Association at Chicago, Illinois, furnishes funds to pay postage on all letters that are dropped into the Post Office without stamps, through carelessness or otherwise, and thus prevents their being sent to the Dead Letter Office. A recipient who slips a letter, informing the printer of the postage, and the recipient how the postage is paid, and inviting him to contribute to the Association, and sometimes the response is quite generous.

A ROGUE AND A VAGABOND.—James McGillivray, an out-door patient of the Hospital, who has been several times before the court on various charges, and was hunted out of Cariboo for robbing a sluice box, was brought before Mr. Pemberton yesterday on a charge of being a rogue and a vagabond. He pleaded for time in which to leave the country, and the magistrate allowed him three days.

THE STORE STREET ROW.—Mike Heenan received a severe lecture yesterday from the magistrate for interfering with the police in the discharge of their duty. Mike, who speaks good English, is said to be one of the best billiard players on the island, and is looked upon as a hard customer. The Indian who ran off with the handcuffs returned them, and was let off with a light fine.

SEVERE ACCIDENT.—A lad in the employ of Chief Justice Needham, while riding a horse belonging to his master, yesterday morning, fell from the animal and fractured his collar-bone and dislocated his left shoulder. The little sufferer was brought in by Lester's wagons, and received medical attendance from Dr. Powell.

TELEGRAPHIC.—Mr R. B. Haines, of the State Telegraph Company, has returned to Olympia where he will permanently reside with his family. Mr. Dissette, inspector on Lopez Island, has been ordered to take charge of the office on San Juan Island.

THE ST. JAMES DOUGLAS, fully repaired, came around from Esquimaux yesterday and will leave to-day for Nainaimo.

COURT OF ASSISE.—This Court is called upon to assemble on Wednesday next the 26th inst.

MR BISSSETT, of the Hudson Bay Company, will start for Big Bend to-day to look after the Company's interests in that section.

LONGEST DAY.—The 21st, is the longest day of the year. Our readers will probably make the most of it.

H. M. S. MALACCA started yesterday morning for the vicinity of San Juan Island, for gun practice, and returned last night at 10 o'clock.

THE ACTIVE sailed for this port on Wednesday afternoon.

FASHION.—The Home Journal thus describes the dress of bride at a fashionable wedding in New York on the 8th instant: "The bride wore a very pretty dress of rich gray poplin, with paleot to match, trimmed with three folds of bias satin, the same shade as the dress, trimmed up the sides and down the back, in the shape of a hoop. She wore a very pretty and stylish gray silk hat, with a gray satin rosette on one side, strings of gray, with narrow blue ribbon over them. The two bridesmaids wore white tulletrains, being also puffed to match; each of bridesmaids, with narrow quiltings of the same around it. The hair was dressed high, and ornamented with white daisies.

The divine right of beauty, says Junius, is the only divine right a man can acknowledge; pretty women the only tyrant he is not authorized to resist.

Contemporaneous Discoveries.

(From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.)

There is an apparent strangeness of coincidence in the fact that important scientific discoveries are often made simultaneously by two or more persons. The coincidence is only apparent, however, and may be explained in this way: A number of minds about the same ability are investigating the same unsolved problem. They all have the same data to go by. In the course of his enquiries each enjoys the benefit of every new interior mind to the mass of information. The investigators being well matched, it is not surprising that they should come out neck and neck at the winning post of discovery. While this explanation deprives every such case of the marvellous element, it affords a strong proof of the genius of the law or thing discovered.

Curious instances of this coincidence have occurred within a few days. The best known, perhaps, is the discovery of the farthest known planet, Neptune, at the same time by Adams of London, and Le Verrier, of Paris. Both men were astronomers of the first rank, capable of the highest and most sustained flights of mathematical analysis. There was no accident in the discovery. It was pure reasoning, like the game of chess. Both have since maintained their high reputations by other great achievements.

A similar illustration is afforded by the electric telegraph. Morse was the first to utilize the idea, but other investigators in England and France were close upon his heels. Manning would have had a good electric telegraph if neither Morse, nor Thompson, nor Wheatstone, nor any other of the most famous electricians had ever lived. All these great ideas grow out of the progressive civilization of the age. Their development to the full stature of a reality is hastened by the action of one or more able minds, but is not exclusively due to them. A third example which occurred last year may be mentioned to show what a multitude of watchmen are on the alert for new discoveries in all parts of the world. In May a new star made its appearance in the constellation of the Crown. It was but one of a sky full of stars; and one star more or less would not be expected to attract much attention. But it was seen within the space of thirty-six hours by observers having no communication with each other in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, London, Edinburgh, Paris, St. Petersburg, and other points far apart. The same unity of title is remarked in the discovery of the little planet, which every planet between Mars and Jupiter. Every year adds five or six to the total number, which has reached ninety-one. They are but the smallest specks in the largest telescopes; but when the astronomer in Cambridge, London or Paris catches one of them and fondly claims it for his own, he is pretty sure to find its discovery pre-empted by another.

The foreign mails bring the intelligence of an astronomical discovery of the first importance, made about the same time by two investigators, one at Milan, the other at Paris. It is no less than the determination of the laws of the periodic meteoric showers. M. Schiaparelli, director of the observatory at Milan, exploring the subject by his own methods, has succeeded in calculating all the elements of the meteors' orbits. He finds that the meteors are nebulous masses moving in very oval or elliptical orbits, which bring them periodically within the sphere of the earth's attraction, and under the oxidizing and igniting influence of the earth's atmosphere.

Having tabulated these elements for the shower which occurred on the 10th of August, 1866, he was astonished to find that they were almost identical with those of the great comet of 1862. The elements of the November shower also proved to be essentially the same as those of Tempel's comet (the first of 1866). These agreements are regarded as proving a similarity of constitution, as well as of governing laws, between comets and meteors, though it is too early to pronounce, with anything like positiveness, upon this point. While the Milan astronomer was reaching these conclusions, M. Le Verrier, at Paris, was just bringing his own labors in the same field of inquiry to a termination. The elements, as stated by him, harmonize in all the main details with the Milan professor. He regards the orbits of the meteoric swarms as extending as far as Uranus, if not beyond that planet. The period of the principal mass, as estimated by both observers, is 33 1/2 years, which agrees with the recorded facts, inasmuch as it is probable that other European investigators have arrived at similar conclusions by still other modes of inquiry. If America does not share in the honor of the discovery, she has the sufficient excuse that the November shower, which was such a brilliant affair in Europe, and set all the savans thinking, was a dead failure on this side of the Atlantic, provocative of a disappointment which destroyed all interest in its probable origin.

Russian America.

The New York Herald publishes a long article on this subject, from which we make the following extracts: THE RUSSIAN AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COMPANY. The first attempt at a permanent settlement was due to three Russian traders—Shelekhoff and two Gollkoffs—who fitted out two or three vessels to be sent to the land of Alaska, also called America, to islands known or unknown, for the purpose of trading in furs, of exploring the country and entering into relations with the inhabitants. Their first expedition started in 1781, and the first settlement was founded on the island of Kadjak. The authority of the Russian Government was thus established on this and the adjacent islands. In 1790 Shelekhoff, then residing at Irkutsk, sent out the merchant Baranoff to govern the new colony. The name of Baranoff, who for twenty-seven years was the controlling mind of the new enterprise, thus appeared for the first time in its history. Shelekhoff died in 1795, and his widow continued the business, which gradually increased, especially after combining with the Milnikoff Company. The charter of this joint company was signed in August, 1798, and confirmed at St. Petersburg in 1799. The boundaries of the lands granted to the company, and defined in its renewed charter of 1821, were formally confirmed and acknowledged by the treaties with the United States in 1824 and Great Britain in 1825.

Such is, in brief, the history of the Russian

American Trading Company of the present day, whose extended charter has lately expired, never to be renewed. Emulous of the remarkable success attending the Hudson Bay Company's enterprise, they gradually pushed their operations in all directions, and extended their stations far beyond the originally prescribed limits, having at last reached the coast of California. This was prior to the Mexican independence, and the necessary privileges were conceded by the Spanish Government, who then owned California. They stretched over to the Asiatic side along the Okhotsk sea, and had several establishments there, especially at Ayau, in latitude 52 north, longitude 138 20 east. It has a population of about three hundred, with a Governor and a small garrison, and was tolerably well fortified in the Crimean war. The company also have establishments at Alaska, Cook's Inlet, Bristol Bay and Norton Sound, all on the American side of Behring's Straits, and in the Aleutian and Kurile Islands. These are the principal stations, but many smaller ones might be mentioned, as about the expiration of their charter, as above stated, the Government declined to renew it, despite the strenuous efforts on the part of the concessionists, who were at the time reaping a rich harvest from their enterprise. They have now thirty-eight fur and trading-stations along the coast, Sitka being the headquarters.

WHY THE EMPEROR REFUSED TO RENEW THEIR CHARTER.

The reasons of this refusal on the part of the Russian Government were, first, that the company had failed to meet the real objects of the concession, which were to encourage settlement of a population which would develop its mineral and agricultural resources. This, however, is what the company had no intention of doing; on the contrary, their interests pointed to the discouraging of all branches of industry, save that which yielded them their enormous profits—the fur trade. This system is diametrically opposed to agricultural pursuits, since farming tends to clear away forests, and consequently thin off small animals. It was also plainly injurious to this traffic to divert the attention of the natives to other pursuits; for, in a thinly populated country, every hand that can manage an axe or use a gun is valuable. Hence the mining and agricultural advantages of Russian America, under the monopoly of the company, have been studiously kept in the background, and the Government has seen, with much satisfaction, that while the development of California greatly benefited the Company in reducing the prices of their supplies of provisions and other articles from abroad, not the least good resulted to Russia in developing the national resources. But another still more powerful consideration with the Imperial Government was that for the last fifteen years certain political considerations seemed to point out the wisdom of selling the whole of this great territory to the United States.

The Humiliations of France.

(Die Presse—Vienna.)

It is a fact which cannot be denied that there is a certain disquietude existing in all classes of French society. The speech of Thiers was merely the spark which set a light to the mine. The terrible blunders of the Napoleonic policy are evident. No eloquence can hush them up. Immediately after the failure in Mexico came the German war with its fearful disillusionments. Count Bismarck was never more hopeful than when after his interview in Biarritz, he caused it to be reported by his own agents in Europe that the Emperor Napoleon had said of himself fully, and the seal of the Prusso-Italian treaty sprung up most fatally for France.

Such a situation is certainly not pleasant, and the natural reaction of it is the excitement of Chauvinist passions in France. We do not rejoice at these phenomena; we simply state them. To give up the prestige of the great nation is extraordinarily hard for the French. The cramped French spirit will not find one and then abdicate, or whether it will seek one in a great Continental war or in the rapid development of the democratic idea, whose chief representative France will remain under all circumstances, is not certain at present. As far as the Emperor Napoleon is concerned personally, he may very likely wish to pass the last years of his life in peace like an industrious householder. Absorbed by the thought of founding a dynasty, he seeks after the peace of the great Continental war as possible with the great dynasties of the Continent; and, truly, the House of Hapsburg has become powerful in the world since the last few months. Napoleon's friendly disposition in this respect is so well known in Prussia that the semi-official press always carefully draws a great distinction between him and the passion of the disquieted nation. Nevertheless, he dares and cannot set himself in opposition to the spirit of the French people. He is, therefore, seeking for a compromise, and "the centre of gravity of the situation" lies for the present in the trenches of Luxembourg!

All reliable reports agree that if Prussia gives up her previous opposition in this question, any disturbance of the peace of the world is not to be apprehended. The Kolnische Zeitung, which knows a great deal about such matters, works out the Bismarckian idea beforehand, by declaring, it has no objection to the negotiations with the Dutch German lower country succeeding. All things considered, Prussia needs to digest her acquisitions, and to strengthen her new almost dazzling position, instead of plunging into a great war. It almost appears as if the card of the treaties with South Germany had been played out in order to make the Luxembourg arrangement more endurable to the German people. We hardly believe that this question can lead to war. The alarmcry about the natural boundaries, which the head trumpeter of the Empire, M. Granier de Cassagnac, raises in the Pays, is only for the purpose of expediting the acquisition of Luxembourg, in our opinion. What will finally happen then? Probably only what King William and his almighty Premier think proper. And at this moment, war with France does not seem good to these two important actors. As for the North German Parliament, we are not naive enough to consider it an organ, much less a powerful organ, of the German people. The friends of peace have accordingly scarcely any cause for uneasiness, and the success of the compromise is, spite of all denial, more probable than the contrary.

Our Mining Prospects.

To turn from a contemplation of the accumulation of misery we sketched yesterday at Montana, to the morose situation of the miners at always an agreeable and pleasant contrast between the two is so marked that we can feel a feeling of pardonable van of our own resources. season since 1861 has there servable a more general feeling of contentment and prosperity among the population than during the last year. The number of miners is limited, but the prosperity is diffused, while the chances of "big strikes" have not in the least diminished since the first day upon which the riches of William Creek were made known, and to which stream, for years, the most profitable accumulation of wealth had been confined. The last year has witnessed the discovery of payable auriferous creeks in the Blackfoot district that bid fair to equal the present equal William Creek. One has heard of the celebrated Grouse Creek, which heads in the same range with its more widely known Grouse Creek, and how the shareholders of that company amassed fortunes in a few months because of the richness of their claim. The whole creek has been staked several new claims are largely of the ore. This Grouse Creek for years was neglected by miners, sluing off the surface, due to the "color of gold" was there no "lead" existed. The same once heard from William Creek. It was first called Humboldt because the parties who "rushed" there thought they were humbugged by the too sanguine prospector those who succeeded the first ascertained the true worth of the creek, they performed an act of justice by naming it in honor of the discoverer. Both William Creek and Humboldt, with the half-hundred ravines and creeks that feed into them, are destined to yield remunerating labor of thousands for many years to come. But a more recent discovery, another forcible one against the folly of too rapid an opinion as to the value of discoveries in a mining country, is a party of prospectors in 1862 a party of prospectors a small stream that empties into Quesnelle Lake. They sunk prospect-holes, but finding no colors, named the stream Grouse Creek and passed off with a opinion of its gold-bearing capacity. From 1862 until 1866 Caddis was visited only by trappers them at a season unfavorable digging. But in July of this year a party of prospectors, William Creek, having obtained an oracle prospect upon one of the commenced work with rock in a few days took out coarse dust. This dust they William Creek, where it was found to be of uncommon value. A rush at once took place for locality; but as usual the first mostly deserted the digging very good humor with the discovery. A few persevering spirits, held on to their claims, and reliable news from Cedar Creek that the miners are making \$20 per day to the hand; the Discovery Company had taken thousand dollars in gold to the expense of constructing sluices preparing for extensive operations which they are now prepared to execute successfully. The pay six or eight feet deep, and washing is readily obtained large yield is anticipated from Creek this year, by those who knowledge of its resources stream is but one of a hundred feeders of Quesnelle Lake to be found to afford remunerating for hundreds. The blue-le pays so well on William Creek mences on Horefly Creek directly through this section. fly Creek is now deserted. In bars proved to be very rich, and prospects are still obtained better prospects, a returned tianian informs us, than he mining districts in Blackfoot thousands of industrious were busily engaged. Rose a few miles east of Cedar Creek its original prospector—John a handsome return for his 1866, and was profitably miners as late as 1862, when finally abandoned for other loc "big strikes." Happily for it