

The Weekly British Colonist AND CHRONICLE.

Tuesday, January 28 1868.

The state of American political affairs is becoming a subject for deep concern among the well-wishers of the United States; and it seems improbable that the present President of the Union will finish his term of office without the occurrence of another civil conflict.

Wednesday, Jan 22 County Court

Thos. Shotbolt vs. Samuel Evans—Action for balance of account. Defendant failed to appear. Judgment for plaintiff, \$24 25 with costs.

Municipal Council.

January 21st, 1868. Council met at 7 o'clock, His Worship the Mayor in the Chair, Councillors present—Lewis, Jeffrey, Allatt, McKay, Cramp and Gibbs.

A communication from W. J. McDonnell, relating to a charge by Mr. Storey of \$450 for erecting a barricade at the polling place at the last Municipal election. On motion the bill was ordered to be paid.

Central School Re-opening.

The Central School, Fort street, will be re-opened this morning at 9 a.m., as a Public School sustained by the voluntary contributions of friends and guardians of pupils attending.

ARRIVAL OF THE TELEGRAPH SHIP NIGHTINGALE.

The fine American clipper ship Nightingale, 720 tons, Capt. Marsden, from San Francisco on the 11th inst., arrived in Esquimaux harbor at 7 o'clock last evening.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN (PRINCE EDWARDS) ISLANDER SAYS.

The grain trade is unusually brisk in this island. It is said there will be some sixty square-rigged vessels leave this fall, loaded with oats, for various ports in Europe.

DEATH OF E. B. EARLES.

A well-known citizen of Victoria, expired at his residence yesterday morning after a brief illness. Mr. Earles came to this country in 1862 from Canada, and always took an active part in the public affairs of the Colony.

OUTRAGE.—The English ship Dorchester, Capt. Sutton, 14 days from San Francisco, arrived in the outer harbor last evening.

She is consigned to Capt. Stamp, and will load with lumber at that gentleman's mills at Burrard Inlet.

LIQUOR SALE.—We would call attention to the sale of Liquors, this day, at 12 noon, at the salerooms of J. P. Davies & Co.

ON A TORATOR DISCOVERY.—The gunboat Forward, with Capt. Cooper, aboard, sailed yesterday on a cruise after the missing Fraser river buoys.

HAY.—Twenty tons of fine Timothy hay from Whidby Island, was landed at St Ours wharf yesterday, being purchased by Mr. Leneveu.

NOT WANTED.—We are requested to state that the special jurors summoned for today (22d) will not be required until Tuesday next, 28th inst.

CARIBOO EXPRESS.—A telegram yesterday from Queenelle states that the Cariboo Express is expected there from William Creek on Thursday evening.

THE STEAMER ELIZA ANDERSON, Capt. Finoh, with a number of passengers and a quantity of Puget Sound produce, arrived yesterday morning.

THE BOLLINGHAM BAY COAL MINE is again on fire, and preparations are being made to inundate it.

RATHER COLD.—A letter from Queenelle, dated 18th ult, states that the mercury on the 17th fell to 20° deg. below zero.

THE DIANA.—This steamer came over from San Juan Island yesterday with the mail from the camp.

THE DAL NORIE probably left San Francisco for Victoria yesterday afternoon.

THE PRINCE OF WALES will sail for London to-morrow morning.

THE VICTORIA DISTRICT SCHOOL will be re-opened on Monday, the 27th inst.

THE WIRES SOUTH have been down for two days.

HONDURAS INTER-OCEANIC RAILWAY.

The London Times, of November 11th, has the following interesting article on this subject. To this it only seems necessary to add the observation that, while the Central and South American loans, it would have been no more than right to say that the bonds of Chile are generally quoted in the London market at a higher rate than those of any nation, including Great Britain; and that many of the large monarchies of Europe have set an example of financial weakness and financial trickery which very few Republican Governments have been ready to follow.

A loan of £1,000,000 is proposed for an interesting project in connection with the irremissible question of the transit across Central America. On this occasion, the route is one of two hundred and thirty miles through the State of Honduras, from Puerto Caballos, on the Atlantic, to the Bay of Fonseca, on the Pacific, which, although much longer than that of Panama, has the advantage of saving 1,103 miles in the steam navigation between New York and California and British Columbia. The allegation is that it can be constructed for £2,000 per mile, and, indeed, a contract has been entered into for its entire completion at that rate, including stations and rolling stock.

Even at this low charge, however, the cost would be nearly £2,000,000, or double the sum now asked. To provide for the balance a novel, but legitimate, commercial plan has been agreed upon. The State of Honduras is to hypothecate all its domains and mahogany forests as security for the £1,000,000 loan and its redemption by yearly drawings within seventeen years, and the proceeds of this loan are to make a section of the railway which will reach these forests and enable the timber to be brought down for shipment. According to the views of the projectors, ample funds will thus be supplied for all further wants. The bonds are to bear ten per cent. interest, and to be issued at the price of eighty, with a sinking fund of three per cent. per annum for their redemption at par. Each bond is also to be accompanied by a free share entitling the holder to a proportionate participation in one-half of the net profits of the railway for fifteen years after the bond itself should have been repaid. In a speculative sense these terms appear attractive, but they require to be carefully weighed. Without any disparagement to the honesty of the intentions of the Honduras Government, it may be assumed that its financial ability is too weak and untried, while the experience of money lending to the small Republics of Central and South America has in general way been too discouraging to cause any serious value to be attached to its guarantee of such a loan unless everything in connection with it should go well. Still, with the facilities that exist for ascertaining positively whether the line can be built on the low terms named, and whether the timber described is ac-

tually available and is also of the asserted commercial value in the European and American markets, there ought to be sufficient certainty to place the matter in the position of a fair and rational venture. Both in London and New York a conviction is very generally entertained among those of the mercantile classes by whom attention has been given to the prospects of the future traffic between the Atlantic and Pacific, that if every one of the routes from time to time suggested during the last twenty years—namely, the Arica, the Oquirri, the Nicaragua, the Honduras and the Tehuantepec—were opened up, they would each have an extraordinary business, and would all yield rapidly increasing revenues. The Panama line last year paid twenty-four per cent. in dividends, and gave in addition a bonus of forty per cent. out of accumulated profits, and this in the face of the check to traffic by enormously high fares and the dangers of its notorious climate. Of the Honduras line it has been stated by Colonel Stanton, who surveyed it with a party of Royal Engineers, that the harbors at both termini are unexceptionable and that it can be constructed without any sharper curves or heavier gradients than are to be found in existing lines over which locomotives work without difficulty. It is the question of the mahogany forests on which more definite satisfaction is mainly required. The prospectus states that careful estimates have satisfied the Honduras Government on that point. But the estimates likely to satisfy a Government desirous of borrowing money are not necessarily convincing to the parties who are invited to lend it. And some well considered statements from persons of repute in the trade should therefore be obtained. It may be hoped and expected that they would strengthen the claims of the enterprise under consideration. Messrs. Bischoffheim, Goldschmidt & Co., of Paris, are the firm by whom it is introduced, in conjunction with the London and County Bank on this side.

Intelligence of Animals.

Borlase says he saw a lobster attack an oyster, who persisted in closing his shell as often as the lobster attempted to intrude within it. After many failures, the lobster took a small stone and placed it between the shells as soon as they were separated, and then devoured the fish. Mr. Gardner, in his Curiosities of Natural History, states that he once watched a crab enlarging its burrow on the sand; and about every two minutes it came up to surface with a quantity of sand in its left jaw, and by a sudden jerk threw it to the distance of about six inches. Having a few shells in his pocket, he endeavored to throw one of them into the hole. Three of them fell near the hole, and the fourth rolled into it. Five minutes afterwards the animal made its appearance, bringing with it the shell which had gone down, and carrying it to the distance of a foot from its burrow, there deposited it. Seeing the others lying near the mouth of the hole, it immediately carried them one by one to the place, and so continued its original labor. Gilbert White tells us of an old hunting mare which ran on the common, and which, being taken ill, came down into the village, as it were to implore the help of man, and died the following night in the street. A letter in Fraser relates of a hen which had hatched several broods of ducklings, that from experience she lost all the anxiety usually borne by these foster-mothers by the indomitable perseverance with which the young pampides take to the water as soon as they are born, and quietly led them to the bank of the pond, calmly watching them, as they floated on the surface, or dusting herself on the sunny bank to wait unconcernedly their return. Duges saw a spider which had seized a bee by the back, and effectually prevented it from taking flight; but the legs being at liberty, it dragged the spider along, which presently suspended it by a thread from its web, leaving it to dangle in the air till it was dead, and then it was drawn up and devoured. An individual living in the square at St. Mark's, Venice, has been in the habit of scattering grain every day, at two o'clock, previous to which hour the birds assemble in one place on the cathedral; and as the clock strikes, they take wing and hover round his window in small circles, till he appears and distributes a few handfuls of food. This, at all events, indicates the faculty of noting time, and may be placed on a parallel with the story of the dog who went to church regularly every Sunday at the proper hour to meet his master. Animals are prompt at using their experience in reference to things from which they have suffered pain or annoyance. Grant mentions an orang-outang which, having had when ill some medicine administered in an egg, could never be induced to take one afterwards. Le Vaillant's monkey was extremely fond of brandy, but would not be prevailed on to touch it again after a lighted match had been applied to some of its drinking. A dog had been beaten while some musk was held to his nose, and ever after fled whenever it accidentally smelt the drug, and was so susceptible that it was used in some physiological experiments to discover whether any portion of musk had been received by the body through the organs of digestion—a severe test to the dog's sense of smell and capability of profiting by experience. Stead, of Prague, had a cat on which he wished to make some experiments with an air pump; but as soon as the creature felt the exhaustion of the air, it rapidly placed its foot on the valve, and thus stopped the action. A dog having great antipathy to the sound of a violin, always sought to get the bow and conceal it. Plutarch

tells of an artful mule, which, when laden with salt, fell into a stream, and finding its load thereby sensibly lightened, adopted the expedient afterwards, and whenever it crossed a stream, slipped sous into the water with its panniers, and to cure it of the trick, the panniers were filled with sponge, under which, when fully saturated, it could barely stagger.

Hunting the Wild Red Deer.

The following account is given of an extraordinary run with the Devon and Somerset staghounds:—"On Friday the 'field' assembled at Dunkery Hill gate. A hind was started from Sweet Tree, and, after running her across Parsonage Slide, the pack was laid on, and a splendid run followed. She crossed the Ball to Horner water, up the stream to Stoke, thence to the right to Williamson Wood, across the stream and away over Leigh Hill to Horner; now to the water, again running up the stream to East Waters, over the Ball toward Sweet Tree, from thence to Stoke Common, to the left in a direction for Exford, over Dunkery toward Catcombe; now giving a turn to the left, she made for Luccombe plantation, crossing the valley to Holcombe (the seat of Sir T. D. Acland), where she took a run through the pleasure grounds, and, passing swiftly in front of the mansion, she made toward Selworthy cove; but these affording no security, she went over Bossington Hill to Hartstone Point. Here the hard-purshed hind took the defensive, and stood at bay with the hounds, but, finding it of little use, she rushed into the sea. The wide expanse of the waters, and the ceaseless roar of the waves, did not intimidate the pack, for they too followed. A chase in the sea is a most remarkable occurrence in stag-hunting, but the hounds were true to their work, though it was an act which closed up the period of hunting with some of them. Fendel first got at the hind and pulled her round. Two more hounds then got hold of her and forced her under water several times, but she got free and defeated them, as they were greatly exhausted with previous running. It was found necessary now to send for a boat to render assistance to the pack. Ere it had arrived, however, one of the pack was drowned. Several of the hounds were so completely exhausted that they could not stand, and men were got to carry them over the rocks. With a little care most of them were saved; one was found drowned, and three others are missing. In this most extraordinary wind-up of the day's sport, the deer was lost sight of."

A new and valuable agent, whereby surgical operations are painlessly performed, without the risk which has hitherto attended chloroform, is now being introduced, and freely published for the public good, by Dr. Richardson, in an account of two severe operations by Mr. Spencer Wells. In the current number of the Medical Times it is stated that in the first case perfect insensibility was produced in four minutes; in the second case in about six minutes; in both instances the patients glided, so to speak, into complete anaesthesia, without a struggle. This valuable remedy is the bichloride of methylene, which differs from chloroform in the rapidity with which it produces perfect insensibility. In one case where it was used in a warm room the vaporization of the fluid was so rapid that frost was produced on the inhaler.

A carpenter, who was always prognosticating evil to himself, was one day upon the roof of a five story building upon which rain had fallen. The roof being slippery he lost his footing, and as he was descending towards the eaves he exclaimed, "Just as I told you!" Catching, however, in an iron spout, he kicked off his shoes and regained a place of safety, when he thus delivered himself: "I know'd it: there's a pair of shoes gone!"

The grandmother of a well known celebrated English financier having reached patriarchal age of ninety-nine years and eight months, feeling very weak one morning sent for her doctor, and asked him if he thought she would attain the age of one hundred? "Well, madam," he replied, "you may depend upon my doing my best." "Oh do!" replied the old lady "I should so much like to reach par!"

Prince Peter Dolgoroukoff has given good definition of 'Nihilism' in Russian, concerning which M. Schedo-Ferrou published some months ago a volume of formidable dimensions. 'Nihilism,' he says, 'is of two kinds. There is the Nihilism of those who have nothing in their pockets, and the Nihilism of those who have nothing in their heads.'

A WAX POLICEMAN.—An amusing story is told of Godard's balloon, which went up from Paris the other day and alighted in the vicinity of Cologne. Because the balloon flew the French flag the aer-nauts were badly received by ill-disposed patriots, who mistook their meteorological instruments for something dangerous, and were on the point of seizing them for spies. The tempest had just been allayed when the police intervened, and, of course, a zealous official proceeded to search the balloon for maps and plans, and threw out a quantity of ballast. This lightened the balloon of a sudden, and it went up, much to the terror of the Prussian and the surprise of all. By the latest accounts we learn that the unobsequious policeman accomplished his descent into the Zayder Zee, and was saved from drowning by some fishermen.

By Electric Telegraph.

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST.

Europe. CORK, Jan. 14.—A trial of yesterday thrown at one of witnesses in the Fenian trial, exploded, and no injury was done to the perpetrator.

DUBLIN, Jan. 17.—At the Leinster yesterday, two witnesses identified the prisoner as the shot and killed the police.

FLORENCE, Jan. 17.—The clearest estates so far have ductive. The sums realized appreciation of 43 per cent. the property since it was market.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—The ment is seeking to raise a fish markets the proceeds the improvement of the Danube.

China. Advice from Shanghai battle between the rebels at Shipan. The Imperial army.

Eastern States. NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—died to-day in his sixty six.

California. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18.—138½, and closed at the same.

Flour sales include 400 hattan superfine \$7; 100 t. tra, \$8.

Wheat sales 600 sacks, 1 590 sacks good milling \$2 Barley \$ 80@1 85. Oats \$1 45@1 85.

PROPER NAMES. If stanger had occasion erman, living in one fishing villages, of the ander White; but he both of his house a (nick-name). Unfor were many persons of village. Meeting a

Could you tell me leaves? Fik Sanny, Sanny Fite, Fik Fite, Fik Muckle lang, Fik muckle lang, Muckle lang, gey, shouted at the stranger, the lift ya're seeking, and fat the devil to for the mon by his rick.

Notes on the fishers. Great attention is land by the cordial al bishop Manning to movement. The Arc quite made up his m the Maine law, but unreserved sympathy of the United Kingd Temperance Society c at the annual meeting, Chester on October first resolution.

Mr Knatchbull-Hu office in the late Gov made a speech in whi "insult to the religio an injury to Prote source of weakness r religious bodies in Ir

A new epitaph ju Chaise has a melancholy of notice? Here he m gretted by her brother, w she shared."

The American Wood yunk, Penn., have the world for producing a Logs of wood, principally chips by revolving steel cut forty cords every These chips are then reduced to pulp. By a r evaporation eighty per c is saved, and 30,000 pou are made daily.

A man in Hartford, recently that on receipt he would by return m plicant how to make a rections were: "Pe Havana and half hon and always be ready chicken."

The following quaint and wife is to be seen in cemeteries; "I am anxiously expecti Here I am— So the good woman was up her mind to follow he

Rev. Mr. O'Neill, a c been arrested at Indiana colored man and white of the Indiana marriage